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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, DISPUTES, AND PRICES IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during February, but showed a slight improvement as compared with January. The industries in which the improvement was most noticeable were coal-mining, pig iron manufacture, iron and steel manufacture, the woollen and the worsted industry, the ready-made clothing trades, boot and shoe manufacture, and the pottery trade.

The percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns are received was 16·3 at the end of February, compared with 16·8 at the end of January. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act was 15·7 on 21st February, as compared with 16·2 at the end of January. The percentages for males and females at 21st February were 17·6 and 10·8 respectively.

The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 28th February was approximately 1,837,000, of whom 1,411,000 were men and 318,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 31st January the number on the live register was 1,906,000, of whom 1,458,000 were men and 333,000 were women.

In addition to those unemployed, 156,000 males and 110,000 females were registered on 21st February as working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act. At 31st January the corresponding figures were 166,000 males and 122,000 females.

The number of vacancies notified by employers to Exchanges and unfilled at 28th February was 18,000, of which 4,400 were for men and 11,700 for women, compared with 20,100 at 31st January.

WAGES.

The changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in February, in the industries covered by the statistics, resulted in a net reduction of over £390,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,400,000 workpeople.

The wages of building trade operatives, except painters and decorators in Scotland and plumbers in some districts, were reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in nearly all the important centres. Nearly 800,000 coal miners sustained reductions ranging in different districts from under 2 per cent. to over 8 per cent. on current rates. In the boot and shoe industry there were decreases of 4s. and 2s. a week in the rates of wages of adult male and female time-workers respectively, with corresponding reductions in those of juveniles and piece-workers. In shipbuilding the principal classes of piece-workers sustained further reductions by the withdrawal of a third instalment of the advances granted during the war under the "Standard Ship Cycle" Awards. Steel melters had their wages reduced by 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates (about 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 20 per cent. on current rates), and there was a reduction of 20 per cent. on standard rates (about

9 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates) in the case of iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands. The wages of tramway employees generally were reduced by 3s. and 1s. 6d. per week in the case of workers 18 years of age and over and those under 18 respectively.

Other important reductions during February affected pottery workers, paper makers, coach builders, tinplate makers, hosiery workers in the Midlands and furniture trade operatives in London and various provincial towns. There were also reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the jute trade, the retail bespoke tailoring trade, the hat, cap and millinery trade, and the milk distributive trade.

A special article, giving a comparison of the general level of rates of wages at July, 1914, December, 1920, and the end of February, 1922, appears on pages 107 to 109.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 66. In addition, 49 disputes, which began before February, were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The principal dispute was that involving about 4,000 wagon builders and repairers, arising out of a proposed reduction in wages.

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 33,000, as compared with 18,500 in the previous month, and 44,000 in February, 1921. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during February was about 316,000 working days, as compared with 184,000 days in January, 1922, and 758,000 days in February, 1921.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 1st March 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 86 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st February was 88 per cent., and that for 1st March, 1921, was 141 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 December, 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 112.

DISPUTES IN THE ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES.

ENGINEERING INDUSTRY.

A LOCK-OUT of those members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union who are employed by employers belonging to the Engineering and the National Employers' Federations has resulted from the ballot of the Union taken in January last, rejecting, by 50,240 votes to 35,525, the provisional agreement on overtime and the exercise of managerial functions reached between the Executive of the Union and the Federations on the 17th and 18th November, 1921. This provisional agreement was in the following terms:—

"I.—(1) The Trade Union shall not interfere with the right of the employers to exercise managerial functions in their establishments, and the Federations shall not interfere with the proper functions of the Trade Union. (2) In the exercise of these functions the parties shall have regard to the Provisions for Avoiding Disputes of 17th April, 1914, which are amplified by the Shop Stewards and Works Committee Agreement of 20th May, 1919, and to the terms of other national and local agreements between the parties. (3) Instructions of the management shall be observed pending any question in connection therewith being discussed in accordance with the provisions referred to.

"II.—It is agreed that, in terms of the Overtime and Night Shift Agreement of 29th and 30th September, 1920, the employers have the right to decide when overtime is necessary, the workpeople or their representatives being entitled to bring forward, under the provisions referred to, any cases of overtime they desire discussed. Meantime the overtime required shall be proceeded with."

On the 22nd February the Engineering and the National Employers' Federations issued the following statement:—

"As was generally expected, the recent ballot vote of the Amalgamated Engineering Union challenging the right of the employers to exercise managerial functions has had grave effect. The Engineering and the National Employers' Federations have intimated to the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Engineering Union that, in view of the situation created by the ballot, federated firms will not give employment to members of the Union after Saturday, 11th March, and that formal notice to that effect will be posted in the various works this week-end. In their communications to the Amalgamated Engineering Union the employers say that the fundamental alterations which the ballot seeks to make leave them with no alternative but to face the situation, and in the national interests to place the industry on a sound and economic basis. Accordingly the relations between the employers and their workpeople, the working conditions and the wages, will require to be brought under review."

The attitude of the Union was explained in a statement, issued by the Executive on the 4th March, that "the only so-called managerial function which the men challenge is the right of the employers to determine whether or no the men shall work overtime on ordinary production work."

On the 23rd February the Committee of the Employers' Federations met the Executive Council of the Union, but no basis of agreement was reached. On the 7th March the Executive Committee of the Union and the district organisers met the Minister of Labour, in response to an invitation given by him on the previous day. The Union agreed to meet the employers if a meeting could be arranged, and the Minister undertook to suggest a meeting to the employers. The suggested meeting took place on the following day, the 8th March; but on its termination it was announced that further proposals submitted by the Union had not been accepted by the employers. On the following day, the 9th March, the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, the Federation of General Workers, and the National Union of Foundry Workers, which had also been asked by the employers to endorse the Memorandum on Overtime and the employers' claim to exercise freedom of management, decided not to accept the employers' proposals. Subsequently the Unions met the National Joint Council of the Trades Union Congress, the National Labour Party, and the Parliamentary Labour Party, and a deputation of the Council saw the Minister of Labour, with the result that a meeting of the employers with representatives of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and of the other unions concerned was arranged to take place on the 10th March. No settlement was, however, reached at this conference.

On the 11th March the Unions, other than the Amalgamated Engineering Union, decided to take a ballot of their members on the memorandum of the 17th and 18th November, 1921. On the same day the lock-out of members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union took effect.

SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

At a conference between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the Shipbuilding Trade Unions on the 19th January the employers put forward a proposal to withdraw the flat rate war bonus of 26s. 6d. At a further conference on the 8th February the proposal was again submitted in the following definite form:—

(1) That of the 26s. 6d. war bonus under discussion 16s. 6d. shall be discontinued on and from the 15th March. (2) That within the next fourteen days or thereabouts a further conference shall be held to consider as to the date

from which the remaining 10s. shall be discontinued. (3) That at the conference referred to consideration shall be given to the period of time that must elapse before there can be any further general alteration of wages in the industry. (4) That a separate conference shall be held with the Unions concerned, prior to the discontinuance of the 10s. referred to, to consider what special arrangements are to be made in respect of the classes of general labourers for whom special consideration was asked.

These proposals were submitted to a ballot of the Unions and were rejected by 115,000 votes to 13,000; and at a joint conference on the 1st March the Unions submitted a proposal that the whole question of wages and the economic position of the industry should be referred to a Court of Inquiry. To this course the Employers' Federation would not agree, nor would they accept the Unions' further proposal that wages should be stabilised for a definite period at the present level. A statement issued later by the Employers' Federation intimated that they would be compelled to adhere to their decision to discontinue the payment of the war bonus to the extent of 16s. 6d. on the 15th March and that they would intimate later the date at which the remaining 10s. would be discontinued. The employers again expressed their willingness to give special consideration to the position of the lower-paid workers. The breakdown in negotiations was immediately reported by the Unions to the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, who urged the Minister of Labour to set up a Court of Inquiry. On the 6th March informal discussion between the Negotiating Committee of the Unions and the employers was resumed at the suggestion of the Minister of Labour, who had in the meantime seen representatives of both sides. No immediate progress was made, but it was provisionally arranged to hold a further meeting at the end of the week. Discussion was accordingly resumed on the 10th March, when a basis for further negotiation was found, and the meeting was adjourned until the 14th March.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.

THE Minister of Health and the Minister of Labour have appointed a Committee to consider the relation of Health Insurance and Unemployment Insurance, and to investigate the possibility of reducing the total cost of administration by modifying the Unemployment Insurance Scheme and by amalgamating Unemployment and Health Insurance cards, records, and, as far as possible, administration. The Committee is composed as follows:—Sir Alfred W. Watson, K.C.B., Chairman; Sir Walter S. Kinnear, K.B.E., E. J. Strohmenger, Esq., C.B., and S. P. Vivian, Esq., Ministry of Health; Sir James Leishman, Scottish Board of Health; Sir David Shackleton, K.C.B., T. W. Phillips, Esq., C.B., C.B.E., F. G. Bowers, Esq., O.B.E., and J. F. G. Price, Esq., Ministry of Labour; F. Phillips, Esq., Treasury; and A. Henry, Esq., Government Actuary's Department. The Joint Secretaries to the Committee are J. M. Glen, Esq., Ministry of Labour, and A. W. Neville, Esq., Ministry of Health.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BY INDUSTRIES.

THE Geddes Committee have again called attention to the possibility of placing Unemployment Insurance on the basis of Insurance by Industry, and they made a recommendation that the matter should be explored. The Minister of Labour has sent a letter to the principal employers' associations and trade unions directing their attention to this matter, with a view to obtaining from those practically engaged in industry their opinions as to the way in which the problem of Unemployment Insurance might best be solved. He has pointed out that the difficulties of making any drastic change in the basis of Unemployment Insurance are aggravated at the moment by the existing abnormal unemployment, but he has asked each industry to think out a method of dealing with Unemployment Insurance in their trade, so that the Government may be in a position to know what are the considered views of employers and employed in each industry, and may be able to consider any practical proposals which may be put forward. The Minister points out that a re-adjustment of the methods of Unemployment Insurance must involve questions connected with arrangements for securing employment.

In his letter Dr. Macnamara refers to the fact that the question of the extent to which Unemployment Insurance might be provided for and administered by industries themselves, rather than as at present by the Central Government, is one which the Ministry of Labour has had constantly under consideration for some time past, and that provision was made in the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1920 whereby schemes could be arranged and administered by associations representing the employers and employed in a given industry. For various reasons, not the least of which is the great depression in trade, little use was made of the opportunity afforded by the Act, and, owing to the great financial burden caused by the unprecedented unemployment which began towards the end of 1920, it was necessary temporarily to close the door trades which might otherwise have proposed special schemes

As soon as the state of the Central Employment Fund permits, the Minister will again welcome and encourage the establishment of schemes for dealing with Unemployment Insurance on an industrial basis. In the meantime it is suggested that the leaders of industry should consider what changes ought to be made in the present arrangements for dealing with Unemployment Insurance, and Dr. Macnamara has promised that any proposals submitted to him shall receive the most sympathetic consideration.

RATES OF WAGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AT JULY, 1914, DECEMBER, 1920, AND FEBRUARY, 1922.

IN the LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, an account was given of the increases in rates of wages in the principal industries of the United Kingdom from the outbreak of the war up to the end of 1920. It was shown that, at the latter date, the increases varied widely in different industries and occupations, ranging from not more than 120 or 130 per cent., in some cases, to as much as 200 per cent., or even, in some exceptional instances, 300 per cent. on pre-war rates. The average increase, in the organised industries for which information was available, was estimated at about 170 to 180 per cent.

In January, 1921, a decline in wages began, which continued throughout the year, and is still in progress. Some particulars of the reductions effected during 1921 were given on pages 4 to 6 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for January, and it is now proposed to supplement those particulars with a brief comparison of rates of wages in some of the principal industries (a) at the end of February, 1922, (b) at the end of December, 1920, and (c) before the war.

Building Trades.—In the larger towns the hourly rates of wages current in the building trade at the end of February, 1922, showed increases, as compared with the pre-war rates, ranging mostly from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3½d. per hour in the case of skilled men and 11½d. to 1s. 0½d. per hour in the case of labourers. At the end of 1920 the increases over pre-war rates mostly ranged from 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 6½d. per hour. The weekly working hours were reduced, however, in 1919 and 1920, and the ratio of increase in weekly rates is accordingly less than that in hourly rates.

On the basis of the unweighted averages of the standard rates of wages of the principal classes of workmen in towns with populations over 100,000, the average increases in hourly and weekly rates in December, 1920, and at the end of February, 1922, were as shown in the following Table. The weekly rates shown have been computed by multiplying the hourly rates by the average number of hours constituting a full ordinary week at the three dates (about 49½ at August, 1914, and 44 at December, 1920, and February, 1922), both the summer and the winter hours being taken into account for this purpose:—

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Rates of Wages in large towns at			Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at	
	4th Aug., 1914.	31st Dec., 1920.	28th Feb., 1922.	31st Dec., 1920.	28th Feb., 1922.
	Hourly Rates.				
Bricklayers	d. 9 9	d. 27 5	d. 23 7	% 176	% 139
Masons*	9 8	27 5	23 7	181	143
Carpenters and Joiners	9 7	27 4	23 6	182	143
Plumbers	9 6	27 8	24 3	189	153
Plasterers	9 7	27 5	23 7	182	143
Painters	8 8	27 1	23 1	208	162
Labourers	6 5	23 8	18 6	265	186
	Weekly Rates.				
Bricklayers	s. d. 4 7	s. d. 10 10	s. d. 8 9	% 148	% 114
Masons*	3 8	10 10	8 0	164	120
Carpenters and Joiners	3 11	10 6	8 7	152	117
Plumbers	3 9	10 11	8 1	166	126
Plasterers	4 0 2	10 10	8 7	161	117
Painters	3 6 3	9 3	8 11	174	135
Labourers	2 6 11	8 3	6 5	224	154

If the increases shown are combined in the proportions of the relative numbers of men employed in the different occupations, the resulting general average increase over pre-war rates is nearly 1s. 1½d. per hour (or about 165 per cent.) at the end of February, 1922, compared with about 1s. 5½d. per hour (or nearly 225 per cent.) at the end of December, 1920. The increase in weekly full-time wages, allowing for the reduced working hours, is about 45s. 3d., or about 135 per cent., at 28th February, 1922, compared with about 61s., or 190 per cent., at the end of 1920.

Coal Mining.—At the end of 1920 the increases in full-time wages in the coal mining industry, as compared with July, 1914, were estimated (vide LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921) to range from less than 150 per cent. in the case of some of the higher-paid classes to over 200 per cent. in the case of some of the lower-paid grades. Since that date the flat-rate additions

* When different rates are paid to banker masons and fixers respectively, the rates used are those for banker hands.

to earnings, which were then in operation, have been withdrawn, and further reductions have been effected, varying in amount in different districts. At the end of February, 1922, the general levels of rates of wages in the principal districts showed advances varying from only 20 per cent. over pre-war rates in Durham, Cumberland, South Staffordshire, the Forest of Dean, Kent, South Wales, and part of Somerset, to 79 per cent. in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. In some cases these percentages would be slightly increased if account were taken of special advances granted since 1914 to particular grades of men. For example, for some classes the basis rates of wages have been raised; some of the lower-paid grades of workmen in certain districts have been granted special increases in order to maintain their wages at a "subsistence level"; and, in South Wales, men on afternoon and night shifts, whose normal working week is generally one of five shifts, have been paid, since 1915, as for an extra shift each week. If the general percentage increases are combined in proportion to the numbers employed in the various coal-fields, and allowance is made for the special advances referred to, the average increase in full-time weekly wages, as compared with July, 1914, is estimated to have been about 50 per cent. at the end of February, 1922, compared with 185 to 190 per cent. at the end of 1920.*

It should be observed that the weekly working time has been reduced since 1914, the maximum hours fixed for underground workers under the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1908 having been curtailed from 8 to 7 per day in 1919, and the working week of surface workers having been reduced to 49 hours as from January, 1919, and to 46½ from July, 1919. The weekly wages of time workers remained unchanged when these reductions in hours were made, and piece rates were increased so as to yield approximately the same weekly earnings as before.

Other Mining and Quarrying.—For iron miners in Cleveland and limestone quarrymen in Durham, rates of wages at the end of February, 1922, were about 57 per cent. above pre-war rates, compared with an average estimated at about 200 per cent. at the end of 1920. In Lincolnshire the wages of ironstone miners were about 34 to 38 per cent. over pre-war rates, with an additional flat rate advance of 1s. 1d. per shift in February, 1922, compared with 24s. per cent., plus the same flat rate advance, in December, 1920. In Cumberland the bargain price for iron ore miners and the shift rate for underground leading labourers in February, 1922, were about 68 per cent. and 36 per cent. respectively above the pre-war level. At the end of 1920 the corresponding percentages were 309 and 198, respectively.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—In these industries the general advance over pre-war rates, for men on time rates, now amounts to 33s. 6d. per week; but in certain districts where the men are paid at hourly rates the advance amounts to 34s. 4½d. In some cases further advances have been granted to particular classes of men; ship joiners, for example, are paid a general increase of 3s. a week in addition to the increase of 33s. 6d. granted to other shipyard workers.

The following Table shows the unweighted averages of the district time rates of wages of men in certain representative occupations in 16 of the principal engineering centres and 13 of the principal shipbuilding centres in August, 1914, December, 1920, and February, 1922, together with the equivalent percentage increase over pre-war rates. The figures relate to a full ordinary week of 53 hours in some districts and 54 in others, in 1914, and 47 hours at December, 1920, and February, 1922.

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates in the principal centres			Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at	
	4th Aug., 1914.	31st Dec., 1920.	28th Feb., 1922.	31st Dec., 1920.	28th Feb., 1922.
ENGINEERING:					
Fitters and Turners	s. d. 38 11	s. d. 89 6	s. d. 73 6	% 130	% 89
Ironmoulders	41 8	92 10	76 3	123	83
Patternmakers	42 1	94 3	77 10	123	85
Labourers	22 10	70 9	56 11	210	150
SHIPBUILDING:					
Shipwrights	41 4	91 3	75 1	121	82
Ship Joiners	40 0	101 0	76 11	153	92
Platers	40 4	90 0	74 1	123	84
Riveters	37 9	87 2	71 6	131	89
Labourers	22 10	70 4	56 7	208	148

For skilled men on time rates the average increase appears to be between 80 and 90 per cent., compared with 120 to 130 per cent. at December, 1920; whilst for labourers it is now about 150 per cent., compared with over 200 per cent. at the former date. For semi-skilled classes the percentages would range between those shown for skilled men and those for labourers.

In the case of piece-workers in these industries, the general advances amounted at December, 1920, to 25 per cent. on basis piece rates, plus flat-rate advances amounting (for men) to 26s. 6d. per week, plus a bonus of 7½ per cent. on total earnings. In addition, in the shipbuilding industry, riveters, platers, angle-iron smiths, caulkers, drillers and various other classes of workpeople had received further advances, under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of Awards and consequential extensions, varying in amount for different occupations or different classes of work. At the end of February, 1922, the general advances had been

* For four weeks in January, 1921, wages in the coal mining industry were higher than at the end of December, 1920, but from 31st January, 1921, they were reduced below the December, 1920, level.

reduced to 10 per cent. on basis piece rates, plus the flat-rate advances of 2s. 6d. a week. The bonus of 7½ per cent. had been discontinued and the "Standard Ship Cycle" advances had been withdrawn in some cases and greatly reduced in others. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable a reliable calculation to be made of the effect of these changes on the average earnings of piece workers in the engineering and shipbuilding industries.

Other Metal Trades.—In certain of the other metal trades, including the manufacture of light castings, sheet metal working, gas meter making, and bridge building, the general advances in rates of wages have been similar to those granted in the engineering trade. Workpeople in some other sections of the metal trades, however, have received different amounts of increase. In the heavy iron and steel trades (smelting, puddling, rolling, forging, etc.), in which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the selling price of the finished products, the increases over pre-war rates vary very widely; being in some cases (e.g., with certain blastfurnace labourers) equivalent to 120 per cent. on the pre-war level, while at the other extreme the rates for process workers in South Wales show a net increase of less than 20 per cent. At the end of 1920 the increases ranged between 150 per cent. and 350 per cent. on pre-war rates, and in some cases further small increases were given early in 1921. In the tin plate and steel sheet trade in South Wales the net increase over pre-war rates now amounts to about 34 per cent., compared with a range of 150 per cent. to 231 per cent. in December, 1920.

Cotton Industry.—In July, 1914, piece rates of wages in this industry generally stood at 5 per cent. above the standard list prices. By the end of 1920 they had been raised to 215 per cent. above the standard, but they have since been reduced to 145 per cent. above the standard. Of this increase, however, 30 per cent. was granted in 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly working hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. Apart from this latter adjustment wages are now about 105 per cent. above pre-war level, as compared with 171 per cent. at the end of 1920. In addition, special increases or allowances have been granted to certain classes of operatives, e.g., blowing-room men, strippers and grinders, and mule spinners, the effect of which would be to augment slightly the percentages quoted.

Wool Textile Industry.—For woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire rates of wages rise or fall in correspondence with fluctuations in the "cost of living" as measured by the index number of retail prices and rents published regularly in this Gazette. Increases in basis rates have also been given. The general increase in basis rates, between July, 1914, and February, 1922, was 10 per cent. For time workers in both the spinning and manufacturing sections the general "cost of living" increase up to the end of February, 1922, was 95* per cent. on the enhanced basis rates; for male piece-workers it was generally 77.72 per cent., and for female piece-workers 82.045 per cent., though different amounts had been granted to certain small sections of workpeople, e.g., blanket raisers. Taking into account the increase in basis rates as well as the cost of living wage, the general increase on pre-war rates of wages for a full week is now equivalent to approximately 114 per cent. for time workers, 95 per cent. for male piece-workers, and 100 per cent. for female piece-workers, compared with 216 per cent., 131 per cent., and 190 per cent., respectively, at the end of 1920. These figures are exclusive of a general advance of over 15 per cent. on hourly and piece-rates which was granted in March, 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before.

Other Textile Industries.—In the bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing section, the hosiery industry, and the carpet trade, the increases over pre-war rates at the end of 1920 and in February, 1922, were as follows:—

	Increase over pre-war rates at—	
	December, 1920.	February, 1922.
<i>Bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing.†</i>		
Lancs., Cheshire, Derbyshire and Scotland—		
Men	49 7½	28 2½
Women	29 6½	16 9½
<i>Yorkshire—</i>		
Time workers	185	109
Piece ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	143	83
Hosiery manufacture (Midlands)	125	75
<i>Carpet manufacture—</i>		
Time workers	160	80
Piece ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	155	75

Apart from these increases in wages, the weekly working hours were reduced in 1919 or 1920, the weekly rates of time workers remaining unchanged, and the rates of piece-workers being enhanced so as to yield the same weekly earnings as before the change in hours.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—In the manufacture of boots and shoes the minimum time-rate of wages for the principal classes of

* The full percentage was paid only on basis rates up to 33s. On basis rates between 33s. and 51s. the percentage was paid on 33s. or on 80 per cent. of the basis rate, whichever was the greater, and on basis rates over 51s. 19 per cent. was paid on the first 15s. above 51s. and 7.6 per cent. on the remainder.

† In the bleaching, dyeing, etc., industry, there were further small increases in rates of wages in January, 1921.

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

skilled workmen, 23 years of age and upwards, at the end of February, 1922, was 64s. a week. At the end of 1920 the corresponding minimum was 66s., and before the war it was 30s. in most districts, though in a few cases it was 28s. or 29s. For men of the same ages in the heel-building department and in the shoe and stock rooms the minimum in February was 61s. a week, compared with 65s. in December, 1920, and with a rate of 27s. a week adopted in 1914, to take effect from the beginning of 1915. For women of 20 years or over employed in certain operations in the closing and heel-building departments and the stock and shoe room the minimum rate was 38s. a week at February, 1922, compared with 40s. at December, 1920, and with 17s. or 18s. adopted in 1914, with effect from January, 1915.

Railway Service.—For the principal grades of adult workmen in the traffic sections the rates of wages now in operation show increases ranging usually from 35s. to 41s. 6d. a week above the pre-war averages for the corresponding grades. Owing to the wide variation in the pre-war rates of wages the percentage increase on such rates varies considerably. For some grades of porters, whose pre-war average rate was about 13s. a week, the increase is as much as 195 to 205 per cent.; on the other hand, for certain classes of foremen, whose pre-war average rates were 37s. or 38s. a week, it amounts to not more than 105 to 110 per cent.; whilst for men whose pre-war earnings were over £2 a week the percentage increase is less. The present rates are generally 12s. a week below those paid at the end of 1920 (when the percentage increases over pre-war rates ranged in different occupations from 130 or 140 per cent. up to 260 or 270 per cent.), and 13s. below the rates paid in the first three months of 1921, a further increase of 1s. a week having taken effect from 1st January, 1921. The hours of labour in the railway service were reduced to 48 per week in 1919, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages.

Other Transport Services.—For dock labourers the rates generally paid were 12s. to 14s. 6d. a day of 8 hours in February, 1922, compared with 15s. to 17s. 6d. in December, 1920, and with about 4s. 6d. to 6s. 8d. for a day averaging approximately 10 hours in 1914. A reduction of 1s. a day has been arranged to take effect in March. In the case of seamen, the standard rates in February were £12 a month for able seamen and £12 10s. for firemen, compared with £14 10s. and £15 in December, 1920, and with £5 to £5 10s. and £5 10s. to £6 respectively at July, 1914. A reduction of 30s. a month has been arranged to take effect in March. In the road transport industry the increases in twelve of the principal towns range from 31s. to 37s. per week for one horse drivers, the average rate in these towns being now 60s. 1d. per week, compared with 68s. 2d. at the end of 1920 and 25s. 7d. in 1914. In the tramway service it is estimated that the increases over pre-war rates in the case of drivers and conductors now average between 33s. 6d. and 35s. a week, compared with a general advance of 40s. a week at the end of 1920.

In addition to these increases in wages, a shorter working week was adopted in 1919, generally of 44 hours for dock labourers and 48 hours for carters and tramway servants, without any reduction in weekly wages.

Agriculture.—At the end of 1920 the minimum rates of wages fixed by the Agricultural Wages Board for ordinary labourers in England and Wales ranged from 46s. to 52s. a week, showing increases over the pre-war rates estimated to average about 175 or 180 per cent. These rates were subsequently reduced and the Agricultural Wages Board ceased to operate after September last. In a number of counties, however, revised rates of wages have been agreed upon by voluntary Conciliation Committees of employers and workpeople, and in some others certain rates of wages have been recommended by the employers' organisation for general adoption. A comparison of the rates of wages so agreed or recommended (which range generally from 31s. to 44s. 6d.), with the rates paid in the same districts in 1914, shows increases, in the case of ordinary labourers, averaging about 90 to 100 per cent. This comparison, however, covers only 40 counties in England and Wales, information as to the rates current in other districts at February, 1922, not being at present available.

Other Industries.—In the following Table particulars are given of the rates of wages at July, 1914, December, 1920, and the end of February, 1922, of some of the principal classes of workpeople in the printing and bookbinding, furniture making, and baking trades in a number of large towns:—

Trade and Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates of Wages in certain large towns* at		Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at		
	4th Aug. 1914.	31st Dec. 1920.	28th Feb. 1922.	31st Dec. 1920.	28th Feb. 1922.
PRINTING & BOOKBINDING:					
Hand Compositors on book and jobbing work	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	%	%
Bookbinders and machine rulers	35 8	93 4	86 2	162	141
FURNITURE MAKING:					
Cabinet Makers	39 9	102 1	83 9	157	111
Upholsterers	38 9	101 1	83 7	161	116
French Polishers	37 1	101 11	83 6	175	125
BAKING:					
Table Hands	30 3	83 3	73 3	176	142

* The averages are based on the rates current in 27 towns in the Printing and Bookbinding and Baking trades and in 17 towns in the Furniture trade.

It should be observed that the hours of labour in a normal full week at February, 1922, and December, 1920, were 48 in the printing and baking trades and 44 to 47 in the furniture making trades, compared with 50 or 51 in the printing trades, 48 to 60 for bakers, and 49½ to 54 in the furniture trade at July, 1914. In the pottery industry the general level of rates of wages is now 66½ per cent. above the pre-war level, compared with 108½ per cent. at the end of 1920. In 1919 the hours of labour were reduced from 52 to 47 per week without any reduction in weekly rates of wages.

SUMMARY.

From the details given it will be evident that both the actual amounts of increase and the corresponding percentages on pre-war rates continue to show a wide diversity among different classes of workers. In some cases, e.g., in the coal mining industry in certain districts, the increases up to the end of February, 1922, were equivalent to not more than 20 per cent. on the pre-war rates. On the other hand, in some other cases, particularly among the lower-paid grades of workmen in some industries, they were equivalent to as much as 150 per cent. on pre-war rates, and there were some exceptional instances of increases equivalent to 200 per cent. or more. The information in the possession of the Department is not sufficiently complete to enable the average percentage increase for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of February, 1922, weekly full-time rates of wages of adult workpeople, in the industries for which particulars are available, were approximately 100 per cent. above the pre-war rates. As the length of the normal working week had been considerably reduced in the same period, the usual range of full-time working hours in industry generally being about 44 to 48 weekly at the end of February, 1922, as compared with 48 to 60 before the war, the percentage increase in hourly rates of wages would be substantially greater. At the end of 1920, shortly before the decline in wages began, the increase on pre-war rates in the same industries is estimated to have been about 170 or 180 per cent. The average reduction in rates of wages from the beginning of 1921 until the end of February, 1922, therefore, would appear to have been equivalent to between 25 and 30 per cent. of the rates current at the former date.

It should be remarked, however, that the information regularly collected by the Department as to changes in rates of wages relates mainly (though not exclusively) to changes arranged as the result of action by organised bodies of employers and workpeople. Many changes not of a general character do not come to the notice of the Department, and in some industries, therefore, the particulars available for December, 1920, and February, 1922, may fall short of indicating the full amount of the increase in rates of wages as compared with July, 1914. On the other hand, it appears probable that the increases in wages in industries in which the workers are well organised may have been greater, on the whole, than in unorganised trades, and as the latter are not adequately represented in the available statistics, the figure of about 100 per cent. suggested by the Department's information as representing the average rise in rates of wages since 1914 may possibly be somewhat in excess of the true average for all industries.

It should also be observed that the foregoing particulars relate to rates of wages for full-time, and that no account has been taken of the widespread loss of earnings which is now being caused by unemployment and short time working, or of the effects of increased or reduced exertion on the earnings of workpeople paid at piece rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

Up to and including the 28th February, 1922, 29,952 employers had enrolled under the National Scheme for the Employment of Disabled Ex-Service Men, and their names have been added to the King's National Roll. The undertakings given by these employers cover 360,507 disabled ex-Service men.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 28th February, 1922, the number of men in training was 23,240, and the number awaiting training 32,344. Since 1st August, 1919, 49,809 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to 1st March, 1922, 44,606 apprentices had been accepted for training with 17,794 employers, as compared with 44,600 apprentices with 17,783 employers, on 25th January, 1922.

The apprentices rejected up to 1st March, 1922, numbered 2,153, compared with 2,150, on 25th January, 1922. Of those accepted 26,910 terminated training, and 7,696 were still in training; the corresponding numbers on 25th January, 1922, were 35,832 and 8,718 respectively.

The number of apprentices who have received institutional training has been increased during the five weeks from 1,990 to 2,022.

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND ACT, 1920.

ADAPTATION OF ENACTMENTS TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

Friendly Societies, Trade Unions, etc.—The Government of Ireland (Companies, Societies, etc.) Order, 1922, dated 3rd March, 1922, deals, *inter alia*, with the Friendly Societies Acts, 1896 and 1908, the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 to 1913, and the Trade Union Acts, 1871 to 1917. The appointed day for the transfer of Northern Irish Services in connection with these Acts is the 1st January, 1922. The express modifications and adaptations subject to which they have effect in Northern Ireland as from the appointed day are prescribed in Part IV. of the Order.

Trade Boards Acts.—The Government of Ireland (Adaptation of Enactments) (No. 3) Order, 1922, dated 3rd March, 1922, deals, *inter alia*, with the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918. The appointed day for the transfer of Northern Irish Services in connection with these Acts is the 1st January, 1922. The express modifications and adaptations subject to which they have effect in Northern Ireland as from the appointed day are prescribed in Part V. of the Order.

Unemployment Insurance Acts.—The Government of Ireland (Adaptation of Unemployment Insurance Acts) Order, 1922, dated 3rd March, 1922, prescribes the modifications and adaptations subject to which the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, and the Unemployed Workers' Dependents (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921, have effect in Northern Ireland as from the 1st January, 1922. The modifications and adaptations are the same as those contained in the Government of Ireland (Adaptation of Unemployment Insurance Acts) Order, 1921, which had already come into force provisionally (see LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1922, page 6).

Copies of all these Orders in Council are contained in the "London Gazette" for the 7th March, 1922.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

BETWEEN 29th January and 25th February ten meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and two meetings of Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Department. Meetings of District and Provincial Councils and of various sub-committees have also taken place.

WAGES.

Reductions in wages have been negotiated by the *Cair Mat and Matting Joint Industrial Council* and by the *Cooperage Joint Industrial Council*. The latter body altered wages in certain districts, and also appointed a sub-committee to discuss the whole wage question. The *Flour Milling Joint Industrial Council* has arrived at an agreement by which wages shall be regulated in future in accordance with a sliding scale dependent on the Index Figure for the Cost of Living. New agreements affecting glass workers and metal workers were confirmed by the *Optical Instrument Manufacturing Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee*. The *Tramways Joint Industrial Council* recommended a revised scale of wages, embodying a sliding scale, for boys and for youths. Mr. F. H. McLeod, C.B., who was appointed independent Chairman, with powers of arbitration, to preside at a meeting of the *Provincial Council for the Local Authorities Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) in the South Wales and Monmouthshire Area*, issued his award on the 31st January (see LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1922, page 97). This award was adopted also by the *District Council for South Wales and Monmouthshire of the Waterworks Joint Industrial Council*. Wage questions were discussed by the *Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Clay Industry*.

TRADE PROBLEMS.

The importation of Foreign Basket Ware was discussed by a Sub-Committee of the *Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Basket Making Industry* on 9th and 10th February. A draft report on the subject for presentation to the appropriate Government Department was drawn up, but before further action is taken the opinion and advice of a disinterested party is to be obtained.

The *Industrial Council for the Building Industry* met on 10th February, and adopted amendments to the Apprenticeship Scheme, allowing greater freedom to local bodies regarding rates of wages for apprentices and concerning attendance at day continuation classes. Representatives were appointed to confer with representatives of other organisations interested in the draft regulations for safety in woodworking machinery operations.*

The *Cooperage Joint Industrial Council* has decided that, in view of the present conditions in the industry, no arrangements for compulsory holidays with pay can be made applicable to the whole industry.

The draft constitution for the *Electrical Industry Joint Conference* was considered by the *Electrical Cable Making Industry Joint Industrial Council*, and approved, with one minor alteration on the question of objects. On the other hand, the *Electricity Supply Joint Industrial Council* has taken exception to the establishment of the Conference as a permanent organisation.

The *Electricity Supply Joint Industrial Council* met on 17th February, and discussed the question of undertakings which had

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1922, page 48.

withdrawn from or refused to join their respective District Councils, and decided to request the Minister of Labour to receive a deputation on the subject. A schedule of working conditions applicable to small undertakings, submitted by the West Midlands District Council, was approved. The question of setting up Works Joint Committees in the Yorkshire area was discussed at the District Council for the area. The Trade Union side stated that they proposed to circularise the various unions with a view to having works committees set up in the undertakings where they were not already in existence. The Employers' side agreed to co-operate.

Resolutions on the questions of taxation and Postal Rates were passed by the *Iron and Steel Wire Manufacturing Joint Industrial Council* at a meeting on 7th February, and it was decided to send copies of the former to the Federation of British Industries, and of the latter to the Postmaster-General.

The *Northern Counties District Council of the Wool (and Allied) Textile Joint Industrial Council*, on 17th and 22nd February, again discussed the question of overtime on emergency orders. No agreement was, however, arrived at. Fifteen firms have been granted permission by the Emergency Committee to work overtime up to 31st March, 1922.

**THE INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE RESEARCH BOARD.
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.**

The second annual report of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board* gives an account of the work of the Board from the 1st April, 1920, to the 30th September, 1921. The Board state that the progress of their investigations during this period has been delayed, partly for reasons of economy, and partly owing to the variability of industrial conditions.

The investigations pursued by the Board have consisted of (1) a general enquiry into the conditions of certain industries, and (2) research on special subjects. Investigations into the following have now been completed, although in some instances the results are not yet available:—*Iron and Steel Industry, Cotton Industry, Silk Industry, Boot and Shoe Industry, Laundry Industry.* A statistical investigation of labour turnover in munition making, etc., has also been completed; a review of the literature on the subject of *Vocational Selection*, and three studies of special aspects of this subject, have been published; and a report summarising the work already carried out on *Time and Motion Study*, and containing a complete bibliography, has been published.

The main investigations now in progress or under consideration are as follows:—*Pottery Industry, Flax and Hemp Industries, Jute Industries, Glass Industry, Iron Foundries, and Post Office Work.* Furthermore, a statistical investigation of sickness and mortality in the *Boot and Shoe* and the *Foundry* industries is being carried out; financial support from the Board has been given to external workers engaged on various branches of *Physiological Research*; and *Psychological Research* on four specific subjects is also proceeding.

Early in 1921 special Scientific Committees were appointed, in order to secure adequate scientific supervision of research and criticism of the Board's work. This system was continued, after the reorganisation of the Board in April, 1921, by the appointment of the following expert Committees by the Medical Research Council:—Committee on *Industrial Health Statistics*, Committee on the *Physiology of Muscular Work*, Committee on the *Physiology of the Respiratory and the Cardio-Vascular Systems*, and Committee on *Psychology*.

Having reviewed the work already accomplished, the Report proceeds:—"New fields of investigation are continually opening out, which lie beyond both the scope and the present resources of the Board. If these are to be adequately explored, the Board think it essential that the industries should extend their co-operation with the Board, by agreeing themselves to assume partial responsibility for the supervision and the financial support of the industrial side of their work." The Board suggest: (1) "That industries themselves should have a full and even predominant share in the supervision of such investigation, and in deciding upon the problems to be studied"; (2) "that responsibility for initiation and prosecution of the work should be shared, so far as possible, equally between employers' and workmen's representatives, acting together"; and (3) "that problems arising in their work have often a common interest to more than one particular industry, so that economy, as well as greater opportunities, might be secured . . . by co-operation with groups of industries having certain features in common, rather than with each such industry separately."

Part II. of the Report consists of an analysis of the seventeen Reports of the Board which have already been published. The principal points brought out in them are collated and combined into three groups, according as they relate to the effects on fatigue and efficiency of:—(a) *Hours of labour* (including spells, rest pauses, etc.); (b) *Other conditions of employment* (or the physical conditions of the worker's environment, constituting the *impersonal* factors in efficiency and fatigue); or (c) *Methods of work* (constituting the *personal* factors in efficiency and fatigue). The conditions of living outside the factory, being outside the terms of the Board's reference, have not been studied. With regard to the method of investigation, it is explained that no satisfactory direct test for the measurement of fatigue has yet been evolved, and the Board

* Medical Research Council. Second Annual Report of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board to 30th September, 1921 (including analysis of published work). Published by H.M. Stationery Office (1922). Price 1s. 6d. net.

have accordingly had to rely on indirect methods, of which the following may be mentioned as examples:—(a) Variations in output, and other performance tests; (b) Sickness and mortality; (c) Labour turnover (i.e., the rate of change in the working staff); (d) Lost time; and (e) Accidents.

A complete list is given of the published Reports of the Board, with a brief summary of the contents of each.

MINES AND QUARRIES, 1920.

PART III. of the General Report on Mines and Quarries for 1920 by His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Mines has now been issued.* The Report contains statistics relating to the output and value of minerals from mines and quarries in the United Kingdom during the year ended 31st December, 1920.

The following Table shows for the principal districts the quantities of coal and other minerals raised, and the total number of persons employed at mines and quarries, in 1920. In the case of stone, slate, clay, etc., quarries the figures as to output exclude the output of quarries less than 20 feet deep:—

	Quantities Raised.		Number of Workpeople employed.
	Coal (1,000 tons).	Other Minerals (1,000 tons).	
Derbyshire	14,179	2,492	70,212
Durham	30,818	2,768	179,174
Glamorgan	30,252	1,246	181,794
Lancashire	19,785	2,566	119,817
Monmouthshire	15,113	293	73,539
Northumberland	11,186	494	63,720
Nottinghamshire	12,119	898	54,066
Staffordshire	11,869	2,272	73,151
Yorkshire	36,183	6,592	187,365
Rest of England and Wales	19,396	27,799†	169,365
Total, England and Wales	197,900	47,625†	1,172,223
Fifeshire	6,608	359	30,862
Lanarkshire	12,610	800	63,119
Rest of Scotland	12,506	5,264	66,964
Total, Scotland	31,524	6,423	160,935
Ireland and Isle of Man	108	1,021	4,139
Total, United Kingdom	222,532	55,069	1,337,297

The total quantity of coal raised in the year 1920 was 247,000 tons less than in the previous year, and, with the exception of the year 1918, was the lowest recorded since 1903. The majority of the pits, however, were idle for two to three weeks during October and November, 1920, owing to the national coal mining dispute. The tonnage of other minerals raised during 1920 showed an increase of 9,464,000 tons as compared with 1919. The value at the mines and quarries of the coal raised in 1920 was £396,872,423, as compared with £314,113,160 in the previous year; the value of other minerals was £30,572,461, as compared with £21,565,180 in the year 1919.

COAL MINING INDUSTRY: PIT COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT AND AREA BOARDS.

PART II. OF THE MINING INDUSTRY ACT, 1920. As stated in the LABOUR GAZETTE for February (p. 56), the Secretary for Mines reported to Parliament on the 7th February that "it appears to the Board of Trade that the scheme of Part II. of the Mining Industry Act, 1920, has been rendered abortive by reason of the failure on the part of those entitled to appoint representatives as members of the Pit and District Committees, Area Boards, and the National Board to avail themselves of such right." Section 17 of the Act provides that Part II. shall cease to have effect at the expiration of 30 days of session from that date, unless in the meantime a resolution to the contrary is passed by both Houses of Parliament.

On the 11th February the Miners' Federation addressed a request to the Prime Minister that the Government should move the necessary resolution for the purpose of keeping Part II. of the Act in force, and on the 22nd February the Prime Minister sent the following reply, addressed to Mr. Hodges, the Secretary of the Federation:—

"His Majesty's Government have carefully considered your letter of February 11, relating to Part II. of the Mining Industry Act, and the request of your Executive Committee that the Government should move Parliament to pass resolutions under Section 17 of the Act for the purpose of keeping the provisions of Part II. in force.

"You will already have read the correspondence which has passed between the Secretary for Mines and the Mining Association on this subject, and I may say at once that I entirely share Mr. Bridgeman's views in regard to the attitude that the coalowners have adopted.

At the same time, I cannot ignore the fact that Part II. in the main does no more than provide regular opportunities for discussion between the owners and management and the workpeople, and that its ultimate value must depend entirely upon the manner and the spirit in which those opportunities are used.

"At a time when the opposition to these provisions came from your side, a member of your Executive said:—

"Of course, the Bill cannot be operated without the whole-hearted co-operation of owners and men."

"That statement is equally true to-day, when the opposition comes from the other side. Legislation cannot convert an unwilling man into a willing one. I fear, therefore, that so long as either party is opposed to the scheme it would be of no real value to the industry, and, in the circumstances, the Government do not feel that they would be justified in moving Parliament to keep Part II. of the Act in force."

On the 7th March a resolution, moved by Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., in the House of Commons, "that Part II. of the Mining Industry Act, 1920, shall not cease to have effect" was defeated by 141 votes to 99. In the House of Lords a similar resolution moved by Viscount Haldane on the 8th March was negatived, after debate.

MINERS' WELFARE FUND.

SECTION 20 of the Mining Industry Act, 1920, constituted a fund to be used for purposes connected with the social well-being, recreation and conditions of living of workers in and about coal mines and with mining education and research. The fund is supported by a levy of a penny a ton on the output of each mine, and the duty of allocating the money from time to time standing to the credit of the fund rests with a Committee appointed by the Board of Trade.

The Mines Department announces that the first allocations of money from the fund were made at a meeting of the Committee on the 28th February, 1922. Among the grants voted were £12,000 for research work on miners' safety lamps and coal-dust dangers, and £1,000 for research on the control of atmospheric conditions in deep and hot mines. This research will be carried on under the supervision of the Mines Department. A grant of £3,000 was made towards the provision of additional lecture-room and laboratory accommodation at the Nuneaton County Mining School, and various smaller grants were made in aid of local recreation schemes in the Forest of Dean district.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN DENMARK*

AN Act recently passed, which came into force on 1st January, has as its object the improvement of the machinery established by the legislation of 12th April, 1910 (amended in 1918 and 1919), in order to meet the present greatly increased demand in Denmark for conciliation in labour disputes. The 1910 legislation provided for (1) a Permanent Arbitration Court, and (2) a Public Conciliator.

The Permanent Court consists of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers elected by their respective national federations, with a president and two or three vice-presidents of judicial qualifications, who are paid officials. The jurisdiction of the Court extends to industry and handicrafts, agriculture, transport and (since 1919) commerce and general office work. Its functions are to enforce and interpret existing collective agreements.† Between the years 1910 and 1920 the Court dealt with 363 cases, of which almost half fell within the last three and a half years. Of these 70 per cent. were heard and settled; 20 per cent. were disposed of in the preliminary proceedings, and 10 per cent. withdrawn.

The Public Conciliator is a paid official, appointed by the Ministry of the Interior on the nomination of the Permanent Arbitration Court for a period of two years. His functions are defined in the Act as being "to endeavour to adjust disputes between employers and workpeople," his intervention or non-intervention in any particular dispute being left to his own discretion. Whenever a strike or a lock-out has occurred, or seems likely to occur, which threatens to have serious consequences for the community, and after negotiations between the parties have proved fruitless, the Conciliator may, either on his own initiative or at the request of one of the parties, summon both to a conference. This summons they must obey. At this conference he is empowered to suggest terms of settlement, but these must not be published, according to the original legislation, without the consent of both parties unless a stoppage of work takes place. If, in the course of the negotiations, differences of opinion arise on important questions of wages or hours of labour, the Conciliator may require both parties to furnish information on these points; if the information furnished appears unsatisfactory, he may demand an examination of witnesses before the Permanent Court.† Up to the year

* Based on *Social Forsorg* (the journal of the Danish Workpeople's Insurance Council, etc.), for December, 1921.
† For further details see LABOUR GAZETTE, June, 1910, page 188.

1921, however, it had not been found necessary to make use of this power. During the period from October, 1910, to the middle of 1919, the Conciliator dealt with 132 cases, in 99 of which he succeeded in bringing about a settlement during the preliminary negotiations.

The new Act does not affect the Permanent Arbitration Court in any way. With regard to conciliation procedure it was agreed that the existing system had worked satisfactorily, and that there was no necessity for making any alteration in principle. In view of the great increase of work, it was, however, necessary to appoint three Conciliators instead of one. These have equal authority, and will apportion the work among themselves. Provision is also made for joint conciliation by all three in case of extensive negotiations, such as took place in the spring of 1920 and 1921. The Conciliators are to be appointed for three years, but the appointments must not terminate simultaneously, in order that there may be no interruption of the work.

The most important alteration is the replacement of the clause prohibiting the publication of the Conciliator's proposals without the consent of both parties by one which states that the proposals may not be published without the consent of the Conciliator until the answers of both parties to the proposals have been received. A further new provision empowers the Conciliators to require any employers' or workers' organisation to produce a copy of any collective agreement they may have concluded, while another provides that only the exact text of any conciliation proposal may be laid before any organisation of employers or workers, and that the voting must take the form of a direct refusal or a direct acceptance of the proposal.

GERMAN COAL AND LIGNITE MINING: EARNINGS PER SHIFT, 1913 AND 1921.

THE issue for January, 1922, of the journal *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, the journal of the Federal Department of Statistics, contains an article dealing with wages in coal and lignite mining in the principal areas of Germany during the third quarter of 1921. The following table, showing the average amount earned per shift by men employed, together with the increase over the corresponding earnings for 1913, is compiled from the particulars given therein. (Similar particulars for the second quarter of the year were published in the November LABOUR GAZETTE, pp. 573-4.)

Mining District.	Hewers and Trammers.		Other Underground Workers.		Men Surface Workers.	
	Average Earnings per Shift, 3rd Qtr., 1921.	Increase over 1913.	Average Earnings per Shift, 3rd Qtr., 1921.	Increase over 1913.	Average Earnings per Shift, 3rd Qtr., 1921.	Increase over 1913.
Coal—	Marks.	Per cent.	Marks.	Per cent.	Marks.	Per cent.
Upper Silesia	68-48	1371	50-72	1449	50-62	1587
Lower Silesia	59-56	1651	53-87	1580	53-35	1727
Dortmund	75-88	1170	59-24	1305	59-71	1376
Aix-la-Chapelle	63-62	1132	61-39	1197	57-78	1248
Rhine, Left Bank	79-57	1257	58-74	1127	59-25	1356
Bavaria	49-98	1037	43-54	1137	41-76	1186
Saxony	63-98	*	56-47	*	53-55	*
Average	65-55	1237	53-42	1278	52-72	1398
Lignite						
Elbe, Right Bank	57-00	1326	52-44	1458	51-99	1426
Elbe, Left Bank	54-89	*	51-97	*	51-10	*
Rhine, Left Bank	62-30	1303	61-68	1411	61-59	1551
Saxony	56-48	*	51-51	*	53-69	*
Thuringia	63-50	1380	52-90	1367	50-49	1350
Average	58-83	1312	54-10	1390	53-77	1442
Coal and Lignite Together	62-75	1283	53-71	1328	53-16	1415

The average shift-earnings of coal miners in the restricted sense, i.e., hewers and trammers, rose from 60-31 marks in the second quarter to 65-55 in the third, and in the latter period amounted to slightly over 12 times the corresponding pre-war figure. Lignite hewers' and trammers' earnings increased from 55-03 marks in the second to 58-83 in the third, and were 13 times the 1913 average. Similar advances took place in the case of other men employed in the industry, the general result being that earnings of men employed in coal mines during the quarter under review were from 12 to 14 times those recorded for 1913, while those of lignite miners were from 13 to 14½ times the 1913 figure.

In the quarter under review the average earnings per shift in coal-mining were 68-63 marks for hewers and 56-30 marks for trammers. In lignite mining the positions were reversed, trammers getting the higher rate, viz., 66-20 marks, and hewers the lower, 53-89 marks.

* No comparable figure for 1913.

STATISTICS OF RETAIL PRICES.

RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

STATISTICS FOR 1st MARCH, 1922.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	86%
Food only	...	...	...	77%

FOOD.

DURING February there was a slight decline in the general level of retail prices of the principal articles of food, the average increase, as compared with July, 1914, in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary being about 77 per cent. on 1st March, as compared with about 79 per cent. a month earlier.

Eggs and fish were substantially cheaper on 1st March than on 1st February, and there was also some reduction during the month in the average prices of milk, butter, margarine and imported beef. These decreases were, however, largely offset by advances in the prices of bread, flour and mutton.

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 February, 1922, and on 1st March, 1922:—

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

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st March, 1922, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for United Kingdom at 1st Feb., 1922.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	83	81	82	81
Thin Flank .. .	64	68	66	66
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	49	45	47	50
Thin Flank .. .	24	31	28	30
Mutton, British—				
Legs	87	83	85	77
Breast	74	66	70	64
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	76	68	72	69
Breast	27	24	26	24
Bacon (streaky)* ..	99	79	86	87
Flour	122	103	113	146
Flour	63	72	68	60
Bread	74	71	72	65
Tea	63	67	65	64
Sugar (granulated) ..	172	163	168	168
Milk	120	126	123	128
Butter—				
Fresh	32	55	43	47
Salt	27	34	30	31
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)* ..	58	62	60	56
Margarine	—	—	—	—
Eggs (fresh)	169	144	157	197
Potatoes	101	50	75	73
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	80	75	77	79

* 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 inquiries it is estimated that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st 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 March the level of retail prices of clothing, quality for quality, taking goods of the kind purchased by the working classes, averaged about 145 per cent., or a little lower than a month earlier.

In the fuel and light group, the average increase in the retail prices of coal, as compared with July, 1914, was about 120 per cent. at 1st March. For gas the increase was about 105 per cent., for lamp oil 95 per cent., and for candles (cheap kinds) 85 per cent. Matches show a much greater increase. Taking the group as a whole, the average increase was about 120 per cent. at 1st March, or approximately the same as at 1st February.

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 March, 1922, is about 86 per cent.* over the pre-war level as compared with 88 per cent. for 1st February.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1921 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:—

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	130	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	—
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.

* If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 1st March, 1922, is about 6 per cent. less.
† As 1st January fell on Sunday, the statistics related to 31st December.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following paragraphs and in the Summary Table 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.]

FRANCE (PARIS).*

The index number representing the general level of retail prices of food, fuel and lighting in February was 34 per cent. lower than in January, but 207 per cent. above that for July, 1914. The computation of the movement of the general prices level is based on the pre-war budget of a typical Parisian family of the working class.

BELGIUM.†

The index number of the cost of food required by families whose incomes (in 1910) fell below 5 francs per day, at the prices prevailing on 15th January, was 317 per cent. greater than on 15th April, 1914. The corresponding expenditure by families whose incomes ranged from 5 to 8 francs, and also by families in the highest income class (8 francs and over), showed a rise of 309 per cent. In the computation of the general index numbers allowance is made for the relative expenditure upon the various items of food entering into the dietary of the standard families considered.

The general level (unweighted) of retail prices of food and other necessities on 15th January, as computed from returns of retail prices in 59 localities, shows a decrease of 1.5 per cent. as compared with 15th December, but an increase of 287 as compared with 15th April, 1914.

ITALY (MILAN).‡

The weekly cost of maintaining the pre-war standard of living in Milan in the case of a family consisting of five persons, at the prices current in February, shows, as regards food alone, an increase of 0.8 per cent. when compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 462 per cent. as compared with the first half of 1914. The total family expenditure, including also the cost of clothing, rent, fuel and lighting, shows in February a decrease of 0.1 per cent. as compared with January, but is 422 per cent. higher than in 1914.

GERMANY.§

The official index number representing the cost of necessities assumed to be required by a family of five persons shows a further strongly-marked upward movement, an increase of over 21 per cent. being recorded in February, as compared with the preceding month, and of 1,889 per cent. as compared with the average for 1913-14. The computation is based upon the expenditure of such a family in respect of food, the rent of two rooms and a kitchen and fuel and lighting. The increase in the cost of food alone in February was about 23 per cent., as compared with the expenditure in January, and 2,627 per cent. as compared with that of 1913-14.

NORWAY.¶

According to a statement issued by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics the expenditure of a working-class family upon food in January shows a decrease of 4.1 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 157 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. Full data are not available as to the cost of other items comprised in the family budget, but a provisional computation estimates the total family expenditure in January as 170 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. The figures are based on returns from 31 towns of the cost of maintaining the pre-war standard of living of an average urban family which had (in 1914) an income of 1,500 kroner.

SWEDEN.¶¶

At the prices prevailing in February the cost of maintaining the standard pre-war budget of a typical Swedish household in the matter of food, fuel and lighting represents a decrease of 0.5 per cent upon the cost in the preceding month, but an increase of 89 per cent. in comparison with July, 1914. The typical family is one consisting of a man and wife and two children, whose expenditure (in 1914) amounted to 2,000 kroner. The above figures apply to the principal towns of Sweden taken together; on the assumption that the same standard of living prevails in Stockholm the February index number shows a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the capital as compared with January, but an increase of 90 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the General Statistical Department of France.

† *Revue du Travail*, February, 1922. Brussels.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Municipal Labour Office, Milan.

§ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Statistical Department, Berlin.

¶ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Department for Social Affairs, Stockholm.

HOLLAND (THE HAGUE).*

Index numbers of retail food prices at The Hague, as compiled by the Statistical Department of the Municipality of that city, indicate a fall of 61 per cent. between 1st December and 1st January. At the later date the general level was 90 per cent. above that of the first six months of 1914. In arriving at the general index the average for each group of articles is weighted in accordance with the standard of living prevailing in families of subordinate public officials.

SWITZERLAND.†

According to figures compiled by the Union of Swiss Co-operative Societies, on the basis of returns from 23 Swiss towns, the general level of retail prices of food on 1st February was 5.9 per cent. lower than in the preceding month, but 76 per cent. above the level of June, 1914. If the computation be extended to include fuel, lighting and soap, the index number for February shows a decrease of 5.4 per cent. when compared with that of 1st January, but is 79 per cent. above the level of June, 1914.

UNITED STATES.‡

The general level of retail prices of food in the United States in January showed a fall of 5.3 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but was 39 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. In the computation of the general level each article of food is weighted according to its importance in household consumption.

CANADA.§

The estimated weekly expenditure upon food by a family of five in February, as computed from returns of retail prices prevailing in 60 towns in the Dominion, shows a decrease of 3.9 per cent. when compared with that of the preceding month, and of 43 per cent. upon the expenditure in July, 1914. The total expenditure upon food, fuel, lighting and rent combined shows a decrease of 2.1 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, and an increase of 49 per cent. as compared with the cost in July, 1914.

NEW ZEALAND.¶

The index number of retail prices of food in February, based on returns relating to 25 representative towns in New Zealand, shows a decrease of 1.5 per cent. when compared with the preceding month, but is 45 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. In the computation of the general index number regard is had to the relative importance of the various groups of commodities in consumption.

* *Maandlijvers van het Statistisch Bureau der Gemeente 's-Gravenhage* November, 1921.

† *Schweizerischer Konsum-Verein*, 25th February, 1922. Basle.

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

§ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Canadian Department of Labour.

¶ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Government Statistician of New Zealand.

FOOD PRICES—GENERAL SUMMARY.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase in Retail Food Prices since July, 1914.					Latest figures available.
	July, 1917.	July, 1918.	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	
UNITED KINGDOM ..	Per cent. 104	Per cent. 110	Per cent. 109	Per cent. 158	Per cent. 120	Per cent. 77* Mar. '22
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Austria (Vienna) ..	..	..	..	..	9,320 †	60,200 Dec. '21
Belgium † .. .. .	..	..	..	359	310	317 Jan. '22
Czechoslovakia ‡ ..	..	..	..	..	1,246	1,444 Nov. '21
Denmark	66	87	112	153	136	97 Jan. '22
Finland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	882	1,178 1,186 Nov. '21
France (Paris) ‡ ..	83	106	161	273	206	277 Feb. '22
„ (Other Towns) ‡ ..	84 ‡	144 ‡	188 ‡	288 ‡	256 ‡	249 4th Qr. '22
Germany .. .. .	..	..	..	1,056	1,174	2,627 Feb. '22
Holland (The Hague) ..	..	..	..	..	143	113 Jan. '22
„ (Amsterdam) ..	42	76	110	117	85	64 Feb. '22
Italy (Rome)	37	103	106	218	302	369 Jan. '22
„ (Milan) .. .. .	..	225	210	345	406	462 Feb. '22
„ (Florence)	34	198	178	313	250	405 Feb. '22
Norway	114 ¶	179	189	219	195	157 Jan. '22
Poland (Warsaw) ‡ ..						

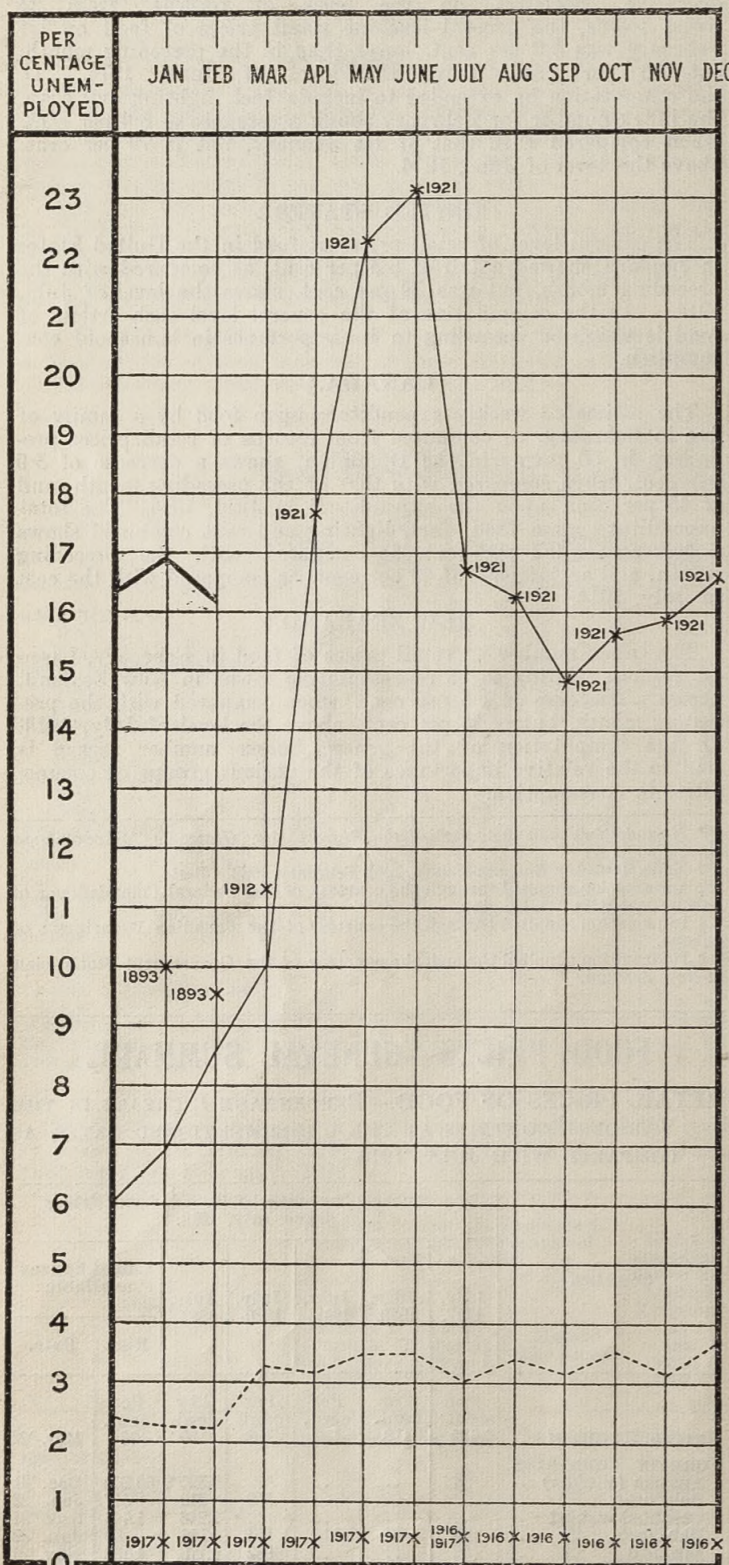
EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.*

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1922. — Thin Curve = 1921. — Dotted Curve = Mean of 1912-21.

* The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1892-1921.



EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during February, but showed a slight improvement as compared with January. The industries in which the improvement was most noticeable were coal mining, pig iron manufacture, iron and steel manufacture, the woollen and worsted industry, the ready-made clothing trades, boot and shoe manufacture, and the pottery trade.

The percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns were received was 16.3 at the end of February, compared with 16.8 at the end of January and 8.5 at the end of February, 1921.

Among the workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act, numbering approximately 11,900,000 and working

* The Chart is based on Returns furnished by various Trade 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 115.

in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 21st February was 15.7, as compared with 16.2 at 31st January. For males alone the percentage claiming benefit was 17.6 at 21st February, as compared with 18.2 at 31st January; for females the corresponding figures were 10.8 and 11.2.

The number of workpeople on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges at 23rd February was approximately 1,837,000, of whom men numbered 1,411,000 and women 318,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 31st January was 1,906,000, of whom 1,458,000 were men and 333,000 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 short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act. At 21st February these numbered 266,000, of whom 148,000 were men and 99,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; the corresponding numbers on 31st January were 288,000 (157,000 men and 111,000 women).

The total number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchanges and unfilled at 23rd February was 18,000, of which 4,400 were for men and 11,700 for women; the corresponding number at 31st January was 20,100, of which 5,200 were for men and 12,800 for women.

Employment at coal mines continued fair on the whole and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th February was 1,074,662, an increase of 1 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 11.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 25th February was 5.35, compared with 5.16 in January and 4.64 in February, 1921. At shale mines employment showed little change on a month ago; at iron mines it showed some improvement but was still very bad. At lead and zinc mines it was also bad, and at tin mines work remained practically suspended. In the quarrying industry employment on the whole showed an improvement.

Employment in the pig-iron industry continued bad, but showed a further slight improvement. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of February was 101, an increase of 11 compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 92 compared with a year ago. At iron and steel works employment also showed some improvement, but continued bad except in Wales and Monmouth, where it was moderate. At tinplate and steel sheet mills employment showed some decline, but was fair.

In the engineering trades employment remained very bad; it was fair, however, in the textile machinery branch, and there was some improvement in the motor trade. In the shipbuilding and ship repairing trades employment continued very bad. In most of the other metal trades employment continued bad, and much short time was worked.

In the textile trades employment continued bad generally, with much unemployment and short-time working. There was an improvement, however, in the woollen and worsted industries, where it was good in wool sorting and in certain sections of the wool combing and worsted spinning departments. A slight improvement was also reported in the silk and lace trades. Employment in the hosiery and carpet trades continued fair.

Employment in the ready-made branch of the tailoring trade showed a slight improvement; in the bespoke branch it continued moderate in London and slack on the whole in other centres. With dressmakers and milliners, and in the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, etc., trades in London employment was fair. In the corset trades employment improved, and was also fair; in the shirt and collar trades it also improved slightly, but was slack; with felt hat makers it was bad.

In the boot and shoe trades employment showed a slight improvement at most of the principal centres, but remained slack on the whole, and much short time was worked. In the tanning and currying sections of the leather trades employment continued fair; in the manufactured leather goods branch it was generally slack.

In the building and cement trades employment showed a slight improvement, but continued slack on the whole; in the brick trade it continued bad. In the woodworking and furnishing trades employment continued bad generally; it was also bad in the paper, printing and bookbinding trades.

In the pottery trades employment continued bad, but showed a slight improvement towards the end of the month; in the glass trade it was bad and worse than in the previous month. There was a slight improvement in some branches of the food preparation trades, but employment remained moderate on the whole.

Among dock labourers employment continued slack generally. With seamen it was also slack, but among fishermen employment showed an improvement, and was on the whole fair. In agriculture the supply of labour was generally in excess of the demand, but unemployment was largely confined to unskilled workers.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade.	Member-ship of Trade Unions making Returns at end of Feb., 1922.	Unemployed at end of February, 1922.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	113,923	7,597	6.7	+ 0.1	+ 3.1
Coal Mining	181,101	24,737	13.7	- 1.1	+ 9.4
Engineering and Ship-building	490,703	139,064	28.3	+ 0.1	+17.3
Miscellaneous Metal	69,100	10,166	14.7	- 1.4	+ 4.4
Textiles:—					
Cotton	71,590	7,806	10.9	+ 0.3	+ 5.3
Woollen and Worsted	12,113	332	2.7	- 0.6	- 7.9
Other	77,342	3,878	5.0	-	- 3.2
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	99,214	7,965	8.0	-	+ 0.6
Furnishing	37,303	2,839	7.6	+ 0.4	- 3.4
Woodworking	53,473	5,525	10.3	- 0.2	+ 3.9
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe	78,658	4,160	5.3	- 0.2	- 4.8
Other Clothing	55,103	2,402	4.4	- 1.4	- 5.6
Leather	9,598	964	10.0	- 0.9	- 1.7
Glass	1,339	70	5.2	+ 0.8	+ 2.0
Pottery	34,700	7,800	22.5	- 7.0	+20.7
Tobacco‡	4,794	1,393	29.1	+ 1.2	- 2.5
Total	1,389,969	226,698	16.3	- 0.5	+ 7.8

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

Detailed particulars will be found on pages 126 and 127.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) MINING AND OTHER METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Feb., 1922.	February, 1922.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	1,074,662	5.35	+0.19	+0.71	
Iron	5,204	4.83	+0.43	+0.71	
Shale	3,391	5.94	-0.04	-0.06	
Pig Iron	—	Furnaces in Blast. 101	Number. +11	Number. -92	
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	—	Mills Working 432	- 4	+265	
Iron and Steel	67,668	Shifts Worked (one week) 353,452	Per cent. +9.1	Per cent. -28.8	

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Textiles:—				
Cotton	84,514	+ 0.8	166,560	+ 1.3
Woollen	15,800	+ 2.6	32,614	+ 7.4
Worsted	28,302	+ 1.9	59,531	+ 1.4
Linen	23,532	- 0.9	32,722	- 0.7
Jute	13,659	- 8.1	20,657	- 5.5
Hosiery	16,373	+ 2.3	31,297	+ 3.1
Lace	4,223	+ 4.3	7,774	+ 1.8
Other Textiles	15,900	+ 0.5	28,569	+ 2.3
Bleaching, etc.	20,947	+ 0.1	56,970	- 1.8
Total Textiles	223,250	- 0.2	436,700	- 0.4
Boot and Shoe	50,978	+ 2.4	116,856	+ 6.3
Shirt and Collar	11,603	+ 3.2	18,001	+ 5.4
Ready-made Tailoring	18,425	+ 5.1	31,362	+ 13.4
Paper	11,639	- 0.9	29,210	- 2.4
Printing and Book-binding	13,424	+ 0.3	40,876	+ 2.6
Pottery	11,826	- 1.2	22,913	- 7.7
Glass	7,112	- 3.5	17,785	- 5.3
Brick	7,680	- 0.1	19,230	+ 1.7
Cement	5,887	+ 2.7	13,882	+ 1.2
Food Preparation	63,950	+ 1.4	143,693	+ 3.2
Grand Total	425,674	+ 0.6	895,507	+ 1.4

* 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.

† The percentage is based on returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.

‡ 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.

¶ 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 February was fair on the whole, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. Short time was worked, however, at collieries at which about two-fifths of the workpeople were employed.

The average weekly number of days (5.35) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 25th February showed an increase of 0.19 days, as compared with the fortnight ended 28th January, and of 0.71 days on a year ago. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 25th February showed an increase of 10,723 (or 1.0 per cent.) on the number at 28th January, but a decrease of 144,136 (or 11.8 per cent.) on the number at 28th February, 1921.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 9.4 per cent. at 21st February, compared with 10.4 per cent. at 31st January.

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.*		
	Fortnight ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.	Fortnight ended 25th Feb., 1922.	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland	57,412	+ 1.2	- 6.2	5.48	+ 0.10
Durham	145,908	+ 0.5	- 14.7	5.27	+ 0.21
Cumberland	11,073	+ 1.6	- 3.5	5.71	+ 0.46
South Yorkshire	102,361	- 0.5	- 2.2	5.52	+ 0.14
West Yorkshire	65,577	+ 0.8	- 3.5	5.27	+ 0.26
Lanc. and Cheshire	104,885	+ 1.2	- 11.3	4.66	+ 0.10
Derbyshire	62,033	- 0.0	- 5.3	5.34	+ 0.27
Notts. and Leicester	62,129	+ 0.5	- 4.9	5.21	+ 0.28
Warwick	23,932	+ 1.9	+ 0.3	5.86	+ 0.16
North Staffordshire	33,948	+ 0.2	- 5.1	5.00	+ 0.23
South Staffs.† Worc. and Salop	33,444	- 0.4	- 15.5	5.71	+ 0.32
Glouc. and Somerset	13,729	+ 0.6	- 21.7	5.34	+ 0.42
Kent	1,384	+ 14.2	- 39.0	4.98	+ 0.57
North Wales	15,761	+ 0.5	- 16.7	5.31	+ 0.18
South Wales and Mon.	216,150	+ 1.3	- 18.9	5.72	+ 0.21
England and Wales	947,696	+ 0.7	- 11.2	5.37	+ 0.20
SCOTLAND:					
Mid & East Lothians	14,604	+ 4.7	- 11.0	5.35	+ 0.09
Fife and Clackmannan	27,412	+ 2.8	- 12.2	5.22	+ 0.15
Rest of Scotland	84,960	+ 2.3	- 16.1	5.12	+ 0.09
Scotland	126,966	+ 3.0	- 16.0	5.17	+ 0.04
Great Britain	1,074,662	+ 1.0	- 11.8	5.35	+ 0.19

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 25th February 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 28th January the average time lost was 0.60 of a day, of which over half a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. In the fortnight ended 26th February, 1921, the average time lost was 1.12 days. The non-coal-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 February, 1922, was returned to the Mines Department at 19,763,000 tons, compared with 17,692,300 tons in the four weeks ended 28th January, 1922, and with 17,369,100 tons in the four weeks ended 26th February, 1921.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during February, 1922, amounted to 4,294,738 tons, or 55,916 tons more than in January, 1922, and 2,423,932 tons more than in February, 1921.

* The figures in this and the following article only show the number of day (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 persons 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. † Including Cannock Chase.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT at iron mines, though somewhat better than in the previous month, was still very bad in February. With shale miners it showed very little change compared with last month, and was still considerably below the level of a year ago. Very little work was done at tin mines, while at lead and zinc mines employment continued bad.

Employment at quarries improved, on the whole, during February, and there was a decrease in short-time working. In the majority of districts some time was lost on account of bad weather.

MINING.

Iron.—Employment was very bad, but showed an improvement compared with January, particularly in the Cleveland area. A number of mines still remained closed, and many others worked short time. The number of workpeople employed at those mines from which returns were received was only about one-half the number employed by the same mines a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines.		
	Fort-night ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.
Cleveland	2,117	+ 23.1	- 63.8	4.74	+ 0.89
Cumberland and Lancashire	1,946	+ 5.8	- 47.4	5.37	+ 0.42
Other Districts	1,141	- 5.9	- 36.8	4.56	+ 0.06
All Districts	5,204	+ 10.6	- 54.1	4.93	+ 0.48

Shale.—Employment showed little change. Returns received from firms employing 3,391 workpeople in the fortnight ended 25th February showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed compared with a month earlier, but a decrease of 29.2 per cent. compared with February of last year. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.94, compared with 5.98 in January and 6.00 a year ago.

Tin.—Very little work was done during the month.

Lead and Zinc.—Although lead ore miners were reported well employed in the Weardale district, employment at lead and zinc mines in general remained bad.

QUARRYING.

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed at Quarries included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Quarries.		
	Fort-night ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.
Limestone	2,686	+ 9.6	- 30.2	5.12	+ 0.40
Sandstone	1,108	+ 43.3	- 17.9	4.71	+ 0.98
Granite	1,665	- 0.6	- 0.6	4.30	+ 0.38
Slate	4,260	- 2.6	+ 5.1	5.89	+ 0.07
Basalt	361	+ 5.8	- 16.0	5.15	+ 1.03
Whinstone	429	+ 9.4	- 19.5	4.97	+ 1.77
All Quarrying	11,009	+ 5.1	- 11.8	5.32	+ 0.37

Limestone.—There was an improvement in employment at limestone quarries during February. At quarries producing limestone for cement making, building work and roadmaking, and for agricultural purposes, employment was fair on the whole. At quarries producing material for blast furnaces, iron and steel works, chemical works, etc., employment varied from fair to bad, but, taken as a whole, was slack.

Sandstone.—According to returns received there was a considerable improvement during February in the numbers of workpeople employed at sandstone quarries. Short-time working decreased.

Granite (road materials, setts, etc.).—Employment continued slack generally at granite quarries.

Slate.—At one large quarry employment during February was reported only moderate; at other quarries employment was fair.

Basalt and Whinstone (road materials).—Employment at basalt quarries improved during February, and on the whole was fairly good. At whinstone quarries, also, there was an improvement, accompanied by a marked increase in the average number of days worked per week by the quarries.

See note * at foot of second column on page 115.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry, though it showed a further slight improvement, continued bad during February.

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 101, compared with 90 at the end of January, 12 furnaces having been re-lit and one having gone out of blast during the month. Of the furnaces re-lit, 3 each were in Cumberland and Scotland, 2 in Northamptonshire, and 1 each in Lancashire, Yorkshire, North Staffordshire and South Wales. The furnace going out of blast was in Durham.

Returns received by the Federation from 76 firms employing 15,212 workpeople at the end of February, 1922, showed an increase of 6.1 per cent. compared with the number at the end of January, 1922, but a decrease of 36.6 per cent. compared with the end of February, 1921.

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

District.	Total Number of Furnaces at Feb. 1922.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb. on a	
		Feb., 1922.	Jan., 1922.	Feb., 1921.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—	115	27	27	53	..	- 26
Durham and Cleveland	46	9	6	11	+ 3	- 2
Cumberland and N. Lancs.	38	8	7	14	+ 1	- 6
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks. including Sheffield.	73	19	17	31	+ 2	- 12
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	22	6	6	5	..	+ 1
Lincolnshire	58	12	11	16	+ 1	- 4
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	33	8	7	3	+ 1	+ 5
South Wales and Monmouth.	385	89	81	133	+ 8	- 44
Total (England and Wales)	102	12	9	60	+ 3	- 48
SCOTLAND	487	101	90	193	+ 11	- 92

The production of pig iron in February as returned to the Federation amounted to 300,100 tons, compared with 288,000 tons in January, 1922, and 463,600 tons in February, 1921.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, but showed a further slight decline on the previous month. It was much better than a year ago. At the end of February 432 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 436 at the end of January and 167 a year ago.

The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5,031 at 21st February, compared with 5,362 at 31st January.

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

Works.	Number of Works open.		Number of Mills in operation.	
	At end of Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Tinplate	67	- 1	329	- 5
Steel Sheet	12	+ 1	103	+ 1
TOTAL	79	+ 47	432	- 4

The exports of tinned and galvanized plates and sheets in February, 1922, amounted to 72,597 tons, or 17,238 tons less than in January, 1922, but 43,062 tons more than in February, 1921.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works, though it showed an improvement on the whole, as compared with the previous month, continued moderate in Wales and Monmouth and bad elsewhere. Many works were still closed or partially closed, and others were working short time owing to lack of orders.

According to returns received from firms employing 67,668 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 25th February (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, multiplied by the number of shifts during which work was carried on) showed an increase of 9.1 per cent. on the previous month, but a decrease of 28.8 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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,218	+ 8.2	39,386	+ 7.9
Crucible Furnaces	242	+ 8.0	886	- 0.4
Bessemer Converters	639	+ 269.4	2,912	+ 210.8
Puddling Forges	3,292	+ 5.4	12,274	+ 4.4
Rolling Mills	23,389	+ 11.9	105,230	+ 14.4
Forging and Pressing	2,626	+ 10.0	11,823	+ 6.0
Founding	7,710	- 1.7	40,151	+ 3.4
Other Departments	6,135	+ 4.3	32,558	+ 4.3
Mechanics, Labourers	16,337	+ 4.1	88,232	+ 7.0
Total	67,668	+ 7.5	333,452	+ 9.1

DISTRICTS.

Northumberland and Durham	6,209	- 7.0	29,400	- 11.6
Cleveland	7,682	- 3.4	42,546	+ 2.6
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,056	+ 1.1	74,444	+ 5.8
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	2,626	+ 17.8	11,917	+ 2.4
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	6,673	+ 19.6	31,940	+ 20.2
Staffordshire	6,226	+ 34.9	32,235	+ 36.2
Other Midland Counties	3,152	+ 2.6	14,952	+ 8.0
Wales and Monmouth	7,898	+ 1.1	43,278	+ 0.5
Total, England and Wales	56,522	+ 5.0	280,722	+ 6.4
Scotland	11,146	+ 21.9	52,730	+ 26.1
Total	67,668	+ 7.5	333,452	+ 9.1

The production of steel ingots and castings returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers amounted to 415,000 tons in February, 1922, compared with 327,500 tons in January.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship repairing trades remained very bad during February, and showed little change compared with the previous month.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 21st February:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 21st Feb., 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 21st Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 31st Jan., 1922.
London	4,378	26.7	- 7.1
Northern Counties	31,717	41.5	-
North-Western	18,286	37.7	+ 2.1
Yorkshire	3,963	37.7	- 1.3
East Midlands	742	22.6	- 3.6
West Midlands	232	23.2	- 2.6
S. Midlands and Eastern S.E. Counties	1,358	29.2	- 1.9
South-Western	970	14.4	+ 1.2
Wales	10,452	23.1	+ 1.3
Scotland	6,388	37.3	- 2.3
Ireland	34,899	39.6	- 1.0
Total	11,363	27.6	- 0.7
UNITED KINGDOM	124,683	34.8	- 0.4
Males	133,870	35.1	- 0.4
Females	513	13.5	- 1.0

Employment with ship joiners on the Tyne was reported as fair; on the Wear it was moderate and worse than in the previous month. With other classes of workpeople employment on both rivers still remained bad. On the Tees employment was bad, and at the East and South Coast ports it was still slack. At the Bristol Channel ports it continued slack but improving. On repair work on the Mersey it was still slack. At Barrow employment was reported as bad and worse than in the previous month.

With joiners on the Clyde employment continued fair, but with other classes of workpeople it remained bad, though in the case of painters an improvement was reported. At Dundee and Aberdeen employment was slack on the whole, an improvement being reported in some sections and a decline in other sections. At Belfast employment was reported as bad with all sections of workpeople, and as worse than in the previous month.

* 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 in these trades remained very bad during February. There was a further improvement in the motor trade, and employment in the textile machinery and accessories trades was still fair, but in general engineering there was little material change.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 21st February:—

Division.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 21st Feb., 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 21st Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 31st Jan., 1922.
London	29,738	21.3	+ 0.1
Northern Counties	26,373	30.5	- 2.2
North-Western	56,303	25.8	- 0.2
Yorkshire	34,510	28.7	+ 1.0
East Midlands	15,271	27.1	- 1.3
West Midlands	46,457	30.5	- 1.2
S. Midlands and Eastern S.E. Counties	16,186	21.7	- 0.5
South-Western	7,213	20.0	- 0.7
Wales	9,368	17.2	- 0.6
Scotland	3,093	25.4	- 1.5
Ireland	48,838	23.7	+ 0.2
Total	6,180	28.0	- 0.3
UNITED KINGDOM	300,080	26.2	- 0.4
Males	288,487	27.2	- 0.4
Females	11,593	15.8	- 0.6

Employment was again very bad on the Tyne, Wear and Tees; further discharges took place on the Tyne where, however, some slight activity was reported on motor work. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment in general engineering was still bad, but it remained fair at textile machinery works, and there was some improvement in the motor industry. Firms principally engaged in the manufacture of textile machinery fittings were also fairly busy at Leeds, though in other branches employment continued very depressed; at other centres in Yorkshire it was generally bad.

Apart from a slight improvement in the motor trade, especially at the end of the month, employment was again bad in the Midland Counties. At Birmingham it remained very bad in the general engineering and machine tool sections, while the recent improvement in the motor section was not maintained. In this section systematic short time was still in operation at Coventry, but at Wolverhampton employment was reported as fairly good. At Nottingham and Derby a slight improvement at motor works was observed. At Leicester employment declined with foundry workers, but was fairly good in electrical engineering and the making of machinery for hosiery manufacture. In the Southern Counties employment was slack generally; a slight improvement was noted in the motor industry in the London district. There was a little improvement on marine engineering work in South Wales, while in railway shops employment was stated to be fair. In Scotland employment was very bad and rather worse than in January; in Ireland, also, it remained bad.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued bad on the whole; large numbers of workpeople were unemployed and much short time was worked by those remaining in employment.

Returns were received from trade unions covering 69,100 workpeople, of whom 14.7 per cent. were reported unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 16.1 per cent. at the end of January, and 10.3 per cent. at the end of February, 1921.

Brasswork.—Employment, though slightly better than in the previous month, was again reported as bad. The principal trade union reported that of its 31,100 members 3,500 were totally unemployed at the end of the month, and a further 5,000 were working only 24 hours weekly.

Bedsteads.—Employment continued very slack with bedstead makers in the Birmingham district. There was some increase in the numbers totally unemployed, while workers who remained in employment were generally on short time, working only three days a week.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment was again reported as bad with makers of nuts, bolts, rivets and spikes, and at Darlaston it remained very quiet with makers of best nuts and bolts. Bolt makers in the Cwmbran district were fairly well employed. In the shoe, rivet, wire nail and cut nail trades at Birmingham a slight improvement was reported, and most shops worked 4 or 5 days a week.

Locks and Latches.—Employment in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall area continued very bad, most shops working, on an average, only 2 or 3 days per week.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups.—Employment in the file trades at Sheffield continued bad, and short time working was almost general. With saw grinders there was an improvement during the month. Employment with machine-knife grinders, also, was slightly better than in January, but in other sections of the cutlery trades employment remained slack. With edge tool makers at Wednesbury employment remained bad; with spade and shovel makers at Wolverhampton it continued fair.

At Walsall employment was bad in the bit and stirrup and saddle and harness furniture making trades.

Needles, etc.—In the needle and fish hook and fishing tackle making trades at Redditch employment declined during the month, and much short time was worked.

Tubes.—Employment was reported very quiet among tube makers at Wednesbury. At Landore and Newport (Mon.) employment continued fair.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment continued bad with anchor smiths, shackle and ship tackle makers, and was very bad with cable chain and block chain makers; a considerable amount of short time was worked in these trades. Employment was again bad with anvil and vice makers at Dudley, and quiet in the axle and spring trade at Wednesbury.

Sheet Metal.—Employment remained bad on the whole, and much short time was worked. Some improvement, however, was reported at Manchester, Oldham, Edinburgh and one or two other districts, but in certain other localities, including Leeds and Bristol, there was a decline. At Birmingham employment was very bad with tin plate workers, but in the case of iron plate workers it was reported as good, with no short time and practically no unemployment. Employment with iron plate workers at Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton continued slack, but improved to fairly good in the Lye district.

Wire.—Employment improved in the Cleckheaton district and in South Wales, but at Warrington there was a decline during the month. At Norwich employment continued fair; in other districts it remained slack generally.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—The principal trade union reported a decline in employment, and stated that about 50 per cent. of its members were working only 3 or 4 days a week, and nearly 19 per cent. were wholly unemployed. At Falkirk employment was bad, and those in employment were on short time. At Leeds employment was reported as fair; it was very bad at Sheffield and slack at Luton.

Jewellery, Plated-ware, etc.—At Birmingham employment remained very slack, large numbers being totally unemployed. In London employment remained very bad, the principal trade union reporting that nearly 18 per cent. of its members were totally unemployed, and that 80 per cent. of its members still in employment were working short time.

Hollow-ware.—At Wolverhampton employment continued quiet with tin and enamel hollow-ware makers; with galvanised tank and hollow ware makers it improved and was fairly good.

Farriers.—Employment among farriers was slack on the whole, and much short time was worked.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING February employment in all sections of this trade continued bad, showing, on the whole, no improvement on January. In all the principal districts many mills and sheds were closed down, and a large number of the operatives still employed were working short time.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.1 at the 21st February, as compared with 15.9 at the 31st January.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	11,733	+ 1.5	+ 1.9	22,572	+ 3.3	+ 6.7
Spinning	22,963	- 0.4	+ 1.2	44,150	+ 0.1	+ 15.7
Weaving	34,149	+ 0.7	+ 12.0	62,140	+ 0.6	+ 10.5
Other	8,952	+ 0.2	+ 2.7	23,241	+ 1.8	+ 1.3
Not specified	6,717	+ 8.1	+ 3.8	14,457	+ 4.2	+ 6.6
Total	84,514	- 0.8	+ 5.2	166,560	- 1.3	+ 9.1
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	4,919	+ 1.7	+ 16.2	3,749	+ 4.9	+ 43.1
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	7,319	+ 0.0	+ 6.2	12,496	- 5.3	+ 4.5
Oldham	10,657	+ 1.3	- 0.6	25,021	+ 2.8	+ 14.5
Bolton and Leigh	14,976	+ 1.2	+ 5.4	29,932	+ 2.8	+ 22.9
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	7,417	- 8.2	- 8.1	12,715	- 3.4	- 17.2
Manchester	4,325	+ 4.1	+ 6.6	8,206	+ 10.6	+ 12.7
Preston and Chorley	4,957	- 6.3	+ 36.0	8,906	- 9.1	+ 42.5
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	8,074	+ 3.8	+ 12.0	15,773	- 3.1	+ 2.2
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	10,037	+ 2.8	+ 15.2	23,873	+ 2.0	+ 12.8
Other Lancashire Towns	3,406	- 9.7	- 14.5	5,922	- 5.8	- 24.4
Yorkshire Towns	3,950	- 4.7	- 1.7	7,020	- 1.0	- 5.0
Other Districts	4,477	+ 0.7	+ 2.1	6,947	- 12.4	+ 1.7
Total	84,514	- 0.8	+ 5.2	166,560	- 1.3	+ 9.1

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stockport and Rochdale districts employment in the spinning department remained bad; there was

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

much short time, a large number of firms were stopped indefinitely, and some of those that continued working had a portion of their machinery idle. Employment in the weaving section at Oldham was also slack; short time was general, and a large amount of machinery was stopped in the velvet section. At Bolton employment was fair in the cardroom section but bad in the spinning section. At Leigh employment with spinners was good, and all the spinning mills were running full time at the end of the month.

At Preston, Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen employment remained very slack; short time was common, many weavers were unemployed, and many of those who were still employed were minding less than the normal number of looms. At Blackburn half the weaving machinery was idle, and over forty mills were closed down at the end of the month. Employment also remained bad, and showed no improvement, at Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 91,454,200 lbs. in February, 1922, compared with 128,943,600 lbs. in the previous month, and 82,459,100 lbs. in February, 1921.

The exports of cotton yarn were 14,913,200 lbs. in February, 1922, compared with 14,806,200 lbs. in January, 1922, and 8,525,700 lbs. in February, 1921; the exports of cotton piece goods were 251,954,800 square yards, as compared with 339,117,400 square yards in the previous month, and with 244,725,500 square yards in February, 1921.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

In these trades employment during February remained bad, but there was an improvement, on the whole, in all sections except in the manufacture of fine cloth, in which employment was still very bad.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.5 at 21st February, as compared with 11.8 at the 31st January.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

Employment continued bad, but was slightly better than in January.

In the Huddersfield district employment showed little change. There was a slight general improvement in the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.): operatives engaged in the shoddy trade were more fully employed, but those engaged in the rug and blanket trade were less busy. In the Leeds district employment showed some improvement, though there was still much short time. An improvement was reported in the flannel industry at Yeadon and Guiseley.

In the Stockport district employment continued good. At Rochdale, some firms were running full time, but others were running only three or four days a week.

In Scotland employment, though still slack, was much better than in January.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	412	+ 1.0	+ 10.2	989	+ 3.7	+ 14.2
Spinning	3,721	+ 4.0	+ 8.5	7,535	+ 9.9	+ 4.6
Weaving	6,111	+ 3.1	+ 6.8	11,238	+ 9.1	+ 9.9
Other Departments	4,743	+ 1.5	+ 8.7	10,906	+ 6.2	+ 16.3
Not Specified	813	- 0.6	- 9.6	1,946	- 4.0	- 21.8
TOTAL	15,800	+ 2.6	- 7.6	32,614	+ 7.4	- 11.3
DISTRICTS.						
Huddersfield District	1,348	+ 1.1	+ 1.3	3,411	+ 2.7	- 5.2
Leeds District	1,496	+ 16.2	+ 0.2	3,310	+ 8.7	- 10.9
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,749	+ 2.0	+ 1.9	3,501	+ 10.5	- 7.2
Other Parts of West Riding	1,954	- 1.4	- 4.4	4,243	- 0.6	- 10.0
Total, West Riding	6,547	+ 3.7	- 0.6	14,465	+ 4.8	- 8.4
Scotland	4,420	+ 4.7	+ 15.0	9,064	+ 27.1	+ 13.6
Other Districts	4,833	- 0.7	- 8.9	9,085	- 3.6	- 13.2
TOTAL	15,800	+ 2.6	- 7.6	32,614	+ 7.4	- 11.3

In the week ended 25th February about 47 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, as compared with 65 per cent. in January; the average amount of short time was about 12½ hours a week, as compared with 16½ hours in January.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment was very good with wool sorters, who reported no short time and even a little overtime; it was also good in the fine section of the wool combing department, and in the corre-

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

sponding section of the worsted spinning department; but it continued bad in the weaving department.

In the Bradford district employment in the crossbred section of the wool combing industry was still bad, and there was no improvement in the weaving department; but some overtime was reported among worsted spinners using fine tops, particularly for the hosiery trade. In the Halifax district employment was not so good as in January; in the Huddersfield district there was no change as compared with January, and employment was decidedly worse than a year ago.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 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	4,151	+ 2.0	+ 15.4	12,255	- 2.4	+ 22.6
Spinning	14,587	+ 1.4	+ 0.0	25,745	- 2.9	+ 8.8
Weaving	5,275	+ 4.5	+ 14.6	10,901	+ 5.8	+ 12.5
Other Departments	2,549	+ 0.0	- 9.7	7,043	- 0.9	- 11.8
Not Specified	1,740	+ 1.5	+ 1.5	3,587	- 8.6	+ 2.7
Total	28,302	+ 1.9	- 2.0	59,531	- 1.4	+ 2.6
DISTRICTS.						
Bradford District	13,925	+ 1.9	- 3.3	31,272	+ 0.0	+ 5.7
Keighley District	4,994	+ 4.5	+ 6.2	9,991	+ 0.7	+ 19.9
Halifax District	3,562	- 0.1	+ 2.3	6,873	- 9.4	+ 3.9
Huddersfield District	2,691	+ 0.3	- 17.2	5,410	- 1.5	- 28.5
Other parts of West Riding	2,194	+ 0.4	- 0.2	4,242	- 4.8	- 4.4
Total, West Riding	27,266	+ 1.9	- 2.3	57,788	- 1.6	+ 2.2
Other Districts	1,036	+ 4.2	+ 6.3	1,743	+ 4.2	+ 17.1
TOTAL	28,302	+ 1.9	- 2.0	59,531	- 1.4	+ 2.6

In the week ended 25th February about 19 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time, as compared with about 21 per cent. in January; the average amount of short time was only 8 hours a week, as compared with 16 hours in December and 12 hours in January.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 70,792,100 lbs. in February, 1922, compared with 62,259,700 lbs. in January, 1922, and 48,134,400 lbs. in February, 1921.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 11,783,300 square yards, compared with 15,669,300 square yards in January, 1922, and 10,724,900 square yards in February, 1921.

The exports of blankets were 61,923 pairs, 52,079 pairs, and 63,770 pairs in February, 1922, January, 1922, and February, 1921, respectively.

HOSIERY TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the hosiery trade during February was fair on the whole, and the improvement of the previous months was maintained.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the hosiery trade, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.7 at 21st February, as compared with 3.7 at 31st January.

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

DISTRICT.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester	7,303	+ 2.7	+ 34.6	15,379	+ 3.2	+ 45.6
Leicester County Dist.	1,943	+ 3.1	+ 12.7	3,654	+ 4.9	+ 26.9
Notts and Derbyshire	4,685	+ 0.2	+ 1.1	7,943	- 1.1	+ 19.8
Scotland	2,043	+ 5.0	+ 11.4	3,800	+ 10.4	+ 32.2
Other Districts	384	+ 2.9	+ 6.1	521	+ 5.7	+ 14.3
Total United Kingdom	16,358	+ 2.3	+ 17.0	31,297	+ 3.1	+ 33.7

Of 14,241 workpeople employed by firms making reports as to short time about 12 per cent. were losing, on the average, about 16 hours a week.

Employment in Leicestershire was fairly good, and better than a month ago; very little short time was reported, while overtime was worked in some cases. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment continued fair. In Scotland employment was fair.

SILK TRADE.

In this trade employment during February, although showing a slight improvement compared with January, continued slack, and much short time was reported. The percentage of work-

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

people unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.7 at 21st February as compared with 9.1 at 31st January.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	809	- 0.4	+ 10.5	1,054	+ 6.0	+ 33.2
Spinning	1,467	- 4.2	- 24.8	2,350	- 0.3	- 31.9
Weaving	1,510	+ 6.9	- 8.8	2,338	+ 13.1	- 9.2
Other	1,236	+ 3.9	- 2.6	2,295	+ 3.6	- 18.0
Not specified	383	- 4.0	+ 12.0	661	- 20.8	- 9.8
Total	5,405	+ 1.1	- 9.1	8,698	+ 2.7	- 16.0
DISTRICTS.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	1,483	- 2.3	- 22.5	2,443	- 4.6	- 36.9
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,474	+ 1.6	- 15.0	2,471	+ 8.7	- 18.3
Eastern Counties	1,674	+ 4.2	+ 12.6	2,747	+ 3.5	+ 10.2
Other Districts, including Scotland	774	+ 0.5	- 4.9	1,037	+ 5.6	+ 7.8
Total	5,405	+ 1.1	- 9.1	8,698	+ 2.7	- 16.0

Reports relating to short time received from firms employing 3,502 workpeople show that 47 per cent. of those workpeople worked an average of about 13 hours per week less than full time during the week ended 25th January.

In the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton districts and in the Lancashire and West Riding districts employment was still slack. In the Eastern Counties employment continued fair and showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw silk in February, 1922, were 59,760 lbs., compared with 96,461 lbs. in January and 23,480 lbs. in February, 1921, and those of spun silk yarn were 43,425 lbs., compared with 50,927 lbs. in January and 36,588 lbs. in February, 1921. The exports of spun silk yarn of British manufacture in February were 13,719 lbs., compared with 25,262 lbs. in January and with 29,851 lbs. in February, 1921; those of silk broadstuffs were 349,141 square yards, compared with 418,444 square yards in January, 1922, and 227,482 square yards in February, 1921.

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the linen trade in Ireland continued bad. In Scotland employment was also bad, although in Fifehire an improvement was shown 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 17.4 at 21st February, as compared with 18.2 at 31st January.

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

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in Dundee and the surrounding districts during February continued bad, and showed a decline on the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.1 at 21st February, as compared with 13.2 per cent. at 31st January.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		£	Per cent.		Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*		Month ago.*	Year ago.*	
Preparing	3,235	- 6.6	- 27.7	4,307	- 7.6	- 15.7				
Spinning	3,751	- 7.1	- 24.2	5,251	- 2.5	- 8.6				
Weaving	4,096	- 2.7	- 12.4	5,685	- 4.8	+ 13.3				
Others and not specified	2,577	- 9.1	- 10.7	5,414	- 7.2	- 5.0				
Total	13,659	- 6.1	- 19.6	20,657	- 5.5	- 3.3				

Returns relating to short time were received from firms employing 11,230 workpeople. Of these workpeople over 60 per cent. were working 20 hours less than full time.

LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in this trade, though still bad, showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, but was much below the level of a year ago. There was a large amount of unemployment and short time working.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.6 at 21st February, as compared with 17.7 at 31st January.

At Nottingham and Long Eaton employment remained bad on the whole, but an improvement in the curtain section of the trade at Nottingham was again reported, and several firms were working full time. There was a slight improvement on machine-made lace at Long Eaton. In Scotland employment continued moderate.

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

Branches.	Total Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.					
	Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		£	Per cent.		Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*		Month ago.*	Year ago.*	
Levers	1,039	+ 0.6	- 2.7	1,754	+ 4.5	- 9.2				
Curtain	1,572	+ 0.3	+ 12.2	3,509	- 7.5	+ 30.2				
Plain Net	945	+ 17.5	- 50.2	1,330	- 1.8	- 51.9				
Others	668	+ 3.4	+ 6.2	1,181	+ 8.4	+ 13.4				
Total	4,223	+ 4.3	- 15.4	7,774	- 1.8	- 7.8				
Districts.										
Nottingham City ..	1,895	- 0.6	- 6.4	3,424	- 0.0	- 5.3				
Long Eaton and other outlying Districts & Other-English Districts	1,332	+ 13.9	- 37.3	2,134	+ 4.2	- 33.8				
Scotland	956	+ 2.3	+ 18.1	2,216	- 9.4	+ 39.0				
Total	4,223	+ 4.3	- 15.4	7,774	- 1.8	- 7.8				

Returns received from certain firms employing about 3,300 workpeople showed that in the week ended 25th February over 50 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, nearly 16 hours less than full time.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the carpet trade during February continued fair. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the carpet and rug trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.0 at 21st February, as compared with 7.7 at 31st January.

Returns received from firms employing 10,495 workpeople in the week ended 25th February, and paying £19,871 in wages, showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 7.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 25.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Returns covering 6,927 workpeople showed that in the week ended 25th February 31 per cent. were working on the average 13 hours less than full time.

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

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued bad during February. There was a large amount of unemployment and short-time working in all the principal districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.6 at 21st February, as compared with 11.7 at 31st January.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		£	Per cent.		Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*		Month ago.*	Year ago.*	
Trades:										
Bleaching	2,200	+ 1.4	+ 8.6	4,813	- 6.0	+ 1.7				
Printing	763	+ 2.8	+ 11.5	2,451	+ 1.0	-				
Dyeing	11,027	- 0.8	- 3.5	32,103	- 2.0	- 4.9				
Trimming, Finishing, and other Departments	6,514	+ 0.9	- 1.6	16,378	- 0.7	- 1.3				
Not specified	443	+ 1.4	- 16.6	1,225	- 1.1	- 1.9				
Total	20,947	+ 0.1	- 1.6	56,970	- 1.8	- 3.0				
Districts:										
Yorkshire	10,200	- 1.7	- 5.0	30,562	- 0.7	- 4.7				
Lancashire	8,717	+ 1.6	+ 0.1	16,698	- 5.1	- 5.9				
Scotland	1,195	+ 3.2	+ 10.4	4,665	+ 2.1	+ 4.6				
Ireland	458	+ 1.1	- 1.9	815	+ 1.7	- 17.9				
Other Districts	2,377	+ 2.2	+ 4.1	6,230	- 0.3	+ 15.5				
Total	20,947	+ 0.1	- 1.6	56,970	- 1.8	- 3.0				

Returns received from firms employing over 17,000 workpeople showed that in the week ended 25th February about 56 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, fifteen hours less than full time.

In Yorkshire and Lancashire employment remained bad, although there was a slight improvement, on the whole, in Lancashire. At Nottingham employment with lace dyers was bad and worse than a month ago. With silk dyers employment remained fair at Macclesfield and showed some improvement at Leek, but it continued bad at Congleton. Employment continued good with hosiery dyers at Basford and Loughborough and showed a decline in the Leicester district.

FELT HAT TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the felt hat trade, though it showed some improvement, was slack on the whole. Trade Unions at Stockport, Bredbury, Bury and Hyde, with a membership of 5,039, reported that 5.7 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 7.4 per cent. at the end of January. Employment at Denton was quiet, and 90 per cent. of the workpeople were reported to be working short time. At Stockport employment remained very bad, and 95 per cent. of the workpeople were reported to be on short time. In Warwickshire employment was fair and showed a slight improvement on the previous month.

TAILORING TRADES.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment during January in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was still moderate on the whole. Returns received from firms paying £10,288 in wages to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor) during the week ended 25th February showed an increase in the amount paid of 9.1 per cent., as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 15.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.*

Other Centres.—Employment in the Northern district remained slack; a slight improvement, however, was reported at Bradford and Huddersfield and at Liverpool. At Bristol employment was slack and as compared with a month ago showed little change. In the Midland and Eastern Counties and in the Devon and Cornwall district employment was quiet. In Scotland and Ireland employment was generally slack.

READY-MADE.

During February employment in this branch of the tailoring trade showed a slight improvement, but was still slack. Of the employees covered by the returns relating to short time nearly one-half were losing, on the average, 17 hours a week.

* 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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		£	Per cent.		Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*	
Leeds	4,331	+ 4.7	+ 1.9	8,418	+ 11.3	+ 19.1				
Manchester	2,191	+ 1.0	- 7.8	3,499	- 2.9	- 13.0				
Other places in Yorks., Lancs. and Cheshire	2,791	+ 7.4	- 3.7	4,561	+ 22.5	+ 8.2				
Bristol	1,022	+ 14.3	- 24.5	1,424	+ 34.7	+ 1.0				
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	1,485	+ 1.6	- 11.6	2,341	+ 29.7	+ 17.4				
South Midland and Eastern Counties	1,843	+ 17.0	- 5.0	2,923	+ 44.2	+ 4.8				
London	2,148	- 0.3	- 4.9	4,995	+ 3.8	+ 4.0				
Glasgow	937	+ 2.9	- 17.5	1,628	+ 0.3	- 27.0				
Rest of United Kingdom	1,177	+ 2.3	- 21.7	1,573	+ 9.5	- 30.1				
Total, United Kingdom	18,425	+ 5.1	- 7.4	31,362	+ 13.4	+ 3.7				

At Leeds a further improvement took place, but in other places in the Northern district employment remained slack, with more than half the workpeople, covered by the returns, working short time. At Bristol employment was slightly better, but the majority of the employees in this district were working short time. In the North and West Midland Counties employment continued slack on the whole, but some improvement was shown in the South Midland and Eastern Counties. In London employment was moderate and a little short time was reported. In Glasgow employment was fair, while in the remaining parts of the United Kingdom it was slack.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

THERE was a slight improvement in the state of employment in the shirt and collar trade during February, but it continued slack on the whole. With the exception of Belfast and Londonderry all districts showed an increase in numbers employed, and the total amount of short time worked was not so great as in the previous month; returns received from firms employing about 10,350 workpeople showed that 35 per cent. of that number worked on an average 12 hours less than full time during the week ended 25th February.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		£	Per cent.		Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*		Month ago.*	Year ago.*	
London	2,833	+ 6.3	- 10.3	4,969	+ 7.1	-				
Manchester	1,824	+ 3.5	- 8.2	2,733	- 9.0	+ 6.2				
Rest of Yorkshire, Lancs. and Cheshire	1,163	+ 3.3	+ 13.9	1,506	+ 7.6	+ 38.3				
South Western Counties	1,231	+ 0.2	- 21.7	1,698	+ 14.6	- 14.7				
Rest of England and Wales	726	+ 5.1	- 8.7	1,213	+ 9.1	+ 8.0				
Glasgow	1,881	+ 4.0	- 1.4	3,097	+ 9.1	+ 2.4				
Londonderry	1,082	- 2.9	- 23.9	1,615	- 4.2	- 22.6				
Belfast	481	- 3.6	- 13.0	627	- 3.8	- 19.4				
Rest of Ireland	382	+ 9.1	- 9.0	553	+ 13.8	- 23.3				
Total, United Kingdom	11,603	+ 3.2	- 9.6	18,001	+ 5.4	- 0.1				

In London employment improved, but was still slack. At Manchester short time working was very prevalent. Employment in the rest of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cheshire remained quiet; in the South-Western Counties and in the Rest of England and Wales employment showed a slight improvement. There was also some improvement at Glasgow, but short time working continued prevalent. In Ireland, as a whole, employment was dull.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

EMPLOYMENT during February in the dressmaking trade in London was fair generally, and, compared with January, showed a slight improvement. Returns from retail firms (chiefly in the West End) employing 1,123 workpeople in the week ended 25th February, showed an increase in the number employed of 2.9 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 3.0 per cent. compared with February, 1921.

In the West End employment with milliners was again fair, and, on the whole, continued to show a slight improvement.

WHOLESALE MANTEL, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

Employment in London during February showed a slight improvement on the whole, but continued only fair. Short time was

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

again reported to some extent. Returns from firms employing 2,440 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed an increase in the number employed of 8.8 per cent. on January, but a decrease of 1.5 per cent. on a year ago.

In Manchester, some short time continued in the costume and mantle trades and, although showing a slight improvement compared with January, employment remained moderate. Returns from firms employing 4,127 workpeople in the week ended 25th February showed an increase in the number employed of 4.4 per cent. in comparison with a month ago, and of 13.0 per cent. in comparison with February, 1921.

Employment in the mantle trade in Glasgow was slightly better than during January, but was still slack; about 57 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns received worked short time. Returns from firms employing 1,320 workpeople in the week ended 25th February showed an increase in the number employed of 6.6 per cent., compared with January, but a decrease of 10.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

CORSET TRADE.

The slight improvement in the corset trade continued during February, but some short time was again worked, and, on the whole, employment remained fair. Returns from firms employing 5,570 workpeople in the week ended 25th February showed an increase of 2.7 per cent. on a month ago, and of 2.9 per cent. on February, 1921.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tanning and currying section remained fair on the whole. In the manufactured leather goods section reports varied as between the different branches, but in general employment was slack. Short time continued to be widely prevalent. Returns received from Trade Unions covering 9,598 workpeople showed that 10.0 per cent. of their members were unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 10.9 per cent. in January and 11.7 per cent. in February, 1921.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.8 at 21st February, as compared with 14.2 per cent. at 31st January.

Employment with skippers, tanners and carriers was reported as bad in some centres, and, on the whole, was again only fair. A considerable amount of short time continued to be worked. At Walsall employment remained very slack with saddle, harness and horse-collar makers, and there was much short time; it continued very slack at Birmingham also, although there was an improvement in regard to the amount of short time. With portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather workers employment was bad, and short time was general; at Birmingham it was reported as very slack, with a little improvement in comparison with January, especially with trunk makers.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement in February at most of the principal centres, but remained slack on the whole, and much short time was still being worked. As compared with February of last year, when employment was extremely bad, there was an improvement in all districts, except Scotland.

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 10.3 at the 21st February, as compared with 10.7 at the 31st January.

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

District.	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.					
	Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		£	Per cent.		Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*		Month ago.*	Year ago.*	
England and Wales:—										
London	2,095	+ 0.6	+ 15.4	5,248	+ 1.4	+ 21.0				
Leicester	8,896	+ 1.4	- 1.7	23,130	+ 5.6	+ 13.7				
Leicester Country District	2,679	+ 4.0	+ 15.0	5,836	- 0.8	+ 18.1				
Northampton	6,720	+ 1.6	- 1.4	15,428	+ 7.6	+ 1.2				
Northampton Country District	7,497	+ 4.2	+ 1.7	17,310	+ 9.6	+ 16.0				
Kettering	3,173	+ 0.6	+ 2.0	8,180	+ 0.9	+ 7.3				
Stafford and District	2,355	+ 0.6	+ 0.6							

Employment in London continued bad. At Leicester employment, though still quiet generally, was good in some departments, and slightly better on the whole than in January. In the Northampton district employment remained bad, but was better than in January; it was also bad at Kettering; short time was general, the average time worked being about 32 hours a week. At Higham and Rushden there was some improvement, and employment was fair; there was also some improvement among Army boot makers at Ringstead. There was a decline in employment at Wellingborough. At Stafford employment was better than in January, and only a little short time was worked.

At Norwich employment was fair; most firms were on full time, and there was a shortage of operatives in the closing rooms. At Bristol and Kingswood employment, though better than in January, was still depressed; the majority of the operatives were on short time, some working only two or three days a week. At Leeds employment was bad, with much short time.

Employment continued fair at Kilmarnock, but it was bad or quiet at the other principal centres in Scotland.

Returns received from firms employing 33,500 workpeople showed that, in the week ended the 25th February, about 52 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, 13½ hours a week less than full time.

The exports of boots and shoes in February, 1922, amounted to 45,819 dozen pairs, or 1,790 dozen pairs more than in January, 1922, but 17,071 dozen pairs less than in February, 1921.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade was very bad during February owing to unfavourable weather, trade depression and the fact that many manufacturers have large stocks on hand. In the South Staffordshire and Birmingham districts, many works remained closed, while considerable short time was in operation at most centres, especially in the Nottingham and Peterborough districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick and tile and cement trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 21st February, was 19.9, as compared with 19.7 at 31st January.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.*	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,510	+ 4.4	- 14.7	£ 6,781	+ 7.5	- 36.6
Midlands and Eastern Counties	2,923	- 5.6	- 13.7	6,902	- 4.8	- 43.2
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,256	+ 5.6	- 5.5	3,351	+ 4.8	- 30.9
Other Districts	891	- 0.8	- 4.9	2,196	+ 3.0	- 31.9
Total	7,580	- 0.1	- 13.9	19,230	+ 1.7	- 37.8

Returns from firms employing 7,212 workpeople in this trade show that about 36 per cent. of their workpeople worked short time to the extent of 13 hours, on the average, during the week ended 25th February, 1922.

CEMENT.

Employment during February, though it showed a slight improvement, continued very slack generally. Returns from employers employing 5,837 workpeople in the week ended 25th February, 1922, showed an increase of 2.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with the previous month. Compared with February, 1921, there was a decrease of 43.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 61.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid by these firms. Returns received from firms employing 5,700 workpeople in this trade show that over 29 per cent. of their workpeople worked short time to the extent of about eleven hours, on the average, during the week ended 25th February.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, taken as a whole, showed a slight improvement during February; it continued slack, however, at the majority of centres. Short time working, partly due to unsettled weather, was reported from several districts. With the exception of the North-Western counties and the West Midlands there was a slight decrease in unemployment in all the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below.

Employment continued fairly good with plasterers, although a decline was reported in several districts; it continued slack, on the whole, with bricklayers, carpenters and plumbers, and bad with masons. There was a seasonal improvement with painters, but employment generally was still bad. With labourers in the building trade and workpeople employed on construction of works employment continued bad.

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

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 21st February, 1922:—

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 21st Feb. 1922	Percentage of Unemployment at 21st Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 31st Jan., 1922.
Building Trade.			
Carpenters	14,846	10.7	+ 0.8
Bricklayers	8,972	14.1	+ 0.5
Masons	4,447	17.5	- 0.2
Plasterers	777	4.5	+ 0.2
Painters	33,596	23.1	- 2.5
Plumbers	3,867	9.9	- 0.7
All other occupations	105,312	27.1	- 0.7
Total	171,617	21.7	- 0.6
Construction of Works.			
Navvies	12,071	33.2	- 2.4
All other occupations	20,556	25.3	- 1.5
Total	32,627	27.7	- 1.8
Grand Total	204,244	22.5	- 0.7
Divisions.			
London	42,772	22.8	- 1.0
Northern Counties	8,893	22.5	- 1.6
North-Western	29,305	25.2	+ 0.5
Yorkshire	13,883	21.0	- 0.5
East Midlands	6,555	23.4	- 0.4
West Midlands	17,596	29.1	+ 0.2
South Midlands and Eastern	16,829	18.8	- 0.9
South-Eastern Counties	10,567	16.3	- 1.4
South-Western	16,223	17.4	- 0.4
Wales	3,577	23.9	- 1.6
Scotland	18,162	21.8	- 1.3
Ireland	15,932	33.6	- 1.1
United Kingdom	204,244	22.5	- 0.7
Males	203,776	22.6	- 0.8
Females	468	6.5	+ 0.1

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad generally in these trades during February, but there was a slight improvement reported from a number of districts. Returns were received from trade unions covering 90,776 workpeople, of whom 9.2 per cent. were stated to be unemployed at the end of February (exclusive of considerable numbers on short time), as compared with 9.2 per cent. at the end of January and 8.3 per cent. in February, 1921.

Mill-Sawing and Machining.—In this trade employment remained bad. Short time was worked in most districts. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the mill-sawing and machine wood-working trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 21st February, was 15.6, as compared with 16.1 at 31st January.

Furnishing.—Employment in this trade was bad on the whole, but in a number of districts it 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 again bad, on the whole, in this trade during February, and much short time was worked, but at Coventry, Derby, Manchester, Wolverhampton and a few other centres employment was described as fair.

Coopering.—In this trade employment was bad on the whole and was slightly worse than the previous month. Short time was worked at most centres.

Miscellaneous.—In the brushmaking trade employment continued slack. With basket makers employment remained bad, and considerable short time was reported from the Lancashire district. Employment with packing-case makers also continued bad, and short time was worked in various localities. A slight improvement was reported at Manchester. With wheelwrights and smiths employment was again bad.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper, printing and bookbinding trades continued bad generally during February, and a considerable amount of short time was still being worked; there was a slight improvement in the printing trade, but a further decline with bookbinders.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the printing, publishing and bookbinding trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 8.2 per cent. at 21st February, as compared with 8.1 per cent. at 31st January.

With letterpress printers employment in London remained slack or bad in most sections, but there was a further slight improvement among compositors. Overtime was still being worked by compositors and readers in certain offices, but in others a number of men were on short time. In the provinces a slight improvement was reported from a few centres, including Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff and Belfast. In the lithographic printing trade employment continued generally bad and much short time was reported. Of over 6,500 workpeople in the letterpress and lithographic printing trades covered by returns received by the Department 32 per cent. were working short time and losing on an average 9 hours each per week.

Employment in the bookbinding trade showed a further slight decline, and of 2,900 workpeople concerning whom returns were received 45 per cent. were working on an average 10 hours per week short of full time.

In the paper trade employment was irregular owing to a general lack of orders. Of 9,000 workpeople covered by the returns 36 per cent. were losing on an average 13 hours per week through short time.

The following Table summarises the returns from Trade Unions relating to unemployment in February:—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1922.	Percentage Unemployed at end of		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a		
		Feb., 1922.	Jan., 1922.	Feb., 1921.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Printing	77,318	6.9	7.2	5.2	- 0.3	+ 1.7
Bookbinding	13,534	11.1	9.7	5.6	+ 1.4	+ 5.5

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*		
Paper	11,639	+ 0.6	- 7.0	£ 29,210	- 2.4	- 15.5		
Printing	9,331	+ 0.7	- 10.5	32,255	+ 3.3	- 15.7		
Bookbinding	4,093	- 0.7	- 16.8	8,620	+ 0.1	- 21.8		
Total	25,063	- 0.2	- 10.1	70,085	+ 0.5	- 16.4		

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades during February continued bad on the whole, and much short time was worked, but there was a slight improvement towards the end of the month. It was again reported as bad in the Potteries and fair in Derbyshire and at Bristol. In Yorkshire it was moderate, on the whole, and not so good as in January. In Scotland employment continued bad in the stoneware section of the trade; it was fair, however, in the white earthenware section at Glasgow, Bo'ness and Kirkcaldy.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.4 at 21st February, as compared with 19.5 at 31st January.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
China Manufacture	1,445	- 3.3	- 14.1	£ 2,934	- 11.5	- 35.4
Earthenware Manufacture	8,884	- 0.4	- 12.4	17,321	- 7.7	- 32.1
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,497	- 4.1	- 18.0	2,668	- 3.2	- 37.3
Total	11,826	- 1.2	- 13.3	22,913	- 7.7	- 33.2
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	8,929	- 1.5	- 12.7	16,567	- 10.1	- 34.0
Other Districts	2,897	- 0.5	- 15.1	6,346	- 0.6	- 30.7
Total	11,826	- 1.2	- 13.3	22,913	- 7.7	- 33.2

Returns received from employers relating to short time working showed a slight increase in the percentage of workpeople on short time; about 38 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 February.

The exports of china, earthenware and pottery in February, 1922, amounted to 254,737 cwts., or 16,368 cwts. less than in January, 1922, but 6,453 cwts. more than in February, 1921.

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

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was bad during February, and rather worse than in the previous month.

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 21.0 at 21st February, as compared with 20.9 at 31st January.

There was a further decline in employment amongst glass bottle workers. Flint glass cutters and flint glass makers at Birmingham reported employment as very bad. Employment with plate glass bevellers was bad, nearly all the trade being on short time. On the Tyne and Wear, employment with pressed glass makers was very bad, and glass bottle makers on the Wear reported employment as very slack. At St. Helens, employment with sheet glass flatteners was better than a month ago.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
Glass Bottle	4,663	- 3.7	- 12.9	£ 11,732	- 6.1	- 35.7
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,887	- 0.6	- 14.0	4,653	- 2.0	- 32.7
Other Branches	562	- 10.7	- 31.0	1,560	- 8.3	- 35.4
Total	7,112	- 3.5	- 15.0	17,785	- 5.3	- 34.9
DISTRICTS.						
North of England	867	+ 0.6	- 8.1	£ 2,020	- 1.6	- 37.6
Yorkshire	3,137	- 6.9	- 15.4	8,222	- 9.3	- 36.8
Lancashire	877	- 1.6	- 26.5	1,663	- 7.1	- 45.2
Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire	702	+ 5.4	- 5.5	1,825	+ 7.0	- 13.1
Scotland	757	+ 0.4	- 18.1	1,847	+ 1.7	- 44.1
Other parts of the United Kingdom	772	- 6.9	- 9.5	2,208	- 5.8	- 16.0
Total	7,112	- 3.5	- 15.0	17,785	- 5.3	- 34.9

Returns covering 5,100 workpeople showed that in the week ended 25th February, 23 per cent. were working, on the average, 18 hours less than full time.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT remained moderate in the food preparation trades during February, and there was a slight improvement on the previous month.

In the sugar refining industry it remained fair on the whole, both overtime and short time being reported. It was also fair in the cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery trades; of the workpeople reported on, for the week ended 25th February, 17 per cent. worked on the average 8 hours short time, while 12 per cent. worked 4 hours overtime. Although only moderate on the whole, employment improved in the biscuit and cake-making trades, and less short time was worked than in the previous month. There was little change in the jam and marmalade trade in February, when employment was moderate. Employment was also moderate on the whole in the bacon and preserved meat trade, and showed a slight decline on the previous month; of the workpeople reported on, 14 per cent. lost 3 hours in short time, while 11 per cent. worked 4 hours overtime, on the average, in the week ended 25th February. In the pickle and sauce making trades employment was somewhat better, and there was a reduction in the amount of short time worked; some overtime was reported.

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 Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
Sugar Refining	6,758	- 1.1	- 1.8	£ 22,726	- 6.3	- 17.7
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	30,485	+ 2.3	+ 4.4	65,172	+ 5.2	- 5.1
Biscuits and Cakes, etc.	14,720	+ 2.6	- 0.3	30,938	+ 9.2	- 0.3
Jams and Marmalade	6,999	+ 2.2	+ 18.3	14,180	+ 1.7	+ 8.9
Bacon and Preserved Meats	3,423	- 7.4	+ 0.5	7,578	- 3.1	- 7.6
Pickles and Sauces	1,565	+ 1.8	+ 17.8	3,039	+ 7.1	+ 19.4
Total	63,950	+ 1.4	+ 4.0	143,683	+ 3.2	- 4.9

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

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, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 114-115 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 February.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at Employment Exchanges in the week ended 25th February was 17,611 (12,420 men and 5,191 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 6,590 (3,046 for men and 3,544 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 23,285 persons (18,505 men and 4,780 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 1,172 foreign immigrants.

Out-of-Work Benefit in February.—According to the latest returns, 7 departmental and 72 municipal employment funds were in operation throughout France on 3rd March, the total number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 9,244 (7,419 men and 1,825 women). Of this total 6,840 were resident in the Seine Department, including 4,385 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. 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.

Employment in January.—The issue for 28th February of the official journal, *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, in its summary statement concerning conditions in January, states that employment was adversely affected by the cold spell which set in during the month, occupations depending upon the weather coming to a standstill. The stoppages do not appear up to the present to have been on a larger scale than those formerly experienced.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation increased from 164,958 on 1st January to 196,103 on 1st February, or by 18.9 per cent; as in the preceding month, the number of men included in these totals rose (from 131,916 to 164,450, or by 24.7 per cent.), while that of women fell (from 33,042 to 31,653, or by 4.2 per cent.).

Returns from trade unions show that out of a total membership of 5,797,753 in the organisations reporting, 190,614, or 3.3 per cent., were unemployed at the end of the month. This proportion is more than double that reported in the previous month, viz. 1.6 per cent. In January, 1921, the corresponding figure was 4.4 per cent.

Unions.	Members-hip reported at end of Jan., 1922.	Percentage of Membership Unemployed.		
		Jan., 1922.	Dec., 1921.	Jan., 1921.
All Unions making Returns ..	5,797,753	3.3	1.6	4.4
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building (Soc. Dem.) ..	487,579	19.0	6.6	12.0
Painters (Christian) ..	56,911	8.5	3.2	7.2
Painters (Soc. Dem.) ..	50,644	13.4	7.9	15.4
Metal (Soc. Dem.) ..	1,317,343	0.6	0.6	3.5
" (Christian) ..	229,310	0.6	0.3	1.1
" (Hirsch-Duncker) ..	106,790	0.2	0.3	1.6
Textile (Soc. Dem.) ..	636,699	0.7	0.5	4.3
Clothing ..	114,050	0.7	0.3	2.0
" (Christian) ..	94,845	0.2	0.2	2.3
Boot and shoe (Soc. Dem.) ..	75,415	1.7	1.2	4.3
Transport (Soc. Dem.) ..	504,097	4.9	1.6	4.5
Printing ..	69,174	1.3	1.0	1.9
Bookbinding ..	63,214	1.1	1.0	3.9
Woodworking (Soc. Dem.) ..	359,682	1.0	0.9	5.0
Glass (Soc. Dem.) ..	70,238	0.6	0.3	0.8
Porcelain ..	63,159	2.5	0.9	2.2
Baking and confectionery (Soc. Dem.) ..	81,281	5.6	5.5	9.1
Brewing and corn-milling ..	78,752	1.0	1.0	2.2
Tobacco ..	51,383	11.8	6.1	1.0
Factory workers (irrespective of trade) ..	567,052	2.2	1.5	3.4
Factory and transport workers (Christian) ..	113,730	1.1	0.7	6.5
Municipal and State workers ..	282,464	1.9	1.7	2.5

Returns from Employment Exchanges also afford evidence that employment in January was not so good as in December, particularly for men. The total applications for work numbered 879,315, an increase of over 14 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, while the vacancies notified by employers increased by 12.9 per cent. For each 100 situations vacant there were 150 applications on an average, as against 143 in December.

The statistics of the sickness insurance societies for the month under review show that the number of persons under obligation to insure (and therefore assumed to be in work) in the 5,727 societies making returns was 11,489,891 on 1st February, as against 11,392,423 on 1st January, an increase of nearly 1 per cent. This increase is stated to be due to the inclusion of persons not formerly liable to insurance; it is not taken as indicating improved employment.

* *Journal Officiel*, 4th March, 1922. Paris.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in December.—Returns relating to December were received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 2,317 unemployment funds with an aggregate membership of 756,516. On the last working day of the month 49,851 of these, or 6.6 per cent., were totally unemployed, and 36,232 partially so. The corresponding percentage for the previous month was 7.0. The aggregate days of unemployment in December numbered 1,477,066, as compared with 1,511,527 in November.

Unemployment in January.—During January 18,183 applications for employment were received by the Employment Exchanges, as compared with 15,165 in December. Offers of situations numbered 9,277 (8,136 in December). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 196 applications as compared with 186 in December.

HOLLAND (AMSTERDAM).

Unemployment in January.—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 January was 23.9, as compared with 20.9 in December and 24.5 in January, 1921.

Figures relating to Amsterdam can scarcely be taken as typical of Holland as a whole at the present time, since they are affected to a considerable extent by the high degree of unemployment prevailing in the diamond and cigar industries, both of which are concentrated in that city. In the former industry 77.9 per cent. of the organised workers reporting were out of work in January, and in the latter 64.1 per cent. In January, 1921, the percentages were 86.3 and 54.7 per cent. respectively.

ITALY.†

Unemployment on 1st January.—According to information supplied to the International Labour Office, 541,779 persons were reported totally unemployed on 1st January, as compared with 512,260 on 1st December. In addition 178,662 persons were partially unemployed at the later date, as against 181,002 on 1st December. On 1st January the number of unemployed in receipt of benefit under the scheme of compulsory insurance was 71,917, which, added to 44,283 under the transitional relief scheme, gives a total of 116,200. The number of wholly unemployed persons not in receipt of benefit was therefore 425,579.

NORWAY.

Trade Union Unemployment in December.—The percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of December in certain trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was 18.3, as compared with 16.9§ at the end of the preceding month, and 6.5 in December, 1920.

Unions.	Membersh'p.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Dec. 31, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1920.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Nov. 30, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1920.
Bricklayers and masons (Christiania) ..	933	944	919	15.4	5.1	25.9
Carpenters ..	905	910	1,339	33.1	24.4	11.9
Painters (Christiania) ..	610	606	637	24.4	11.7	6.0
Metal workers ..	6,840	7,061	10,073	21.2	20.7	4.1
Boot and shoemakers ..	803	800	1,085	8.3	4.1	6.2
Printers ..	2,362	2,568	2,569	9.1	16.0	7.2
Bookbinders (Christiania) ..	801	790	877	14.0	12.9	3.5
Cabinetmakers ..	554	562	602	23.5	17.0	9.6
Bakers (Christiania) ..	550	550	590	9.6	9.3	4.4
Total ..	14,358	14,781	18,671	18.3	16.9	6.5

Unemployment in February.—H.M. Minister at Christiania, reporting on 24th February, states that the returns from employment exchanges for the two weeks ended 10th February show that at the end of this period the number of applicants for employment remaining on the "live register" was 30,584, while the vacant positions registered amounted to 579. At the corresponding date of 1921 the applicants for employment numbered 14,832 and the number of situations vacant 1,190. The number of unemployed throughout Norway on 10th February is estimated at about 47,200, as compared with 47,300 and 41,500 on the 25th and 10th January respectively.

* *Revue du Travail*, February, 1922. Brussels.

† *Industrial and Labour Information*, 3rd March, 1922. International Labour Office.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

§ Revised figures.

SWEDEN.

*Unemployment in December and January.**—The percentage of unemployed among members of Swedish trade unions on 31st January was 35.6, as compared with 33.2 at the end of the preceding month and 20.2 on 31st January, 1921.

Full particulars* however, are not available for the latest date and the following Table relates to the end of December.

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Dec., 1921.	Percentage Unemployed.	
		31st Dec., 1921.	31st Dec., 1920.
All Unions making Returns ..	143,649	33.2	15.8
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—			
Blast furnacemen ..	9,804	41.5	20.3
Foundrymen, etc. ..	3,085	44.8	7.9
Engineering workers ..	32,342	33.8	10.7
Electrical workers ..	2,828	22.7	5.4
Textile workers ..	4,588	6.6	11.6
Clothing workers ..	1,428	16.7	20.7
Boot, shoe and leather workers	5,467	13.1	9.0
Baking and confectionery workers ..	4,455	40.9	9.0
Brewery workers ..	3,384	8.2	2.3
Tobacco workers ..	3,337	7.9	0.4
Sawmill workers ..	11,678	63.0	21.1
Wood workers ..	8,044	42.1	16.4
Municipal workers ..	6,103	4.8	2.7
General and factory workers (trades not specified)	18,433	45.3	32.7
Commercial employees ..	6,260	12.3	4.8

According to figures supplied by the Unemployment Commission there were 140,883 persons unemployed in Sweden on 31st December. The total number employed on relief works on the same date was 10,828, and the total in receipt of monetary relief was 47,795.†

DENMARK.

Unemployment in February.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at Copenhagen states that in the week ended 25th February 41,080 persons were reported unemployed in the capital, 26,267 in the Islands and 34,995 in Jutland, giving a total for the whole country of 102,340—an increase of 2,126 as compared with the previous week. The corresponding total for the same week in 1921 was about 75,000.

FINLAND.‡

Unemployment in January.—At the end of the month the total number of unemployed registered at the employment exchanges in the majority of towns and at a few rural centres was 3,571, including 2,593 men and 978 women. In the previous month the corresponding total was 2,127 (1,605 men and 522 women) and in January, 1921, 3,373 (2,207 men and 1,166 women).

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in January.—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 31st January was 96,580. (At the end of December, 1921, the corresponding number of persons reported as unemployed was 88,967 and at the end of January, 1921, 34,652.) Of this total 19,662 were employed on relief works, leaving 76,918 entirely without work. Among the 96,580 applicants for employment were 19,595 persons normally engaged in the watch, clock and jewellery trades, 18,359 in the building trades, 12,814 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades and 6,557 in the textile trades. In addition 49,181 persons were reported as only partially employed, including 17,182 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 14,957 in the textile trades and 6,593 in the watch, etc., trades. The vacancies offered by employers on the same date numbered 753.

During the month of January 956 applications for employment were registered at the public Employment Exchanges for each 100 vacancies for men and 437 for each 100 for women. In December the figures were 1,013 and 501 respectively.

CANADA.§

Employment in December.—For the fortnight ended 31st December returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 5,242 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 605,249 persons. In the preceding fortnight the same firms reported 653,387 employed, the decrease in staff at the later date being 53,138, or 12.2 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 77.9, as compared with 85.2 for the fortnight ended 17th December. The corresponding figure for the fortnight ended 15th December, 1920, was 87.7.

Unemployment among Trade Union Members.—Returns relating to unemployment at the end of December were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 1,520 labour organisations with a total membership of 161,085. For all trades reporting, 15.1 per cent. of the members were unemployed, as compared with 11.1 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and with 13.1 per cent. in December, 1920.

* *Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 3, 1922. Stockholm, and from information supplied through the courtesy of the Department for Social Affairs.

† *Industrial and Labour Information*, 3rd March, 1922. International Labour Office.

‡ *Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt*, 15th February, 1922.

§ *Employment*, 1st February, 1922. Ottawa.

UNITED STATES.*

Employment in January.—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 January, 1922, as compared with (a) the preceding month and (b) January, 1921, are compiled from reports received by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics:—

(a) January, 1922, as compared with December, 1921.

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)	Earnings.†		
		Dec., 1921.	Jan., 1922.		Dec., 1921.	Jan., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)
					Per cent.	Dollars	Dollars	Per cent.
Coal mining (bituminous) ..	91	22,692	22,748	+ 0.2	1,346,283	1,227,085	- 8.9
Iron and steel ..	165	110,541	102,918	- 6.9	4,873,934	4,049,534	- 16.9
Railway and tram-car building and repairing ..	53	56,103	53,114	- 5.3	3,354,876	2,749,060	- 18.1
Automobiles ..	47	91,682	86,282	- 5.9	2,363,481	1,518,331	- 35.8
Cotton manufacturing ..	57	59,333	59,605	+ 0.5	1,046,823	1,016,532	- 2.9
Cotton finishing ..	17	13,667	13,534	- 1.0	304,932	285,759	- 6.3
Hosiery and underwear ..	61	29,440	28,558	- 3.0	515,293	457,616	- 11.2
Woolen ..	49	40,843	38,417	- 5.9	905,235	753,635	- 13.4
Silk ..	45	15,959	15,809	- 0.9	671,027	628,042	- 6.4
Men's ready-made clothing ..	48	31,185	31,058	- 0.4	948,361	929,768	- 2.0
Boots and shoes ..	83	66,392	68,052	+ 2.5	1,828,126	1,545,662	+ 11
Cigars ..	56	16,922	14,626	- 13.6	306,414	258,151	- 15.8
Leather ..	37	14,733	15,023	+ 1.7	323,857	326,603	+ 0.8
Paper ..	55	24,525	24,237	- 1.2	591,299	577,207	- 2.4

The above figures show that there were increases in the number of persons employed in four industries in January as compared with December, and decreases in ten. The increases are in boots and shoes (2.5 per cent.), leather manufacturing (1.7 per cent.), cotton manufacturing (0.5 per cent.), and bituminous coal mining (0.2 per cent.); the greatest decreases are 13.6 per cent. for cigar manufacturing and 6.9 per cent. for iron and steel. Two industries show an increase and twelve a decrease in aggregate earnings. The increases (1.1 and 0.8 per cent.) are in boots and shoes and leather manufacturing respectively. Automobiles, railway and tramway car building and repairing and iron and steel show decreases of 35.8, 18.1 and 16.9 per cent. respectively.

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

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)	Earnings.†		
		Jan., 1921.	Jan., 1922.		Jan., 1921.	Jan., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)
					Per cent.	Dollars	Dollars	Per cent.
Coal mining (bituminous) ..	93	26,457	23,477	- 11.3	1,830,912	1,272,583	- 20.5
Iron and steel ..	106	131,358	103,056	- 21.5	9,042,231	4,055,652	- 55.1
Railway and tram-car building and repairing ..	58	63,559	53,332	- 16.1	4,419,424	2,760,910	- 37.5
Automobiles ..	47	36,588	26,186	+ 135.5	1,042,194	1,515,399	+ 45.4
Cotton manufacturing ..	60	51,387	61,431	+ 19.5	850,551	1,042,593	+ 22.6
Cotton finishing ..	17	9,776	13,534	+ 38.4	205,611	285,759	+ 39.0
Hosiery and underwear ..	62	16,170	29,963	+ 85.3	249,632	476,397	+ 91.6
Woolen ..	50	20,059	43,108	+ 114.9	428,004	894,925	+ 106.8
Silk ..	46	13,990	16,311	+ 16.6	588,733	668,291	+ 11.8
Men's ready-made clothing ..	44	19,071	30,375	+ 59.3	506,678	910,586	+ 79.7
Boots and shoes ..	83	60,561	68,649	+ 35.8	1,061,071	1,561,951	+ 47.1
Cigars ..	53	15,837	14,246	- 10.0	306,061	251,377	- 17.6
Leather ..	37	12,038	15,023	+ 24.8	278,378	326,603	+ 17.3
Paper ..	54	22,469	24,154	+ 15.2	727,614	575,671	- 20.9

A comparison of the figures for January, 1922, with those for January, 1921, shows that there were increases in the numbers of persons employed in nine of the fourteen industries. The largest increase (1

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 66, as compared with 57 in the previous month, and 63 in February, 1921. In these new disputes about 18,000 workpeople were directly involved, and 3,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition to the numbers involved in new disputes, about 12,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 49 other disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of new and old disputes in progress in February was thus 115, involving about 33,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during February of about 316,000 working days.

The following Table classifies the disputes by groups of trades, and indicates the number of workpeople involved (whether directly or indirectly) at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during February in all the disputes in progress:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Disputes in progress in February.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in February.	Aggregate Duration of Working Days of all Disputes in progress in February.
	Started before 1st Feb.	Started in Feb.	Total.		
Building	6	12	18	2,000	21,000
Mining & Quarrying ..	11	9	20	13,000	123,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	8	9	17	6,000	41,000
Textile & Clothing ..	3	5	8	1,000	20,000
Transport	3	11	14	4,000	46,000
Food, etc., Trades ..	4	2	6	2,000	25,000
Other Trades	12	11	23	3,000	30,000
Employees of Public Authorities ..	2	7	9	2,000	5,000
Total, Feb., 1922 ..	49	66	115	33,000	316,000
Total, Jan., 1922 ..	36	57	93	18,500	184,000
Total, Feb., 1921 ..	49	63	112	44,000†	758,000†

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN FEBRUARY, 1922.

Occupations and Locality †	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. ‡	Result. ‡
	Directly.	Indirectly. ‡	Began.	Ended.		
BUILDING TRADES:— French polishers (employed by master builders)—London.	300	..	1922. 28 Jan.	..	Against application to french polishers of building trade rates and conditions, in place of those observed in the cabinet trade.	No settlement reported.
MINING AND QUARRYING:— Coal miners, etc.—Sunderland (near).	1,558	..	1921. 3 Oct.	..	Men demanded reinstatement of two putters, dismissed for alleged malingering under the protection of the Minimum Wage Act. Subsequently men desired to resume work, but employers demanded abolition of certain colliery customs.	No settlement reported.
METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES:— Bricklayers, etc., in iron and steel works.—North East Coast, Lancashire and Cumberland. Wagon builders and repairers—England and Wales.	1,000§	..	1922. 6-27 Feb.	..	Against proposed reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
TEXTILE TRADES:— Rope and twine makers, fitters, smiths, engine drivers, etc.—Liverpool.	550**	..	1921. 2 May— 4 June.	17 Feb.†	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Reduced rates fixed by arbitration.†
TRANSPORT TRADES:— Engine cleaners, porters, shunters, signalmen, etc.—Cork, Dublin and other places in Southern Ireland.	1,000**	..	1922. 27 Jan.	15 Feb.	Against reduction in wages ..	Agreement arrived at.
FOOD, ETC., TRADES:— Slaughtermen, etc.—London, Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	1,500††	..	1922. 27 Jan.	18 Feb.	Against proposed reduction in wages and for recognition of Trade Union by London employers.	Agreement effected, involving modified reduction in wages, to operate until 31st December, 1922; Trade Union recognised by London employers.
OTHER TRADES:— Cricket bat, tennis racket, hockey stick, etc., workers—London, Bolton, Cambridge, Leeds, Nottingham, and Horbury.	420	..	1922. 6 Jan.	13 Feb.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Agreement effected involving modified reduction and providing for regulation of future changes in wages by a sliding scale based on the cost-of-living figures as published in the "LABOUR GAZETTE."
Packers, porters, etc., employed by book publishers—London.	800**	..	1922. 18 Feb.	..	Against proposed reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES:— Tramway workers—Newcastle-on-Tyne.	1,403	..	1922. 26 Feb.	..	Against proposed extension of working hours from 44 to 48 per week.	No settlement reported.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
† Revised figure.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
§ Estimated number involved by the end of February. Early in March a large number of iron and steel workers were rendered idle owing to the dispute.
¶ On the North East Coast the dispute began about 27th February.
** Estimated number involved by the end of February. Subsequently the number has considerably increased.
†† In the case of certain firms agreement was effected between the parties and work resumed in June—July, 1921.
‡‡ Estimated number inclusive of a number of meat porters etc. in London who were idle on 6th and 7th February in sympathy.

Causes.—Of the 66 new disputes, 40, directly involving about 10,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 12, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 2, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 7, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 5, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—During February settlements were effected in the case of 30 new disputes, directly involving about 4,000 workpeople, and 21 old disputes, directly involving about 6,000 workpeople. Of these disputes 5, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 27, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 19, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 7 disputes, directly involving about 2,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

DISPUTES IN FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1921 AND 1922.

The following Table gives comparative statistics for the first two months of 1921 and 1922:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan. and Feb., 1921.			Jan. and Feb., 1922.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building	22	4,000	95,000	17	2,000	27,000
Mining and Quarrying ..	12	6,000	50,000	21	16,000	220,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	14	28,000†	1,203,000†	9	1,000	9,000
Other Metal	17	7,000	75,000	5	5,000	38,000
Textile & Clothing ..	7	1,000	25,000	9	2,000	50,000
Transport	2	500	6,000	20	5,000	59,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ..	6	500	6,000	6	1,000	21,000
Food, etc. Trades ..	2	500	6,000	5	2,000	30,000
Other Trades	20	3,500	37,000	16	3,000	34,000
Employees of Public Authorities ..	5	1,000	15,000	13	5,000	12,000
Total	107	52,000	1,516,000	123	40,000	500,000

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 arranged to come into operation in February resulted in a reduction of over £390,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,440,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £3,750 per week in the wages of 20,000 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.
Building and Allied Trades ..	—	460,000	£	44,900
Mining and Quarrying ..	2,000	750,000	150	103,300
Iron and Steel	—	175,000	—	67,200
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal	—	301,000	—	44,700
Textile	—	136,000	—	16,600
Clothing	—	193,000	—	31,400
Public Utility Services ..	—	117,000	—	24,000
Other	18,000	263,000	3,600	54,200
Total	20,000	2,440,000	3,750	391,300

In the building trade a decrease of 1d. per hour took effect under a national "cost of living" sliding scale, which applied to all the principal towns in Great Britain with the exception of Liverpool and Birkenhead, and generally to all occupations, the principal exceptions being painters in Scotland, certain other classes in the Glasgow area, and plumbers in certain districts.

There were reductions in the wages of coal miners in seven of the thirteen areas in which the mines are grouped, the reductions varying from under 2 per cent. on current rates in Northumberland and Scotland to over 8 per cent. in Radstock and North Wales; in addition there was a small decrease in one part of the Bristol coalfield and a small increase in another part. Iron ore miners in Cumberland also had their wages reduced.

In the iron and steel trades the principal reductions affected steel smelters, whose wages were reduced by about 17½ or 20 per cent. on current rates, and iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, in whose case the decrease was about 9½ per cent. on current rates.

A considerable number of shipyard workers were affected by the withdrawal of a third instalment of advances granted during the war under the Standard Ship Cycle of Awards (see pp. 516-7 of the GAZETTE for October, 1921). Tinplate workers in South Wales sustained a total reduction of 10 per cent. on basis rates.

The principal reductions in the textile group affected hosiery workers in the Midlands, jute workers, and carpet workers.

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

[NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in February, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during February 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 AND ALLIED TRADES (including Works of Construction).	London and Districts within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross; also Gray's, Purfleet, Epsom and Watford	1 Feb.	Bricklayers, masons and marble masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists and sawyers, slaters and tilers, plumbers, plasterers, painters, scaffolders, timbermen and labourers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: masons (fixers), granite masons and spindle and four-cutter machinists, 2s. 1d.; plumbers, 2s. 0½d.; painters, 1s. 11d.; other tradesmen, 2s.; marble polishers, 1s. 10d.; scaffolders and timbermen, 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 7d.
		1 Feb.	Electric and steam derrick drivers, travelling crane and overhead traveller drivers, portable and stationary engine drivers, boiler attendants and crane signalmen	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: electric derrick drivers, 1s. 11d.; steam derrick drivers, 1s. 10½d.; crane drivers, 1s. 9½d.; engine drivers, 1s. 8d.; boiler attendants and crane signalmen, 1s. 7d.
		1 Feb.	Building trade operatives (except plumbers in certain towns and painters in Scotland—see below and p. 132)	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. [For towns affected and rates after change, see Table on p. 144.]
Building	Other Principal Towns in Great Britain (except Liverpool and Birkenhead, Glasgow and West of Scotland)†	1 Feb.	Plumbers	Decrease* of 1d. per hour. [For towns affected and rates after change, see Table on p. 144.]
	Various other towns†	Feb. ‡	Plumbers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (2s. 1½d. to 2s. 1d.).

* This decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.
† In the Glasgow district the decrease applied only to joiners, plumbers, and slaters and plasterers and their labourers (see note † on p. 134).
‡ The date of change and the districts affected are as follows.—1st February—North Eastern Area: In-cluding Blaydon, Blyth, Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Hexham, Jarrow, Middlesbrough, Morpeth, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland, Thornaby, and Walsend; North East Lancashire: Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Great Harwood, Haslingden, Nelson, Padiham, Rawtenstall and Rishton; Todmorden; and Warrington; 6th February—Manchester Area: Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Atherton, Bolton, Bury, Cheadle, Disley, Dukinfield, Eccles, dentfield, Farnworth, Glossop, Heywood, Hyde, Leigh, Manchester, Middleton, Mossley, Oldham, Openshaw, Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Rochdale, Sale, Salford, Stalybridge, Stockport, Tyldesley, Whitefield and Wilmslow. 10th February—West Riding of Yorkshire: Barnsley, Batley, Bradford, Brighouse, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Hebden Bridge, Horbury, Ilkley, Keighley, Leeds, Menston, Mirfield, Morley, Normanton, Ossett, Otley, Rotherham, Sheffield, Shipley, Sowter Bridge, Spu Valley, Wakefield, Wombwell, and Yeadon; Chesterfield.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Building (contd.), Works of Construction, Electrical Installation, Gas-fitting, Mining and Quarrying, and Iron Mining.

* Including Camborne, Falmouth, Hayle, Newquay, Penzance, Redruth, St. Ives, and Truro. † This decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc. ‡ The change took effect under an Agreement arrived at between the National Federated Electrical Association and the Electrical Trades' Union.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Smelting and Manufacture, and Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.

* Including Rowsley, Matlock, Whatstandwell, Tansley and Darley Dale districts. † Under an agreement arrived at between representatives of the employers and the trade unions concerned it was arranged that in the case of men in receipt of base rates of 5s. per shift or 7.66d. or less per hour the reduction of 3 1/2 per cent. on base rates or 1/2 of war advances should take effect in three equal instalments.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 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.

* These decreases are made under the "Standard Ships Cycle" Awards issued by an Arbitration Board under the Industrial Courts Act on 4th October, 1921, and are the third instalment of three approximately equal instalments which amount in toto (generally) to three-quarters of the amount of the advances granted in 1917-18 and known as the "Standard Ships Cycle" of advances and consequential extensions. The amount of each decrease except where otherwise stated is deducted from the ruling percentage which is added to the agreed basic rates or piecework prices.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 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.

* Including fitters, turners, smiths, ironmoulders, brassmoulders and machinists; patternmakers receive an additional 2s. to 2s. 6d. per week "tool money." † Including Aberdeen, Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Dundee, Edinburgh, Forfar, Glasgow, Greenock, Killarock, and Montrose.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued).				
Optical Instrument Making	London*	1st pay day in Feb.	Males	Decrease of 1d. per hour for men in receipt of the "standard rate" (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.), and proportional reductions for lower paid men.
Surgical Instrument Making	Sheffield	27 Feb.	Surgical and dental instrument makers	Percentage addition of 75 per cent., previously paid on revised pre-war piecework prices reduced to 70 per cent., and timeworkers wages reduced by 2½ per cent.
Cutlery Manufacture	Sheffield	1 Feb.	Table and butcher knife hafters, table and butcher blade smiths, shoe blade smiths, table blade hand forgers, flat steel metal fork grinders, stainless blade smiths, etc.	PIECEWORKERS: Bonus of 35 per cent., previously paid, reduced to 27½ per cent. MALE DAY WORKERS: Bonus of 37½ per cent., previously paid, reduced to 30 per cent. FEMALES: Decrease of 3s. per full working week for those 18 years of age and over, and of 1s. 6d. per full working week for those under 18 years. Decreases of 2s. 4d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 9d. per week for youths 18 years and under 21 years, and of 1s. 2d. per week for boys under 18 years. Decrease of 12½ per cent. on piece price list of 1920.
Edge Tool Manufacture	Birmingham and Wolverhampton District	1st pay day in Feb.	Males	Decreases of 2s. 4d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 9d. per week for youths 18 years and under 21 years, and of 1s. 2d. per week for boys under 18 years. Decrease of 12½ per cent. on piece price list of 1920.
Nut and Bolt Manufacture	South Staffordshire	19 Nov., 1921	Pieceworkers on hand forged work	Bonus on total earnings of 7½ per cent., previously paid, withdrawn.
		1 Jan.	Dayworkers on hand forged work	Decrease of 6s. per week in war wages (32s. 6d. to 26s. 6d.) and bonus of 12½ per cent. on total earnings, previously paid, reduced to 8½ per cent. Bonus on total earnings of 8½ per cent., previously paid, reduced to 4½ per cent.
		1 Dec., 1921	Boys and youths	Revised scale of weekly wages adopted starting at 12s. at 14 years, and increasing with each year of age to 35s. at 20 years; resulting in decreases varying from 3s. to 7s. per week.
Screw Manufacture	Birmingham and District	1st pay after 11 Feb.	Women and girls	Revised scale of weekly wages adopted starting at 12s. at 14 years, and increasing with each year of age to 29s. for those 21 years and over; resulting in decreases varying from 6d. to 2s. 3d. per week. Piecework prices also correspondingly adjusted. Decrease of 12½ per cent. for dayworkers and pieceworkers.
		1st pay after 25 Feb.	Workpeople employed in making side-welded and end-welded dolly chains (males, including blacksmiths)	Decrease of 6d. per cwt. (except for sizes of 7 lbs. to 14 lbs.). Decrease of 3d. per cwt. Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: London—erectors, 1s. 8½d.; sheeters, 1s. 10½d.; sheeters' holders-up, 1s. 8½d. England and Wales (excluding London)—erectors, 1s. 7½d.; sheeters, 1s. 8½d.; sheeters' holders-up, 1s. 7d.
Chain and Anchor Making	Cradley Heath and District and Pontypridd	13 Feb.	Anchor forgemen	Decrease of 1d. per hour for firemen, and of 1½d. per hour for drivers. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 8½d.; drivers, 1s. 8d.
Constructional Engineering	England and Wales	1st pay in Feb.	Steelwork erectors	Decrease of 1d. per hour for firemen, and of 1½d. per hour for drivers. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 8½d.; drivers, 1s. 8d.
		6 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for firemen, and of 1½d. per hour for drivers. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 8½d.; drivers, 1s. 8d.
Farriery	Paisley and District (including Johnstone, Renfrew and Barrhead)	6 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for firemen, and of 1½d. per hour for drivers. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 8½d.; drivers, 1s. 8d.
		6 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for firemen, and of 1½d. per hour for drivers. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 8½d.; drivers, 1s. 8d.
Spring Manufacture	Sheffield	1st full pay after 18 Feb.	Laminated spring fitters and vicemen	Decrease of 1s. per week in bonus (20s. to 19s.).
Military Instrument Making	London	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Feb.	Timeworkers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: brass instrument makers, 1s. 8½d. and 1s. 7½d.; drum makers, 1s. 7½d.; wood wind and saxophone makers, 1s. 8½d.; brass finishers, polishers, etc., 1s. 6½d.; improvers, 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 3d.
		1st full pay after 26 Jan.	Pieceworkers	Decrease of 4½ per cent. on piece price list.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Woolen and Worsted Industry	West of England District	1st full pay week after 26 Jan.	Males and females	Decrease of 7½ per cent. in minimum time, piece and piecework basis time rates.
Jute Industry	Great Britain	9 Feb.	Preparers, spinners, weavers, etc.	Decreases of the following amounts in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for the classes named respectively:— Males Decrease of 3s. 3½d. per week for those under 16 years, 2s. 9½d. for those 16 to 21 years, and 3s. 1½d. (43s. 9d. to 40s. 7½d.) for those 21 years and over.†
			Females	Decreases varying from 2s. 4d. to 3s. 10d. per week for single spinners, and from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 8d. per week for double spinners.‡
			Orra (or spare) spinners 18 years and over Spinning shifting mistresses Other workers	Decrease of 3d. per week (42s. to 39s.).‡ Decreases of 3s. 3½d. per week for those under 16 years, 2s. 9½d. per week for those 16 to 18 years, and 2s. per week (28s. to 26s.) for those 18 years and over.‡ Decrease of 6½ per cent. on earnings.
Linen Manufacture	Dunfermline and West Fife	1st full pay in Feb.	Males, 18 years of age and over	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week for tenters, dressers, lappers, and finishers, and 1s. 3d. per week for labourers.
			Females	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on piece rates as adjusted in May 1920 (where Trade Board rates permit), and an equivalent decrease for timeworkers.
Silk Industry	Leek	3 Feb.	Men, 22 years and over	Decrease of 2s. per week.
			Women, 18 years and over Males, under 22 years, and girls under 18	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week. Decrease of 1s. per week.

* The reductions took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Optical Instrument Manufacturing Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee.
† Including Wednesbury, Oldbury, Stourbridge and Caanock.
‡ This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index numbers of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE.
§ The decreases took effect under an arrangement made between the Bridgebuilding and Constructional Engineering Employers' Association and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.
|| Including Stroud, Trowbridge, Frome, Westbury, Chippenham, Bath, Chipping Norton, Wellington, Witney, South Devon, and North Tawton.
¶ See Order on p. 97 of February LABOUR GAZETTE.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE TRADES—(continued).				
Hosiery Manufacture	Midlands*	Pay day in week beginning 20 Feb., 2nd week in Jan.	All classes of workpeople, except dyers, trimmers, finishers, etc.	Bonus of 10d. in the shilling on earnings reduced to 9d. in the shilling.
			Males and females	Decrease of 1d. in the shilling on earnings. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers: men, 51s. 4d.; women, 29s. 4d.
Lace Manufacture	Nottingham and District, Beeston, Southwell, and certain districts in Scotland	6 Feb.	All classes of workpeople, except designers and draughtsmen	Decrease of 12½ per cent. on list prices.
Carpet Manufacture	Great Britain	||	Workpeople employed in carpet manufacture	Decrease of 10 per cent. in percentage advance paid on basis rates, leaving wages 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. above basis rates for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively. Increase of 5s. 6d. per week in minimum rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts (48s. 6d. to 54s.). (See also p. 148.)
			Males, 21 years and over, employed as hemp rollers on non-reciprocating machines or as hemp breakers Male apprentices who are apprenticed to tenting and dressing	Scale of minimum weekly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, starting at 14s. during 1st year and increasing to 32s. during 4th year (then to 40s. as improver) for tenting apprentices, and to 21s. during 3rd year (then to 32s. as improver) for dressing apprentices. (See also p. 148.) Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Decrease of 2s. per week.
Flax and Hemp Trade	Great Britain	27 Feb.	Men Women	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Decrease of 2s. per week.
Asbestos Industry	Great Britain	1st full pay day in Feb.	Men Women	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Decrease of 2s. per week.
Calico Printing	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland, and certain firms in Yorkshire	1st pay day in March	Machine calico printers	"Cost of living" wage reduced from 77 per cent. to 66 per cent. on basic wages, and flat rate bonus of 20s. per week, previously paid, reduced to 15s. per week.
Silk Dyeing and Finishing	Leek	3 Feb.	Males	Decrease of 2s. per week for those 22 years of age and over, and of 1s. per week for those under 22 years.
			Females	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week for women, and of 1s. per week for girls under 18.
Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing	Macclesfield	Pay day in week ending 18 Feb.	Timeworkers	Decrease of 3d. per hour for dyers, scourers and trimmers, of 3d. per hour for menders and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 years of age and over, and proportionate decreases for auxiliary workers under 18 years.
			Pieceworkers:— Trimmers (other than web trimmers and jersey trimmers) Web trimmers and jersey trimmers Dyers, scourers, menders and other pieceworkers	Bonus of 80 per cent. on list prices, previously paid, reduced to 70 per cent. Bonus of 55 per cent. on list prices, previously paid, reduced to 47½ per cent. Decrease of 1s. in the £.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Boot and Shoe Manufacture	Great Britain	2nd pay day in Feb.	Male timeworkers:— Departments other than heel building and stock and shoe rooms Heel building departments and stock or shoe rooms	Decrease of 4s. per week (68s. to 64s.) for those 23 years and over** and of from 1s. 3d. to 3s. 3d. per week (according to age) for those 16 to 22 years. Decrease of 4s. per week (65s. to 61s.) for those 23 years and over** and of from 1s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per week (according to age) for those 16 to 22 years.
			Female timeworkers:— Closing and heel building departments and stock and shoe rooms Pieceworkers	Decrease of 2s. per week (40s. to 38s.) for those 20 years and over** and of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. (according to age) for those 16 to 19 years. Decrease of 5 per cent. and 2½ per cent. on earnings for males and females respectively working on piecework statements, which include the percentage increases granted under the Interim (1920) Agreement, and percentage additions to earnings of workers paid on other lists reduced by 5 and 2½ for men and women respectively.
Hand-sewn Boot and Shoe Trade	London (West End)	1st pay day in Feb.	Hand sewn boot and shoe makers and repairers	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on rates existing at 1st October, 1921, leaving wages 15 per cent. below these rates.
Retail Bespoke Tailoring	Great Britain	22 Feb.	Workers who have completed not less than 5 years' apprenticeship or learnership	Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 2d. per hour in time and piecework basis time rates. Minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: less than 1 year's employment, 1s. 3d., 1s. 4½d.; 1 year and less than 3 years, 1s. 4d., 1s. 5½d.; not less than 3 years, 1s. 5d., 1s. 6½d. (See Order on p. 148.)
Glove Industry	Certain districts in England	Week ending 4 Feb.	Other workers (except learners, apprentices, cutters and trimmers)	Decrease in the minimum time rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1d.). (See Order on p. 148.)
			Workpeople, other than labourers, employed in the leather section Labourers employed in above section	Advance of 2½ per cent., previously paid on rates fixed by the National Agreement of 1919, withdrawn. Minimum time rates after change: skilled men, 60s.; women 20 years and over, 8d. Decrease of 2½ per cent. Rate after change, 1s. 3d. per hour less 12½ per cent.

* Including Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley, and Coventry Districts.
† The decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index number of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE.
‡ Including Darvel, Newmilns, Galston, Kilmarnock and Stewarton.
§ Except in Scotland, where designers and draughtsmen were included.
|| The decrease took effect from the first pay day in March, in respect of the preceding pay period.
¶ The change took effect under an agreement made between the Incorporated Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives.
** It was provided that in the case of male timeworkers 23 years and over and female timeworkers 20 years and over who, under the Interim (1920) Agreement, received increases of less than 12s. and 6s. per week respectively, the present reductions should be one-third of the increases granted under that agreement instead of the reductions described above.
†† The effect of this reduction is that in the case of statements revised under the 1919 Agreement which came into force on or before 31st December, 1919, advances of 5 per cent. and 7½ per cent. on piecework earnings are now paid to men and women respectively; in the case of those which came into operation on or after 1st January, 1920, 2½ per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively, while in the case of the Northampton County Clickers Statement which came into operation on 2nd June, 1919, net list prices are now paid.
‡‡ The decrease took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Council for the Glove Making Industry. The principal districts affected were Worcester, North Devon, Yeovil and Oxford.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)			
CLOTHING TRADES—(continued).							
Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade	England and Wales	20 Feb.	Males:— Cloth hat and cap section ...	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 4d. per hour for cutters and blockers and 2d. per hour for press cutters and lining cutters. (See Order on p. 148.)			
			Straw hat workers with not less than 5 years' experience after the age of 19*	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 2d. per hour in the time rate (1s. 7d. to 1s. 5d.) and piecework basis time rate (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 6½d.). (See Order on p. 148.)			
			Workers 22 years and over other than the above	Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour in the time rate (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1d.) and piecework basis time rate (1s. 3½d. to 1s. 2½d.). (See Order on p. 148.)			
			Workers under 22 years ...	New scale of minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases of 1d., 1d., or 1½d. per hour, and decrease of 1d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate. (See Order on p. 148.)			
			Females (other than learners)...	Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour in time rate (8½d. to 8d.) and of 1d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (9½d. to 8½d.). (See Order on p. 148.)			
Fur Trade	Various townst ...	1 Jan.	Silk hat and helmet, &c., makers	Bonus of 100 per cent. previously paid on pre-war price lists reduced to 75 per cent.			
			Felt hat makers:— Timeworkers ...	Bonus of 65 per cent., previously paid, reduced to 60 per cent. Rate after change for men, 10½d. plus 60 per cent.			
			Pieceworkers ...	Bonus of 70 per cent., previously paid, reduced to 65 per cent.			
Railway Service	Scotland ...	1 Feb.	Youths and boys employed in the railway service (exclusive of engine cleaners)	Age at which youths are entitled to adult rates of pay raised from 18 years to 20; and reduced scale of weekly wages adopted as follows:—16s. at 15 years of age or under, 20s. at 16 years, 25s. at 17 years, 30s. at 18 years, and 35s. at 19 years, such scale to apply to all youths and boys already in service under 18 years of age, and to new entrants under the age of 20, subject to an immediate reduction to 50s. per week in the case of youths already in the service between the ages of 18 and 20 years who are in receipt of 55s. per week or over.‡			
			Males:— Conciliation grades (adults) ... Engine drivers, firemen and cleaners	Decrease of 4s. per week. New schedule of standard daily rates adopted, varying from 12s. to 15s. for drivers, 9s. 6d. to 11s. (12s. after 10th year) for firemen, and from 4s. to 7s. for cleaners; of pay at age of 20 years, instead of 18 years as previously. Increase of 4s. per week on existing rates of pay for all employees to whom reduction of 4s. applied in January, 1922; and graduated scale of wages adopted for juniors, for whom the age entitling to adult rates of pay is raised from 18 to 20 years, subject to those 18 years and over already in service receiving adult rates of pay sustaining no reduction, and those at junior rates not being reduced below their present rates. Decrease of 4s. per week.			
Road Transport Industry	Ireland ...	15 Feb.	Other conciliation grades ...	Increase of 4s. per week on existing rates of pay for all employees to whom reduction of 4s. applied in January, 1922; and graduated scale of wages adopted for juniors, for whom the age entitling to adult rates of pay is raised from 18 to 20 years, subject to those 18 years and over already in service receiving adult rates of pay sustaining no reduction, and those at junior rates not being reduced below their present rates. Decrease of 4s. per week.			
			South Yorkshire District†	Week starting 13 Feb.	Road transport workers employed by co-operative societies	Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change: horse drivers, 60s. and 65s.††; steam wagon drivers, 75s.; petrol wagon drivers (2 tons and over), 70s., (under 2 tons) 65s. Decrease of 3s. per week.	
			Manchester and Warrington ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Leeds ...	Pay day week ending 10 or 11 Feb.	Decrease of 3s. per week for horse drivers, light motor drivers, steerers, mates and trailer-men, and of 4s. per week for heavy motor and steam wagon drivers. Rates after change: horse drivers, 58s. and 65s.††; petrol wagon drivers (under 1 ton), 59s.; (over 1 ton), 70s.; mates and trailer-men, 59s. Decrease of 5s. per week. Rates after change for horse drivers, 58s. and 60s.††
			Macclesfield ...	11 Feb.	Plymouth ...	1st pay week ending 11 Feb.	Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change: horse drivers, 56s. and 58s. per week††; petrol wagon drivers, (1 to 2 ton), 59s., (under 1 ton) 57s.
			Various districts in Scotland†† (except Forfarshire)	1st pay day in Feb.	Forfarshire ...	28 Jan.	Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change at Glasgow: one-horse drivers 61s. 6d., motor drivers (2 tons and over) 70s. 6d., steam wagon drivers 80s. 6d., steam wagon steerers, 75s. 6d. Decrease of 2s. per week for those 18 years and over, and of 1s. for those under 18. Rates after change at Dundee: horse drivers, 58s. and 60s.††
Agriculture	Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness District of Lancashire	2 Feb.	Agricultural workers:— Males ...	Decrease of 5s. per week for those 21 years and over, and proportionate decreases for skilled workers between 16 and 21 years. Rates after change (to operate up to 3rd June) for adults: skilled, 45s. for a week of 65 hours; others, 32s. 6d. for a week of 54 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter.§§			
			Females 16 years and over ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (6d. to 5d.).§§			

* Those employed in stiffening straws and all classes of hoods, or in blocking straws, hoods or shapes, covered by hand or machine.
† Viz—Manchester, Denton, Stockport, Leicester, London, Bristol, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin.
‡ This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index numbers of retail prices, etc.
§ 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 rates quoted are subject to additional payments for mileage on basis that mileage in excess of 120 per day shall be reckoned at a rate of 15 miles as the equivalent of one hour. In the case of certain of the smaller companies the rates are subject to a deduction of 10 per cent.
¶ Including Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster, Goole, Pontefract, Chesterfield, Staveley and Worksop.
** Including Ashton-under-Lyne, Droylsden, Frattwick, Audenshaw, Salford, Hyde, Rochdale, Glossop, Stockport, Dukinfield, Mossley, Oldham, Middleton, Saddleworth, Manchester, Stalybridge and Littleborough.
†† The lower rate applied to one horse drivers and the higher rate to two-horse drivers.
‡‡ Including amongst others Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Leith, Glasgow, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Paisley and Perth.
§§ 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 Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE—(continued).				
Agriculture (contd.)	Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire	25 Feb.	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rate of 32s. adopted for a week of 52 hours up to 22nd July.*
	Market Harborough and Lutterworth Districts	23 Feb.	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rate of 31s. adopted for a week of 51 hours up to 30th September.*
	Melton Mowbray and Belvoir districts	1 Feb.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Decrease of 2s. per week for those 21 years and over (34s. to 32s.) and of proportionate amounts for those under 21; to operate for a week of 50 hours up to 28th February.*
	Norfolk ...	25 Feb.	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rate of 30s. adopted for a week of 50½ hours.*
	Rutland ...	1 Feb.	Adult male agricultural labourers	Decrease of 2s. per week (34s. to 32s.); to operate for a week of 48 hours up to 4th March, and 50 hours from then up to 28th October and sliding scale method of determining wages adopted, by which wages are regulated in accordance with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.*
	Shropshire ...	1 Feb.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Decrease of 1½d. per hour (9½d. to 8d.) for those 21 years and over, and proportionate rates adopted for those under 21; to operate for a guaranteed week of 48 hours up to 4th March.*
	Cornwall ...	1 Feb.	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rate of 34s. adopted up to 28th February.*
	Devonshire ...	2 Feb.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rate of 34s. adopted for a week of 50 hours up to 25th March for those 21 years and over, with proportionate rates for those under 21 years.*
	Isle of Wight†	1 Feb.	Adult male agricultural workers	Rate of 33s. adopted for a week of 52½ hours.†
	Kent†	27 Feb.	Adult male agricultural labourers	Minimum rate of 31s. 6d. adopted for a week of 54 hours.†
Paper Making	United Kingdom†	1 Feb.	Men 21 years and over ...	Decrease of 1½d. per hour.†
			Boys and youths under 21 years	Decrease of 1d. per hour for those 18 to 20½ years, and of ½d. per hour for those under 18.‡
Printing, Book-binding, etc.	Kent, Somerset and Devonshire	23 Jan. 6 Feb. 20 Feb.	Pieceworkers ...	Decrease of 7d. per "day's work."**
			Vatmen, couchers, beating engineers, finishers, layers, etc., employed in the hand-made paper trade	Decrease of 5d. per "day's work."**
Furniture Manufacture	Belfast ...	1st pay day in Jan.	Compositors, linotype operators, etc. lithographic printers, electrotypers and stereotypers, cutters and labourers (jobbing and newspaper offices) ...	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: compositors (jobbing), 87s.; morning news, 99s.; evening news, 89s. 6d.; litho printers, 90s.; electrotypers and stereotypers, 87s.; cutters (employed over five years), 73s.; labourers, 51s. 6d.
			Male bookbinders ...	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week (88s. 6d. to 87s.).
Paper, Printing and Allied Trades.	United Kingdom†	1 Feb.	Women employed in the lithographic, letterpress and binding trades	Decrease of 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change: qualified papers and sewers, 35s.; other journeywomen, 35s.
			All workpeople (except mechanics, etc., and those employed in hand-made paper mills and board mills):— Timeworkers:— Men 21 years and over ... Boys and youths under 21 years ... Women and girls ...	Decrease of 1½d. per hour.† Decrease of 1d. per hour for those 18 to 20½ years, and of ½d. per hour for those under 18.‡ Decrease of 1d. per hour for those 18 years and over, and of ½d. per hour for those of 17, and of ¼d. per hour for those 14 to 16 years.†
Furniture and Woodworking Trades.	London ...	1 Feb.	Upholsteresses and female french polishers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: upholsteresses, 11½d.; female french polishers, 1s. 1½d.
			Packers and porters (wholesale trade)	Decrease of 1d. per hour for those paid hourly rates and of 3s. 8d. and 3s. 7d. per week for packers and porters respectively paid weekly.
Furniture and Woodworking Trades.	Middlebrough, Stockton, and Hartlepool	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: cabinet makers, 2s.; others, 1s. 11½d.
			Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rate after change, 1s. 9½d.; machinists receive 1d. per hour extra.
Furniture and Woodworking Trades.	Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Keighley and Brighouse	1st full week in Feb.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.).
			Operatives employed in the white enamelled (deal) section	Decrease of 6.38 per cent. on existing rates.

* The new rates of wages and working hours referred to above are those which have been agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committees set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921. The Minister of Agriculture has confirmed the agreement made for Surrey.
† The new rate referred to was not accepted by the workers' side of the Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the employers' side.
‡ The change took effect under the terms of an Agreement made between the Employers' Federation of Paper Makers, the National Union of Printing, Book-binding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers, and the Amalgamated Society of Papermakers.
§ The decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index number of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE.
|| The minimum rates after change may be calculated by adding the above decreases to those sustained in December (see p. 37 of JANUARY LABOUR GAZETTE) and deducting the totals from the rates shown on page 433 of LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1921.
¶ In the case of youths aged 20 years doing the work of adults in Class II. occupations, the reductions were 1d. and 1½d. per hour for shiftworkers and day workers respectively.
** A "day's work" is a quantity of paper, which varies according to the different sizes.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Furniture and Woodworking Trades, Mill-Sawing, Packing Case Making, Coopering, and Vehicle Building.

* This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index number of retail prices, etc. published in the LABOUR GAZETTE. † Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Nelson, Padiham and Preston. ‡ The rates after change for timeworkers were 3d. less than those quoted on p. 497 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921. § For particulars of the various towns affected see list in § note on p. 497 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921, to which are added Liverpool and Birkenhead. ¶ For particulars of the various towns affected see list in § note on p. 497 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921, to which are added Liverpool and Birkenhead. ** For particulars of the various towns affected see list in § note on p. 497 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921, to which are added Liverpool and Birkenhead. †† For particulars of the various towns affected see list in § note on p. 497 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921, to which are added Liverpool and Birkenhead. ‡‡ For particulars of the various towns affected see list in § note on p. 497 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921, to which are added Liverpool and Birkenhead. §§ For particulars of the various towns affected see list in § note on p. 497 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921, to which are added Liverpool and Birkenhead.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Furniture and Woodworking Trades, Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades, Flour Milling, Baking and Confectionery, Brewing, Seed Crushing and Oil Milling Industry, Slaughtering, etc., Milk Distributive Trade, and Cigar Making.

* For the towns affected see p. 498 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921. Minimum and standard rates are now 2½d. per hour less than those quoted (coach work 2½d. less). † This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with the index number of retail prices, etc., published in the LABOUR GAZETTE. ‡ Minimum rates are now 2½d. per hour less than those quoted on p. 498 of LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1921. § The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry. For list of districts included in the various classes see note * on p. 555 of LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1921. ¶ The rate quoted is for workpeople employed by private traders. †† Including Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, and York. ‡‡ The rate quoted applies to table hands. §§ Viz., Accrington, Blackburn, Clitheroe, Chorley, Colne, Darwen, Great Harwood, Nelson, and Southport. ¶¶ Scales A.—Areas administered by Rural District Councils except towns or villages with a population exceeding 10,000 within any Rural District Council Area. §§§ Scales B.—Areas other than those specified in Scales A and C. §§§§ Scales C.—City of London and Metropolitan Police Districts except such parts as are administered by a Rural District Council. §§§§§ The decrease took effect under an agreement made between the United Kingdom Cigar Manufacturers' Federation, the Cigar Sub-Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, and the National Cigar Makers' and Tobacco Workers' Union.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 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 and MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

* This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc. † Plumbers employed in fertilizer works receive an additional 1d. per hour, but are not paid for Bank Holidays.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES and Local Authority Services.

* Including the London County Council, Westminster City Council, City of London Corporation, the Borough Councils of Battersea, Chelsea, Deptford, Finsbury, Fulham, Greenwich, Hampstead, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Southwark and Stoke Newington, and the Urban District Councils of Leyton and Bexley.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH, 1922.

The following groups of workpeople among others are affected by reductions in wages already reported as taking place in March: coal miners in various districts; seamen; dock labourers; men employed in flour mills; and asbestos and india rubber workers.

RATES OF WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADES.

The following Table shows the revised rates of wages to operate from 1st February, 1922, for craftsmen (bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plumbers, plasterers, painters) and labourers in the building industry after the reduction of 1d. per hour referred to on page 131.

Table with columns for District, Grade A (Craftsmen, Labourers), Grade B (Craftsmen, Labourers), Grade C (Craftsmen, Labourers), and Grade D (Craftsmen, Labourers). Rows list various districts like London, North East Coast, Yorkshire, etc.

* In the case of towns printed in italic type below, the rates shown in the Table for craftsmen do not apply to plumbers. † Except in Scotland. ‡ Excluding Liverpool and Birkenhead, where the rates remained unaltered at 2s. 3d. for plumbers, 2s. 2d. for other craftsmen and 1s. 9d. for labourers.

Grading of Towns.

The localities in which the above rates have been reported to be in operation are as follows. In the case of localities printed in italic type, the rates shown in the above Table for craftsmen do not apply to plumbers.

NORTH EAST COAST:—Birtley, Bishop Auckland, Blackhill, Blyth, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Hebburn, Hexham, Jarrow, Lanchester, Leadgate, Middlesbrough, Morpeth, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Seaham Harbour, Shotley Bridge, Stanley, Stockton, Sunderland, Thornaby, Tynemouth, Wallsend, Whitburn and Whitley Bay.

YORKSHIRE:—Grade A.—Barnsley, Batley, Bingley, Birstall, Bradford, Brighouse, Calder Valley, Castleford, Cleckheaton, Colne Valley, Crosshills, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Gomersal, Grimby, Guiseley, Halifax, Harrogate, Hebburn, Heckmondwike, Holmfirth, Horbury, Huddersfield, Hull, Ilkley, Immingham, Keighley, Leeds, Liversedge, Mexborough, Mirfield, Morley, Normanton, Ossett, Penistone, Pontefract, Pudsey, Rawdon, Rotham, Sowerby Bridge, Stocksbridge, Wakefield, Wombwell and Yeading.

NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES:—Grade A.—Acrington, Adlington, Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Atherton, Bacup, Barrow, Birkdale, Bispham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Blackrod, Bolton, Broughton (Flints), Burnley, Bury, Carlisle, Chester, Chorley, Church, Cleveleys, Clitheroe, Colne, Connals Quay, Dalton-in-Furness, Darwen, Denton, Droylesden, Eccles, Farnworth, Fleetwood, Frodsham, Glossop, Great Harwood, Haslingden, Hawarden, Helsby, Heywood, Higher Kinnerton, Horwich, Hyde, Lancaster, Leigh, Leyland, Littleborough, Longridge, Lymm, Manchester, Middleton, Morecambe, Mossley, Nelson, Ormskirk, Oswaldtwistle, Oldham, Padiham, Pendlebury, Poulton, Preston, Prestwich, Queensferry, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Ravenstall, Rishton, Rochdale, Runcorn, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, St. Helens, Saddleworth, Sale, Salford, Shaw, Skelton, Southport, Statybridge, Stockport, Swinton, Thornton, Todmorden, Tyldesley, Walkden, Warrington, Westhoughton, Whalley, Whitefield, Widnes, Wigan and Wilmslow.

Grade B.—Askam, Broughton, Buxton, Cleator Moor, Congleton, Coniston, Crewe, Distington, Egremont, Grange-over-Sands, Harrington, Knutsford, Macklesfield, Maryport, Market Drayton, Middlewich, Millom, Mold, Nantwich, New Mills, Northwich, Sandbach, Tarporley, Ulverston, Winsford and Over, Whitehaven, Worlington, and Wrexham.

Grade C.—Ambleside, Bala, Bangor, Bowness-on-Windermere, Carnarvon, Colwyn Bay, Conway, Grasmere, Holyhead, Holywell, Kendal, Langdale, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Mostyn, Penrith, Prestatyn, Rhos, Rhyll, and Windermere.

MIDLAND COUNTIES:—Grade A.—Alfreton, Belper, Bilston, Birmingham, Blackheath, Chesterfield, Coalville, Coventry, Derby, Heanor, Hinckley, Ilkeston, Kenilworth, Leicester, Lincoln, Loughborough, Mansfield, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Ripley, Sutton Coldfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, West Bromwich, Willeshall and Wolverhampton.

Grade B.—Atherstone, Bewdley, Boston, Brerley Hill, Bromsgrove, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock, Coseley, Darlaston, Dudley, Gainsborough, Gornal, Grantham, Halesowen, Hednesford, Kidderminster, Knowle, Leamington, Leek, Lichfield, Louth, Malvern, Market Harborough, Matlock, Melton Mowbray, Newark, Northampton, Oakengates, Old Hill, Peterborough, Redditch, Retford, Rugby, Rugby, Sedgley, Shifnal, Shrewsbury, Skegness, Sleatford, Solihull, Southwell, Stafford, Stamford, Stourbridge, Stourport, Stratford-on-Avon, Swadlincote, Swanwick, Tamworth, Walsall, Warwick, Wednesbury, Wellington, Worcester, and Worksop.

Grade C.—Ashbourne, Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Kettering, Ludlow, Newport, Oakham, Oundle, Raunds, Rushden, Spalding, Thrapston, Uttoxeter, Wellingborough, and Wirsoworth.

Grade D.—Buckden, Eaton Socon, Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots.

EASTERN COUNTIES:—Grade A.—Baldock, Bedford, Berkhamsted, Biggleswade, Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Cambridge, Colchester, Halstead, Hatfield, Harpenden, Hemel Hempstead, Henlow, Hertford, Hitchin, Hoddesdon, Ingatstone, Ipswich, Letchworth, Luton, Norwich, Ongar, St. Albans, Sandy, Sawbridgeworth, Stevenage, Stotford, Ware, Welwyn, and Witham.

Grade B.—Aldeburgh, Amptthill, Attleborough, Aylsham, Braughing, Chatteris, Cromer, Dovercourt, Dunstable, Ely, Fakenham, Felixstowe, Gorleston, Halesworth, Harwich, King's Lynn, Leighton Buzzard, Leiston, Lowestoft, March, Metcham, Hadham, Newmarket, North Walsham, Puckeridge, Renthem, Saxmundham, Southwold, Standon, Stowmarket, Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Wymondham, and Yarmouth.

Grade C.—Bungay, Coltishall, East Dereham, Royston, Saffron Walden, and Tring.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES:—Grade A.—Abingdon, Addlestone, Amersham, Ascot, Ashford (Middlesex), Banbury, Beaconsfield, Bournemouth, Bracknell, Brighton, Byfleet, Chalfont, Chesham, Chichester, Cremona, Eastbourne, Epsom, Egham, Egham, Epsom, Goring, Gosport, Gravesend, Guildford, Henley, Hove, Laleham, Maidenhead, Marlow, Northfleet, Oxford, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Southampton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunningdale, Sunninghill, Titchhurst, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Wallingford, Windsor, Winkfield, Woking, Wokingham, and Wycombe.

Grade B.—Arundel, Ashford (Kent), Aylesbury, Bagshot, Basingstoke, Bexhill, Bicester, Blechley, Bognor, Bosham, Broadstairs, Brockenhurst, Buckingham, Burgess Hill, Camberley, Canterbury, Chatham, Chichester, Chipping Norton, Cranleigh, Deal, Dover, Dorking, Fareham, Faringdon, Faversham, Fenny Stratford, Folkestone, Gillingham, Godalming, Hailsham, Haslemere, Hastings, Havant, Herne Bay, Horsham, Hythe, Lambourne, Liphook, Littlehampton, Lynton, Ramsgate, Redhill, Reigate, Rochester, Sandgate, Margate, Midhurst, Milford, Milton Regis, Newbury, New Milton, Newport Pagnell, Oxford, Pangbourne, Petworth, Ramsgate, Redhill, Reigate, Rochester, Sandgate, St. Leonards, Sevenoaks, Sittingbourne, Strood, Stony Stratford, Stow-on-the-Wold, Walmer, Wantage, Wendover, Westerham, Westgate, Whitstable, Winchester, Winslow, Witney, Wolverton, Woodstock, and Worthing.

Grade C.—Andover, Ardingley, Farnham, Godstone, Hawkhurst, Haywards Heath, Horley, Isle of Wight, Lingfield, Liss, Petersfield, Rye, Smallfield, Staplehurst, Steep, Turners Hill, and Uckfield.

SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES:—Grade I.—Bristol. Grade II.—Plymouth* and Devonport.* Grade III.—Dartmouth,* Exeter,* Newton Abbot, Paignton, Portishead, Stroud†, Taunton and Torquay. Grade IV.—Barnstaple, Bovey Tracey, Bradford-on-Avon,* Bridgwater, Bridport,* Bruton, Burnham-on-Sea, Calne,* Castle Cary, Cheddar,* Cirencester,* Clevedon, Coleford,* Corsham,* Crewkerne,* Dawlish, Dorchester,* Exmouth, Fairford,* Frome,* Glastonbury, Lydney,* Melksham,* Midsomer Norton, Minehead,* Radstock, Shepton Mallet, Street, Swanage,* Teignmouth,* Tebury,* Thornbury,* Totnes,† Trowbridge,* Wells, Westbury,* Weston-super-Mare, Weymouth,* and Yeovil.*

[N.B.—Bath, Cheltenham, Gloucester,* Hereford,* Swindon,* and Tewkesbury*—craftsmen, 1s. 9d.; labourers, 1s. 4d.]

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE:—Grade A.—Aberavon, Aberdare, Abergavenny, Ammanford, Barry, Bridgend, Briton Ferry, Brynmawr, Cardiff, Chepstow, Duffryn Valley, Ebbw Vale, East Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire Valleys, Garw Valley, Gorseinon, Llanelly, Maesteg, Merthyr, Mounth Ash, Neath, Newport, Ogmore Vale, Pontardulais, Pontypool, Pontypridd, Porthcawl, Port Talbot, Rhondda and Rhymney Valleys, Sirhowy Valley, Swansea, and Tredegar.

Grade B.—Haverfordwest and Pembroke. [N.B.—Brecon and Carmarthen:—Craftsmen, 1s. 10d.; labourers, 1s. 5d.]

SCOTLAND:—Grade A.—Airdrie, Alloa, Alva, Ayr, Bathgate, Bellshill, Bridge of Weir, Buckhaven, Burntisland, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Greenock, Grangemouth, Greenock, Haddington, Hamilton, Irvine, Kennoway, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Larbert, Leith, Leslie, Leven, Methil, Motherwell, Neilston, Newmans, Paisley, Pencaitland, Perth, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Stenhousemuir, Stirling, Uddingston, Wemyss, Windygates, and Wishaw.

Grade B.—Arbroath and Peebles. Grade C.—Dumfries, Galashiels, Hawick and Maxwelltown.

* The rate for painters is 1d. per hour less than that shown for craftsmen in the above table. † The rate for painters is 1d. per hour less than that shown for craftsmen in the above table.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

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 February, 1922, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 534 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase of 5 per 10,000 on the previous month, and of 343 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with January, 1922, the total number relieved increased by 8,569 (or 0.9 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief decreased by 294 (or 0.2 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients increased by 8,863 (or 1.1 per cent.). Eleven districts showed decreases, and every other district showed an increase. Glasgow district showed the greatest increase (53 per 10,000), and the largest decreases were in the Wigan and Wolverhampton districts (40 per 10,000).

Compared with February, 1921, the total number relieved increased by 596,306 (or 180.1 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief increased by 9,850 (or 8.4 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 586,456 (or 274.0 per cent.). Every district showed an increase, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (968 per 10,000), in the Sheffield district (937 per 10,000), in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (897 per 10,000), and in the Birmingham district (754 per 10,000). Fourteen districts showed increases ranging from 202 to 604, and thirteen districts showed increases ranging from 36 to 175.

Table showing Poor Law Relief statistics for Selected Urban Areas, England & Wales, and Scotland. Columns include Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000, and Population as compared with a previous period.

* 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 Sheffield and Middlesbrough Unions do not cover changes which have taken place since the 23rd January, 1922, and the 18th February, 1922, respectively.

§ The figures for Scotland include destitute 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 February, 1922, was 175 as compared with 186 in the previous month and 194 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

Table showing Fatal Industrial Accidents by trade category: RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, and FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Includes sub-categories like Brakesmen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, etc.

* Based on Home Office, Mines Department and Ministry of Transport Returns.

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 February, 1922, was 22. Four deaths were reported during the month, three due to lead poisoning (one each in white and redlead works, pottery and shipbuilding industries) and one to epitheliomatous ulceration. Three cases (one fatal) of lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during February, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

The cases of poisoning and anthrax are analysed below:—

Table showing Diseases of Occupations categorized by type: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, and (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX. Includes sub-categories like Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Foldersing, 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.

† The persons affected in the Pottery industry were males. ‡ One case among dock labourers was reported.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, ETC.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Corn Production Act, 1917.

In this case the plaintiff, an agricultural labourer, appealed from a decision of Mr. Justice Kowlatt in an action tried by him at Maidstone, when he held that he had no jurisdiction to entertain the matter. The plaintiff's claim was against his employer, a farmer, for arrears of wages, being the difference between the wages which he had received and the wages to which he was entitled under the minimum wage as fixed by section 4 of the above Act.

Mr. Justice Banks, in delivering judgment, said that the appeal raised a short question upon the construction of section 4, and it was whether the High Court had jurisdiction to entertain a claim by a workman for wages to which he alleged he was entitled, but which had not been paid. The learned Judge had held that section 4 had conferred upon a Court of Summary Jurisdiction exclusive jurisdiction to deal with the matter. With this view he could not agree.

Section 4 provides as follows:—

"4 (1) Any person who employs a workman in agriculture shall pay wages to the workman at a rate not less than the minimum rate as fixed under this Act and applicable to the case, and, if he fails to do so, shall be liable on summary conviction in respect of each offence to a fine not exceeding £20, and a fine not exceeding £1 for each day on which the offence is continued after conviction therefor, provided that such person shall not be liable to be so convicted if he proves that he did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained, that the wages paid were less than the wages required under this Act to be paid.

"(2) In any proceedings against an employer under this section the Court may, whether there is a conviction or not, order the employer to pay, in addition to the fine, if any, such sum as appears to the Court to be due to the workman employed on account of wages, the wages being calculated at the minimum rate; but the power to order the payment of wages under this provision shall not be in derogation of any right of the workman to recover wages by any other proceedings.

"(3) Any agreement for the payment of wages in contravention of this section or for abstaining to exercise any right of enforcing the payment of wages in accordance with this section shall be void."

His Lordship then referred to the decision of the House of Lords in the case of *Hassmore and Others v. Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council*, when Lord Macnaghten said: "The law is stated nowhere more clearly or, I think, more accurately than by Lord Tenterden in the passage cited by my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack. Whether the general rule is to prevail, or an exception to the general rule is to be attempted, must depend on the scope and language of the Act which creates the obligation, and on considerations of policy and convenience."

His Lordship, in applying that test to the facts in the present case, said that in this section the Legislature did not intend to confer an exclusive remedy upon a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The question as to the court in which the workman is entitled to maintain his right to claim his wages had been dealt with in sub-section (1), but he thought that sub-section (2) deliberately provided that the summary remedy was not exclusive, because unless it was the workman still had a right to enforce the statutory obligation at common law. In his judgment the Legislature had not intended that the remedy of proceeding under summary jurisdiction should be exclusive of all other remedies.

The appeal was therefore allowed and judgment entered for the plaintiff for the amount of the claim. Lord Justice Atkin and Lord Justice Younger concurred.—*Court of Appeal, Waghorn v. Collison, 9th February, 1922.*

(2) Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, and Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

SEAMAN'S CLAIM TO COMPENSATION.

In this case the respondent, a Lascar seaman, entered into a service contract for a round voyage from Bombay to the United Kingdom and back to Bombay within one year. On the 14th June, 1920, he sustained an injury to his hand by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, in consequence of which he became for some time totally, and afterwards partially, incapacitated. He was treated in hospital at Marseilles and then brought by the appellants in one of their steamers to Liverpool, and from there by train to Glasgow where he rejoined his ship, the *Circassia*, shortly afterwards. While the appellants were in process of returning him to Bombay in accordance with the terms of their contract and of the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, the seaman left the ship without leave and deserted his service. The seaman's claim for compensation was resisted by the appellants on the ground that they were not, by the man's desertion, relieved from their obligation for his maintenance until his return to Bombay and for his conveyance to that port, but that he could not by his act of desertion in breach of contract subject them to liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

By section 34 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, it is provided that if a seaman belonging to a ship receives any hurt or injury in the service of the ship . . . the expense of providing surgical and medical advice and attendance and medicine, and also the expense of the maintenance of the seaman until he be cured or dies or is returned to a proper return port, and of his conveyance to the port, and, in the case of death, the expense of his burial, shall be defrayed by the owner of the ship without any deduction on that account from his wages. Section 7 (1) (e) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, provides that the weekly payment of compensation by the owner of the ship shall not be payable in respect of a period during which the owner of the ship is, under the Merchant Shipping Act, liable to defray the expense of maintenance of the injured seaman.

The Arbitrator found that the appellants were liable to pay compensation to the man during his incapacity and, as they were willing to discharge their liability to return the man to Bombay, no weekly payment of compensation was, at the date of the award, payable. He refused to grant compensation and found the seaman liable to the appellants in expenses.

This case was heard by the Second Division of the Court of Session, by way of appeal on a case stated, and the question for determination was whether, in view of the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Arbitrator was entitled to refuse an award of compensation. Their Lordships of the Second Division held that the Arbitrator should have made an award in favour of the applicant.

Against this decision the appellants appealed to the House of Lords. On behalf of the appellants it was submitted that, in view of their offer to return the seaman to Bombay and to bear the expense of maintenance and conveyance there, he was not entitled to an award under the Workmen's Compensation Act, neither could he, by his act of desertion, bring himself within that Act; and it was therefore argued that the period during which the appellants were, under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, liable to defray the expense of maintenance had not terminated, and compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act had not begun to run.

The submissions made on behalf of the seaman were that the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act and of the Merchant Shipping Act were provisions for the benefit of a seaman, and it was contended that the 34th section of the Merchant Shipping Act conferred upon the seaman a right and entailed upon the appellants an obligation to furnish maintenance and conveyance, but it did not impose upon the seaman the necessity of accepting this maintenance and conveyance if he did not so desire; in fact, he could accept or refuse; and that when he deserted his ship he declined to be so returned and thereby irrevocably discharged his right to call upon the appellants to fulfil the obligation imposed upon them, and consequently he maintained his right under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

In the course of their judgment their lordships (Lords Haldane, Finlay, Dunedin and Shaw) said that the point in dispute turned on the construction of the sections of the Merchant Shipping Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act. Their view was that the two Statutes should be read together, and that the question was not whether the seaman could benefit by his own wrongful act of desertion, and so bring himself within the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, but whether he was entitled to say that he did not want to benefit by the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, and it was for decision whether the appellants were entitled to say that the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, which were for the benefit of the seaman, must be carried out for their own benefit. It was, in their opinion, of no matter whether the seaman deserted or not, but the fact was that he did not want to be returned to Bombay, while the owners wanted to say that he should do so and not get the benefit of the Workmen's Compensation Act. In the circumstances the owners were no longer liable under the Merchant Shipping Act, and the seaman was entitled to the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The appeal was therefore, by four opinions to one, dismissed with costs (Lord Sumner dissenting).—*House of Lords, 13th December, 1921. Anchor Line, Ltd., and Guhalm Husain Mohad.*

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

Building and Allied Trades.

MASONS—ELGIN AND DISTRICT.—Building and Monumental Workers' Association of Scotland v. Elgin and District Master Masons' Association.—Under decision No. 683 of the Industrial Court it was provided that for every variation of 6½ points in

the cost of living index number, taking the average of the index numbers for the six months preceding the date of variation, the wages of the men should be increased or reduced by ½d. an hour, and that any fractional part of 6½ points left over at any half-yearly settlement should be carried forward and taken into account at the next reckoning. Decision—The index number for August, 1921, stood at 122, and the average for the six months preceding 1st February, 1922, is 107½; the difference between these figures, namely 14½, justifies a reduction of 1d. an hour, leaving 1½ points to be taken into account at the next reckoning. For the future guidance of the parties the Court point out that the average for the ensuing six months will fall to be deducted from the present average, namely 107½, and that the difference between the two averages will be increased or diminished, as the case may be, by 1½ points which are now carried forward. Issued 14th February, 1922. (712.)

GLAZIERS—LONDON.—London Glaziers' Employers' Federation v. Operative Glaziers' and Assistants' Society.—Decision—Reduction in wages of 1d. per hour, making the rate now payable 1s. 10½d. per hour. As agreed between the parties, the reduction shall take effect as from 6th February, 1922. The Court further decide that this rate shall continue to be paid until 30th June, 1922, and shall not then or thereafter be altered unless and until notice has been given in accordance with the terms of the existing agreement between the parties. Issued 15th February, 1922. (713.)

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and other Metal Trades.

LABOURERS—ROYAL ARSENAL AND DOCKYARD, WOOLWICH.—Official Side of the Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council for Government Industrial Establishments v. Trade Union Side of the Council.—For some years past it has been the practice both in the dockyard and in the Arsenal to pay labourers engaged in loading or unloading vessels an additional 4d. per day when so engaged. The present claim is that this additional payment shall be increased to 1s. per day. During the war the workers received, and they are still receiving, the general advances of the engineering trade. In commercial and engineering establishments which have never-front accommodation on the Thames it is not the practice to pay labourers as "dock labourers." Decision—The Court find against the claim that the additional payment should be increased. Issued 10th February, 1922. (711.)

WIREMEN—H.M. DOCKYARDS.—Electrical Trades Union; Workers' Union v. Admiralty.—By award No. 880 of the Interim Court of Arbitration the rates of certain craftsmen employed in H.M. Dockyards were increased by 2s. per week as from 6th April, 1919. A like advance was subsequently given to riveters, fitters, welders and drillers. Decision—As the work performed by wiremen in the Dockyards is substantially of the same degree of skill as that performed by riveters, caulkers and drillers in the Dockyards, the Court are of opinion that the claim that the rates of wiremen shall also be increased by 2s. per week should be conceded. Issued 18th February, 1922. (715.)

WOMEN WORKERS—GOVERNMENT ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENTS.—Official Side of the Engineering Trade Joint Council v. Trade Union Side of the Council.—Decision—Reduction in wages of women employed by War Department in engineering establishments of 2s. 6d. per week, and reduction in wages of fabric workers in the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, of 6d. per week, to take effect in each case as from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of the decision. Issued 14th February, 1922. (716.)

BOBBIN AND SHUTTLE MAKING INDUSTRY.—Employers' Side of the Joint Industrial Council for the Bobbin and Shuttle Making Industry v. Trade Union Side of the Council.—Decision—Reduction in wages of higher skilled men and lesser skilled men of 9s. a week, reduction in wages of labourers of 6s. per week and reduction in wages of women of 3s. per week, to be effected in three equal deductions, which shall respectively be made as from the beginning of the last pay period falling wholly within the months of February, March and April, 1922. The present rates of wages for juvenile workers are as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.
14 years	19/9	19/9
15 "	21/6	20/6
16 "	23/-	21/6
17 "	24/9	22/9
18 "	28/9	—
19 "	30/6	—
20 "	32/-	—

Place of this scale of rates shall be substituted the following:—

	Boys.	Girls.
14 years	16/-	16/-
15 "	18/-	18/-
16 "	20/-	20/-
17 "	22/-	22/9
18 "	25/-	—
19 "	28/-	—
20 "	32/-	—

Consequent reductions to be made in the same manner as that stated in the case of adult workers. Issued 15th February, 1922. (714.)

Food, Drink and Tobacco Trades.

BREWERY WORKERS—EAST GLAMORGAN AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.—South Wales Brewers' Association (East Glamorgan Section), Monmouthshire Brewers' Society v. Brewery Workers' Council. Decision—Reductions in the rates of wages as follows:—Male workers over 18 years of age, 5s. a week; women workers over 18 years of age and male workers under 18 years of age, 2s. 6d. a week. The reduction in the case of adult male workers to take place in two equal instalments, the first as from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of the decision, and the second as from the beginning of the first pay period in April, 1922. The reductions in the case of women workers and male workers under 18 years of age to take effect as from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of the decision. The decision shall not have the effect of reducing wages in any case below the amount to which the worker may be entitled in virtue of the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918. Issued 28th February, 1922. (717.)

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

Miscellaneous Trades.

CABLE TELEGRAPH OPERATORS: GREAT BRITAIN.—Western Union Employees' Association v. Western Union Telegraph Company. Difference—As to whether the Company were justified in making any reduction as from 1st October, 1921, in the bonuses of their employees, and, if so, on what basis such a reduction should be calculated. Board of Arbitration—Sir W. W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman), Mr. Stuart A. Russell (Employers' Representative) and the Right Hon. C. W. Bowerman, M.P. (Workpeople's Representative). Award—A reduction of 15 per cent. from the percentage bonus should be made in two instalments, 7½ per cent. on the 1st October, 1921, and 7½ per cent. on the 1st January, 1922. Issued 3rd March, 1922. (I.R. 303/2/1922.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

Building and Allied Trades.

ROAD WORKERS (RELIEF WORKS): SOUTHFLEET.—Workmen employed on the Strood-Dartford arterial road scheme v. Sir Robert McAlpine and Co., public works contractors, London. Difference—As to the dismissal of a labourer without due reason being given by the firm. Agreement—The firm would reinstate the man concerned for a probationary period of two weeks on an undertaking being given that strict discipline would obtain on the work. Agreed 21st February, 1922. (I.R. 499/1922.)

Mining and Quarrying.

QUARRY WORKERS: NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.—Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers v. North-East Lancashire Master Quarry Owners' Association. Difference—Proposal of the Employers to cancel the Sliding Scale Agreement and to pay as from 1st January, 1922, the rate of 1s. 7d. per hour to skilled quarrymen. Agreement—The following rates would be paid until the end of April, 1922: Masons and masonry machine men, the building trade rates; quarrymen, 1s. 10d. per hour; sawyers, blacksmiths, crane drivers and ordinary machine men, 1s. 8d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 5d. per hour. Agreed 16th February, 1922. (I.R. 2,494/1921.)

Textile Trades.

MILL MECHANICS: CONGLETON.—Amalgamated Engineering Union v. Silversprings Dyeing and Bleaching Co., Ltd., Timbersbrook, near Congleton. Difference—Arising out of a proposal by the firm to reduce the wages of the men concerned in accordance with a "Cost of Living" Sliding Scale agreement made direct with the workers. Agreement—The firm would pay the current engineering trade district hourly rate of 1s. 6½d. for a 48-hour week, and would in future follow any fluctuations of wages that might take place in the engineering trade in the district. Agreed 31st January, 1922. (I.R. 2,012/1921.)

Transport Trades.

CARTERS: MACCLESFIELD.—United Road Transport Workers' Association of England v. Macclesfield Master Carters. Difference—Arising out of a reduction of wages by 5s. per week as from 11th February and a proposal for a further reduction of 5s. as from 11th March. Agreement—The first reduction of 5s. should stand, and the second reduction of 5s. should become effective on the first pay in April, 1922. Agreed 27th February, 1922. (I.R. 333/9/1922.)

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.

FURNITURE WORKERS: SHEFFIELD.—National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association (Sheffield Branch) v. Sheffield Centre of the National Federation of Furniture Trades.

Difference—As to a reduction of wages. Agreement—Upon resumption of work the men should receive 1s. 10d. per hour until completion of the pay-week ending 2nd or 3rd March, and subsequently, until 1st May, 1922, a rate of 1s. 10d. per hour. From the latter date wages should be adjusted quarterly on a sliding scale, according to which the rate of 2s. per hour should correspond to the "Cost of Living" index figure of 118, as published in the LABOUR GAZETTE, and a variation of ½d. per hour should be made for every complete ½ points fluctuation in the index figure. Skilled female polishers and upholsteresses of 21 years of age and over should receive one-half of the current rate of male workers. The wages of apprentices and improvers should be adjusted proportionally. Signed 22nd February, 1922. (I.R. 489/1922.)

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:—

Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

General minimum time-rates.—(a) Coffin Furniture Section: (i) Polishers, Heavy Press Workers and Stampers (all ages), from 28s. to 40s. per week of 47 hours, according to experience. (ii) Light Press Workers, Lace Cutters, Blackers and Lacquerers of 21 years of age and over, from 23s. to 28s. per week; 18 and under 21 years of age, from 23s. to 28s. per week, according to experience, with lower rates for younger workers. (iii) All other workers, including workers employed in Packing, Warehousing and Despatching, of 21 years of age and over, from 23s. 6d. to 28s. 6d. per week; 18 and under 21 years of age, from 22s. 6d. to 27s. 6d. per week, with lower rates for younger workers. (b) Cerement Making Section: (i) All female workers (other than Pinkers and Choppers) of 21 years of age and over, from 6½d. to 8d. per hour; 18 and under 21 years of age, from 6½d. to 7½d. per hour, according to experience, with lower rates for younger workers. (ii) Pinkers, the rates under (b) (i) above with the addition of 1d. per hour. (iii) Choppers, the rates under (b) (i) above with the addition of ½d. per hour.

Piece-work basis time-rates for female workers of 18 years of age and over.—(i) Coffin Furniture Section: 15% above the appropriate general minimum time-rate. (ii) Cerement Making Section: 1d. per hour above the appropriate general minimum time-rate.

Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order dated 20th February, 1922, confirming a general minimum time-rate of 54s. per week of 48 hours (or the number customarily worked, but not less than 44), and overtime rates (as varied) for male workers of 21 years of age and over employed as Hemp Rollers on non-reciprocating machines or as Hemp Breakers, and general minimum time-rates (as varied) for certain classes of male Apprentices and Improvers in Tenting and Dressing; and specifying 27th February, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The *general minimum time-rates* for male Improvers in Tenting and Dressing are 40s. and 32s. per week respectively.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (England and Wales).

Order dated 11th February, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers; and specifying 20th February, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates.—(a) Male workers (i) employed in any branch of the Cloth Hat and Cap Section as Cutters or Blockers, Press-cutters or Lining-cutters, 1s. 5d. per hour; (ii) employed in the Straw Hat Section who have had not less than five years' experience after the age of 19 and are employed in stiffing straws and all classes of hoods, or in blocking straws, hoods or shapes covered by hand or machine, 1s. 5d. per hour; (iii) all other male workers of 22 years of age and over, 1s. 1d. per hour, with lower rates for younger workers and for workers commencing in the trade for the first time at or over the age of 19 years. (b) Female workers (other than learners), including home-workers, 8d. per hour, with lower rates for learners in the wholesale and retail cloth hat and cap section; the rates for learners in other branches remaining unaltered.

Piece-work basis time-rates.—(a) Male workers: (i) As specified in (a) (i) and (ii) above, 1s. 6½d. per hour; (ii) all other male workers, 1s. 2½d. per hour. (b) All female workers, including home-workers, 8½d. per hour.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order dated 27th February, 1922, confirming overtime rates for male and female workers employed on piece-work; and specifying 11th March, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The normal number of hours of work in the trade declared by the Trade Board is as follows:—(i) In any week 48, (ii) on Saturday 4½, (iii) on any other day 8½.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 3rd March, 1922, confirming minimum rates (as varied) for male and female workers, and specifying 8th March 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, 7½d. per hour; with lower rates for younger male and female workers. *Piece-work basis time-rate* for female workers of 18 years of age and over, 8½d. per hour, and a guaranteed time-rate for female workers of 17 and under 18 years of age, 6d. per hour; with lower rates for younger workers in each case. *Overtime rates* fixed for male and female workers are also confirmed.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 15th February, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for certain classes of male workers, and specifying 22nd February, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates and Piece-work basis time-rates for male workers who have completed five years' employment as an apprentice, learner and/or improver and (i) with less than one year's subsequent employment in the Retail Bespoke Tailoring, one year's subsequent employment; (ii) with one and not less than three years' subsequent employment, 1s. 4d. and 1s. 5½d. per hour; (iii) with not less than three years' subsequent employment, 1s. 5d. and 1s. 6½d. per hour, and those employed on making up of military dress uniforms (excluding khaki, navy frock and dress uniforms, hunt coats and riding breeches, frock and dress coats and court and diplomatic garments), 1s. 7d. and 1s. 8½d. per hour respectively. The *general minimum time-rate* for all other workers and other than learners, apprentices, cutters and trimmers, is 1s. 1d. 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:—

Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

Rates proposed (A) to operate for a period of three months from the date on which the proposed variation takes effect; (B) to operate thereafter:—

General minimum time-rates per week of 48 hours (or customary number worked, but not less than 44): (a) Male workers of 21 years of age and over (i) tenters with a recognised full charge (A) 59s. 10d., (B) 56s. 8d.; (ii) under-tenters (A) 41s. 10d., (B) 38s. 10d.; (iii) dressers, mounters, card-cutters and hackles (hand-dressers) (A) 55s. 7d., (B) 52s. 8d.; (iv) all other workers (except hemp-rollers on non-reciprocating machines or hemp breakers, apprentices and improvers in tenting or dressing) (A) 46s. 1d., (B) 43s. 8d., with lower rates for younger workers; (c) female workers of 18 years of age and over (i) spinners and card-cutters, weavers, winders and warpers (A) 30s., (B) 29s.; (ii) all other workers (except learners) (A) 26s., (B) 25s., with lower rates for younger workers and learners. *Piece-work basis time-rates* for female workers of all ages (A) 7½d., (B) 7¼d. per hour. *General minimum piece-rates* are proposed for male workers employed on weaving canvas.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notices of Proposal (I.9 and I.10), dated 2nd 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 for periods dependent upon the cost of living index figure.

Rates proposed:—*General minimum time-rates* proposed for the periods during which the average percentage increases in cost of living index figure are: (A) 94-100, (B) 87½-93½, (C) or below, for male and female workers of 21 years of age and over (a) wood-working machinists (i) sawyers (i) males (A) 1s. 8d., 1s. 6½d., 1s. 5d.; (ii) females (A) 8d., (B) and (C) 8d.; (b) wood body makers (i) males (A) 1s. 8d., 1s. 6½d., 1s. 4½d., (B) 1s. 7½d., 1s. 5½d., 1s. 4½d., (C) 1s. 7d., 1s. 5½d., 1s. 3½d.; (ii) females (A) 9½d., 8½d., 9½d., 8½d., (C) 9d., 8½d.; (c) perambulator smiths, males (A) 1s. 8d., 1s. 5½d., 1s. 4½d., (B) 1s. 7½d., 1s. 5d., 1s. 4d., 1s. 7d., 1s. 4½d., 1s. 3½d.; (d) nickel platers, males (A) 1s. 8d., 1s. 7½d., (C) 1s. 7d.; (e) cane and wicker body makers (B) 1s. 7½d., 1s. 6½d., 1s. 5½d., 1s. 5d., (C) 1s. 6½d., 1s. 4½d.; (ii) females (A) 9½d., 8½d., (B) 9½d., 8½d., 8½d.; (f) painters (i) males (A) 1s. 8d., 1s. 4½d., 1s. 2½d., 1s. 7½d., 1s. 4d., 1s. 2½d., (C) 1s. 7d., 1s. 3½d., 1s. 1½d.; (ii) females (A) 10d., 8½d., 8d., (B) 10½d., 8½d., 8d., (C) 10½d., 8d.; (g) wheel workers (i) males (A) 1s. 5½d., (B) 1s. 5d., 1s. 4½d.; (ii) females (A) 8½d., (B) 8½d., (C) 8½d.; (h)

holsters and hood coverers (i) males (A) 1s. 7½d., (B) 1s. 6½d., (C) 1s. 6½d.; (ii) females (A) 9½d., (B) 9½d., (C) 9½d.; (i) cutters (i) males (A) 1s. 5½d., (B) 1s. 5½d., (C) 1s. 4½d.; (ii) females (A) 9d., (B) 9d., (C) 8½d.; (j) Sewing machinists, females (A) 8½d., 8d., (B) 8½d., 8d., (C) 8½d., 8d.; (k) wheel workers (i) males (A) 1s. 4d., 1s. 3½d., (B) 1s. 3½d., 1s. 2½d., (C) 1s. 3d., 1s. 2½d.; (ii) females (A), (B) and (C) 8d.; (l) workers employed on all the operations of assembling, mounting and finishing (i) males (A) 1s. 4½d., (B) 1s. 4d., (C) 1s. 3½d.; (ii) females (A), (B) and (C) 8d.; (m) drillers (i) males (A) 1s. 3½d., (B) 1s. 3½d., (C) 1s. 2½d.; (ii) females (A), (B) and (C) 8d.; (n) workers employed on any one of operations in (l) or as stove jappers, packers or warehouse hands (i) males (A) 1s. 2½d., (B) 1s. 2½d., (C) 1s. 1½d.; (ii) females (A), (B) and (C) 8d.; (o) all other workers (i) males (A) 1s. 2d., (B) 1s. 1½d., (C) 1s. 1d.; (ii) females (A), (B) and (C) 8d.; lower rates are proposed for male and female workers under 21 years of age and for certain classes of male and female indentured apprentices. The *Piece-work basis time-rates* proposed are 10 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time-rates.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notice of Proposal dated 21st February, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female Learners and Apprentices, and to vary the Form of Indenture of Apprenticeship prescribed by the Board.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).

Notices of Proposal (R. 22, 23 and 24) dated 24th February, 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, the general minimum piece-rates for male workers employed in Hand Hackling, the general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers employed in Hand Machine Braiding, and the general minimum piece-rates for female homeworkers employed on Hand Braiding and Cotton and Hemp Norsells.

Rates proposed:—*General minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates* ranging according to operation as follows:—(a) male workers of 21 years of age and over, 1s. to 1s. 1½d. per hour and 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2½d. per hour respectively; (b) female workers of 18 years of age and over 7d. to 7½d. per hour and 7½d. to 8d. per hour respectively, with lower rates for younger male and female workers.

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

Notice of Proposal dated 13th February, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male workers.

Rates proposed:—*General minimum time-rates:* (a) male workers of 21 years of age and over ranging according to experience and skill: (i) Braziers, Burnishers or Drop Stampers, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 7½d. per hour; (ii) Dippers, 1s. 4d. per hour; (iii) Dippers who are also Bronzers, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 7½d. per hour; (iv) Annealers, 1s. 4d. per hour; (v) Polishers, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. per hour; (vi) all other workers, 1s. 1½d. per hour; with lower rates in each case for younger workers. *Piece-work basis time-rates* shall be 15 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time-rate.

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 appropriate address, as set out above.

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. 1644, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—FITTER—APPRENTICES SUSPENDED WITHOUT WAGES—INTERPRETATION OF CLAUSE IN INDENTURE—WAGES WITHHELD WHEN NO WORK FOR APPRENTICES.

The circumstances in this case were identical with those of the number of other workmen employed by a firm of marine

engineers as indentured apprentices. The question arose as to whether benefit was payable for the alternate periods of "playing," and payment was accordingly suspended pending a decision on the matter.

A clause in the indenture stipulated that if, during slackness of trade or any emergency outside the company's control, there should be no work for the apprentice, wages should cease to be payable.

The applicant appealed to a Court of Referees, and stated that contributions were stopped from the working week's wages for both working and "playing" weeks.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were satisfied that indentured apprentices were not entitled to benefit in view of previous Umpires' decisions. Leave to appeal was granted.

At an oral hearing before the Umpire, representatives of the principal associations of employers and of workmen respectively in the industry were invited to attend. The representative of the employers' association said he attended on behalf of the company to whom the applicant was apprenticed. He considered that as contributors to the fund the company had an interest to be heard on the question. In this case he supported the claim for unemployment benefit, on the ground that the clause mentioned above gave the employer the right to cease paying wages when there was no work for the apprentice. This contingency had arisen in the present case, since, owing to the falling off of business, it was not practicable to give full employment to all the apprentices. The extent of the falling off was illustrated by figures tending to show that the amount of work to be done was only about one-third of the normal amount or less, and that, as a result of discharges of adult workmen, the proportion of apprentices employed, as compared with experienced men, had substantially increased. It was not practicable to employ a larger proportion of apprentices. The contention was that the employer was entitled under the agreement to do as he had done, namely, to employ each apprentice only on alternate weeks and to pay him accordingly. The submission in favour of the right of the apprentice to receive benefit was not made, however, on the ground of any inference that the indenture was unenforceable against the apprentice. The employer was given the right to cease payment of wages only in circumstances beyond his control, and there was no decision by the Courts of Law that such a proviso rendered an agreement of apprenticeship voidable. Although bound by this agreement, the apprentice was nevertheless "unemployed" within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Act when suspended without payment of wages. He was also "available for work," because he was ready to do his normal work when called upon. If the view were taken, on the other hand, that the indenture was unenforceable, then, *a fortiori*, benefit would be payable to the apprentice. Representatives of the workmen's association generally concurred in the preceding argument. They emphasised the point that as contributions had to be paid by apprentices, it must have been contemplated that they might become qualified for benefit. On behalf of the Ministry of Labour it was submitted that an apprentice bound for five years to serve a particular employer could not be unemployed during that period, whether in receipt of wages or not, and that it was still more difficult to say that, if suspended by this employer, but still bound to him, he was "available for work."

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim should be allowed. The indenture of apprenticeship in this case stipulates that 'if from slackness of trade or any other cause beyond the control of the company there shall be no work for the apprentice then the wages of the apprentice shall cease to be payable.' It is a question of fact whether there was no work for the apprentice for causes beyond the employer's control, and in future cases, when the question of right to wages turns upon words such as these, the Court of Referees may reasonably expect the employer to give adequate information to satisfy them that he has made all reasonable efforts to find employment for the apprentices. In the present case the facts were gone into at a hearing before me by a representative of the employers' association, and the evidence furnished affords ground for the contention that the contingency contemplated in this proviso had arisen. The precise interpretation of this proviso is doubtless open to argument, but the expression 'no work for the apprentice' appears to me to be applicable to a state of affairs which may fall considerably short of a stoppage of the works of the company and to give wider power to the employer to cease payment of wages to the apprentice than the words which were discussed in decision 1425. Although I am not prepared to say positively, in the absence of any decision on the point by a Court of Law, that the applicant could not require the employer to pay him wages for the period in question, the position appears to me to be so doubtful that, on the claim for unemployment benefit, the decision must be in favour of the applicant."

CASE No. 1789, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—FITTER—WORKING SYSTEMATIC SHORT TIME—ALSO BRANCH SECRETARY OF ASSOCIATION—REMUNERATION FROM THIS SOURCE LESS THAN 3s. 4d. PER DAY.

The applicant in this case had been working as a fitter, under a system of short time since December, 1920. He had also carried on the duties of Branch Secretary of his Association since December, 1920, for which he received a salary commensurate

with the numerical strength of his branch. He lodged a claim for benefit on 27th October, 1921.

Payment of benefit was suspended on the ground that the applicant was not unemployed within the meaning of Section 7 (2) (a) of the 1920 Act.

At the hearing before the Court of Referees it was stated that the applicant had been Branch Secretary for three years, and had carried on this work in addition to his work as a fitter. During 1921 he was paid for his trade union work for the quarters ending March, June, September and December the sums of £22 10s. 8d., £17 12s., £12 4s. 9d., and £12 15s. 6d. respectively.

The applicant stated that he had to get his wife to help him, and it was alleged that she and others earned £32; therefore the net amount he received would be 10s. per week. After all expenses had been paid he and his wife would receive about £43 per annum.

Recommended that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation of the Court, and submitted that the applicant had made his initial claim for benefit on the 16th December, 1920, and received payment thereon. Since his association work commenced about that time he was of opinion that it could not be contended that this work had been carried on in addition to and outside the working hours of the applicant's usual employment. In his opinion the evidence showing gross earnings amounting to £65 for the year commencing December, 1920, precluded the assumption that the applicant received less than 3s. 4d. per day for association work.

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

“The applicant made his present claim in October, 1921. He had ordinarily followed the occupation of branch secretary of his association in addition to his usual employment and outside the working hours of that employment, and in the two quarters ending September and December, 1921, he had received remuneration for this occupation at a rate less than 3s. 4d. per day. In the absence of any evidence that his remuneration is in excess of this sum during the present quarter, benefit may be allowed in this quarter. If so required, however, the applicant must be prepared to furnish evidence regarding his current rate of remuneration.”

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1920.

Decisions of the Minister of Labour under Section 10 (1) of the Act Reconsidered and now Regarded as no longer in Force.

In view of the judgments of the High Court and the observations of the Judge at the hearing of the cases recorded in the LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1922, the decisions mentioned below, which were given by the Minister under Section 10 (1) of the

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

[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 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W. 1; 37, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or from Eason & Son, Ltd., 40 and 41, Lower Sackville Street, Dublin.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

EMIGRATION.—*Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1921.* [Cmd. 1580: price 6d.]

EX-SERVICE MEN.—*Ex-Service men employed in Government offices on 1st January, 1922.* Treasury. [Cmd. 1578: price 2d.]

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—*Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1920.* Part A.—Appendix (N). *List of societies registered at 31st December, 1920 (excluding branches of orders other than district branches), together with latest particulars as to members, funds and valuation.* Sections I-VIII. [S.O. publications: price 2s. 6d., 2s., 2s. 6d., 1s. 6d., 1s., 1s.]

GOVERNMENT OFFICES.—*Staffs employed in Government departments on 1st January, 1922.* Treasury. [Cmd. 1579: price 2d.]

HOUSING.—*Summary of returns in terms of section 23 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. (Scotland), Act, 1919, for the half-yearly period ended 30th September, 1921.* Scottish Board of Health. [Cmd. 1584: price 3d.]

Act, have been reconsidered and are regarded as no longer in force:—

DECISIONS NOS. 11, 16, 23, 25, 43 and 61, notified in LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1921.

DECISIONS NOS. 60 and 132, notified in LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921.

DECISION NO. 174, notified in LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1921.

Accordingly, persons employed in occupations precisely similar to those indicated in the decisions mentioned above are not now required to be insured, and no contributions under the Acts are payable in respect of them while so employed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

(1) Revised Draft Regulations for the Manufacture of India-rubber and of Articles made wholly or partially of India-rubber.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1921 (page 52) contained notice of Regulations proposed to be made by the Home Secretary under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, relating to certain processes incidental to the manufacture of india-rubber and of articles and goods made wholly or partially of india-rubber. As a result of full discussion with the representatives of the manufacturers, and further investigation, the Home Secretary has revised the draft Regulations so as to meet the points raised. On the 28th February, 1922, he gave notice of his proposal to make the Regulations, and issued them in draft form.*

Any objection to the draft Regulations by or on behalf of any person affected thereby must be sent to the Secretary of State, Home Office, London, S.W. 1, within 21 days of the date.

(2) Revised Draft Regulations for Manufactures and Processes incidental thereto carried on in Chemical Works.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1921 (page 52) contained notice of Regulations proposed to be made by the Home Secretary under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, relating to the manufactures and processes incidental thereto carried on in chemical works. The Home Secretary announces that he has given careful consideration to the objections and suggestions submitted to him with regard to the Regulations and as a result of conferences with representatives of the various branches of the industry, he is prepared to make certain modifications, which have been incorporated in a revised draft. The revised draft* was issued on the 3rd March, on which date the Home Secretary gave notice of the proposal to make the Regulations.

Any objections with respect to the draft Regulations by or on behalf of any person affected must be sent to the Secretary of State at the Home Office, London, S.W. 1, within 21 days of that date.

* Copies of the revised draft, together with a circular letter explaining the principal alterations embodied therein, can be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office, London, S.W. 1.

MINING.—(1) *Mines and quarries: general report, with statistics, for 1920.* Part III. *Output.* Board of Trade, Mining Department. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 6d.] (2) *Regulations of Coal Mines. Report under Section 17 of the Mining Industry Act, 1920.* Board of Trade. [Cmd. 1583: price 2d.]

NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.—(1) *Reports of committee on national expenditure.* Treasury. (a) *First interim report.* [Cmd. 1581: price 4s.] (b) *Second interim report.* [Cmd. 1582: price 3s.] (c) *Third report.* [Cmd. 1589: price 4s.] (2) *Revenue and expenditure (England, Scotland and Ireland), return for the 31st March, 1921.* Treasury. [H.C. 207: price 6d.] (3) *National Debt.* (a) *Return showing the aggregate gross liabilities of the State from 1875-76 to 1920-21, both inclusive.* Treasury. [Cmd. 1458: price 9d.] (b) *Return showing the total amount of dead weight debt, etc., 1875-1921.* [H.C. 206: price 3d.] (c) *National Debt (savings banks and friendly societies) accounts, 6th August, 1917, to 20th November, 1918.* National Debt Office. [H.C. 47: price 3d.]

POLICE.—*Police (counties and boroughs, England and Wales) report for 1921.* [H.C. 5: price 1s.]

RAILWAYS.—*Return showing the number of persons employed by the several railway companies of the United Kingdom during the week ended 19th March, 1921 (in substitution of the previous return, Cmd. 1494, which is cancelled).* Ministry of Transport. [Cmd. 1494+: price 2d.]

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.—(1) *Report of the inter-departmental committee appointed to consider the methods of dealing with inventions made by workers, aided or main-*

tained from public funds. Privy Council. [S.O. publication: price 6d.] (2) *Second annual report of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board to 30th September, 1921 (including analysis of published work).* Medical Research Council. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 6d.] (3) *Time and motion study.* Report No. 14 (General series, No. 5). Industrial Fatigue Research Board. [S.O. publication: price 2s.] (4) *Three studies in vocational selection.* Report No. 16. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 6d.]

DOMINIONS AND FOREIGN.—*Reports:* (1) *Ashanti.* Report No. 1107 for 1920. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 1s.] (2) *Colombia.* Report on finance, industry and trade to the end of September, 1921. Department of Overseas Trade. [S.O. publication: price 1s.] (3) *Northern territories of the Gold Coast.* Report No. 1105 for 1920. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 9d.] (4) *Paraguay.* Report on economic and financial conditions, September, 1921. Department of Overseas Trade. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 3d.] (5) *The Russian States.* A description of the various political units existing on Russian territory, compiled from material supplied by the British trade mission in Moscow. Foreign Office. [S.O. publication: price 9d.] (6) *Seychelles.* Report No. 1106 for 1920. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 6d.] (7) *Siam.* Report on the commercial situation at the close of the third quarter, 1921. Department of Overseas Trade. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 3d.] (8) *Turks and Caicos islands.* Report No. 1104 for 1920. Colonial Office. [S.O. publication: price 9d.]

BRITISH DOMINIONS AND INDIA.

AUSTRALIA.—*Annual report of the Director of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry for the year ended 30th June, 1921.* [Melbourne: A. J. Mullett.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Industrial Arbitration report, New South Wales, 1921.* Vol. XX. Part 4. 1921. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—*Statistical Register for the year 1920-1 and previous years, (a) Parts II. and III. Public finance and accumulation. (b) Part V. Land settlement, agriculture, live stock and meteorological statistics. (c) Part VI. Industrial establishments (exclusive of mines). (d) Part VII. Mineral statistics and water conservation. (e) Part X. Education, science and art.* Government Statistician. [Perth: F. W. Simpson.]

NEW ZEALAND.—*Report of the Department of Labour for the financial year, 1st April, 1920, to 31st March, 1921.* [Wellington: M. F. Marks, 1921.]

CANADA.—(1) *The Labour Gazette, January, 1922.* Department of Labour. [Ottawa: F. A. Acland.] (2) *Report of the Department of Labour for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1921.* [Ottawa: F. A. Acland, 1921.] (3) *Canada as a field for British branch industries.* Department of Trade and Commerce, Commercial Intelligence Service. [Ottawa: 1922.]

INDIA.—(1) *Labour Gazette, January, 1922.* Employment of women, workmen's compensation, legislation, etc. Bombay Labour Office Secretariat. [Bombay: Superintendent Government Printing.] (2) *Return showing the wholesale and retail prices of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, sugar (raw), salt, etc., in India by districts for the fortnight ending the 15th December, 1921.* Department of Statistics. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing, 1922.] (3) *Report on the production of tea in India in the calendar year 1920.* Department of Statistics. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing.] (4) *Prices and wages in India, 36th issue, 1921.* Tables showing wholesale and retail prices of food-grains, etc., in 1913 and 1918 to 1920, with index numbers; rates of wages in certain districts and certain state and railway establishments, changes in wages in selected industries. Department of Statistics. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing, 1922.]

SOUTH AFRICA.—*Juveniles Act, 1921. An Act to make provision for the establishment of boards to deal with matters affecting the employment, training, welfare and supervision of juveniles and for the furnishing of certain information to such boards.* No. 33, 1921.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—(1) *International Labour Office. Official Bulletin.* (a) 25th January, 1922. Vol. V. No. 4. (b) 1st February, 1922. Vol. V. No. 5. (c) 8th February, 1922. Vol. V. No. 6. International Labour Office. [Geneva.] (2) *International Labour Review.* February, 1922. Collective agreements in Italy, the co-operative movement in India; labour conditions in Japanese coal mines, etc. International Labour Office. [Geneva.] (3) *International Labour Conference. Third Session, Geneva, 1921. Report of the Director.* Second Session. International Labour Office. [Geneva, 1921.]

AUSTRIA.—(1) *Amliche Nachrichten des Oesterreichischen Bundesministeriums für Soziale Verwaltung.* 31st January, 1922.

Texts of laws, decrees, etc., of the Austrian Republic relating to labour; unemployment in Vienna in December and January. Ministry for Social Affairs. [Vienna.] (2) *Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Oesterreich.* Nos. 252 to 273 (inclusive). Laws, decrees and regulations of the Austrian Republic. [Vienna.]

BELGIUM.—(1) *Revue du Travail.* January, 1922. Statistics of unemployment in November; index-numbers of wholesale and retail prices; cost of living index-figures in December; labour disputes in November. Ministry of Industry and Labour. [Brussels.] (2) *Bulletin Trimestriel de l'Office Intercommunal pour l'orientation professionnelle et le placement des jeunes gens et des jeunes filles de l'agglomération bruxelloise.* January, 1922. Quarterly Bulletin of the Brussels Intercommunal Office for vocational guidance and placement of boys and girls. [Brussels.]

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—(1) *Socialni Revue.* No. 6. 1921. Journal of the Ministry for Social Affairs. Texts of recent laws relating to labour. [Prague.] (2) *Le Ministère de la Prévoyance Sociale et la Politique d'Economie Sociale dans la République Tchecoslovaque, par Dr. Joseph Gruber.* Sketch of existing social legislation in Czechoslovakia. Ministry of Social Thrift. [Prague.] (3) *Rapports de l'Office de Statistique de la République Tchecoslovaque, Année 1921, Nos. 12-15 inclusive.* Statistics of vocational schools and of employment exchanges during January-June 1921. Statistical Office. [Prague.]

DENMARK.—(1) *Statistiske Efterretninger.* No. 3-4. Retail prices and cost of living in January, 1922. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.] (2) *Statistiske Meddelelser, 4. Række, 63 Bind: Husleje og Boligforhold, November, 1920.* Results of inquiry in November, 1920, as to housing conditions and rents in various towns and rural communes. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.] (3) *Den Offentlige Arbejdsansvning i Danmark Oktober Kvartal 1921.* Statistics of activities of Employment Exchanges, October to December, 1921. Director of Labour. [Copenhagen.] (4) *Kapitelstakster for Afgrøden, 1921.* Official prices of cereals and other articles of food produced in 1921. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.]

FINLAND.—*Social Tidskrift, No. 1, 1922.* Statistics of employment exchanges and cost of living index numbers in December. Ministry for Social Affairs. [Helsingfors.]

FRANCE.—(1) *Bulletin du Ministère du Travail,* October, November, December, 1921. Wages and other working conditions fixed by collective agreements; statistics of employment exchanges, July to October; index figures of cost of living in September; report on joint control in various industries; statistics of funds for payment of family wages. Ministry of Labour. [Paris.] (2) *Journal Officiel (Daily).* Issues from 29th January to 27th February (inclusive). [Paris.]

GERMANY.—(1) *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt,* 31st January and 15th February. Draft of Bill for amending Home Workers' Law of 20th December, 1911; statistics of unemployment in December, wages, etc., fixed by collective agreements; cost of living index figures in January. Federal Labour Ministry. [Berlin.] (2) *Wirtschaft und Statistik, Nos. 2 and 3.* Statistics of retail prices in December, 1921, and January, 1922; index figures of wholesale prices; cost of living index numbers for January, 1922; wages in Government factories and salaries of bank officials, 1920-1922. Federal Statistical Office. [Berlin.] (3) *Vierteljahrshefte zur Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, 1921, Zweites Heft.* Statistics of prices and cost of living. Federal Statistical Office. [Berlin.] (4) *Reichs-Gesetzblatt.* Nos. 114-120 (inclusive). Text of Laws, decrees, regulations, etc., of the German Federal Government. [Berlin.] (5) *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger (Daily).* Issues from 29th January to 25th February (inclusive). [Berlin.]

GREECE.—*Bulletin Statistique des Prix Moyens des Principaux Articles Alimentaires, etc., pendant le second Trimestre de 1921.* Statistics of prices of the principal articles of food in the second quarter of 1921; also comparative figures 1918-1920. Ministry of National Economy. [Athens.]

HOLLAND.—(1) *Jaarverslag van den Rijks-Dienst der Werkloosheid-Verzekering en Arbeidsbemiddeling over 1920. I. Arbeidsbemiddeling.* Report on the organisation and activity of public employment exchanges in 1920. Employment Department. [The Hague.] (2) *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 31st January.* Unemployment in October; statistics of employment exchanges in December; wages and other labour conditions as fixed by collective agreements. Central Statistical Office. [The Hague.] (3) *Jaarcijfers voor het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden: Rijk in Europa, 1920.* Statistical Year Book of Holland for 1920. Statistics of Employment Exchanges, unemployment, labour disputes, trade unions, wholesale and retail prices, production and consumption, etc. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague.] (4) *Uittreksel uit het Verslag van den Hoofdingenieur voor het Stoomwezen over het Jaar 1920.* Extract from the report of the Chief Boiler Inspector for the year 1920. Ministry of Labour. [The Hague.]

ITALY.—(1) *Bollettino Ufficiale del Ministero per il Lavoro e la Previdenza Sociale,* 1st January. Texts of laws, decrees, circulars, etc. Ministry of Labour and Social Thrift. [Rome.] (2)

Bollettino della Emigrazione, November-December, 1921. Studies, reports and statistics relating to emigration. General Commission on Emigration. [Rome.] (3) *Gazzetta Ufficiale* (Daily). Issues from 27th January to 24th February (inclusive). [Rome.] (4) *Ufficio Provinciale del Lavoro (Roma): Bollettino Mensile*, January. Unemployment in October in the province of Rome; labour disputes. Provincial Office of Labour. [Rome.] (5) *Bollettino del Lavoro (Veneto)*, August to December, 1920. Journal of the Labour Office of the province of Venetia. [Padua.] (6) *L'Ufficio Municipale del Lavoro di Roma: Bollettino Mensile*, December, 1921. Cost of living index figures for December, Municipal Labour Office. [Rome.]

NORWAY.—(1) *Sociale Meddelelser*, 1922, No. 1. Report of Activities of Outwork Board for 1920-1921; cost of living in December, unemployment in December. With supplement: *Norges Sociallovgivning ved Utgangen av 1921*. Sketch of existing Norwegian legislation affecting labour and social conditions, with proposed amendments. Department for Social Affairs. [Christiania.] (2) *Statens Inspektorat for Arbeidsformidlingen: Arsbetretning 1920-21*. Report of the Government Inspector of Employment Exchanges, 1920-21. Department for Social Affairs. [Christiania.] (3) *Norges Offisielle Statistikk: Fagskoltestatistikk, 1917-18-1919-20*. Statistics of vocational schools, 1917-1920; *Forsikringsvesenetsberetning, 1919*; Report of the Insurance Council, 1919; *Norges Fiskerier*, 1918. Statistics of Fishing Industry, 1918; *Folkemengdens Bevægelse, 1918*. Movement of the population in 1918; *Sykeforsikringen for Aret 1920*. Statistics of sickness insurance societies in 1920. [Christiania.] (4) *Norske Lovtidende*. Index for 1921; Nos. 1, 5, 6 and 7. Collection of Norwegian laws, decrees, etc. [Christiania.]

SPAIN.—*Boletín de Estadística: Resumen del año 1920*. Statistics of the movement of population (provisional figures) in 1920. Ministry of Education and Art. [Madrid.]

SWITZERLAND.—(1) *Feuille Fédérale et Recueil des Lois Fédérales*, Nos. 4-7 inclusive. Collection of laws, decrees, etc., of the Federal Government. [Berne.] (2) *Comptes de Ménage de 277 Familles Suisses pour 1919*. Results of an inquiry into household expenditure (family budgets) during 1919. Federal

Bureau of Statistics. [Berne.] (3) *Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt*, 15th February. Activities of Employment Exchanges in January; short time in various occupations; labour disputes; index figures of cost of living in January. Federal Labour Office. [Berne.]

UNITED STATES.—(a) *Federal*. (1) *Cotton production and distribution season of 1920-21*. Bulletin 147. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census. [Washington: Government Printing Office.] (2) *Monthly Labor Review*, December, 1921. Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Washington: Government Printing Office.] (3) *Minimum-wage Laws of the United States: construction and operation*. Bulletin No. 285. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Washington: Government Printing Office, July, 1921.] (4) *Ninth Annual Report of the Chief, Children's Bureau, to the Secretary of Labor*, Department of Labor, Children's Bureau. [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921.] (5) *Standards for the Employment of Women in Industry*. 3rd edition, 15th October, 1921. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau. [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921.] (6) *State Laws Affecting Working Women*. Bulletin No. 16. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau. [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921.] (7) *Depreciated Exchange and International Trade*. United States Tariff Commission. International price adjustments measured by index numbers; a comparison of wages in the United States, Great Britain and Germany, etc. [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1922.]

(b) *States*—MASSACHUSETTS.—*Massachusetts Industrial Review*, November, 1921. Union hourly rates of wages in the building trade in Massachusetts, 1914 and 1919-21, employment in Massachusetts; activities of the state public employment offices, etc. Department of Labor and Industries.

NORTH CAROLINA.—*Thirty-second Report of the Department of Labor and Printing of the State of North Carolina*, 1919-1920. Suggestions for labour legislation; account of farms and factories; summary of labour laws, etc. Department of Labor and Printing. [Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Co.]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, FEBRUARY, 1922.

ADMIRALTY.

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

Asbestos Goods: Bell's United Asbestos Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; G. Maclellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., Rochdale.—**Badges, Embroidered:** R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.; E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans; Elmsere, Limited, London, S.W.; M. Hand & Co., Ltd., London, W.; Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, W.; H. James, London, W.; Geo. Kenning & Son, London, E.C.; Nutting & Kent, London, E.C.; R. Stevenson, London, E.C.; Stephen Simpson, Preston; E. Stillwell & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; Stokoe & Co., London, S.W.; H. & W. Towell & Co., Ltd., London, W.; R. Virgo & Co., London, S.W.; The War Service Legion, London, W.—**Blankets, Seamen's:** J. W. Whitworth, Ltd., Luddenden Foot, Yorks.—**Blow Lamps:** The Kitson Empire Lighting Co., Ltd., Stamford, Lincs.—**Boiler House Equipment:** Raston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Cables, Underground Supply:** Foote, Milne & Co., London, S.W.—**Calico:** G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester.—**Candles, Paraffin Wax:** Palmer & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Caps, Forage, for Royal Marines:** Myers & Co., London, E.—**Cloth, Woollen, for Table Covers:** J. Raistrick & Sons, Bradford.—**Crane, Jib:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Crane, Travelling:** Marshall, Fleming & Co., Ltd., Motherwell.—**Cutter Frames and Blades:** Stothert & Pitt, Ltd., Bath; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Electric Traveller:** Stothert & Pitt, Ltd., Bath.—**Electrodes:** The Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Alloy Welding Processes, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Fire-bricks:** J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge; Hill, Westlake & Co., Ltd., Gunnislake.—**Flour, S.R.:** J. Rank, Ltd., London, E.C.; E. Marriage & Son, Ltd., Felixstowe; C. Brown & Co., London, S.E.; W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Hazel Rod Fenders:** Thos. Black & Co., Greenock.—**Hides and Leather Goods:** S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Hose, Suction, and Connections:** Greengate & Irwell Rubber Co., Ltd., Salford, Manchester; J. Downton & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Hydraulic Presses:** Hawthorn, Davey & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Jean, Brown:** Union Mill Co., Manchester.—**Jute Bagging Material:** Jute Industries, Ltd., Dundee; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; A. & S. Henry, Ltd., Manchester.—**Jute Biscuit Bagging:** Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Laces, Boot (Cotton):** Brough, Nicholson & Hall, Ltd., Leek.—**Laces, Boot and Shoe (Cotton):** Faire Bros. & Co., Leicester.—**Lanterns, Navigation and Gear:** W. Harvie & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; J. Stevens & Son, Birmingham; Telford, Grier & Mackay, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Leather Cloth:** The Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Machine, Grinding:** J. Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Milnrow, near Rochdale.—**Manganese Bronze Ingots:** The Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Mat, Magnetic Collision:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Milk, Condensed, Unsweetened:** Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed

Milk Co., London, E.C.; St. Ivel, Ltd., Frome.—**Motors, Carbon Drive and Circulating, and Spare Parts for:** James Keith & Blackman Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Oil Burning Installations:** Smith's Dock Co., Ltd., North Shields.—**Oilskin Clothing:** Abbott, Anderson & Abbott, Ltd., London, E.; The Gt. Grimshy Coal, Salt & Tanning Co., Ltd., Grimshy Docks; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Gt. Yarmouth; Edward Maclean & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Overhead Travellers:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Plates, Steel:** Parkgate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; South Durham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.—**Pneumatic Hose:** India Rubber & Gutta Percha Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Pork, Salt:** Lunhan Brothers, Ltd., Cork.—**Portable Resistance Testing Sets:** Everett, Edgcombe & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Propellers:** Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Propeller Shaft:** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Rewinding Armatures of Electric Generators:** W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Queen's Engineering Works, Bedford.—**Screws:** British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds; Butler & Spragg, Ltd., Birmingham; Telford, Grier & Mackay, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Shorts, Cotton Fabric:** Frank Lane, London, E.C.; I. & R. Morley, London, E.C.—**Shorts, White Cellulose:** The Salisbury Manufacturing Co., London, E.C.—**Steel Tool:** A. Balfour & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Stockings, Thin:** A. E. Hill, Ltd., Leicester; A. Yates & Co., Leicester.—**Switchboards, Low Power:** Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Tea, Blended:** Lipton, Ltd., London, E.C.; Tower Tea, Ltd., London, E.C.; British Beningtons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tin Ware:** Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton; Welsh Tinsplate & Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Llanelly.—**Tools, Pneumatic, Spares for:** Globe Pneumatic Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Tubes, Solid Drawn Steel Boiler:** Tubes, Ltd., Aston, Birmingham.—**Tubes, Water and Fittings:** John Brotherton, Ltd., Imperial Tube Works, Wolverhampton; Russell Bros. (Walsall), Ltd., Bradford Tube Works, Walsall.—**Vinegar:** Hill, Evans & Co., Ltd., Worcester.—**Web Leggings:** M. Wright & Sons, Ltd., Loughborough; French's, Ltd., London, E.C.; Fleming, Birkby, & Goodall, Ltd., Halifax, Yorks.

WAR OFFICE.

Acids, Various: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Boots:** W. Nichols & Son, Ltd., Kettering.—**Cable, Electric:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Caps, Service Dress:** Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Cement, Portland:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Kent Portland Cement Co., Ltd., Stone, Kent.—**Cisterns (Galvanized):** G. A. Harvey & Co., London, S.E.—**Cleaning and Polishing Reflectors:** C. A. Parsons & Co., Heaton.—**Clothing, Miscellaneous:** Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Copper, Ingot:** J. Batt & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Corrugated Steel Sheets:** Burnell & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead.—**Crucibles, Plumbago:** The Morgan Crucible Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Electrical Equipment:** English Electric Co., Ltd., Bradford.

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