

THE  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR  
GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXII.—No. 5.]

MAY, 1924.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

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

EMPLOYMENT.

THERE was a further improvement in employment in April. Among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 28th April, 1924, was 9·7, compared with 9·9 at 24th March, 1924, and with 11·4 in April, 1923. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage was 7·5 at the end of April, 1924, compared with 7·8 at the end of March, 1924. The total number of workpeople registered at 28th April, 1924, at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as applicants for employment was approximately 1,052,000, of whom 790,000 were men and 194,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 31st March, 1924, the total was 1,057,000, of whom 791,000 were men and 204,000 were women.

Employment was good in the coal mining, tinplate, steel sheet, carpet, jute and coachbuilding industries, and among skilled workmen in the building trades; it was fairly good in the wool textile industry, with mill-sawyers and brickmakers, and in certain sections of the metal trades; and fair with coopers and brush-makers, and in some branches of the cotton, leather, and clothing trades. In some of the other large industries, however, including iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding, and pottery manufacture, it continued slack.

WAGES.

The gradual upward movement in wages, which has been in progress since the beginning of the year, continued in April. In the industries for which statistics are available the changes in rates of wages reported during the month resulted in an aggregate increase of £26,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 230,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £3,800 in those of nearly 90,000 workpeople.

Among the workpeople whose wages were increased, iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands obtained an advance equivalent to about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on current rates, and blastfurnace workers in Cleveland, Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, South Wales, and Scotland obtained advances varying from under  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on current rates in Cleveland to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. in Northamptonshire. There were also increases in the rates of wages of electrical cable makers, brass workers at Birmingham, tramway workers in London, cement workers, paint, colour and varnish makers, drug and fine chemical workers, ironstone miners in Cleveland, workpeople employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry, woollen and worsted operatives in the West of England, and vehicle builders, house painters and electricians in Scotland.

The decreases reported were mainly due to the operation of sliding scale agreements, under which wages fluctuate in accordance with variations in the official cost-of-living index figures. The principal group of workpeople whose wages were so reduced were operatives in

the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing, etc., trades in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and Scotland.

During the first four months of 1924 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in net increases amounting to over £230,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 1,800,000 workpeople and in net reductions of £37,500 in the weekly wages of nearly 680,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1923 there were net reductions amounting to £250,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,100,000 workpeople and net increases of nearly £23,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 190,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st May the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 71 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 73 per cent. a month ago and 70 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding percentage at 1st May was 63, as compared with 67 a month ago and 62 a year ago. The fall in the percentage between 1st April and 1st May was mainly due to the reductions in the duties on tea and sugar provided for in the Budget.

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 these items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

For further particulars, and for details of the statistics for 1st May, reference should be made to the article on page 163.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in April was forty-six. In addition, twenty-one disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in April (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 51,000, as compared with 76,000 in the previous month; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during April was about 471,000 working days, as compared with 730,000 days in March. The principal disputes during April were those involving shipyard workers.

During the first four months of 1924 the stoppages of work owing to trade disputes reported to the Department have involved approximately 326,000 workpeople, as compared with 187,000 workpeople involved in disputes in the first four months of last year. The aggregate duration of the stoppages in January to April, 1924, has been over 2,500,000 working days, as compared with about 2,300,000 in the corresponding period of 1923.

## REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY INTO COAL MINES DISPUTE.

The Court of Inquiry\* concerning the wages position in the Coal Mining Industry, set up by the Minister of Labour on the 15th April, have issued their Report.† At the outset the Court state that the consideration of the terms of their appointment and of the provisions of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, shows that their duties were limited to reporting upon facts.

The representatives of the Miners' Federation made it clear at the inquiry that they no longer adhered to the proposals which had been the subject of negotiation with the mineowners, and that the claim which they wished the Court to consider was "a living wage, which should not be less than the rates obtaining in 1914, with the local adjustments since made to remove anomalies, plus the increase in cost of living and the increase of 2s. per shift recommended by the Sankey Commission."

Certain figures relating to wages and earnings in each district were submitted both by the mineowners and by the miners, and the Report states that "at any rate in the case of adult day-wage workers there are few cases in which it can be found that the wage rates have reached a level equal to the 1914 rates, plus the percentage increase for the increased cost of living. The result, therefore, is that if 1914 were taken as a measure of the proper wage to be paid to those engaged in the mining industry, practically every class of day wage worker is, in terms of real wages, worse off to-day than he was then. In some cases this deficiency is most marked." In regard to the mineowners' contention that in any circumstances the 1914 test is inapplicable, the Report states: "We think the mineowners are right in saying the 1914 wages were at a high level in the history of the industry, but we do not feel able to estimate the extent to which the 1914 wages exceeded what was required for average maintenance and support. In any circumstances we are of opinion that the risks attending a miner's occupation and the conditions in which his work is performed are matters which have to be brought into consideration in any question affecting the wages of men working underground."

On the subject of the effect upon output of the reduction of hours introduced in 1919 and of "lost time," the Report states that figures placed before the Court tend to show that the rate of "lost time" does vary directly with the standard of wages, and that it is also beyond question that the average rate of output per shift, measured over the whole of the persons employed, has fallen. On the other hand, whether this is due to the increased effort on the part of the workmen or to the large increase and improvement which has undoubtedly taken place in the mechanical equipment of the mines, the present rate of output per man per hour is higher than in 1913.

The Court are of opinion that, "looking at the industry as it is to-day, it appears from the figures before us that under present conditions the profits of the industry, particularly in some districts, are unable to meet the miners' claim in full." While bearing in mind that their opinion was not asked upon the merits of the controversy relating to the Agreement of 1921, nor upon the best method of escape from the present difficulties, the Court suggest that "the resumption of negotiations between the parties, with a view to a modification of the terms of the Agreement of 1921, appears to offer an immediate and practicable means of effecting a new wages Agreement."

A statement of the points at issue was submitted, at the Court's request, by the Miners' Federation at the end of the Inquiry. These points, and the conclusions of the Court thereupon, are as follows:—

(1) That the wages paid to the workers in the collieries under the provisions of the late agreement were substantially less than the equivalent of their pre-war earnings:—

"With regard to day-wage workers this contention has been established. It is true also with regard to pieceworkers in certain collieries, but not to all."

(2) That the increase of 2s. per shift to adults and 1s. to boys under 16, recommended by the Coal Industry Commission in March, 1919, was, at least in part, for the purpose of raising the standard of living of the mine workers:—

"We cannot tell what was the actual purpose of allowing this increase. Paragraph 5 of the Interim Report by the Chairman suggests that the cost of living was part of the reason. The paragraph in question reads as follows:—'We recommend an increase in wage to all colliery workers of two shillings and one shilling a day, respectively, for each day worked. . . . The reason two shillings and one shilling are recommended instead of a percentage is that it remunerates the lower-paid worker in a fairer degree, and, after all, the necessities of life are no cheaper to him than they are to his more highly-paid comrade.'"

(3) That the agreement of 1st July, 1921, while giving the workman wages less than the equivalent of pre-war earnings, allowed the owners profits substantially in excess of pre-war profits:—

"It is true that the Agreement permitted this result, and with regard to certain classes of workmen and certain collieries it in fact so operated."

(4) That the first charge upon the net proceeds of the industry should be a minimum wage to the workmen. That minimum should include the elements composing the standards as defined in the recent Agreement, but revised having regard to

(a) the increased cost of living, as indicated by the current figures published by the Ministry of Labour; and

(b) the improvement in the standard of living provided by the award of the Coal Industry Commission, 1919:—

"We think that the provision of a minimum wage should have precedence over distribution of profits. We cannot specify conditions as to the basis on which that minimum should be fixed."

(5) That any standard of profits should be at a fixed rate per ton, equal to the pre-war profits per ton:—

"This is a method for amending the late agreement, which has not been discussed before us, and upon which we do not feel competent to express an opinion."

(6) That the earnings of railway wagons and the profits from coking and by-product plants should be regarded as proceeds of the industry:—

"Where these undertakings are separately owned we do not think their profits can be included; nor, apart from agreement, does the principle differ where they are under one ownership."

Appended to the Report are two schedules, giving (i) a statement of the thirteen districts into which the country is divided for the purposes of the Agreement of 1921 and showing the average number of persons employed during 1923; and (ii) a statement showing, in tabular form, the main provisions of the Agreement of 1921, and of the original claim submitted by the Miners' Federation and the offer of the Mining Association, with the amendments put forward in the course of the negotiations preceding the Inquiry.

## REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY CONCERNING RAILWAY SHOPMEN.

The Report of the Court of Inquiry\* appointed to inquire into the threatened dispute concerning the claim of the National Union of Railwaymen for the application of the Decision No. 728 of the Industrial Court to railway shopmen employed on the Great Northern Section of the London and North Eastern Railway has been published.†

Decision No. 728, dated 8th July, 1922,‡ treated the railway service as a distinct industry, to which special conditions should attach, and upon that principle prescribed rates of wages and conditions of employment for railway shopmen. The Great Northern Railway and also the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the National Union of Foundry Workers were not parties to the Award.

The Award has eventually been put into operation for all railway shopmen, irrespective of their Trade Union, by all the railway companies in Great Britain, except the Great Central and Great Northern sections of the London and North Eastern Railway Company. The Decision, therefore, has achieved a great measure of standardisation and uniformity in the wages and conditions of employment of the great majority of railway shopmen, and has had the effect of increasing the rates of pay to some workmen and at some places, and reducing them to and at others.

On the 1st January, 1923, the grouping of the railways under the Railways Act, 1921, took effect, and the Great Northern Railway became amalgamated in the London and North Eastern Railway. The National Union of Railwaymen repeatedly requested that Decision No. 728 should be applied to the shopmen on the Great Northern section, and eventually threatened to instruct their members (including those in the traffic grades) employed on that section to cease work unless the Award was applied. The craft unions—i.e., Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, the Boilermakers' Society, the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, and the National Union of Foundry Workers, opposed the application of the Award, principally on the grounds that:—

(a) Skilled craftsmen were entitled to the recognised district rates irrespective of their employment in the railway shops;

(b) The application of Decision No. 728 would result in a reduction of wages varying from 1s. to 9s. a week to many of the skilled men, even if all the skilled men were placed in Grade I and Doncaster were classified as a Class I town.

Having examined and considered the evidence and admissions and arguments put forward, the Court found as a fact:—

(i) That Decision No. 728 was in operation on all the railways in Great Britain with the exception of the Great Northern and Great Central Sections of the London and North Eastern Railway.

(ii) That of the 130,000 railway shopmen employed in Great Britain, upwards of 110,000 were working under the terms and conditions of Decision No. 728, and that of 39,000 railway shopmen employed by the London and North Eastern Railway 26,000 were working under the same terms and conditions.

(iii) That no exceptional circumstances had been proved or even alleged against the application of Decision No. 728 to the said Great Northern Section of the London and North Eastern Railway.

(iv) That it would be to the advantage of the Railway Company, the Trade Unions, and the shopmen if, so far as possible, the terms and conditions of employment of railway shopmen were uniform throughout Great Britain.

It was also established to the satisfaction of the Court that the chief reason for the opposition of the Craft Unions to the application of Decision No. 728 to the railway shopmen on the

\* See the March, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE (p. 112).  
† Cmd. 2113. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.  
‡ For a summary of this decision, see the August, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE (p. 253).

## SHIPYARD STRIKE AT SOUTHAMPTON AND LOCK-OUT AT OTHER PORTS.

On February 11th members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union employed in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trade at the Southampton Docks came out on strike. The strike, which was undertaken without the authority or support of the officials of the Trade Union, was against the reduction of night shift payment under the Shipyard Overtime and Night Shift Agreement of April, 1923,\* to which the Amalgamated Engineering Union were not parties. The members of this Union were also dissatisfied with the standard rate of wages at Southampton, which they claimed to be lower than that paid at other ports of importance.

A temporary settlement was made, the employers promising to meet the representatives of the men in conference on the 18th February. At that conference the Trade Union officially repeated their demand for an advance of 17s. 6d. a week, which they had put forward some time before to the South Coast Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers' Association.

The employers offered an advance of 2s. 6d. (under certain conditions) on repair work, together with any additional advantage which might result under the national negotiations (see below) for a general advance of 10s. a week. This offer was refused by a mass meeting of the men, and the Trade Union thereupon allowed their members to come out on strike at noon on the following day (19th February), with the official support of the Union.

The position was complicated by the fact that engineers employed by members of the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation have been able to retain the last 10s. of their war bonus, which has been withdrawn in the case of higher grades and reduced in the case of lower-paid men in the federated districts of the shipbuilding industry. As, however, the wages of engineers employed at Southampton are regulated by an Association which is affiliated to the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation, the engineers at Southampton have lost this 10s. in common with the shipbuilding trades proper.

The number of engineers concerned in this second dispute was about 1,000. Additional men, numbering about 400, mostly members of the unskilled unions, struck work on 21st February; and at noon on Saturday, the 23rd February, the members of the following Trade Unions, most of whom were affiliated to the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, ceased work in support of their demand for a special local advance, in addition to the general advance of 10s. a week, which was the subject of national negotiations:—

Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society.  
National Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers and Braziers.  
Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers.  
National Society of Coppersmiths.  
Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association.  
National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators.  
United Operative Plumbers' Association.  
Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists.  
National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association.  
National Union of Foundry Workers.  
United Pattern Makers' Association.  
Electrical Trades Union.

This included practically all the skilled men in the shipyards, except the Boilermakers, who are not affiliated to the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. The whole number of shipyard workers concerned was about 7,000.

The Shipbuilding Employers' Federation refused to go forward with the negotiations on the national demand for a general advance of 10s. while the Southampton men were out, but made the following offer, on condition that the Southampton men resumed work:—

"We suggest, of course when work is resumed,

(1) that their claim, in so far as it is part of the general wage advance, will be covered by the national negotiations;

(2) in so far as their claim is in part put forward in respect of special circumstances, differentiating Southampton from other federated districts, they can raise the question *de novo*, and we will arrange an immediate national meeting with you. Or, alternatively, if they prefer it, they can still accept the offer made at the last Central Conference, so far as the repair classes are concerned, and we will discuss with you in grand conference the remaining part of the original claim—viz., a claim for 3s. per week on new work base rates. Any settlement under this clause to be retrospective to the date of resumption of work."

This offer was referred to a mass meeting of the men on strike at Southampton, who refused to resume work.

Repeated efforts were made to get the men on strike at Southampton to resume work, but without avail; and finally, on April 5th, the federated employers posted notices at all their shipyards throughout the country that employment would be refused to members of the Trade Unions on strike at Southampton unless they returned by April 8th; the date was afterwards postponed to the evening of Friday, April 11th.

On April 4th and 5th, meetings took place between the National Executive Committee of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades and the Strike Committee at Southampton, at which a formula was arrived at for submission to the men. This formula was submitted to a mass meeting on April 7th, and rejected by an almost unanimous vote.

\* See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1923 (p. 159); June, 1923 (p. 199); July, 1923 (p. 239); and December, 1923 (p. 435).

said Great Northern Section was a genuine and strongly-held apprehension—shared by all the Trade Unions—that it would result in many skilled craftsmen being placed in grades below Grade I, with a consequent loss of status and reduction in wages, and, further, that towns might be placed in an unduly low class, which would mean a further reduction of wages. From a perusal of Decision No. 728 and the interpretation Decisions given thereunder, the Court were of opinion that the Industrial Court never intended, nor was it provided, that, on the adoption of Decision No. 728, (a) a qualified craftsman should be placed in a grade below Grade I, or (b), speaking generally, a town should be placed in a class that would necessarily reduce the wages of the shopmen there, or (c), merit advances above the ordinary recognised rate previously received by shopmen should be reduced or taken away.

Bearing the aforementioned facts in mind, the Court arrived at the conclusion that it was advisable that Decision No. 728 should be adopted on the Great Northern Section of the London and North Eastern Railway; but that before it was applied the railway company and all the Trade Unions should negotiate and agree upon the necessary details involved in such application, and that differences (if any) should be brought to the notice of, and decided by, the Industrial Court before the date that the terms of Decision No. 728 actually commenced to operate. The Court further thought that to provide a reasonable opportunity for successful negotiation and settlement the date when the operation of Decision No. 728 was to commence should not be earlier than the 1st March, 1925, and if differences were outstanding at that date then the commencement thereof should be at such time as the Industrial Court would in its discretion direct.

During the course of the inquiry reference was made to the absence of negotiating machinery dealing with railway shopmen on the Great Northern Section. The desirability of the establishment of such machinery was recognised, and all parties expressed their willingness to take part in promoting a scheme. It was observed that, in Decision No. 728, the Industrial Court expressed the hope that it would be possible to set up some machinery for negotiation by which industrial questions affecting the companies and their employees could be dealt with without delay. It was the view of the Court that all parties should meet and endeavour to agree upon some scheme for assisting negotiations.

## LEITH COAL TRIMMING DISPUTE.

### APPOINTMENT OF COURT OF INQUIRY.

UNDER a local agreement between the Leith Shipping Federation and the Transport and General Workers' Union it is provided (*inter alia*) that the squads of men employed in trimming coal on ships in the port of Leith may appoint their own charge hands, subject to the approval of the employers. On the 20th March last three of the charge hands appointed by the coal trimmers were not approved by the employers. Thereupon the coal trimmers called a strike, and the trimmers employed at the other Forth ports (Grangemouth, Granton, Bo'ness, Methil and Burntisland) came out on strike in sympathy on the following day. This sympathetic strike lasted for about a week.

Various attempts were made to settle the dispute, and finally, on March 29th, a provisional agreement was drawn up, but at the last moment no settlement could be reached owing to the insistence of the employers on retaining twenty-one men, taken on during the strike, to whom they had guaranteed permanent employment.

The dispute was brought up at a meeting of the National Joint Trimming Board, who appointed a sub-committee, consisting of three employers and three workmen, to go into the matter. On April 24th this sub-committee agreed unanimously upon recommendations for a settlement, which provided for the dismissal of the twenty-one men in question, with compensation, the Unions affected agreeing to contribute to the compensation. The men on strike agreed to accept these terms, but the employers refused to do so as it meant the dismissal of men to whom they regarded themselves as pledged.

On the 5th and 6th May, a conference was held in London of representatives of the Transport and General Workers' Union; the National Union of Railwaymen; the Cardiff, Barry, and Penarth Coal Trimmers' Union; and the National Union of General Workers, to consider the dispute. It was resolved to declare a national strike at all coal shipping ports, as from the evening of Wednesday, May 14th, unless the dispute were settled before that date on the lines suggested by the sub-committee of the National Joint Trimming Board.

A further attempt to settle the dispute on the 10th May at Leith was not successful.

On the 12th May, Sir David Shackleton met representatives of the four Trade Unions concerned, and on the 14th May he met representatives of the Leith employers. No settlement was reached, and the Minister of Labour has therefore decided, in view of the serious effect of a stoppage of work in the coal exporting ports of Great Britain, to set up a Court of Inquiry under Part II. of the Industrial Courts Act to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the threatened stoppage. At the request of the Minister, the representatives of the Unions concerned agreed to postpone the operation of the strike notices.

The Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association had already ordered their Southampton members to return to work; and on their refusing to do so had, on April 4th, expelled them, and closed the Southampton branches of the Association. The remaining Trade Unions affiliated to the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades decided to take a separate ballot of each individual Union on the terms of the "formula" which had been agreed upon between the National Executive Committee and the local Strike Committee. The ballot resulted in a majority against resumption, but the majority was not large enough to justify a continuance of the strike; and the several national executives (except the Copper-smiths, who were supporting the strikers officially) ordered their members on strike at Southampton to return to work. Only a minority, however, obeyed the order; and the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation thereupon informed the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades that they had no alternative to enforcing the lock-out, which came into force accordingly on the 12th April, the total number of workpeople affected, apart from the 7,000 shipyard workers involved in the strike at Southampton, being about 20,000. The Employers' Federation announced, however, that they would immediately withdraw the lock-out notices in respect of any Trade Union whose members returned to work at Southampton.

On April 15th the Chairman and the Secretary of the Trades Union Congress General Council interviewed the Strike Committee, and the following resolution was prepared as a joint recommendation of the Strike Committee and of the representatives of the General Council:—

"That an immediate resumption of work be agreed to on the following conditions:—

- (i) an immediate conference with the employers to negotiate for the purpose of securing uniformity between the Southampton and London rates and conditions of employment;
- (ii) each Union to submit a statement indicating the re-adjustment necessary to bring the Southampton rates and conditions up to the London standard."

The resolution was submitted to a mass meeting of the men on strike, and carried by a very large majority, and forwarded to the executives of the various Trade Unions concerned in the dispute. The executives met the employers, and intimated to them that they concurred in the proposals, and asked for a conference as early as could be arranged after work had been resumed. The employers, in reply, repeated their readiness to meet in conference as soon as a resumption of work was secured.

On Saturday, April 19th, the men on strike decided to return to work. Work was accordingly resumed at Southampton on April 23rd, and the lock-out at the other ports was thereupon raised.

### OUTPUT, COSTS OF PRODUCTION, AND PROCEEDS OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

A STATISTICAL summary\* of output and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry for the quarter ended 31st December, 1923, prepared by the Mines Department in continuation of similar statements for earlier periods, shows that at undertakings which produced about 94 per cent. of the total quantity of saleable coal raised during the quarter, 67,838,789 tons of coal were raised, of which 62,053,820 tons were disposable commercially. The net costs, after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal, amounted to £55,661,970, equivalent to 17s. 11-28d. per ton, and the proceeds of commercial disposals to £61,744,941, equivalent to 19s. 10-81d. per ton. There was thus a credit balance of £6,082,971, or 1s. 11-53d. per ton. An analysis by districts shows that in North Wales, Cumberland and Kent the costs exceeded the proceeds; and in other districts there were credit balances ranging from 3-78d. per ton in South Staffs and Salop to 2s. 9-62d. per ton in Yorks and the East Midlands.

The number of workpeople employed was 1,120,204, the number of man-shifts worked was 76,400,692, and the number of man-shifts lost that could have been worked was 6,637,723. The average output per man-shift worked, based on the tonnage of saleable coal raised, was 17-76 cwt., the average for the districts ranging from 11-95 cwt. in the Bristol coalfield to 20-28 cwt. in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. The average earnings per man-shift worked were 10s. 3-33d., the district figures ranging from 7s. 8-29d. in South Staffordshire and Salop to 11s. 11-99d. in Kent.

The following Table compares some of the more important figures in the return with those given in the returns for previous quarters in 1922 and 1923. The figures given relate in each case to Great Britain, and at each date to undertakings producing 94 or 95 per cent. of the total amount of saleable coal raised in each period.

Quarter ended	Amount of saleable coal raised	Credit (+) or Debit (-) balance per ton†	No. of workpeople employed	Output per man-shift worked	Earnings per man-shift worked
	Tons	s. d.		Cwts.	s. d.
31st March, 1922	57,633,631	+1 1-62	1,020,207	18-23	11 0-18
30th June, 1922	53,261,024	-0 0-17	1,025,592	17-80	10 2-51
30th Sept., 1922	58,717,767	+1 1-00	1,027,853	17-94	9 3-97
31st Dec., 1922	64,538,199	+1 8-39	1,068,594	18-10	9 5-23
31st March, 1923	67,077,543	+2 5-32	1,087,733	18-25	9 7-72
30th June, 1923	65,527,464	+3 2-64	1,102,330	17-90	9 9-77
30th Sept., 1923	61,999,982	+1 0-22	1,108,259	17-42	10 7-20
31st Dec., 1923	67,838,789	+1 11-53	1,120,204	17-76	10 3-33

\* Cmd. 2111. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.

† Calculated on the quantity of coal disposable commercially.

### FATAL ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1923.

THE Mines Department have issued a preliminary statement of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1923.\* The principal statistics are given in the following Table (in which the figures for 1923 are subject to minor corrections on receipt of the final returns for the Annual Report):—

	Number of separate Fatal Accidents in		Number of Deaths caused by Fatal Accidents in	
	1923.	1922.	1923.	1922.
Mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911	1,143	1,026	1,289	1,105
Mines under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872	11	9	11	9
Quarries under the Quarries Act, 1894	76	46	79	46
Total .. ..	1,230	1,081	1,379	1,160

It is observed in the statement that the year was marked by a number of serious accidents at coal mines, the chief of which were three explosions of firedamp (including that at Maltby Main), with a total of 43 deaths; two eruptions of water (including that at Redding), with a total of 48 deaths; two haulage accidents, with a total of 17 deaths; and one shaft accident, with 8 deaths. It is stated that, apart from such accidents, the sporadic incidence of which tends to obscure the normal trend of mining accidents, the death rate at coal mines appears to have been somewhat higher than in 1922, particularly in the case of haulage accidents below ground. Outside the Scottish Division, the deaths from this cause were about half as many again in 1923 as in 1922.

Of the fatal accidents under the Coal Mines Act during the year, totalling 1,289 (inclusive of the accidents referred to above), 585 were accounted for by falls of ground, and 312 by haulage accidents. Of the deaths from falls of ground, 392 occurred from falls of ground at the working face, 189 from falls of ground in underground roads, and 4 from falls of ground in shafts. Of the haulage accidents, nearly 90 per cent. were due to persons being run over or crushed by trams or tubs while working underground. Of the remaining 392 accidents under the Coal Mines Act, 60 were due to explosions of firedamp or coal dust, 58 to shaft accidents, 52 to eruptions of water, 50 to accidents on railways, sidings or tramways on the surface, and 172 (108 underground and 64 on the surface) to miscellaneous causes.

The death-rate at quarries in the Scottish Division and in the Lancashire and North Wales Division was considerably higher than in 1922.

### PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AT DOCKS.

THE Home Secretary under the late Government called a Conference last year to review the situation as regards accidents at docks, and to consider the best means of preventing them. The Conference comprised representatives of the Home Office and of the Admiralty, and of the following associations of employers and of workpeople:—

The Association of Public Wharfingers of the Port of London; the Dock and Harbour Authorities' Association; the Employers' Association of the Port of Liverpool; the Railway Companies' Association; the Shipping Federation; the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The members of the Conference have now, after a series of meetings, presented their Report.† They recommend the adoption of a revised Code of Regulations and the institution of Safety First Organisations at the various ports. The existing Code, which dates from October, 1904,‡ and the suggested revision, are printed as appendices to the Report. The extent of the revision may be judged from the fact that, whereas the 1904 Code occupies 25 paragraphs, the new draft regulations occupy 46.

The Report is unanimous, except on one point relating to the age at which boys or young persons should be permitted to do certain classes of work. The signatories to the Report are left free to raise this question at a later date. The ship-owners' representatives also make a reservation as to the powers of the Home Secretary to make Regulations relating to ships.

Appended to the Report are two Tables, one analysing the dock accidents recorded in the year 1922 in maritime districts of Great Britain, and the other giving a more detailed analysis of dock accidents in London in the same year. The total number of dock accidents given in the first Table is 5,049, of which 74 were fatal; 38 of the accidents, including 7 of the fatal accidents, were due to breaches of the regulations. The most common classes of accident were:—"misadventure," e.g., strain, scratch, jammed, etc., 2,139 (fatal, 14); struck by gear or by load actually suspended, 479 (fatal, 3); fall of set or part of set, 210 (fatal, 8); other falls of goods or of gear, 840 (fatal, 2); falls into hold, falls from landing platforms, and other personal falls, 753 (fatal, 16).

\* H.M. Stationery Office, 1924. Price 4d. net.

† Report of the Conference on the Prevention of Accidents at Docks. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1s. net.

‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1904 (No. 1617).

### OVERSEA SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE.

REPORT FOR YEAR 1923.

THE Oversea Settlement Committee have issued their Report\* for the year ended 31st December, 1923.

The Report mentions that the Imperial Economic Conference approved the policy of State-aided Empire Settlement embodied in the Empire Settlement Act, 1922. The Committee emphasise the fact that "the policy of State-aided Empire settlement is not a means of securing the immediate relief of unemployment. . . . The true aims of Empire settlement are to ensure that the fresh population required by the Dominions should, as far as possible, be British in sympathy, in spirit, and in origin; and at the same time to remedy fluctuations of trade by developing this country's markets and increasing the numbers of its customers, thus permanently minimising the risk of unemployment here and overseas."

**Nominations.**—The Report refers to the system under which individuals resident in certain of the Dominions may nominate their friends or relatives in this country for passages at reduced rates. It is proposed to extend the system by means of collective nomination, under which churches, philanthropic societies and other organisations overseas may make nominations in favour of persons to be selected by kindred churches, societies and organisations in this country. The Committee consider that this system "should be of most value in facilitating the settlement of those classes which the ordinary Government machinery has been least successful in obtaining, e.g., single women and families."

**Reception.**—The Committee report the re-establishment by the Canadian Government of the Immigration Employment Service in the rural districts, which had not functioned since the outbreak of war. The representative of the Commonwealth of Australia at the Imperial Economic Conference also agreed to take up, with the Governments of the several Australian States, the question of establishing Farm Reception Depôts, by way of supplement to the existing arrangements for the reception of settlers.

**Classes of Migrants.**—(i) *Children.*—The Canadian Government have extended their policy of encouraging the settlement of children by making a grant towards the transportation expenses of children accompanying parents or other approved guardians and intending to take up agricultural work. (ii) *Juveniles.*—The South Australian Parliament have passed an Act to improve the conditions of the farm apprenticeship system, and to introduce a system of domestic apprenticeship for girls; and the New South Wales Government have adopted similar systems in that State. (iii) *Public School Boys.*—The Dominion authorities have undertaken to explore the possibilities of stimulating the migration of public school boys; and the New Zealand Government have already made arrangements for a limited number of boys from public schools to receive training in farm work in that Dominion. (iv) *Women and Girls.*—At present more men than women are going overseas, thereby increasing the disproportion between the sexes both here and in the Dominions. Nominated families going out to Canada, Australia, or New Zealand will be able, if they so desire, and subject to the concurrence of the nominator, to include one additional woman, either relative or friend, among their number. (v) *Families.*—The Report refers to the policy of "group settlement," which is already in operation in Western Australia, with hopeful results, is thus explained:—

"The object of the extended system would be to select in the United Kingdom groups of families . . . connected by some bond of sympathy, such as residence in the same town or district, or membership of the same organisation, and to settle these groups under skilled supervision upon a suitable tract of land overseas."

**Statistics.**—The following Table, abridged from a Table in the Report, shows the "balance outward" of emigrants, i.e., the excess of persons of British nationality leaving the United Kingdom for countries outside of Europe for the purpose of permanent residence, over the incomers of British nationality from those countries during each of the years 1913, 1922 and 1923:—

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	1913.	1922.	1923.
Balance outward to—			
Canada and Newfoundland ..	164,566	29,621	75,866
Australia .. ..	44,428	30,789	31,583
New Zealand .. ..	11,809	10,036	7,188
Other parts of the Empire ..	2,718	1,731†	2,013†
Total, British Empire ..	223,521	68,723	112,624
United States .. ..	78,072	37,291	86,034
Other foreign countries ..	2,092	56	20
Total, foreign countries ..	80,164	37,347	86,054
Total, all countries ..	303,685	106,070	198,678

For particulars of British migrants under the Empire Settlement Act, during 1922 and 1923, and in the current year to date, see page 185 of this GAZETTE.

A memorandum prepared in the Registrar-General's Department, and printed in the Report, shows that the estimated population of Great Britain has increased from 14,681,535 in

\* Cmd. 2107. H.M. Stationery Office, price 6d. net.

† Balance inward.

Subsequently, by notice dated 6th May, 1924, the Home Secretary approved the recommendations of the Conference regarding (1) the adoption of a revised Code of Regulations, as set out in Appendix IV to the Report, to take the place of that at present in force, and (2) the institution of Safety First Organisations at the various ports; and has given effect thereto by issuing the proposed Regulations in draft\* and by instructing the Chief Inspector of Factories to arrange for the holding of local conferences with a view to the establishment of the Safety First Organisations.

### PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES IN APRIL.

DURING the four weeks ended 25th April, 1924, 18 meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

The Papermaking Joint Industrial Council discussed at a recent meeting the present position of mills making wrapping paper, and possible measures for assisting them. The Council also considered a particular aspect of the export trade.

The establishment and working of District Committees of the Printing and Allied Trades Joint Industrial Council were discussed at the quarterly meeting of the Council on 16th April, and reference was also made to Works Advisory Committees. At the request of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, two delegates were appointed to represent the Council on a sub-committee which has been set up to investigate methods of lighting in factories. A number of other questions were raised and discussed, including postal rates, merchandise marks and conciliation.

A meeting of the Clay Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee was held on 30th April, 1924, in connection with an application for an increase in rates of wages. It was agreed that a further meeting should be held on the 8th May, after the employers had consulted the members of their organisations on the question of a modified claim.

A special meeting of the National Council for the Pottery Industry was called on the 2nd April to consider the dispute arising out of this year's exchange of wages notices. After some discussion it was decided that the questions at issue should be referred to a sub-committee of the National Council, the honorary members of which should have power to decide in case of disagreement.

H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories gave on 7th April to Managers and Foremen, guests of the National Council of the Pottery Industry, a lecture on the Pottery Regulations, with special reference to works inspection.

The National Joint Council for Local Authorities Non-Trading Services has now issued its decision on the reference of the East Midlands Provincial Council respecting the correct interpretation of their sliding scale wages agreement, and it is understood that the East Midlands Provincial Council have accepted that decision. (See page 123 of the April issue of the GAZETTE.)

The report of Sir Richard Redmayne in regard to the ability of the Cloth Working Employers represented on the Joint Industrial District Council for the Export Packing and Cloth Working Industries (London Area) to pay increased wages was read at a meeting held on the 28th April. The Trade Union side thereupon agreed to defer their claim for an increase until conditions in the trade improved.

Amongst other questions discussed at various meetings were: The Industrial Councils Bill, 1924; holidays with pay; and shift schemes.

### AGRICULTURAL WAGES BILL.

THE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries introduced in the House of Commons on the 14th April a Bill† "to provide for the regulation of wages of workers in agriculture, and for purposes incidental thereto."

The Bill proposes to establish an Agricultural Wages Committee for each county in England and Wales, and an Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales, with power to fix minimum rates of wages for workers employed in agriculture for time work, and also, if and so far as they think it necessary or expedient, to fix minimum rates of wages for workers employed in agriculture for piece work. Rates fixed by the Committees are to be subject to confirmation by the Agricultural Wages Board, who are also empowered to fix rates of wages in default.

The constitution of Agricultural Wages Committees and of the Agricultural Wages Board is governed by the provisions of the Schedule to the Bill.

\* See page 189 of this issue.

† House of Commons Bill No. 111. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.

1823 and 26,849,600 in 1873 to 43,318,000 in 1923. The annual natural increase since 1870 has fluctuated about an average of approximately 418,000, notwithstanding a decline in the ratio of natural increase from 1.4 to 1 per cent. During the last two years (middle of 1921 to middle of 1923) the average increase has been 372,000; but this period may be regarded as abnormal, owing to the exceptional economic conditions. The conclusion drawn from these figures in the Report is that there is no prospect of migration reducing the numbers of the population of Great Britain in a manner injurious to prosperity.

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1923.

STATISTICS relating to passenger movement from and to the United Kingdom during 1923, compiled from the returns received by the Board of Trade, were published in the *Board of Trade Journal* for 27th March, 1924.

The number of persons of British nationality who left the United Kingdom in 1923 as passengers to places outside Europe, and not within the Mediterranean Sea, exceeded the number who arrived as passengers from such places by 190,333, compared with an excess of 99,882 in 1922, and of 241,997 in 1913. The records of alien passengers showed an outward balance of 62,393 in 1923, as compared with outward balances of 19,280 in 1922 and 87,076 in 1913.

The number of passengers of all nationalities who left the United Kingdom for the Continent by sea was 1,038,154 in 1923, compared with 898,182 in 1922, and 1,184,412 in 1913; and the number who arrived from the Continent amounted to 1,103,016 in 1923, 916,398 in 1922, and 1,309,874 in 1913. In addition, 6,721 passengers departed from, and 8,451 arrived in, the United Kingdom during 1923 by air.

The British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom to take up permanent residence in non-European countries ("emigrants") numbered 256,284 in 1923, 174,096 in 1922, and 389,394 in 1913. Residence for a year or more is treated as permanent residence for the purpose of this classification of passengers. Of the total of 256,284 in 1923, those recorded as taking up permanent residence within the British Empire numbered 157,062 or 61 per cent. In 1913 the corresponding number was 285,046 or 73 per cent. Increases of 42,472 and 43,174 in the number of British emigrants to British North America and the United States, respectively, are shown in 1923, as compared with the corresponding figures for 1922.

The British passengers from non-European countries recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom to take up permanent residence therein ("immigrants") numbered 57,606 in 1923, as against 68,026 in 1922, and 85,709 in 1913.

For the second, third and fourth quarters of 1923, passengers and migrants who embarked or arrived at ports in the Irish Free State have been excluded from the above figures. Information received by the Board of Trade shows that during these three quarters there were 12,653 (9,977 British) outward passengers and 5,642 (2,543 British) inward passengers at such ports. The British emigrants reported from such ports during the period numbered 9,585, and the immigrants numbered 1,013. Nearly all these passengers and migrants sailed for or arrived from the United States.

## EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 29th April, 1924, the number of men in training was 9,553, and the number awaiting training 3,935. Since 1st August, 1919, 82,667 men have terminated training.

### NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

The latest returns show that there are 28,800 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms is approximately 330,000.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

### CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING UNCOVENANTED BENEFIT.

A MEMORANDUM\* has been issued by the Ministry of Labour embodying directions to Local Employment Committees regarding the grant of Uncovenanted Benefit. "Uncovenanted Benefit" is defined as benefit allowed under the terms of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, for a period in excess of that to which the individual claimant may have been entitled in respect of his own contributions.

Claims to Uncovenanted Benefit are referred to Local Employment Committees for their recommendation. These Committees are unpaid advisory bodies set up in connection with the Employment Exchanges, and consisting in the main of representatives of employers' and of workpeople's organisations.

The present Memorandum contains a reprint of the special statutory conditions applicable to Uncovenanted Benefit, and of the directions which have from time to time been issued by the Minister of Labour to Local Employment Committees, concluding with the Memorandum of 13th February last.†

\* Cmd. 2108. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.  
† See issue of this GAZETTE for March, page 78.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN DENMARK: LAW AMENDED.

AN account was given in this GAZETTE for January, 1922 (page 9) of the Danish Employment Exchange and Unemployment Insurance Act of 22nd December, 1921. That part of the Law concerned with unemployment insurance has now been amended, in certain respects, by an Act dated 4th March, 1924. Some of the more important changes are described below.

### (1) Finance.

The contributions of the State and the Communes to the funds of recognised Unemployment Societies, which have hitherto amounted to 50 and 33½ per cent., respectively, of the total contributions of full members of the societies, are reduced to an amount equal to 35 and 30 per cent. respectively of the contributions of such members. If, therefore, a society is to maintain the same gross income, it will have to increase the contributions of its full members by a little over 11 per cent.; but, if it is to maintain the same net income (having regard to the abolition—referred to below—of its contribution to the Central Unemployment Fund), it will have to increase the contributions of its full members by a little over 8 per cent.

The resources of the Central Unemployment Fund—which are used in the event of exceptional unemployment, partly to pay relief when a member of an Unemployment Society has exhausted his benefit and partly to subsidise relief works and courses of training for the unemployed—have hitherto been derived (i) from the State, (ii) from employers,† and (iii) from the Unemployment Societies. The yearly contribution of the State, which has hitherto amounted to one-third of the sum expended by the Fund on relief in the previous financial year, will, in future, be increased by an amount equal to 10 per cent. of the total contributions of full members of the recognised Unemployment Societies. The contribution of employers, hitherto fixed at an average of 9 kroner per whole-year worker‡ is reduced to a flat rate of 5 kroner, or 2 kroner in the case of agricultural and forestry workers and of apprentices. The contributions both of the State and of the employers may be reduced by the Minister of the Interior when the moneys at the disposal of the Fund exceed 30 million kroner; but the rates prescribed in the Act are to be re-enforced when these moneys fall to 20 million kroner. It is estimated that the revision of the employers' contribution will involve a reduction in income from this source of 2 million kroner. The contribution to the Fund from the Unemployment Societies, equalling 5 per cent. of the total contributions of full members to the societies, has been abolished. A further source of income to the Fund has, however, been created, in that 15 per cent. of the wages earned by a person employed for full time on relief works, for which the standard rates of wages must be paid,§ is to be withheld by the employer and handed over to the Fund.

### (2) Benefits.

The 1921 Act stipulated that the benefits paid by a recognised Unemployment Society should be not less than 1 krone a day, nor more than 4 kroner, if the member had a family to support, and 3½ kroner if he had no dependants. These maxima, which were subject to later revision, have been confirmed by the new Act. Under the 1921 Act, the Minister of the Interior could authorise, in the event of exceptional unemployment prevailing in a particular trade, a temporary suspension of the provision that a member of an Unemployment Society shall not be entitled to benefit unless he has been employed for at least ten months during the two years preceding the payment of benefit. This suspension may now also be authorised, if exceptional unemployment has prevailed in at least twelve months during the preceding two years. Benefit in respect of short-time working, which formerly could be paid only in respect of the days or hours beyond one-third by which working time was reduced, may now be paid in respect of the whole time lost, provided that the latter exceeds one-third, and that the rates of benefit are so fixed as to stimulate the members to seek work.

### (3) Exceptional Unemployment.

The new Act, unlike the 1921 Act, contains detailed rules to govern the declaration that a state of "exceptional unemployment" exists or has ceased to exist in a particular trade. An exceptional state of unemployment will be held to exist in a given industry when the percentage of unemployment during each of two succeeding months is one and a half times the competent Unemployment Society's average percentage of unemployment for the corresponding month of the preceding 14 years excluding the two highest percentages, and amounts to at least 7½ per cent. For branches of an industry the percentage must be double the average percentage, reckoned in the same manner, and amount to at least 15 per cent. Rules are also laid down for special cases. The exceptional state of unemployment will be held to have ceased when, during two succeeding months, the percentage of unemployment has fallen below the percentage so fixed.

\*Text and commentary in *Social Forsorg*, March, 1924. Commentary in *Middeltiser fra Socialtraadets Sekretariat*, March, 1924.

† Those subject to the law on compulsory insurance against accident.

‡ That is, per 300 man-days of work performed.

§ Hitherto the relief worker has either been employed for shorter hours or at a reduced rate of wages. In future, the hours may be reduced, but not the rate of wages.

¶ Unemployment Societies are organised on an industrial basis.

The issue of exceptional unemployment relief is controlled by means of an unemployment card issued by the local authorities to the person claiming relief. This card must be presented to a prospective employer, who, on engaging the applicant, must fill up one half of the card and return it to him or her for transmission to the local Employment Exchange. The other half of the card is filled up by the employer on the termination of the engagement, and dealt with similarly. A worker can receive exceptional unemployment relief only while he is in possession of a complete blank card. Detailed rules governing the use of the unemployment card are laid down in the new Act. As a further precaution, the employer, when no card has been presented, must report the engagement of a member of a trade with exceptional unemployment to the nearest Employment Exchange. It may be mentioned here that the Act of December, 1921, contained provisions for the issue of unemployment cards to members of Unemployment Societies claiming benefit, but that, under pressure from the societies, these provisions have been repealed.

Exceptional unemployment relief is paid in two forms (i) as "continued assistance" after the cessation of benefit from the Unemployment Society; (ii) as an allowance of not more than 0.45 krone a day\* for children under 15 supplementary to the benefit paid by the society. The amount and duration of the "continued assistance" may not exceed the amount and duration of the benefit paid by the Unemployment Society, except that the allowance of not more than 0.45 krone a day\* for children under 15 is added, and that provision is made for the extension, in certain circumstances, of the duration of the "continued assistance." Where several members of the same family are drawing exceptional unemployment relief, only the head of the family receives the full amount, while the relief issued to the other members is reduced by one-half. The communes may also issue to persons with families an allowance of not more than 1 krone\* a day, either as "continued assistance" or as supplementary allowance.

### (4) Administration.

A new department of the Ministry of the Interior, called the Employment Exchange and Unemployment Insurance Department, with a Director at its head, is created to administer the Act. The Committee of the Riksdag, set up under the 1921 Act to decide when a state of exceptional unemployment existed, has been abolished, and its functions transferred to the Exceptional Unemployment Section of the Employment Committee,† to which four members of the Riksdag have been added, making eight in all. The other two sections of the Employment Committee are the Employment Exchange and the Unemployment Insurance Sections.

The new Act came into force on 1st April, 1924, with the exception of the new regulations regarding the contribution of employers to the Central Unemployment Fund, which came into force on 1st July, 1924.

## REORGANISATION OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN BELGIUM.

A ROYAL DECREE‡ was signed on 19th February, 1924, co-ordinating and reorganising the existing system of Employment Exchanges. Within three months from the date of the Decree the constitution of all official Employment Exchanges will be revised by the Minister of Industry and Labour in such a way as to secure uniformity.

In addition to the official exchanges, others created by local authorities or private individuals may be approved by the Minister, the two kinds of exchanges collaborating with each other and with the unemployment insurance societies for the purpose of finding work for persons in receipt of unemployment relief. The official exchanges will offer the services of their joint advisory committees (see below) as mediators in the event of conflicts arising which threaten to increase unemployment.

Subject to the ultimate control of the Minister of Industry and Labour the affairs of each official exchange will be administered by a Governing Board consisting of representatives of the local authorities and of such associations as contribute towards the cost of maintaining the exchange. Questions will be decided by majority vote, but the voting power of each authority and association will be proportionate to its contribution to the funds. The Governing Board will appoint its own president and vice-president as well as the manager and staff of the exchange; it will vote the budget and draw up the code of regulations of the exchange. In all these matters, however, its decisions will be subject to the approval of the Minister of Industry and Labour.

For each exchange there will be formed one or more joint advisory committees, consisting of representatives, in equal numbers, of employers' and workers' associations, to supervise

\* These maxima may under prescribed conditions be reduced. Persons who are not members of Unemployment Societies may, under certain conditions receive exceptional unemployment relief.

† The function of the Employment Committee is to assist in the administration of the Act and to act as a consultative body. Provision is made for the representation of employers and workers.

‡ *Moniteur Belge*, 23rd February, 1924.

its operations as an agency for placing labour and to advise the Governing Board generally. The joint advisory committees, in consultation with the employers' and workers' associations, may fix for each trade rates of wages below which the exchange shall refuse to supply registered candidates for jobs.

In the event of a strike the exchange will assist any industrial establishments requiring labour as a result of the dispute, but all unemployed persons put forward for employment of this nature are to be notified that a strike is in existence.

## MINERS' OLD AGE AND INFIRMITY INSURANCE IN FRANCE: AMENDING LAWS.\*

THE French Legislature has passed two Acts which introduce important amendments in the laws governing the compulsory insurance of mine workers† against old age and infirmity. The principle of this class of insurance was first introduced by an Act dated 29th June, 1894. This provided for obligatory contributions from employers and workers which might be paid either (1) direct into the National Old-Age Pension Fund, the usual agency for the purchase of deferred annuities guaranteed by the State, or (2) to a benefit fund established by mine owners, either individually or collectively. The amount of these contributions was to be equivalent to four per cent. of the wages of the workers, half of which was to be deducted from wages.

By an Act dated 25th February, 1914, there was set up a single Pension Fund for the whole mining industry, into which all contributions were to be paid. Pensions granted from the Fund to mine workers who had completed their fifty-fifth year of age and their thirtieth year of work were to be augmented by a State allowance of 100 francs per annum. A special fund was also to be established into which the State would pay a yearly contribution of not less than two million francs, and to which the worker and the employer would each contribute equally at a rate not exceeding one per cent. of the wages paid. The objects of the special fund were, *inter alia*:—(1) To make supplementary grants to pensioners so as to bring their pensions up to 730 francs per annum; (2) to assure to widows of pensioners a grant of at least half the amount of the pension of the deceased husband; (3) to grant pensions at the rate of 12 francs per annum for each year worked in mines to former mine workers not enjoying pensions or allowances, who had ceased work before the Act came into force, and who, being at least 55 years old, had worked for wages for 30 years, 15 of which had been spent at or in the mines; and (4) to assure certain allowances to the widows of former mine workers defined in (3) and to the widows and orphans of mine workers who died before qualifying for pension.

The earlier of the two new Acts, which is dated 24th December, 1923, introduces amendments in regard to the contributions to the special fund, and in regard to the amount of the pensions granted to mine workers or to their widows and orphans. The workers' and employers' contributions to the special fund are each to be increased to an amount not exceeding two-and-a-half per cent. of the wages paid; the contribution of the State is to be not less than one per cent. of the amount of wages paid.

The principal objects of the special fund are:—(1) To increase up to at least 2,000 francs a year the pensions of workers who have been employed at or in the mines for 30 years and have attained the age of 55 years; (2) to grant to the widows of pensioners referred to under (1) who are not less than 55 years of age, or when they attain that age, such an increase as will bring the amount of their pension up to half that which the husband enjoyed; (3) to grant to widows 55 years of age of workers who die before attaining the age of 55, but who have worked for 30 years at or in French mines, a supplementary allowance which will bring their pension up to 1,000 francs.

Provision is also made for the payment of allowances or increased pensions to workers who have been employed at least 15 years at or in French mines, or to their widows; as also to the widows and orphans of workers who die during the time they are acquiring pension rights.

Provision is made for allowances to workers who, after ten years' service in French mines and after six months' treatment through a benefit society, have lost at least two-thirds of their capacity for work. So long as this incapacity continues such persons are entitled to the following allowances:—(1) For the period of 5 years from the end of the sixth month of incapacity, a monthly allowance of 125 francs, of which 30 francs are payable by the benefit society of which the worker is a member, and 95 francs by the Miners' Pension Fund; (2) at the end of the period of 5 years a pension of 1,500 francs per annum.

The second of the two Acts above mentioned, which is dated 28th December, 1923, extends the provisions of the legislation regarding miners' pensions to the staff employed in industrial undertakings administered by mine owners which are ancillary to the mines and are carried on in the same district as the mining concession or in its near vicinity.

\* *Bulletin du Ministère du Travail*, 1914. The *Board of Trade Labour Gazette* June, 1914; *Journal Officiel*, 25th and 29th December, 1923.

† The word "worker" is to be understood throughout as covering both the manual and the non-manual worker at or in the mines.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: NEW LAW.\*

An Act has recently been passed by the Legislature of the Union of South Africa making provision for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes by the creation of Joint Industrial Councils or by Conciliation Boards.

Following are the principal provisions of the new law:— The Act applies to all industries, trades and undertakings except agriculture and farming; undertakings carried on by the Government are affected only in exceptional cases.

A majority of the representatives of the employers and workpeople on a council or board may agree to abide by the decision of one or more arbitrators, but such agreement must provide for the appointment of an umpire should the arbitrators fail to agree.

If the parties make application that an agreement arrived at shall be binding on the parties thereto, or shall be extended to other employers and workpeople in the industry, the Minister may issue a public notice making the agreement so binding.

In any undertaking, industry or trade covered by the Act it shall be illegal to make or demand any alteration in the terms of employment without one month's notice being given, or such shorter notice as may previously have been agreed upon.

In the case of disputes between local authorities and their employees in public utility services, when a council or board has failed to reach a settlement, the parties shall agree to the appointment of an arbitrator within three days.

Power is reserved to the Minister to take over and operate a public utility service at the local authority's expense should such authority be unable or unwilling to continue the service by reason of any lock-out, strike, or concerted action of its employees.

It is provided that no strike or lock-out may be declared until the matter in dispute has been reported upon by a council or board, and until any further period stipulated in any agreement between the parties, within which a strike or lock-out shall not be declared, has expired.

The Act also contains provisions for the compulsory registration of trade unions and employers' associations, and for the registration and regulation of private registry offices.

Offences under the Act are punishable by fines or imprisonment or by both.

The Act is to come into operation at a date to be fixed later.

PROTECTION OF NON-MANUAL WORKERS IN PERU: NEW LAW.†

An Act, dated 7th February, 1924, has been passed by the Peruvian Congress for the regulation of the conditions of employment of non-manual workers in private commercial undertakings. It applies equally to minors and women, and does not affect the benefits derived by them from the Labour Law.

Where there is no written contract of employment, the employee has the right to 90 days' notice of dismissal, and the employer has the right to 40 days' notice from his employees

\* Union of South Africa: Act to make provision for the prevention and settlement of disputes between employers and employees by conciliation; for the registration and regulation of trade unions and private registry offices, and for other incidental purposes. No. 11, 1924. † Based on a despatch from H.M. Minister at Lima to the Department of Overseas Trade, dated 15th February, 1924.

of their intention to leave. Where notice is given by the employer, the employee is entitled to compensation ranging from one to twelve months' salary, according to length of service.

Disputes arising out of the above provisions are to be submitted to a tribunal consisting of one nominee of the employer and one of the employee (or employees), together with a third person nominated by the Government. The decision of the tribunal, which must be given within 30 days, is binding.

Commercial employees who have been employed uninterruptedly for four years are entitled to a life insurance policy for an amount equal to one-third of the total amount of salary received during that period, it being obligatory upon the employer to pay the premiums while the employee remains in his service.

Where an employee, in the course of his employment, suffers any disablement, he is entitled to receive his salary in full for the first two months, and afterwards to the same amount, less a progressive reduction of 20 per cent. for each month up to the completion of six months from the date of his disability or enforced absence from work.

Employees dismissed under Article 294 of the Commercial Code, or for any cause which in the opinion of the tribunal mentioned above constitutes a serious delinquency, or who leave their employment without giving the prescribed notice of termination of service, lose all rights and benefits accruing under the Act.

The provisions of the Act do not apply where the employee participates in the profits of the business.

THE PAPER AND PULP INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES: WAGES AND HOURS IN 1923.

The United States Bureau of Labour Statistics has recently completed a survey of the wages and hours of labour in the paper and pulp industry of that country in 1923. The results of the inquiry are contained in the issue of the Monthly Labour Review for March, 1924.

According to the 1921 United States Census of Manufactures, the number of wage earners in the paper and wood pulp industry was 105,294. As these workpeople are not classified, in the Census returns, according to the divisions of the industry, only a general idea could be obtained as to the manner in which the workers covered by the present investigation should be allocated among the various branches of the industry.

The data summarised were extracted in March, April and May, 1923, from the pay-sheets and other records of 199 mills situated in sixteen States. The averages shown were computed from the individual hours and earnings of 26,050 paper and 13,011 pulp mill workpeople, constituting 37 per cent. of all the wage earners in these industries in the United States.

The following Table gives the number of establishments and workpeople covered by the investigation, the average full-time hours worked per week, and the average earnings per hour and per week for all occupations, distinguishing the sex of the workpeople:—

Table with columns: Kind of Mills and Sex of Workpeople, Number of Establishments, Number of Workpeople, Average Full Time Hours per Week, Average Earnings per Hour, Average Full Time Earnings per Week. Rows include Pulp Mills (Men/Women), Bookpaper Mills (Men/Women), Newsprint Mills (Men/Women), Wrapping-paper Mills (Men/Women), Writing-paper Mills (Men/Women).

\* Article 294 of the Commercial Code enables an employer to dismiss an employee exceptionally for (a) Fraud or abuse of confidence in the business confided to him; (b) Undertaking any commercial business for his own account without the knowledge and permission of his principal; (c) Gross want of respect and proper consideration towards his employer or the person of his family or household.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Table showing Average Increases since July, 1914: All Items included ... 71%, Food only ... 63%

FOOD.

BETWEEN 1st April and 1st May there was a further fall in the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food, mainly as the result of the reductions in the tea and sugar duties. By 1st May the price of tea had been reduced 4d. per lb. by the majority of retailers, the fall in the average price at that date being about 3½d. per lb.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics fell to about 63 per cent. at 1st May, as compared with about 67 per cent. at 1st April.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of food in July, 1914, and at 1st April and 1st May, 1924:—

Table comparing retail prices of food in July 1914, 1st April 1924, and 1st May 1924. Columns include Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated), and Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st May, 1924, as compared with July, 1914.

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

Table showing percentage comparison of retail prices at July 1914, 1st April 1924, and 1st May 1924. Columns include Article, Large Towns (Population over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, General Average, and Corresponding figure for 1st April, 1924.

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st May, 1924, was approximately 47 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st May the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, was approximately 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the average prices of coal and gas were approximately the same at 1st May as at 1st April, being respectively about 105 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. The prices of lamp oil and of matches also showed no change, but those of candles rose from between 45 and 50 per cent. to about 70 per cent. above the pre-war level. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st May was about 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined, in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st May is approximately 71 per cent. above the pre-war level, as compared with 73 per cent. a month earlier.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken for 1924 as for 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 alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1924.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1915:—

Table showing Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.) with columns for Month (beginning of), 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924.

NOTE.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THERE was a further improvement in employment in April. It was good in the coal mining, tinplate, steel sheet, carpet, jute and coachbuilding industries, and among skilled workmen in the building trades; it was fairly good in the wool textile industry, with millers and brickmakers, and in certain sections of the metal trades; and fair with coopers and brushmakers, and in some branches of the cotton, leather and clothing trades. In some of the other large industries, however, including iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding, and pottery manufacture, it continued slack.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage of unemployed was 7.5 at the end of April, 1924, compared with 7.8 at the end of March, and with 11.3 at the end of April, 1923. Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 28th April, 1924, was 9.7, compared with 9.9 at 24th March, 1924, and 11.4 at the end of April, 1923. For males alone the percentage was 10.2 at 28th April, as compared with 10.3 at 24th March, 1924; for females the corresponding figures were 8.4 and 8.8. The number of workpeople registered at 28th April, 1924, at Employment Exchanges as applicants for employment was approximately 1,052,000, of whom men numbered 790,000 and women 194,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 31st March, 1924, was 1,057,000, of whom 791,000 were men and 204,000 were women. (It should be noted that some unemployed persons, e.g., some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts—do not register at the Employment Exchanges.)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Employment at coal mines continued good generally. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 12th April was 1,190,769, an increase of 3.2 per cent. as compared with April, 1923. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 12th April was 5.71 as compared with 5.69 in April, 1923.

At iron mines employment continued bad in Cleveland, and in Cumberland and Lancashire, and fair in other districts. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 5.9 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with March, 1924, and a decrease of 4.6 per cent. as compared with April, 1923. The average number of days worked per week by the mines in the fortnight ended 12th April, 1924, was 5.61, an increase of 0.23 days on the previous month and of 0.24 days on April, 1923. At shale mines employment continued fair. At limestone quarries it remained good in the Clitheroe district and moderate in the Wear-dale district; in Derbyshire it was reported as good generally. At slate quarries in North Wales it was fairly good and showed an improvement on the previous month. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it again improved, but was still described as moderate. At china clay quarries employment continued fair generally.

**Manufacture of Pig-Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.**—In the pig-iron industry employment continued slack. Of a total of 487 furnaces the number in blast at the end of April was 194, the same as in March. At the end of April, 1923, the number was 216. At iron and steel works employment continued slack on the whole. In the tinplate and steel sheet trades employment continued good. At the end of April 546 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 513 in April, 1923.

**Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Other Metal Trades.**—Employment in the engineering trades showed a further slight improvement, but continued bad on the whole; in the railway and electrical sections it was fairly good, and in the motor and cycle sections it was good; in the marine engineering section it continued bad, and was adversely affected by the shipyard dispute; in the textile machinery section there was a decline. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment continued very bad, and was affected from the 12th to the 23rd April by a lock-out of the members of certain Trade Unions from the yards of the federated employers. Employment in the other metal trades continued to improve in various sections, and was fair on the whole. It was fairly good in the brasswork, fishing tackle and hollow-ware trades; fair in the nut, bolt and nail, needle, tube, sheet metal, farriery, wire, and stove and grate trades; and slack or bad in the metallic bedstead, lock and latch, saddle and harness furniture, chain and anchor, and jewellery and plated-ware trades.

**Textile Trades.**—In the American spinning section of the cotton trade organised curtailment of production continued; in the Egyptian section employment remained good. In the weaving section employment was good in the fine plain and fancy goods sections; in other sections it was very slack. Employment in the woollen and worsted trades showed a further improvement and was fairly good on the whole.

In the hosiery trade employment was bad in the Nottingham district, but fair in most of the other districts. Employment in the lace trade continued bad; in the silk trade it showed a further slight improvement in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district, and was fair. In the jute and carpet trades employment continued good. In the Irish linen trade it showed a further improvement. Employment in textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., remained slack on the whole, but a further improvement was reported with silk dyers at Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the tailoring trade remained fair generally, and showed a further seasonal improvement, especially in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch. In dressmaking and millinery and in the London blouse and light underclothing trade it was fair. It continued fair on the whole in the corset and shirt and collar trades. In the felt hat trade employment showed a further improvement, but much short time was still worked. In the boot and shoe trades employment was moderate on the whole.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment in the tanning and currying section continued fair; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section it was moderate in most districts, but at Birmingham it was very good, and overtime was reported. With saddles and harness makers employment remained bad on the whole.

**Building, Woodworking, etc.**—Employment in the building trades showed a further improvement, and was good on the whole with skilled operatives and generally slack with unskilled workers. It was good with bricklayers and plasterers and also good in most districts with masons and carpenters and joiners; moderate with plumbers and slaters and very slack with builders' labourers. With painters employment showed a further seasonal improvement. In the brick trade it was fairly good.

In the furnishing trade employment further improved, but was still moderate generally; in Scotland and at Birmingham it was fairly good. With coachbuilders employment was good; with millers and ironers it was fairly good; with coopers and brushmakers it was fair, and with basketmakers slack. With packing-case makers an improvement was reported, but employment was still bad.

**Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.**—Employment in the paper trade showed some decline, and was moderate on the whole. With letterpress printers employment showed a slight general improvement in London, but was still reported as slack with compositors; in the provinces it was mainly fair, but was reported as good at Bolton, Leicester, Derby and Glasgow. With lithographic printers employment declined and was bad in London and at Edinburgh; in other centres it was generally fair; it was also fair with lithographic artists in London. With bookbinders employment generally showed a decline, and was reported to be slack in London and at Edinburgh.

**Pottery and Glass.**—In the pottery trades employment continued slack generally, but showed a further slight improvement; in the tile, sanitary earthenware and fireclay sections, however, it was reported as good. In the glass trade employment continued moderate on the whole; at St. Helens, however, it was reported as good.

**Agriculture and Fishing.**—In agriculture potato-planting afforded employment for many casual workers, but the supply of labour in England and Wales was sufficient to meet requirements in practically all districts. In Scotland the supply of regular workers was also sufficient, but in East Aberdeen a shortage of casual workers was reported. In the fishing industries employment was fair on the whole.

**Dock Labour and Seamen.**—Employment among dock labour continued moderate. With seamen employment showed a slight improvement, and was moderate on the whole.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed (a) among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, and (b) among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland month by month since April, 1923:—

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among				
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.			Total.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
1923.					
April .. .. .	11.3	12.3	8.7	11.4	
May .. .. .	11.3	12.0	8.9	11.2	
June .. .. .	11.1	12.1	8.9	11.3	
July .. .. .	11.1	12.2	9.5	11.6	
August .. .. .	11.4	12.4	10.1	11.8	
September .. .	11.3	12.3	10.0	11.7	
October .. .. .	10.9	12.4	9.8	11.5	
November .. .	10.5	12.1	9.7	11.5	
December .. .	9.7	11.2	9.1	10.7	
1924.					
January .. .. .	8.9	12.5	10.2	11.0	
February .. .	8.1	11.1	9.5	10.7	
March .. .. .	7.8	10.3	8.8	9.4	
April .. .. .	7.5	10.2	8.4	9.7	

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,116,739 in branches covered by the returns received reported 83,335 (or 7.5 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of April, 1924, compared with 7.8 per cent. at the end of March, 1924, and 11.3 per cent. at the end of April, 1923.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of April, 1924.	Unemployed at end of April, 1924.*		Inc.(+) or Dec.(−) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building† .. .. .	112,770	4,049	3.6	− 0.5	− 4.1
Coal Mining .. .. .	141,231	1,294	0.9	..	− 1.1
Engineering and Ship- building .. .. .	353,366	54,956	15.6	− 0.3	− 5.7
Miscellaneous Metal .. .	46,972	3,400	7.2	− 0.3	− 1.7
Textiles:—					
Cotton .. .. .	59,248	3,583†	6.0	+ 0.2	− 3.5
Woolen and Worsted .. .	12,110	117	1.0	− 0.4	− 0.2
Other .. .. .	58,188	1,387	2.4	− 0.3	− 1.7
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper .. .. .	99,503	3,823	3.8	+ 0.1	− 1.0
Furnishing .. .. .	28,354	1,449	5.1	− 0.4	− 1.1
Woodworking .. .. .	43,962	1,400	3.2	− 0.6	− 1.8
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe .. .. .	77,019	4,061	5.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.1
Other Clothing .. .. .	45,087	339	0.8	− 1.3	− 1.1
Leather .. .. .	5,583	429	7.7	− 0.2	− 1.0
Glass .. .. .	1,198	36	3.0	− 0.2	+ 0.2
Pottery .. .. .	27,500	1,500	5.5	+ 0.1	− 1.0
Tobacco‡ .. .. .	4,648	1,512	32.5	− 5.9	− 2.7
Total .. .. .	1,116,739	83,335	7.5	− 0.3	− 3.8

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 9.7 per cent. (males 10.2 per cent.; females 8.4 per cent.) at 28th April, 1924, as compared with 9.9 per cent. (males 10.3 per cent., females 8.8 per cent.) at 24th March, 1924, and 11.4 per cent. (males 12.3 per cent., females 8.7 per cent.) at 23rd April, 1923. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 172 and 173.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in April, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 166 to 171.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Apr., 1924.	April, 1924.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
			Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.
			5.71	+ 0.03
			5.61	+ 0.23
			5.96	+ 0.06
			Furnaces in Blast	Number.
			194	—
			Mills Working	Number.
			546	+ 22
			Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.
			425,363	+ 0.5
				− 4.6

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 12th April, 1924.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−) on a Month ago.	Week ended 12th April, 1924.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−) on a Month ago.‡
Textiles:—			£	Per cent.
Cotton .. .. .	88,272	+ 0.8	154,208	+ 2.1
Woolen .. .. .	16,195	+ 0.8	34,130	+ 2.0
Worsted .. .. .	29,442	+ 0.7	56,850	+ 3.1
Boot and Shoe .. .	59,711	+ 0.3	124,132	+ 0.9
Pottery .. .. .	12,415	+ 0.6	22,956	+ 1.3
Brick .. .. .	7,592	+ 0.8	18,817	+ 2.5
Total .. .. .	207,627	+ 0.7	411,173	+ 1.8

\* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked out are also excluded.  
† The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership, the previous returns related to the end of January.  
‡ In addition to those shown, who were totally unemployed, a large number alternate weeks or fortnights 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 changes in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

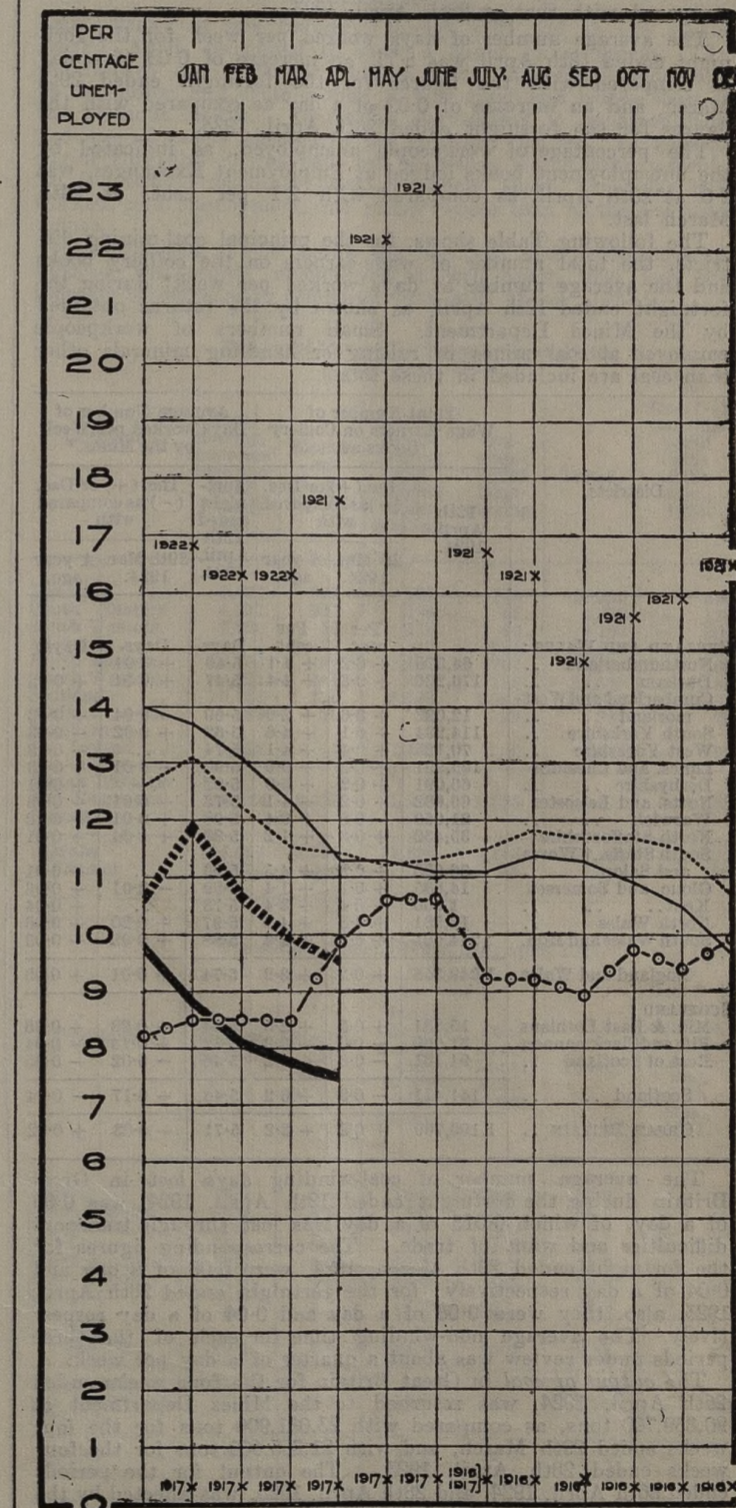
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve ————— = 1924.  
Thin Curve ————— = 1923.  
Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1919-23.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1894-1923.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORK-PEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT:—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - 1924.  
Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - 1923.



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trade Union Returns are 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 in the previous column. The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail on pages 172 and 173.







preceding the holidays, but a few factories were still reported as working less than full time.

At Norwich employment continued good; a large proportion of the operatives were on overtime, and practically no short time was worked.

In most of the Scottish centres employment was slack, and worse than in March; but at Glasgow and Kilmarnock the operatives were fairly well employed.

The exports of boots and shoes in April, 1924, amounted to 91,801 dozen pairs, or 5,747 dozen pairs less than in March, 1924, but 27,294 dozen pairs more than in April, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 7th April, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 72 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the boot and shoe industry were registered.

Table with columns: Department, Men, Women, Total, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 3rd March, 1924. Includes sub-sections for Boot and Shoe Manufacture and Repairs and Hand Sewn Work.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade was moderate on the whole, and showed some decline on the previous month, a number of mills working short time, particularly in the hand-made section, in which employment was slack generally.

With letterpress printers employment showed a slight general improvement in London, although it was still reported as slack with compositors.

With bookbinders employment generally showed a decline on the previous month, and was reported to be slack in London and at Edinburgh.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and book-binding trades was 5.7 at 23rd April, 1924, compared with 5.8 at 24th March, 1924.

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

Table with columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of Apr., 1924, April, 1924, Mar., 1924, April, 1923, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month, Year ago. Includes rows for Printing and Bookbinding.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the building trade during April showed a further improvement, which, although general, was most pronounced in the painting and decorating section; it was good, on the whole, with skilled operatives and generally slack with unskilled workers.

As regards individual occupations, employment was very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers, and good in most districts with masons and carpenters and joiners; in a considerable number of districts a shortage of one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives was again reported, especially with bricklayers and plasterers.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages\* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 23rd April, and the increase or decrease in the percentage as compared with 24th March:-

Table with columns: Occupations, Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd April, 1924, Approximate Percentage\* Unemployed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with 24th March, 1924. Includes sub-sections for Divisions, BRANCHES, and DISTRICTS.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 143 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,123,000, show that in April, 1924, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,921,700, as compared with £5,767,900 in March, 1924, and £3,438,900 in April, 1923.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in April remained fairly good on the whole, showing little change as compared with March. In the Peterborough, Birmingham and Nottingham districts employment was reported as good; in the Coventry district an improvement was reported.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges on 23rd April, was 6.5, as compared with 6.9 on 24th March.

The following Table summarises the information received as to the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid by those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review:-

\* Figures are not available as to the exact numbers of insured workpeople in each of the occupations shown in the first column of the Table, in the building industry. For the purpose of computing the percentages given in the third column, the total numbers insured, in each occupation, have been estimated by applying ratios obtained from the exchange of unemployment books which took place in 1922 to the total number of insured workers engaged in the building industry as shown by the 1923 exchange of books.

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 12th April, 1924, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, £, Per cent. Includes rows for Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Midlands and Eastern Counties, South and South-West Counties and Wales, Scotland, and Total.

Returns from firms employing 5,532 workpeople showed that about 2 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time to the extent of 6 hours each, on an average, during the week ended 12th April.

POTTERY TRADES.

DURING April employment in these trades showed a further slight improvement, but was still slack generally. In the tile, sanitary earthenware and fireclay sections employment was reported to be good.

In Staffordshire employment was still slack on the whole; at Worcester it was good; it was also good at Derby, where a further improvement was reported; at Bristol it was fair; but at Glasgow it was bad.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 23rd April, 1924, was 11.8, as compared with 11.9 at 24th March, 1924.

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

Table with columns: BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 12th April, 1924, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, £, Per cent. Includes rows for China Manufacture, Earthenware Manufacture, Other Branches, and DISTRICTS.

Returns from employers relating to short-time working showed that of 10,455 workpeople employed, 2,724, or 26 per cent., were working on an average 13 1/2 hours less than full time in the week ended 12th April, 1924.

SEAMEN.

DURING April employment with seamen, though only moderate on the whole, showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. This improvement was particularly noticeable prior to the Easter holidays.

The demand for men on the Thames steadily improved until the week ended 26th April, when a slight decline occurred. On the Tyne and on the Wear it was quiet generally. Employment on the Tees was poor. At Hull it was fairly good until the Easter holidays, and declined afterwards.

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

\* The comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen\* shipped in, April, 1924, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Four months ended, April, 1924, April, 1923. Includes sections for ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and NORTHERN IRELAND.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during April continued, on the whole, only moderate. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service 24.9 per cent. were unemployed at 23rd April, compared with 24.1 per cent. at 24th March.

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

Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London, In Docks, By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, etc., Total, At Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves. Includes rows for Week ended, Average for 4 weeks, and Average for Mar., 1924 and Apr., 1923.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in April was 1,151, as compared with 832 in the previous month and with 888 in April, 1923.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers at Blyth and on the Wear continued good, but on the Tyne there was a considerable falling off in shipments. With other classes of workers it was fair on the whole, being slightly better than in March.

Western and Southern Ports.—At Liverpool employment was fair. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 28th April was 15,316, compared with 15,554 in the four weeks ended 31st March and with 14,973 in April, 1923.

Employment at the South Wales ports was fair. At Plymouth and other South Western ports employment was moderate, and at Southampton it continued fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was fair at Glasgow, and better than in the previous month. It was fair at Aberdeen, moderate at Leith, and slack at Dundee. At Belfast it was good, and better than in March.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 28th April, 1924.

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, substantially all persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment.

The statistics take account only of persons insured under the Acts. Such persons number approximately 11,500,000 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Every insured person claiming unemployment benefit must lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim.

lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim. It is possible therefore to obtain from a count of the lodged books a record of unemployment in insured trades.

(a) Insured persons unemployed and in receipt of benefit; (b) Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;

Concurrently with the exchange of insurance books in the middle of July last opportunity was taken to revise the classification of insured workpeople so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 census of population.

Insured persons who have lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises at which they were employed and are not generally eligible for benefit, and persons who were not at work owing to sickness, are not included amongst the numbers unemployed.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with 13 columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 28TH APRIL, 1924, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 28TH APRIL, 1924, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 24TH MARCH, 1924. Rows include Fishing, Mining, Brick, Tile, etc., Glass, Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.—continued.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with 13 columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 28TH APRIL, 1924, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 28TH APRIL, 1924, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 24TH MARCH, 1924. Rows include Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Construction of Works, Gas, Water, and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.



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\* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of £26,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 230,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £3,800 in the weekly wages of nearly 90,000 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Brick, Glass, Chemical, etc.	39,000	—	£ 5,350	£ —
Metal .. .. .	108,000	1,000	10,600	80
Textile .. .. .	7,000	80,000	450	3,050
Public Utility Services ..	24,000	—	5,500	—
Other .. .. .	49,000	8,000	4,100	650
Total .. .. .	227,000	89,000	26,000	3,780

In the chemical, etc., group there was an increase of 1d. per hour in the wages of men employed in the cement trade, and of 4s. per week in the wages of those employed in the paint, colour and varnish trade. Flint glass cutters received an increase of 1s. per week. Men and women employed in the drug and fine chemical trades had their minimum rates increased by 3s. and 2s. per week respectively.

The principal changes in the metal group affected iron and steel workers. There were small increases in the wages of blast furnace workers in Cleveland, Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, South Wales and Scotland, the increases varying from under ½ per cent. on current rates in Cleveland to 1½ per cent. in Northamptonshire. Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands received an increase equivalent to about ¾ per cent. on their current rates, and there was a slight increase in the wages of iron and steel millmen in South Wales and Monmouthshire. In other trades in this group the principal increases affected electrical cable makers, whose wages were increased by 4s. per week in the case of men and by smaller amounts for other workers, and brass workers at Birmingham, for whom the increases amounted to 3s. 11d. and 2s. per week in the case of men and youths respectively.

There were increases of 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week in the wages of men and of 6d. or 1s. per week in the wages of women employed in the woollen and worsted industry in the West of England. Workpeople employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing, etc., trades had their wages reduced, under cost of living sliding scales, by 1s. 1d. and 7d. per week in the case of men and women respectively in Lancashire and Scotland, and by about 1½ per cent. in Yorkshire.

In the public utility services men employed by tramways undertakings in the London area received increases amounting to 6s. per week for motormen, conductors, inspectors and regulators, and 4s. per week for other grades. Another important change in this group was an increase of 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week in the wages of men employed in the non-trading services of various local authorities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1924.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>AGRICULTURE.</b>				
Agriculture	Derbyshire ... ..	29 Feb.	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rate previously in force (viz., 7d. per hour) extended up to 30 June.†
<b>MINING AND QUARRYING.</b>				
Coke and By-products Manufacture	Lancashire and Cheshire	Day following the nearest making-up day to the 17 Mar.	Cokemen and by-product workers:— Men 21 years and over ...	Adoption of new basis shift rates as follows:— Gas regulators, ram drivers, and coke loaders, 5s. 10d.; valve men, levellers, doormen, pump men, tar plant men, winch men, and chargers, 5s. 7d.; crude benzol men and exhausterhouse assistants, 5s. 4d.; labourers, pug mill men, and breeze men, 4s. 9d.‡
			Youths and boys under 21...	2s. 5d. at 16 to 16½ years, increasing to 4s. 6d. at 20½ to 21 years.‡
Iron Mining	Cleveland ... ..	28 April	Ironstone miners ... ..	Increase of 0.50 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 85 per cent. above the standard. Rates after change for labourers: (underground), 3s. 4d. to 3s. 8d. per shift; (surface), 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. per shift, plus in each case 85 per cent.

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Where the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to full-time rates of wages, and do not take into account the effect of short time working. † The rate was agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921. ‡ These basis rates are subject to an addition of 45.50 per cent. Future percentage additions are to vary quarterly in accordance with the selling price (atovens) of coke.

In trades other than the above the principal increases in April affected ironstone miners in Cleveland and Northamptonshire, workpeople employed in the seed-crushing and oil-milling industry, and vehicle builders, electricians, and house painters in Scotland. There were decreases, under cost of living sliding scales, in the wages of furniture trade operatives at Birmingham and of certain classes in the same trade at High Wycombe.

Of the increases taking effect in April, 17, amounting to £10,300 per week, were arranged by standing joint bodies of employers and workpeople; 25, amounting to £4,500, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; 16, amounting to £1,000 (including £350 incorporated above under standing joint bodies of employers and workpeople), took effect under cost of living sliding scales; three, amounting to £650, were arranged by arbitration or mediation; and the remaining 58 cases, amounting to £9,900, took effect under Trade Board Orders or were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. In four cases, involving £4,400, the increases were preceded by disputes causing a stoppage of work. Of the decreases, 20, amounting to nearly £3,700, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; two, amounting to £70, were arranged by arbitration; while one took effect under a sliding scale based on selling prices.

Summary of Changes in January—April, 1924.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	501,000	451,000	£ 74,600	£ 27,600
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	53,000	50	9,200	5
Iron and Steel .. .. .	62,000	115,000	6,150	4,600
Engineering, Shipbuilding, and other Metal ..	58,000	4,000	8,900	750
Textile .. .. .	21,750	80,250	1,300	1,700
Clothing .. .. .	2,250	11,500	150	1,150
Food, Drink and Tobacco	25,000	2,250	3,600	300
Woodworking .. .. .	18,500	3,000	2,600	275
Building and Allied Trades	465,000	250	47,900	60
Transport .. .. .	336,000	4,700	45,900	400
Public Utility Services ..	203,000	1,350	24,900	250
Other .. .. .	50,000	3,250	6,200	300
Total .. .. .	1,795,500	676,600	231,400	37,380

In the corresponding four months of 1923 there were net reductions of £250,000 in the weekly wages of over 2,100,000 workpeople, and net increases of nearly £23,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 190,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

An Arbitrators' Award issued on 20th August, 1923 (see page 324 of the September GAZETTE), provided that the hours of labour in the building industry during the statutory summer period should in future be 46½ per week, as compared with 44 in the summer of 1923, unless the employers and operatives in any town or area agreed to work 44 hours all the year round. The summer period commenced on 13th April. Information is not at present available as to the localities in which a week of 44 hours has been agreed upon, or as to those in which the 46½-hour week has been adopted.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	
<b>MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).</b>					
Iron Mining—(contd.)	Leicestershire and Lincolnshire	23 April	Ironstone quarrymen ... ..	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 2½ per cent. above the standard of 1920.	
	Northamptonshire	16 April	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 5½ per cent. above the standard of 1920.	
	Banbury and District	23 April	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 5½ per cent. above the standard.	
	South and West Durham	28 April	Limestone quarrymen ... ..	Increase of 0.50 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 85 per cent. above the standard.	
Quarrying	Yorkshire ... ..	4 April	Freestone quarrymen and labourers	Increase of 1d. per hour on time rates and an equivalent increase on piece rates. Rates after change in Grade A† districts: delvers, hewers, etc., 1s. 7d. per hour; bottom delvers, getters, etc., 1s. 5½d.; saw frame feeders, 1s. 4d.	
	Northamptonshire	16 April	Limestone quarrymen ... ..	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 5½ per cent. above the standard of 1920.	
	Leicestershire and Warwickshire	1st full pay in April	Granite quarrymen ... ..	Increase of 5 per cent. on gross earnings. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 11½d. per hour plus 5 per cent.	
	Clee Hill District	26 Mar.	Settmakers employed at road-stone quarries	Increase of 9d. per ton on all sizes of setts.	
	Maidstone ... ..	1st pay day in April	Quarry workers ... ..	Increase of 2d. per ton for pieceworkers, and of ½d. per hour for dayworkers. Rate after change for labourers, 1s. 0½d. per hour.	
	West of Scotland (including Stirlingshire and Dumfries)	1 April	Whinstone quarrymen, sett-makers, kerb dressers, luggers, breakers, cutters and labourers	Increase of 1d. per hour for luggers and labourers, of 9d. per ton for sett-makers, and a proportionate amount for other classes. Rates after change: luggers, 1s. 3d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 1d.	
	East of Scotland (Fife and Perthshire Area)			Increase of 1d. per hour for luggers and labourers, of 6d. per ton for sett-makers, and a proportionate amount for other classes. Rates after change: luggers, 1s. 3d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 1d.	
	<b>BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES.</b>				
	Brick Manufacture	Birmingham and District	Pay day after 14 April	Brickmakers ... ..	Increases for timeworkers of 5s. per week for male workers 21 years and over, of 3s. 4d. per week for those between 18 and 21, and for women 18 years and over, of 2s. 1d. per week for boys and girls under 18 years, and proportionate amounts for pieceworkers. Minimum rate after change for labourers (City), 1s. 3d. per hour.
		Bridgwater ... ..	3 April	Brick, tile and cement workers:— Dayworkers ... ..	Increase of 4s. per week for adult male workers (39s. to 43s.), and of from 1s. to 3s. per week for youths and women.
Cement	Nottingham ... ..	1st full pay after 18 April	Pieceworkers ... .. Brickmakers (adult male workers)	Increase of 12½ per cent. on present rates. Increase of 5s. per week. Rates after change: daymen and wheelers, 1s. 2d. per hour; drawers, 1s. 2½d. per hour; setters and clay getters, 1s. 3d. per hour; burners, 61s. per week.	
	Great Britain† ...	§	Workpeople employed in the cement trades (except bricklayers, joiners, and other skilled tradesmen)	Increase for dayworkers of 1d. per hour for men 18 years and over, and ½d. per hour for youths under 18 and for women, and proportionate increases for piece and shift workers.	
Flint Glass Working	Various towns in Great Britain¶	5 April	Flint glass cutters, etc. ... ..	Increase of 1s. per week.	
Drug and Fine Chemical Manufacture	Men 24 years and over ... ..	Great Britain¶ ...	Week's pay payable on 11 April	Increase of 3s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: Class I. workers, 65s.; Class II., 58s.; Class III., 55s.	
	Male workers under 24 years ...			New scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 12s. at 14 years, increasing to 28s. at 18 years, 42s. at 21 years, and to 49s. at 23 years.	
	Female workers 21 years and over			Increase of 2s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: Class I. workers, 36s.; Class II., 34s.; Class III., 31s. 6d.; Class IV., 28s. 6d.	
Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacture	Female workers under 21 years	Great Britain** ...	3rd pay day in April	Increase of 1s., 1s. 6d., or 2s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: 11s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 21s. at 18 years, and to 26s. at 20 years.	
	Male workers employed in the paint, colour, and varnish industry			Increase on minimum rates of 4s. per week for those 21 years and over, of from 1s. to 3s. 6d. per week for youths, and of proportionate amounts for pieceworkers. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 52s.	
<b>IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.</b>					
Pig Iron Manufacture	Cleveland and Durham	6 April	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	Increase* of ½ per cent. on standard rates of 1919, making wages 28 per cent. above the standard (plus, in some cases, an output or input bonus). Minimum rate after change for scale labourers at blastfurnaces, 6s. per shift plus 28 per cent.	
	Tees-side ... ..	6 April	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 8½ per cent. above the standard, plus a flat rate make-up payment (varying according to tonnage output) for keepers, helpers and slagggers. Minimum rate after change for yard labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift plus 8½ per cent.	
Coke and By-products Manufacture	North Staffordshire	1st making up day in April	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	Increase* of 2 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 33 per cent. above the standard of July, 1922. Rates after change:—general labourers, 5s. 1d. per shift plus 33 per cent.; by-turn labourers, 5s. 3d. per shift plus 33 per cent.	
	South Staffordshire	1st full pay after 14 April	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 2½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 5s. 8½d. to 6s. 1½d. per shift plus 2½ per cent.	
	Nottinghamshire and parts of Derbyshire	23 April	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 5½ per cent. above the standard of 1920.	
	Northamptonshire	16 April	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 5½ per cent. above the standard of 1920.	

\* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices. † Grade A includes the following districts:—Huddersfield, Bradford, Thornton, Halifax, Keighley, and Brighouse and district. In Grade B (Shepley and district) and Grade C (Pateley and district) the rates are 1½d. and 3d. per hour less respectively than those quoted for Grade A. Labourers and borers' rate to be 20 per cent. less than the rate for delvers in each Grade Area. ‡ The increases took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Cement Industry. § The change took effect from the expiration of the last pay day in April. ¶ Birmingham, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Stourbridge, Warrington, and Tutbury. \*\* The increased minimum rates quoted are in accordance with recommendations made by the Drug and Fine Chemical Manufacturers' Association. No agreement was made with the Trade Unions concerned. \*\*\* The increases took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Paint, Colour and Varnish Industry.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
Pig Iron Manufacture—(contd.)	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 April	IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE—(continued).	Blastfurnacemen ... .. Increase* of 2 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 60½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 4s. 5½d. per shift, plus 60½ per cent.
	West of Scotland	27 April†	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	Increase* of 2 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 33 per cent. above standard.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Midlands and parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire	7 April	Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 60 per cent. above the standard.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 April	Non-scale workers employed in iron and steel works	War bonus increased* by 1s. per week for men, 6d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years, and 3d. per week for boys under 18 years.
Engineering, etc.	England and Wales†	1st pay after 1 April‡	Men employed in steel melting shops and in iron and steel rolling mills	Increase* of 2 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 60½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 4s. 5½d. per shift, plus 60½ per cent.
	Barry and Newport (Mon.)	1st full pay after 15 April	ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.	Turners, blacksmiths, copper-smiths, tinsmiths and braziers employed in running sheds of London, Midland and Scottish Railway.†
	Woolwich ... ..	1st full pay day in Feb.‡	Ironmoulders employed by Great Western Railway	Rates fixed at 2s. per week in excess of the standard weekly shop rates. (See I.C. Decisions Nos. 892 and 893 on p. 187.)
	Great Britain ... ..	30 Mar.	Skilled engineering mechanics (fitters, smiths, sheet metal workers, patternmakers, moulders, boilermakers, instrument makers, etc.) employed in the Royal Arsenal	Existing rate of 46s. per week plus war bonus (16s. 6d.) increased to 48s. per week plus war bonus. (See I.C. Decision No. 905 on p. 188.)
Ship-building and Ship-repairing, etc.	Great Britain ... ..	1st full pay after 14 April	Workpeople employed in H.M. Dockyards and Admiralty establishments	Increase of 6s. per week. Minimum rate after change: 65s. 6d.‡
	London ... ..	12 April	Sailmakers, men on oxy-acetylene machines or engaged on electric welding, drillers, rive- ters and caulkers, and riggers, employed in H.M. Dockyards and Admiralty establishments	Seven shillings of war bonus of 17s. previously paid, added to base rates, leaving the war bonus at 10s. per week.
	Hull‡ ... ..	17 Mar.	Barge builders and repairers ...	Increase of 1s. per week in base rates. Rate after change:—47s. per week plus 10s. war advance. (See I.C. Decisions Nos. 900-904 on p. 188.)
Malleable Iron-founding	Willenhall and District and ... ..	1st pay day in April	Boiler scalers and ship painters	Increase of 8s. per week or 2d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire	3rd pay day in April	Boiler scalers and ship scrapers	Increases to a minimum rate of 10s. per day. Increase of 1s. per day. Rate after change: 11s. 6d. per day, plus 1s. per day when worker provides own tools.
Electrical Cable Making	Great Britain, other than the above counties	3rd pay day in April	OTHER METAL TRADES.	Women and girls:—Moulders, dressers, foundry wheelers, sand blasters, coremakers, examiners, sand wheelers, emery wheel dressers, power pressers, polishers, capstan lathe workers, etc. (timeworkers)
	Sheffield ... ..	28 April††	Machine workers, hand pressers, varnishers, rough warehouse workers, bronzers, etc. (timeworkers)	Revised scale of weekly rates adopted, varying according to age, from 12s. at 14 years to 20s. 6d. at 18 years, and to 25s. at 21 years, resulting in increases of 1s. per week for those under 18 years, and of 2s. per week for those 18 years and over.
Outlery	Birmingham ... ..	1st pay day in May††	Wrappers and warehouse workers and lacquerers (timeworkers)	Revised scale of weekly rates adopted, varying according to age, from 10s. 6d. at 14 years to 19s. at 18 years, and to 23s. 6d. at 21 years, resulting in increases of 1s. or 2s. per week.
	Birmingham ... ..	1st pay day in May††	Pieceworkers ... ..	Revised scale of weekly rates adopted, varying according to age, from 9s. 6d. at 14 years to 17s. at 18 years, and to 22s. 6d. at 21 years, resulting in increases of 1s. or 2s. per week.
Braes Trade	Birmingham ... ..	1st pay day in May††	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.)	Increase in bonus of 7½ per cent. (10 per cent. to 17½ per cent.).
	Birmingham ... ..	1st pay day in May††	Table and butcher blade grinders	Increases of 4s. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 3s. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 1s. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; corresponding increases for pieceworkers. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 54s. 5½d. to 60s. 4d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 38s. to 45s. 10d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 14s. 6d. to 24s. 3½d.; women 18 years and over 28s. to 32s.**; girls 14 to 17 years, 14s. to 18s. 6d.**
Hearth Furniture, etc.	Birmingham ... ..	1st pay day in May††	Men 21 years of age and over ...	Increases of 4s. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 3s. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 1s. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; corresponding increases for pieceworkers. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 49s. to 55s.; youths 18 to 20 years, 36s. to 42s. 6d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 15s. 9d. to 22s. 9d.; women 18 years and over, 28s. to 32s.**; girls 14 to 17 years, 14s. to 18s. 6d.**
	Birmingham ... ..	1st pay day in May††	Youths 18 to 21 years ... ..	Maximum rent for heavy troughs, 3 deep, fixed at 10s. per trough per week; heavy troughs, 2 deep, at 8s. 6d. per week. Men to find their own tools, stone and materials; light extra.†† (See I.C. Decision No. 890 on p. 150 of the April GAZETTE.)

\* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.  
 † This change took effect from the pay period commencing nearest 1st May—in most cases this was 27th April.  
 ‡ Running sheds in Scotland are not affected.  
 § A differential of 6s. or 8s. per week was previously paid. It was arranged that a reduction of 2s. per week should take effect from the date mentioned above, and then at the rate of 2s. per week (or such part thereof, if any, as may remain) from the beginning of the first pay period of each succeeding calendar month.  
 ¶ The increase took effect under an arbitrator's award issued on 2nd May, with retrospective effect from the date mentioned.  
 †† The change took effect under agreements made by the Hull Ship Labour Contractors' Association and the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association.  
 ††† Excluding any service bonus which may be due.  
 †††† The award also fixed the maximum charge for lighting at 9d. per trough per week. This charge was to take effect from the beginning of the third week in September in any one year to the end of the fourth week in March in the succeeding year.  
 ††††† The change was to be made on the date mentioned, in respect of the preceding week's work.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
Textile Machinery Fittings	Yorkshire ... ..	1st pay day in April	OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued).	Shuttlemakers ... .. Addition to basis rates of 57 per cent. previously paid increased* to 58 per cent. Minimum day-work rate after change: 10½d. per hour plus 58 per cent. (or 1s. 4-59d.).
	Lancashire†	1st pay day in April	Shuttlemakerst ... ..	Addition to basis rates of 57 per cent. previously paid increased* to 58 per cent. Minimum day-work rate after change: 1s. per hour plus 58 per cent. (or 1s. 6-96d. per hour).
Harness Furniture	Walsall ... ..	1 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the spring hook and swivel section	Increase* of 2½ per cent. in the percentages paid on time and piecework rates.
	West of England†	1st pay period after 5 April	TEXTILE TRADES.	Workpeople employed in the woollen and worsted industry
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	Yorkshire (mainly) and certain firms in Lancashire‡	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and finishing trades (except mechanics, etc., employed on repair and maintenance of plant)	Increases in minimum time and piecework basis time rates of 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week for men and 6d. or 1s. per week for women, with corresponding increases for pieceworkers and juniors. Minimum time rates after change:—Male workers 21 years and over—woolsorters with not less than 5 years' experience and other men in Class A with not less than 4 years' experience, 53s.; Class B, with not less than 3 years' experience, 50s.; Class C, with not less than 1 year's experience, 43s. 6d.; Class D, 40s.; engine drivers, 56s.; stokers, 53s. or 46s. 6d.; female workers 18 years and over—Woolsorters with not less than 5 years' experience and others in Class A with not less than 4 years' experience, 27s.; Class B, with not less than 3 years' experience, 25s. 6d.; Class C, 24s.
	Lancashire (mainly) and certain firms in Yorkshire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, also Scotland	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May	Mechanics employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engineers and mechanics, etc., employed in repair and maintenance of plant)	"Cost of living" wage decreased* from 80½ per cent. to 77½ per cent. for timeworkers, from 64½ per cent. to 61½ per cent. for pieceworkers (except pressers), and from 48½ per cent. to 46½ per cent. for pressers. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers—The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd.: men 21 years and over, 28s., plus 8 per cent. plus 77½ per cent. on total; other firms—men 21 and over, 18s., plus 77½ per cent. Males: "Cost of living" wage decreased* from 24s. 5d. to 23s. 4d. in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, and in Scotland, for workers 21 years of age and over, and by smaller amounts for those under 21. Females: "Cost of living" wage decreased* from 14s. 6d. to 13s. 11d. per week for workers 18 years of age and over in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, and for workers 21 years and over in Scotland, and by smaller amounts for workers under these age limits in the respective districts. Decrease* of 1s. 1d. per week. Rates after change: Bradford, Leeds and Shipley, 63s. 7d.; other towns, 62s. 7d.
Fur	West Riding of Yorkshire	14 April	Mechanics employed in dye-works	"Cost of living" wage decreased* from 24s. 5d. to 23s. 4d. per week. Total rate after change, 61s. 4d.
	Bolton and Bury Districts	14 April	Mechanics employed in the textile dyeing, bleaching, etc., industry	"Cost of living" wage decreased* from 24s. 5d. to 23s. 4d. per week. Total rate after change, 61s. 4d.
Raincoat Garment Making	Certain towns in Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Scotland	Nov., 1923**	Engravers, etc., employed in calico print works:—Engravers ... ..	"Cost of living" wage decreased* from 33s. 1d. to 31s. 11d. per week.
	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland and Belfast	Nov., 1923**	Turners, polishers, and varnishers	"Cost of living" wage decreased* from 24s. 5d. to 23s. 4d. per week.
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ... ..	14 April	Engravers employed in engraving works	"Cost of living" wage decreased* from 30s. 1d. to 28s. 11d. per week for men, from 17s. 8d. to 17s. 1d. per week for women, from 19s. 4d. to 18s. 6d. per week for youths, 18 to 21 years, and from 13s. 8d. to 13s. 2d. per week for youths 16 to 18 years.
	Manchester ... ..	Nov., 1923**	Turners, polishers, and varnishers	Increases of 2s. per week in the minimum rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts (56s. to 58s.). (See also p. 151 of April GAZETTE.)
Baking and Confectionery	Certain towns in Yorkshire††	April	Female hand fur sewers and machinists (other than fur machinists)	Minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 40s. and 50s. per week respectively. (See also p. 151 of April GAZETTE.)
	Bath ... ..	5 April	Raincoat garment makers ...	New list of piece prices adopted resulting in an average increase of about 2½ per cent. on earnings.
Baking and Confectionery	Bristol ... ..	5 April	FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.	Workpeople employed in the fur trade (furriers' section):—Male cleaners (21 years and over)
	Pontypridd and Rhondda Valley	26 April	Adult male workers employed in the baking and confectionery trades by private traders	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 68s. 6d.; doughmakers and ovenmen, 63s. 6d.; tablehands, 58s. 6d.
Baking and Confectionery	Dumfries and Maxwelltown	26 April	Bakers and confectioners...	Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s. 6d.
	Edinburgh ... ..	28 April	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trade	Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 62s. 3d.
Baking and Confectionery	Dumfries and Maxwelltown	26 April	Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers, and of proportionate amounts for improvers and female workers. Rate after change for tablehands: daywork, 62s. 6d.; nightwork, 67s. 6d.
	Edinburgh ... ..	28 April	Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.

\* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour Index number of retail prices.  
 † Excluding certain workpeople employed at Blackburn and Garston.  
 ‡ Including Stroud, Trowbridge, Frome, Westbury, Chippenham, Bath, Chipping Norton, Wellington, Witney, South Devon and North Tawton.  
 § The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association Ltd. (Slubbing Section), the Leeds Dyers' and Finishers' Federation, the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet and Colour Dyers' Ltd., the Leeds and District Worsted Dyers' and Finishers' Association Ltd., the Huddersfield and District Master Dyers' Association, the Yorkshire Dyers' Federation, the West Riding of Yorkshire Master Slubbing Dyers Association, The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers, and Sizers (certain firms).  
 ¶ The change applied to workpeople employed by firms who are members of the Federation of Calico Printers, the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers, the Employers' Federation of Bleachers, and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers, and Sizers (certain firms). At Hebdon Bridge the decreases for timeworkers were similar to those in Lancashire (see above); for pieceworkers the "cost of living" wage was reduced from 69 to 66 per cent. for netherwood cutters, from 63 to 60 per cent. for hand cutters, from 53 to 50 per cent. for menders, and from 59 to 57 per cent. for all other pieceworkers.  
 †† Including Tottington, Whitefield, Radcliffe, Walmsley, Entwistle, Ramsbottom, Accrington, and Westhoughton.  
 ††† The new piece list was finally agreed upon in May, with effect from the date shown.  
 †††† Including Bradford, Dewsbury, Hull, Huddersfield, Sheffield, Wakefield, and York.  
 ††††† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO TRADES</b> —(continued).				
Baking and Confectionery—contd.	Glasgow (Associated firms*)	19 April	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 78s.
Seed Crushing and Oil Milling	Great Britain†	1st full pay in April	All classes except those whose wages are regulated by movements in the engineering and other trades	Increase of 1s. per week for men 21 and over, and of 6d. per week for youths and women.
Brewing	Northumberland and Durham	2nd pay day in April	Adult male brewery workers ...	Increase of 2s. per week for motor drivers and of 4s. per week for other workers. Rates after change: motor drivers, 67s.; other transport workers, 56s.; inside workers, 56s.
	Liverpool and Birkenhead	Pay day of 2nd week in April	Male brewery workers ...	Increase of 5s. per week for men and of proportionate amounts for juniors. Rate after change for men 21 and over, 65s.
	Bristol	1st pay day in April	Male workers ...	Increase of 2s. per week for adult workers and of 1s. per week for inside workers under 18 years. Rates after change: draymen—1 horse 61s., 2 horse 65s., 2nd hands 61s.; steam and petrol wagon drivers—2 tons and above 75s., under 2 tons 70s.; inside workers, 21 and over, 58s.; boys and youths, 19s. at 15 years, increasing to 50s. at 20 years.
	Northampton	1st week in April	Female workers ...	Increase of 2s. per week (32s. to 34s.) for those 21 years and over and of 1s. per week for those under 21 years.
			Brewery workers ...	Increase of 5s. per week for men, 2s. per week for women, and proportionate amounts for boys and youths. Minimum rate after change for men, 56s.
<b>WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.</b>				
Vehicle Building, etc.	Aberdeen ...			Increase of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: bodymakers, cartwrights, carriage makers, wheelers, painters, trimmers and woodcutting machinists, 1s. 6d.; brush hands, 1s. 1½d.
	Dundee and District			Increase of 1d. per hour in existing rates. Rate after change for skilled men: minimum, 1s. 6d.; standard, 1s. 6½d.
	Edinburgh ...			Increase of 1d. per hour in existing rates. Minimum rates after change: bodymakers, wheelwrights, coach joiners and finishers, smiths, painters, trimmers, mounters, general machinists and sawyers, 1s. 6d.; coach fitters, 1s. 5d.½; vicemen, 1s. 2½d.
	Glasgow and Districts within a 25-mile radius (excluding those with a population of less than 5,000)‡	1 April	Men employed in the vehicle building and wheelwright trades	Increase for timeworkers of 1d. per hour in the minimum and standard rates and of proportionate amounts for pieceworkers. Minimum rates and standard rates respectively after change for commercial work; bodymakers, cartwrights, finishers, carriage makers, wheelers, smiths and general machinists, 1s. 6d., 1s. 7½d.; painters and trimmers, 1s. 6d., 1s. 7d.; standard rates for coachwork 1d. more than for commercial work; semi-skilled workers; vicemen, 1s. 2½d.; hammermen and brush hands, 1s. 1½d.
Mill Sawing	North-East Coast and Hull Tyne District**	1 April	Woodcutting machinists ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Hull ...	24 Mar.	Labourers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d.).
	West Riding of Yorkshire††	14 April	Labourers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d.).
	Leeds...	1 April	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers	Increase of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: foreign timber section, 1s. 6d.; home-grown section, 1s. 5d.
	Bristol, Gloucester, Cardiff, Newport and Swansea	1 April	Deal carriers	Increase of 1d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3½d.) and proportionate amounts for pieceworkers.
		1st full week ending 4 April	Labourers employed in timber yards	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d.).
Furniture Manufacture	Birmingham, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton	Pay day in week ending 2 or 3 May	Timeworkers—cabinet makers, chairmakers, woodcutting machinists, upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease of ½d. per hour for adult workers, and of proportionate amounts for boys and youths. Standard rate after change for adults, 9d.
			Female french polishers and upholsterers	Decrease of ½d. per hour for adult workers, and of proportionate amounts for girls. Standard rate after change for adults, 9d.
			Pieceworkers ...	Percentage addition to pre-war piecework prices decreased from 70 to 67½.
	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 28 April	Journeymen ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out, and benders, 1s. 5½d.
			Female workers: Caners ...	Decrease of ½d. per chair (9d. to 8½d.) on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 and of ½d. per hour (9d. to 8½d.) on Manchester rockers, odd chairs and all other cane work.
			Matters...	Decrease of ½d. per chair (9½d. to 9d.) on ordinary chairs, and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs.
			Apprentices ...	Decrease of 1d. from 5d. to 10d. per week.
	Aberdeen ...	24 April	Cabinetmakers, carvers, chair-makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: wood carvers, 1s. 6d.; others, 1s. 5d.
			Women ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour (8½d. to 8d.).

\* Members of the Associated Wholesale Bread Bakers (Glasgow).  
 † The increase took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Council for the Seed Crushing and Compound Cake Manufacturing Industry.  
 ‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.  
 § The rates usually paid are 2d. per hour more than those quoted.  
 ¶ Viz., Airdrie, Alexandria, Barrhead, Bellshill, Cambuslang, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Dunoon, Falkirk, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Larkhall, Milngavie, Motherwell, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Shettleston, Strathaven, Stirling, and Wishaw.  
 †† Including Blyth, Dunston, Jarrow, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Seaham Harbour, Sunderland, Tyne Dock, and Tees District (including Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Thornaby).  
 ††† Including Blyth, Dunston, Jarrow, Newcastle, North and South Shields, and Tyne Dock.  
 †††† Including Barnsley Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, and Leeds. At the smaller centres the rates are 2d. or 3d. less than those quoted above.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.</b>				
Building	Newton Abbot ...	4 April	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 6½d.) and ¾d. per hour for labourers (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2d.).
	Paignton ...	21 Mar.	Painters ...	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade A towns, 1s. 7d.; Grade B, 1s. 6d.; Grade C, 1s. 5d.
Electrical Installation	Brechin, Forfar and Montrose Scotland†	1 April	Painters ...	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 4½d.).
			Qualified men employed by electrical contractors	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 6½d.).
Civil Engineering	Great Britain†	Week's pay payable on 2 or 3 May 1st pay after 17 April	Divers employed by civil engineering construction contractors	Decrease of 3d. per hour in the diving rate (3s. 8d. to 3s. 5d.).
<b>TRANSPORT TRADES</b>				
Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour	Hull ...	30 April	Ship riggers ...	Increase of 1s. per day.
	Avonmouth and Portishead Docks	1 April	Boatmen and hobbler ...	Increase from a rate of 5s. 9d. to 6s. 6d. per man per hobble.
Road Transport	River Avon Leith ...	31 Mar.	Boatmen ...	War allowance or bonus previously paid increased from 80 to 85 per cent.‡
	Plymouth ...	Week ending 11 April	Grain porters employed at docks	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: single-horse drivers, 49s.; pair-horse drivers, 51s.; motor drivers (2 tons and over), 57s.; (1 to 2 tons), 52s.; (under 1 ton), 50s.; steam wagon drivers, 57s.; steersmen, 51s.; assistants and loaders, 49s. per week.
			Road transport workers ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: single-horse drivers, 49s.; pair-horse drivers, 51s.; motor drivers (2 tons and over), 57s.; (1 to 2 tons), 52s.; (under 1 ton), 50s.; steam wagon drivers, 57s.; steersmen, 51s.; assistants and loaders, 49s. per week.
<b>PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.</b>				
Water-works Undertakings	Certain districts in the Home Counties‡	1st pay day in April	Able-bodied male manual workers	Increase of 1s. per week for Grade B and C areas. Scheduled minimum rates after change for labourers: Grade B areas, 48s. per week; Grade C, 52s. 3d. per week.
	Home Counties**	1 April	Adult male workers ...	Increase of approximately 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: labourers (indoor and outdoor), 1s. 1½d. per hour; stokers, 1s. 3½d.**
Electricity Supply Undertakings	Devon and Cornwall††	1 Jan.	Adult male workers ...	Increase of ½d. per hour. Scheduled minimum rates after change for general indoor and outdoor labourers: Zone A, 52s. 11½d. per week; Zone B, 48s. 11½d.; Zone C, 44s. 11½d.††
	Londonderry ...	1 Jan.††	Adult male workers (excluding craftsmen)	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: greasers, cleaners and general helpers, 1s. per hour; ash wheelers and coal trimmers, 1s. 1½d.
Tramways Undertakings	Greater London§§	1 April	Motormen, conductors, inspectors and regulators	Increase on base rates of 6s. per week for men, and of 3s. for boys and youths under 18 years of age. Rates after change for London County Council: motormen and conductors, 64s. (minimum) to 73s. (maximum).
	Clyde ...	2 April	Other grades ...	Increase in bonus of 4s. per week for men, and of 2s. for boys and youths under 18 years of age. Rates after change for London County Council: car cleaners (washers), 59s. 6d. (minimum) to 62s. (maximum); labourers (car sheds), 64s. 6d.
Port, Harbour and River Authorities	Leith ...	April	Permanent men employed by the Clyde Navigation Trustees (excluding those whose wages are regulated by trade awards)	Increase of 7s. per week for those who are at present in receipt of advances at full time of from 20s. to 30s. per week above pre-war wages. Rate after change for general labourers, 51s. per week.
	Carlisle ...	1 Jan.	Dredgers, fitters, cranesmen, capstanmen, dockgatemens, bridgemen, lighthousekeepers, platelayers, warehousemen, labourers, etc.	Increase of 7s. per week for dredgers, and of 6s. 10d. for other classes. Rates after change: dredgers, 61s. per week; cranesmen and capstanmen, 65s. 7d.; dockgatemens, 59s. 9d.; general labourers, etc., 53s. 10d.
	Workington ...	25 April	Labourers and scavengers ...	Increase of 2s. per week for labourers, and of 1s. 5d. per week for scavengers. Rates after change: labourers, 50s. 4d. per week; scavengers, 35s. 6d.
Non-trading Services of Local Authorities	Sunderland ...	1st full pay in April	Manual workers employed in non-trading and water departments	Increase of 3d. to 5d. per week. Rates after change: labourers and roadmen, 56s. 3d. or 53s. 11d.; scavengers, 52s. 8d.
	West Hartlepool ...	1 Jan.	Manual workers ...	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: labourers and sweepers, 48s. 6d. per week; carters, 52s.
	Hull ...	1 Feb. to 20 Mar.	Labourers employed in City Engineer's Department	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: street sweepers, 11½d. per hour; general labourers, 1s. 2½d.; roadmen, 1s. 3½d.

\* Grade A.—Airdrie, Alexandria, Alloa, Alva, Ardrossan, Ayr, Barrhead, Bellshill, Beith, Bridge of Allan, Broxburn, Broughty Ferry, Buckhaven, Burntisland, Carnoustie, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Cowdenbeath, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunfermline, Dunoon, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourcock, Grangemouth, Greenock, Gullane, Haddington, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Irvine, Johnstone, Kennoway, Kilmacool, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Larbert, Largs, Larkhall, Leith, Leslie, Leven, Markinch, Methil, Motherwell, Neilston, North Berwick, Paisley, Perth, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Rothesay, Saltcoats, Stenhousemuir, Stirling, Uddingston, Vale of Leven, Wemyss, and Windygates.  
 † Grade B.—Aberdeen, Arbroath, Biggar, Callander, Carlisle, Castle Douglas, Cupar, Galashiels, Girvan, Hawick, Kelso, Kirkcubright, Lanark, Peebles, Selkirk and St. Andrews.  
 ‡ Grade C.—Campbeltown and Peterhead.  
 § This increase took effect under an agreement made between the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland and the Electrical Trades' Union.  
 ¶ The change took effect under an agreement made between the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors and the National Union of Divers and Linesmen by which wages are regulated in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.  
 § A further increase in bonus of 5 per cent. has been arranged to take effect on 2nd June.  
 || The undertakings affected are those which follow the Schedule B and C rates of the Home Counties Joint Industrial Council for Water Works Undertakings, and include the following:—Grade B: Barnet District Gas and Water Co.; South-West Suburban Water Co.; Southern Waterworks Co. (partly); Ashford U.D.C. Grade C: Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (distribution men); Brighton; Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Works Co.; Folkestone Waterworks Co.; Southern Waterworks Co. (partly). The scheduled minimum rates for Grade A and D areas remain unchanged at 42s. 9d. and 54s. 6d. per week respectively.  
 \*\* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.  
 †† The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Home Counties Area Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry and include the following:—Aylesbury, Banbury and District Electric Supply Co., Ltd., Bedford, Canterbury, Clacton, Dover, Faversham, Gillingham, Luton, Maidstone, Sheerness and District Electric Supply Co., Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, Wycombe Electric Light and Power Co. Ltd. The increase was to be of the same amount as the special reduction made in April, 1923, when it was decided to reduce wages to rates which were 5½d. per hour below the consolidated rates of May, 1920. The rates shown apply to undertakings of 800 K.W. capacity and over; undertakings of less than 800 K.W. capacity are entitled to pay 5 per cent. less.  
 ††† The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Devon and Cornwall District Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry and include Plymouth (Zone A), and Exeter (Zone B). This increase was due under the sliding scale to take effect from the date shown, but it was not agreed upon by the Industrial Council until April.  
 †††† The increase was due under the sliding scale to take effect from the date shown, but it was not put into operation until 25th April, with retrospective payment to 1st January.  
 ††††† The undertakings affected include the following: London County Council, Barking, Croydon, Ilford, East Ham, West Ham, Walthamstow, The Metropolitan Electric Tramways Ltd., The London United Tramways Ltd., The South Metropolitan Electric Tramways and Lighting Co. Ltd. In the case of West Ham, the workpeople affected were previously in receipt of rates higher than the recognised Trade Union rates and the amount in excess was merged into the present increase, resulting in a net increase of 3s. 3d. per week for motormen, conductors, etc., and in no change for other grades.



RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the 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.]

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1920 to July 1923, compared to July 1914. Includes categories like United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, and British Dominions.

\* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ 8,761,494-fold increase. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. || Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in all items (food, house-rent, clothing, fuel, light, etc.) for various countries from July 1920 to July 1923, compared to July 1914.

\* A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. || Figure for May. \*\* 2,872,968-fold increase. †† 1923 in the cases of Bulgaria and Australia.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be employed with those on pp. 164-165 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 Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.\*

Unemployment in April.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges on 26th April was 8,921 (5,992 men and 2,929 women). At the end of March the corresponding figure was 10,129, and on 28th April, 1923, 9,684. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 13,066 (8,075 for men and 4,991 for women), as against 11,930 at the end of March and 10,239 on 28th April, 1923. During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 27,208 persons (including 10,236 dock workers) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 5,664 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns 5 departmental and 12 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 1st May, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 750 (675 men and 75 women). The corresponding total for the preceding month is 1,022 and that for April, 1923, 2,593. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully represent the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

GERMANY.†

Employment in March.—The milder weather which set in during the latter part of March made possible the resumption of outdoor work in agriculture and the building trades, and so caused a considerable improvement in the labour market. In various industries the position changed for the better, in spite of the difficulty in obtaining credit. Only in the mining industry was the trend of employment for the most part unfavourable, mainly owing to the uncertainty of the position in the western areas of Germany. In spite of certain tendencies of a decidedly favourable character, the general level of employment in March could not be described as satisfactory from the point of view of national production.

Among organised workers total unemployment showed a further decline, the drop being somewhat steeper than in February. Thirty-seven trade unions sent in returns based on an aggregate membership of 4,074,350. On 29th March 674,606 of these were totally unemployed, giving a percentage of 16.6, as compared with 25.1 in February, and with 5.6 in March, 1923. The percentages for the principal unions included in these totals are given in the Table below:—

Table showing membership and percentage unemployed for various unions in Germany as of March 1924. Includes unions like Building (S.D.), Painters (S.D.), Metal (S.D.), etc.

The returns of partial unemployment, too, show an improvement in March as compared with the preceding month. Out of about 3½ million workers, members of the 32 trade unions making returns on this point, 346,153, or 9.9 per cent., were working short time, as against 17.1 per cent. in February and 23.6 per cent. in March, 1923.

\* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 2nd May, 1924. Paris. † Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st May, 1924. Berlin.

UNITED STATES.\*

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit in the unoccupied areas fell from 975,835 on 15th March to 475,988 on 15th April. (As a consequence of the new Order of 15th February, 1924, governing unemployment relief—see this GAZETTE for March—benefit is in general no longer paid in respect of partial unemployment.) Returns from Employment Exchanges show that the number of vacancies offered by employers rose from 487,830 in February to 677,947 in March, or by about 39 per cent., while the number of applications for employment declined in the same period from 2½ millions to 2¼ millions, or by 15.6 per cent. On an average there were 419 applications for each 100 vacancies offered for men and 169 for each 100 for women; in February the figures were 770 and 239 respectively.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in April.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague, in a despatch to the Department of Overseas Trade, reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Labour Exchanges in the week ended 5th April, out of 276,199 members of unemployment funds making returns, 21,394 (7.7 per cent.) were unemployed for six days in the week, and 5,258 (1.9 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 28th March) the percentages were respectively 11.8 and 3.3, and in the week ended 7th April, 1923, 9.8 and 2.5.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in March.—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten, the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics, for 25th April, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 106,264 at the end of March, as compared with 125,816 at the end of the preceding month, and 152,830 at the end of March, 1923. In Vienna alone there were 51,254 in receipt of benefit at the end of March, 61,177 at the end of February, and 83,192 at the end of March, 1923.

SWITZERLAND.\*

Unemployment in March.—According to figures compiled by the Swiss Federal Labour Office the number of applicants for work at the end of March was 21,380, as compared with 27,120 at the end of the preceding month, and with 44,909 at the end of March, 1923. Of these 5,918 were employed on relief works, leaving 15,462 entirely without work. The 21,380 applicants included 3,404 normally occupied in the building trades, 2,146 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 2,107 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons who were entirely without work, 8,164 were reported as partially unemployed, including 4,707 in the textile trades and 1,296 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades.

Taking March as a whole, there were on an average 211 applications for each 100 vacancies for men and 69 for each 100 for women. In February the corresponding figures were 340 and 82 respectively.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in February.—According to information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, the percentage of members unemployed at the end of February in certain trade unions making returns to the Bureau was 8.1 on 29th February, as compared with 9.1 on 31st January and with 12.4 on 28th February, 1923.

SWEDEN.†

Unemployment in February.—Trade unions with an aggregate membership of 186,005 reported 23,846, or 12.8 per cent., as unemployed on the last day of February, as compared with 13.6 per cent. on 31st January, and 19.4 per cent. on 28th February, 1923. The following Table gives particulars for the principal unions included in the returns:—

Table showing membership and percentage unemployed for various unions in Sweden as of 29th Feb. 1924. Includes unions like Masons, Bricklayers, Carpenters, etc.

DENMARK.‡

Unemployment in March.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that, out of 252,522 workpeople, 18.4 per cent. were unemployed on 28th March last, as compared with 16.0 per cent. on 29th February, and with 16.0 per cent. at the end of March, 1923.

\* Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, 15th April, 1924. Berne. † Sociala Meddelanden, No. 4, 1924. Stockholm. ‡ Statistiske Efterretninger, 28th April, 1924. Copenhagen.

Employment in March.—The Federal Department of Labour publishes preliminary figures relating to the volume of employment in March, based on returns from 8,320 establishments in 52 manufacturing industries, covering 2,735,069 workpeople. These establishments in February reported 2,730,133 persons employed, and the March figures consequently indicate a net increase of 0.2 per cent. in numbers employed. The aggregate wages paid show for the same period a decrease of 0.3 per cent., and the average weekly earnings a decrease of 0.4 per cent. Twenty-seven of the 52 industries show increases in the number of workpeople employed in March, the largest recorded being in the fertiliser industry (25.8 per cent.).

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1923, returns from 5,214 establishments in 43 industries show a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number of persons employed, and increases of 2.4 per cent. in aggregate wages paid and of 4.6 per cent. in average weekly earnings. Fifteen of the 43 industries show increases in the number of workpeople employed, that recorded for the pottery industry amounting to 14.6 per cent.

CANADA.†

Trade Union Unemployment at End of March.—At the end of March 6.7 per cent. of the membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 7.8 per cent. at the end of February and 6.8 per cent. on 31st March, 1923.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CAPITAL CITIES ABROAD IN MARCH, 1924.

[N.B.—The method by which the index-numbers in the following table have been computed was explained in an article in the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1923, pages 236-238. The numbers relate to purchasing-power in terms of food alone, and, for the reasons given in the article referred to, they can only be accepted as affording a very rough indication of the differences that existed, on or about the date at the head of the table, between the real wage levels (in terms of food), in the various capitals, of the selected categories of typical urban male labour. The numbers for the various occupations are comparable horizontally but not vertically. The averages, however, are comparable both ways, provided it be understood (a) that this applies only to capitals other than London, and (b) that any difference between the indices for a given capital at two different dates does not imply a proportionate change in its real-wage level between those dates, but only a proportionate change in the level in relation to that of London.]

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages, 1st March, 1924. (London=100.)

Table showing index numbers of comparative real wages for various occupations in London and other cities (Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Christiania, Copenhagen, Madrid, New York, Ottawa, Paris, Prague, Stockholm, Sydney, Vienna, Warsaw) as of 1st March 1924.

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

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

‡ Provisional figures.

§ Based on prices and wages for the first two weeks of the month.

|| Based on twelve monthly index numbers where these are available; the Berlin index is the mean of five monthly indices, that for Copenhagen is the mean of three, Madrid of seven, New York of eight, Paris of nine and Sydney of three.



## LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &amp;c.

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

## Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

MINER INJURED WHEN RIDING ON TUB IN COURSE OF HIS DUTIES—ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT—WHETHER AUTHORISED TO RIDE—COAL MINES ACT, 1911.

In December, 1922, a miner, whose ordinary occupation was that of a repairer in the employment of the respondent company, was at work in the mine. At the time he was riding on one of the tubs which were used in the charcoal seam of the colliery. Whilst seated on the tub he was endeavouring, with his left arm, to steady some pieces of timber on the top of the train, and whilst doing this his arm, which was on top of the timber, came in contact with the roof of the seam, with the result that his arm was severely injured and had to be amputated.

In the course of arbitration proceedings the respondent company contended that when the miner met with the accident he was

(1) acting in a manner prohibited by Section 43 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911;

(2) acting outside the scope of his employment, in that he disregarded a prohibition which limited the scope of his employment.

The Deputy County Court Judge found that the applicant had not established that he was one of the class of persons who was entitled to ride on the train in the discharge of his duties; that the miner's purpose in riding on the train was that of keeping timber in position; and that the respondents were entitled to an award in their favour. Against this decision the workman appealed.

Section 43 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, excepts from the statutory prohibition from riding on tubs

(a) "a person travelling on a set or train for the purpose of detaching or attaching tubs from or to a haulage rope, if that set or train is not proceeding at a higher speed than three miles an hour."

It was held by the Court of Appeal—

(1) that the miner was travelling on the train for the purpose of getting to the point, with the timber, where the repairs had to be done, with a view of executing these repairs; and that he had the duty of attaching and detaching tubs, and was, on the journey in question, a person travelling "for the purpose," and came within the exception;

(2) that the appeal must be allowed.—*Williams v. Cleaves Western Valleys Anthracite Collieries, Limited.*—Court of Appeal. March 26th, 1924.

## 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 H.M. Stationery Office.

Cases after No. 2000 are not published in volume form, but summaries of the decisions are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, for an annual subscription of 7s. 6d. payable in advance. All applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office or at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 6731, SECTION 8 (1).—TRADE DISPUTE, WHAT IS—MINERS DISCHARGED AND OFFERED RE-ENGAGEMENT AT REDUCED RATES—NEW TERMS ALLEGED TO INFRINGE NATIONAL AGREEMENT, BUT, EVEN SO, NO BREACH OF LAW INVOLVED BY ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER.

The claims for benefit of a number of employees of a colliery company were disallowed under Section 8 (1) on the ground that they had lost employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the colliery.

It appeared that on 27th October, 1923, the employers gave the men 14 days' notice to terminate their contracts of service. Notices were then posted at the colliery to the effect that work could be resumed on the termination of the notices provided that certain reductions in piece-rates were accepted. The men declined to accept the employers' offer, contending that the revised rates meant a reduction of about 12½ per cent. of their wages and that the new rates offered violated an agreement which had been arrived at between the Employers' Federation and the Miners' Federation. It was submitted that the offer was a breach of Clause 8 of the agreement, which read as follows:—"In no district shall wages be paid at lower rates than standard wages plus 20 per cent. thereof." In these circumstances it was contended that the men's refusal to accept the offer was covered by the Umpire's decision on Case No. 2353.\*

The employers stated that the wages offered did not infringe the agreement. Clause 8 referred only to district rates, whereas the rates which they sought to reduce were not district rates.

Recommended by a majority of the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed. The Court held, in view of the decision quoted, that there was no trade dispute because the employers had broken their agreement. The Chairman dissented on the ground that the present case was distinguished from Case No. 2353, where the employers' offer was in breach of the Coal Mines (Minimum Wages) Act.

The Insurance Officer agreed with the Chairman and declined to accept the recommendation of the majority of the Court.

Representatives of the applicants' Association attended the hearing of the case before the Umpire, and the case was argued on their behalf by Mr. Slesser.

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

"I agree with the Chairman of the Court of Referees."

"The employers and the applicants through their respective Associations were parties to the National Agreement by which wages in the coal trade were fixed. The employers, nevertheless, posted notices terminating employment at the expiration of 14 days, but offering a resumption of work at a reduced rate of wages for piece-work. It was contended that the reduction would have been in breach of the National Agreement, and I will assume that this would have been so, although the employers contended that it would not."

"Mr. Slesser, on behalf of the applicants, argued that, as the offer was one which could not have been accepted without a breach on the part of the employers of the National Agreement, it was not an effective offer, and, accordingly, that the principle of the decision on Case No. 2353 was applicable."

"In my opinion the decision on Case No. 2353 is applicable only to cases in which the offer, if accepted, would result in a contract void in law."

"A dispute in which one party seeks to induce the other party to abrogate or vary an existing agreement as to wages is a trade dispute. If the employers' offer had been accepted it would have resulted in an enforceable contract of employment, it was intended to be, and was, an effective offer of employment on terms which could be lawfully accepted. There was, therefore, a dispute as to the terms of employment of the applicants, and there was a stoppage of work due to that dispute by reason whereof the applicants lost employment."

CASE No. 6823, SECTION 8 (1).—TRADE DISPUTE—REGULARLY ENGAGED IN SOME OTHER OCCUPATION—SHEET IRON WORKER LOOKED OUT—OBTAINED 11 WEEKS' EMPLOYMENT AS NAVY ON CLASSIFIED ROAD WORK—NOT RELIEF WORK.

The applicant lost his employment in his usual occupation as a sheet-iron worker in a shipyard on 30th April, 1923, owing to the lock-out of boilermakers which began on that date, and he was, accordingly, disqualified for the receipt of benefit under Section 8 (1). He was subsequently employed for 11 weeks ended 13th October, 1923, as a road worker with the local borough surveyor at a wage of £2 14s. per week. When this employment ended he lodged a claim for benefit on 15th October, 1923, and submitted that, although the stoppage of work due to the boilermakers' lock-out had not ceased, the disqualification of his previous claim for benefit, owing to his loss of employment through that dispute, was removed by his subsequent employment.

It was stated that the work upon which the applicant had been engaged was the re-making of a certain road, and was part of the Council's scheme for relief of unemployment. The applicant denied this, however, and stated that the work was relief work because he was paid the rate of wages for a navvy.

In view of the conflicting evidence the Appeals Officer made further enquiries, and ascertained from the borough surveyor that the applicant was employed on classified road work and was on relief work.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed on the ground that the work upon which the applicant had been engaged for the 11 weeks ended 13th October, 1923, was bona fide employment and that he had therefore become regularly engaged in some other occupation during the dispute, thus removing the disqualification under Section 8 (1).

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation and the case was referred to the Umpire.

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

"The applicant, who usually follows the occupation of a sheet-iron worker, was employed as a navvy from 28th July to 13th October and again on and after the 29th October. He was employed on relief work but as a regular road worker, and I agree with the Court of Referees that he has been regularly engaged in the occupation of navvying."

CASE No. 6940, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT REFUSED—FISHERMAN REFUSED WORK IN USUAL TRADE AFTER INTERVAL OF TWO YEARS—UNABLE TO AFFORD COST OF FISHERMAN'S KIT—NO REASON FOR REDUCING PERIOD OF DISALLOWANCE.

The applicant, whose usual occupation was reported to that of a fisherman, but who had last been employed for the months, ending September, 1922, as a jam maker, was offered employment as a fish washer on 7th November, 1923, with a firm situated near her home. The wages offered were at a

standard time rate of from 6d. to 8d. per hour. She refused the offer on the ground that she was not in possession of the necessary clothes for the work. She had not worked as a fisherman for about two years, and her special boots and oilskin coat required for the work were worn out. It would cost her to replace this kit, and she could not afford such an outlay at the present time because she had been unemployed for over a year.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court held that the applicant had refused an offer of suitable employment, but, in view of her financial position, they recommended that the period of disallowance of her claim should be limited to three weeks.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. He submitted that as the applicant did not possess the necessary clothing or the means of obtaining it, work as a fisherman did not appear to be suitable for her.

Further enquiries were made, and it was ascertained that the applicant was registered first for work as a fishworker and, as a second choice, for work as a jam maker. It was stated that she must have known that she was registered for employment as a fishworker because of special arrangements—to which she had to conform—which were made at the Local Employment Exchange for this class of worker. As regards her previous employment, it was shown that for about six years prior to April, 1921, she was employed as a fisherman; from April, 1921, to November, 1921, she was employed as a bathing attendant, and for three months only in 1923 as a jam maker.

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

"The applicant is registered for work as a fish worker, and she worked at that trade for many years. She ought, therefore, to be provided with the necessary clothes, and so long as she fails to provide herself with them she cannot be regarded as having made proper efforts to get employment and does not show that she is unable to find suitable employment. I agree with the Court of Referees that the applicant's claim must be disallowed, but I see no reason for suggesting to the Chief Insurance Officer that he should review her claim before the expiration of six weeks from the 7th November."

CASE No. 6957, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—ADDITIONAL OCCUPATIONS—DAILY AVERAGE OF REMUNERATION—TRADE UNION OFFICIALS RECEIVED FEES FOR ATTENDING MEETINGS—FEES DID NOT COVER WORK DONE BETWEEN MEETINGS.

It was reported that the applicants, three Trade Union officials, had drawn unemployment benefit in respect of certain days during 1922 and 1923 when they had attended committee meetings and had received remuneration varying, apparently, from 2s. to 20s. per meeting. Their claims for unemployment benefit were disallowed in respect of the days for which they received the remuneration on the ground that they were not unemployed.

The applicants appealed to the Court of Referees. The cases were similar in principle, and, taking one as an example, it was shown that on 18 occasions during the period 14th March to 10th December, 1922, the applicant had been paid sums totalling 3s. in respect of attendances at meetings. He stated that for some years he had been an official of the Association, and had attended meetings outside the ordinary working hours of his usual occupation as a bellman; his occupation as an official of the Association was, therefore, an additional occupation which he had ordinarily carried on in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual occupation. The question at issue was, however, whether the remuneration exceeded 3s. 4d. per day on the daily average. The applicants submitted that the fees paid were not for attendance at the meetings only, but for work done between meetings. The total amount received, therefore, should be divided not by the number of meetings during the period, but by the total number of working days during the year, and thus the daily average of remuneration would be about 6d. per day.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed. The Court declined to accept the applicants' submission. They were of opinion that the remuneration was paid for attending the meetings, and that although the applicants were following additional occupations within the meaning of Section 7 (2) (a) the daily average of their remuneration exceeded 3s. 4d.

The applicants' Association appealed to the Umpire and attended the hearing of the cases.

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

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees."

"It is clear that the remuneration received by the applicants was received in respect of employment on the days on which the meetings are held, and that the remuneration cannot be treated as paid in respect of periods longer than a day."

## APPROPRIATIONS IN AID (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1922.

The Unemployment Insurance (Appropriations in Aid) (Amendment) Regulations, 1922, dated March 4, 1924, made by the Treasury under Section 12 (3) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

WHEREAS by reason of the amendment by Section 8 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922, (a) of the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act,

1920, it is desirable to amend the Unemployment Insurance (Appropriations in Aid) Regulations, 1921, (b) hereinafter referred to as the Principal Regulations.

Now, therefore, the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, in the exercise of the powers conferred upon them by section 12 (3) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Regulations:—

1. In Regulation 3 of the Principal Regulations, there shall be inserted after the word "in" where that word first occurs the words "regulation four and"

2. In Regulation 4 of the Principal Regulations, the words "one-eighth" shall be substituted for the words "one-tenth" wherever those words occur; and there shall be inserted at the end of the said regulation the following proviso:—

"Provided that if at any time it should appear to the Minister, having regard to the amounts of the payments made and of the expenses incurred, and having regard to any sums paid out of the Fund under Regulation 5 hereof, that a smaller sum would be approximately sufficient for the time being to defray the expenses incurred by the Ministry of Labour and by other Government Departments for the purposes of, or in connection with, the principal Act or any Act amending the same, or that no payment under this Regulation from the Fund to the Vote is necessary, the payment made under this Regulation shall be a payment of such smaller sum or shall be withheld as the case may be."

3. In Regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations, the words "one-eighth" shall be substituted for the words "one-tenth" wherever those words occur.

4. In Regulation 7 of the Principal Regulations, the words "one-eighth" shall be substituted for the words "one-tenth" wherever those words occur.

5. In Regulation 9 of the Principal Regulations, the words "from time to time to the Treasury or to the Ministry of Labour" shall be substituted for the words "to them" where those words secondly occur.

6. Where by these Regulations any words are directed to be inserted in the Principal Regulations, or substituted therein for other words, copies of the Principal Regulations printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office after these Regulations come into operation may be printed with the words inserted or substituted as these Regulations require, and the Principal Regulations shall be construed as if they had at the time these Regulations come into operation been made with such additions and substitutions.

7. These Regulations shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 6th day of April, 1922, and may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Appropriations in Aid) (Amendment) Regulations, 1922.

Dated this 4th day of March, 1924.

JOHN ROBERTSON,

THOMAS KENNEDY,

Two of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

## RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

## INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

ROAD TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY, SLOUGH—APPLICATION OF DECISION No. 728—DIFFERENTIAL FOR MEN EMPLOYED IN MOTOR TRANSPORT VEHICLE REPAIR DEPARTMENT.—The Amalgamated Engineering Union v. The Great Western Railway. Decision.—Having regard to the conditions under which the work is carried on at the Road Transport Depot at Slough, the claim that the depot should be regarded as a running shed, and the workpeople concerned rated accordingly, has not been established, but the Court recommend that the differential provided for in an agreement between the parties should be extended to men of similar grades employed in the depot, as there would appear to be no substantial difference in the nature of the work carried on at the depot and at the various locomotive shops of the company to which the agreement applies. Issued 3rd April 1924. (891.)

TURNERS, BLACKSMITHS, COPPERSMITHS, ETC.—RUNNING SHEDS OF LONDON, MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY—RATES OF PAY.—The London, Midland and Scottish Railway v. The National Union of Railwaymen and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. Decision.—The Company have not substantiated their case for the total withdrawal of the differential from the classes of workpeople concerned, and to the men concerned a sum of 2s. per week shall be substituted for the sums now being paid. Effective as from the beginning of the first pay period following 1st April, 1924, provided that any alteration shall take effect to the extent of 2s. per week as from that date, and at a rate of a further 2s. per week (or such part thereof, if any, as may remain) as from the beginning of the first pay period of each succeeding calendar month. Issued 4th April, 1924. (892.)

TURNERS, BLACKSMITHS, COPPERSMITHS, ETC.—RUNNING SHEDS OF LONDON, MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY—RATES OF PAY.—The London, Midland and Scottish Railway v. The Amalgamated Engineering Union. The Decision in this case was similar to Decision No. 892 summarised above. Issued 4th April, 1924. (893.)

(b) S.R. & O. 1921, No. 1854.

\* See LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1922, page 393.

**OUTDOOR MACHINERY, MARINE AND ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENTS—RATES OF PAY—DIFFERENTIAL—LONDON, MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY (LANCS. AND YORKS. SECTION).**—The London, Midland and Scottish Railway v. The National Union of Railwaymen and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. *Decision*.—*Outdoor Machinery Department*: Fitters employed on maintenance at the docks on the Lancashire and Yorkshire section to have their rates as set out in Schedule II. to Decision No. 723, increased by the sum of 6s. per week, the rate so increased to include all dirty work. The sum of 8s. where paid to be reduced to 6s. at the rate of 1s. per month as provided below. Other men employed in this department to be paid the scheduled rates, except in the cases of any individual men to whom merit advances are payable. *Marine Department*: Men working on board ship to be paid 1s. a day, or part of a day, in addition to scheduled rates. The "differential" now paid to such men to be altered as provided below, but in no case while any balance of the differential remains shall the amount paid in any one week be less than the allowance granted under this paragraph. Other men working in the shops to be paid the scheduled rates, except in the cases of any individual men to whom merit advances are payable. *Electrical Department*: The claim of the Company to withdraw the general increase of 8s. per week is one that should be conceded without prejudice of the Company considering the cases of individual men on their merits, the alteration in the rates to take place as set out hereunder. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following 8th April, 1924, provided that any alteration should take effect to the extent of 1s. per week as from that date, and at the rate of a further 1s. per week (or such part, if any, as may remain) as from the beginning of the first pay period of each succeeding calendar month. Issued 8th April, 1924. (894.)

**OUTDOOR MACHINERY, MARINE AND ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENTS—RATES OF PAY—DIFFERENTIAL—LONDON, MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY (LANCS. AND YORKS. SECTION).**—The London, Midland and Scottish Railway v. The Amalgamated Engineering Union. *The Decision in this case was similar to Decision No. 894 summarised above.* Issued 8th April, 1924. (895.)

**STEEL WORK ERECTION FOR ELECTRICITY POWER STATION—LONDON DISTRICT—RIVETERS, SHEETERS, HOLDERS-UP—RATES OF PAY—TRAVELLING EXPENSES.**—The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation v. The Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company, Ltd. *Decision*.—The rates of pay are: Riveters, 1s. 7½d. p.h.; riveters' holders-up, 1s. 7d. p.h.; sheeters, 1s. 8½d. p.h.; and sheeters' holders-up, 1s. 6½d. p.h., payable from and after 15th November, 1923, in the case of riveters and riveters' holders-up and 31st January, 1924, in the case of sheeters and sheeters' holders-up respectively. The claim for allowances in respect of travelling expenses at the rate of 2s. 3d. per day for the men concerned has not been established. Issued 8th April, 1924. (897.)

**"MERIT" PAYMENTS—WOLVERTON—WITHDRAWAL BY COMPANY—PARAGRAPH 29 OF DECISION NO. 723—INDIVIDUAL CASES—EXERCISE OF DISCRETION OF MANAGEMENT.**—The Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway. This case concerned five men of different occupations. *Decision*: In the case of individuals as distinct from classes or groups of workpeople, the matter is one for adjustment between the workmen and the management. It is admitted that these cases fall to be considered as individual cases, and under the present reference it would not appear to be competent for the Court to interfere with the exercise by the Company of their discretion. One man concerned, though rated as a millwright, is partly engaged on millwright's work and partly on toolwork, which raises a different issue: he should be paid the toolmakers' rate when working as a toolmaker. Issued 10th April, 1924. (898.)

**CARRIAGE CLEANERS AND WASHERS—WOLVERTON—RANGE OF RATES.**—The National Union of General Workers, acting through the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, v. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway. Prior to the coming into operation of Decision No. 723 the rate of pay of the men concerned was 32s. per week, plus a war wage advance or bonus. The Decision fixed a range of rates for these classes, in towns other than London, of 30s. to 34s. per week. In applying the Decision the Company continued the pre-award rate, plus war wage advance or bonus. The Union claimed the rate of 34s. per week. *Decision*.—The procedure followed by the Company is consistent with the award. Issued 10th April, 1924. (899.)

**SAILMAKERS, OXY-ACETYLENE MACHINES AND ELECTRIC WELDERS, DRILLERS, RIVETERS AND CAULKERS, RIGGERS—H.M. DOCKYARDS AND ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS—BASIC RATE OF PAY—RELATION TO BASIC RATES OF OTHER CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES IN ROYAL DOCKYARDS AND ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS.**—The Trade Union side of the Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments v. The Official side. *Decision*.—The basic rate of pay of the men concerned shall be advanced to 40s. per week as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decisions. Issued 14th April, 1924. (900, 901, 902, 903, 904.)

**IRON MOULDERS—BARRY AND NEWPORT (MON.)—DETERMINATION OF RATES.**—The National Union of Foundry Workers v. The Great Western Railway. *Decision*.—The Court decide that the appropriate rate of pay for the men concerned is 48s. per week. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following date. Issued 15th April, 1924. (905.)

**ROYAL ARMY CLOTHING FACTORY—PIMLICO—PIECE PRICES.**—The War Office v. The Royal Army Clothing Department Employees' Union. *Decision*.—The prices proposed by the War Office and enumerated in the schedule attached to the Decision shall be amended in the following respects:—Jackets (service dress) made throughout by machinists in A.C.H. and O. Divisions, 4s. 7½d.; frocks (khaki drill) made throughout by machinists, 3s. 3d.; trousers (khaki drill) made throughout by machinists, 1s. 0½d. These amendments and the other prices in the said schedule shall be given a trial on an experimental basis as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision, and subject to revision, either upwards or downwards, at the end of the six months during which the recently agreed items are provisionally operating, provided that in no case during the currency of the Decision shall wages be reduced below the minimum rates payable under the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1913. Issued 23rd April, 1924. (906.)

**RAILWAY WAGON BUILDERS—CLAIM FOR NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCES.**—The National Joint Committee of Trade Unions in the Railway Wagon Building and Repairing Trades v. The Butterley Co., Ltd. *Decision*.—Night shift allowances at the rate of one quarter of the day rate (including war advances) shall be paid to the men concerned on night shift as on and from 17th January, 1924. The Court further adjudged that, upon the request of the Company, the parties shall forthwith enter into negotiations upon the matter of the piece prices in the Company's smithy. Issued 29th April, 1924. (907.)

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

**MEN EMPLOYED ON NEW SLEEPER PLANT: DOWLAISS WORKS.**—Workers' Union v. Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefold Limited, Dowlais Iron and Steel Works, Glamorgan. *Difference*: As to the rates to be paid to certain grades of workpeople at the New Sleeper plant, Dowlais Works. Board of Arbitration: Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. C. Pate, O.B.E., J.P. (Employers' representative), and Mr. W. Dodgson (Workpeople's representative). *Award*: The Board fixed basis rates for the grades concerned to carry the current percentages. The award relates, and is confined to, the mill and to the class and weight of sleeper being turned out, and the particular work of the men concerned as carried out on the date of the inspection and the hearing by the Board. The award is to operate retrospectively as from the 17th December, 1923, but no refund shall be made by the men concerned in the event of the wages already paid to them exceeding the amount which would be earned according to the terms of the award. Issued 3rd April, 1924. (I.R. 431/2/1924.)

**SHIP-REPAIRERS, OIL-FUEL VESSELS: RIVER THAMES.**—Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. River Thames Dry Dock Proprietors and Ship-repairers' Association. *Difference*: (a) As to the danger point, if any, of fuel oil as burned in the boilers; (b) what allowance, if any, should be paid to workmen engaged inside tanks (when such tanks are outside the definition of Rule 23 of the Port Rules); (c) whether oil carried in deep tanks or other tanks as fuel for the vessel's own consumption can be regarded as cargo under Rule 21 of the Port Rules. Board of Arbitration: Sir William W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman), Mr. D. Milne Watson (Employers' representative), Mr. George J. Rowe, O.B.E., J.P. (Workpeople's representative), and Engineer Vice-Admiral Sir George Goodwin, K.C.B. (as adviser on the question of the danger point). *Award*: (a) There is no danger point of fuel oil burned in the burners; (b) an allowance of time-and-a-half should be paid to the men concerned engaged inside tanks on ordinary cargo vessels which on the last voyage have carried fuel oil (when such tanks are outside the definition of Rule 23 of the Port Rules); (c) oil carried in deep tanks or other tanks as fuel for the vessel's own consumption cannot be regarded as cargo under Rule 21. Issued 29th April, 1924. (I.R. 440/2/1924.)

### AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

**BOOT AND SLIPPER WORKERS: MANCHESTER.**—National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives v. Messrs. Gregg and Co., Boot and Slipper Manufacturers, Manchester. *Difference*: Compensation by the workers of reductions in excess of those allowed by National Agreement. *Agreement*: It was agreed that the matter in dispute should be referred to an *ad hoc* Board of Arbitration. Signed 9th April, 1924. (I.R. 623/1924.)

**RAILWAY WAGON BUILDERS AND REPAIRERS: NOTTINGHAM.**—The National Joint Committee of Trade Unions in the Railway Wagon Building and Repairing Trade v. The Butterley Company, Ltd. *Difference*: Joint Committee's claim for night shift rates. Firm insisted on piece prices question being brought into consideration with above claim. *Agreement*: It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Industrial Court for decision. Agreed 31st March, 1924. (I.R. 599/1924.)

**TRANSPORT WORKERS: BRYNMAWR.**—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Griffin Motors, Ltd. *Difference*: Dismissal of a driver for failure to comply with the company's regulations. *Agreement*: It was agreed that the man in question should be reinstated. Agreed 8th April, 1924. (I.R. 793/1924.)

**COLD STORAGE WORKERS: LONDON.**—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Thames Riverside Cold Air Stores. *Difference*: Claim by the Union for rate of 11s. per day shift of eight hours and 1s. 10d. an hour for all hours between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m., Monday to Friday, and higher rates during weekends. *Agreement*: It was provisionally agreed that the day rate of permanent men should be £3 0s. 6d. per week. Casual men 11s. per day, or 5s. 6d. half-day or part thereof. Overtime between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m., Mondays to Fridays, rate of time-and-a-third, including meal hours. Minimum of eight hours guaranteed for night work at the rate of time-and-a-third, including meal hour. Time-and-a-quarter rate for night shift, without prejudice to full claim of Union. Chamber money of 1d. per hour to be paid to all men concerned. Certain other working conditions agreed upon. Signed 2nd April, 1924. (I.R. 472/1924.)

**Brush and Broom Trade Board (Northern Ireland).** Proposal N.I.B.B. (N. 32), dated 26th April, 1924, to vary the General Minimum Time Rates and General Overtime Rates for Male Workers in the trade, to fix a Piece-Work Basis Time Rate for Male Workers and to cancel the General Minimum Time Rates and General Overtime Rates for Male Indentured Apprentices and the conditions relating to their employment.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

#### DRAFT REVISED REGULATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AT DOCKS.

FOLLOWING the Report\* of a Conference of representatives of associations of employers and workpeople interested, the Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 6th May, 1924, that he proposes to make Regulations, in lieu of the existing Regulations (dated 24th October, 1904), for the processes of loading, unloading, moving or handling goods in, on, or at any dock, wharf, or quay, and the processes of loading, unloading or coaling any ship in any dock, harbour or canal.

Copies of the draft Regulations, which follow the Code drawn up by the Conference except in a few minor respects, may be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office, London, S.W. 1; and any objection with respect to them by or on behalf of any person affected thereby must be sent to the Secretary of State within 30 days of the date of the notice.

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

**ARBITRATION.**—*The Industrial Courts Act, 1919.* (a) *The Industrial Court decisions 743 to 860, 1st January, 1923, to 31st December, 1923.* (S.O. publication: price 3s. 6d.) (b) *Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning railway shopmen—Great Northern Section of the London and North Eastern Railway.* Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 2113: price 3d.) (See p. 156.)

**CENSUS.**—*Census of Scotland, 1921, Vol. III. Occupations and industries. Vol. IV. Dependent children.* (S.O. publications: price 30s. and 4s. respectively.)

**COAL PRICES.**—*Retail prices and qualities of household coal. Correspondence between the Mines Department and the Coal Merchants' Federation of Great Britain, together with the report of a conference between the Secretary for Mines and the Federation.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (Cmd. 2117: price 9d.)

**HEALTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.**—*National Health Insurance and Unemployment Insurance Funds. Account showing nature and amount of securities held by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt, at 31st December, 1923, and 31st March, 1924.* (H.C. 58: price 2d.)

**HOUSING.**—*Inter-departmental Committee appointed to survey the prices of building materials. Chairman's report for month of March, 1924.* Ministry of Health. (Cmd. 2103: price 6d.)

**MINING.**—(1) *Statistical summary of output and of costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry for the quarter ended 31st December, 1923.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (Cmd. 2111: price 2d.) (See p. 158.) (2) *Regulations and orders relating to the mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911 (including orders up to 31st December, 1923), 1923 edition.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication: price 1s.) (3) *Third and final report of the Mine Rescue Apparatus Research Committee.* Advisory Council, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. (S.O. publication: price 1s.) (4) *Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning the wages position in the coal mining industry.* Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 2129: price 6d.) (See p. 156.)

**OVERSEA SETTLEMENT.**—*Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1923.* Colonial Office. (Cmd. 2107: price 6d.) (See p. 159.)

**POOR LAW RELIEF.**—*Persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief. Quarterly statement—October to December, 1923.* Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication: price 4d.)

**RAILWAY SERVICE.**—*Return relating to railways of Great Britain for the year 1923. (Preliminary statement.)* Ministry of Transport. (S.O. publication: price 2s.)

**SAFETY.**—(1) *Report of the Conference on the prevention of accidents at docks.* (See p. 153.) (2) *Protection of hoists.* Safety Pamphlet No. 2, 3rd edition. (3) *The use of chains and lifting gear.* Safety Pamphlet No. 3, 2nd edition. Home Office. (S.O. publications: price 1s., 4d. and 6d. respectively.) (4) *Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901 to 1920. Memorandum by the Senior Electrical Inspector of Factories on the electricity regulations, 3rd edition.* (S.O. publication: price 1s.) (5) *Memorandum on electric arc welding.* Form 329, 2nd edition, March, 1924. Home Office, Factory Department. (S.O. publication: price 3d.)

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.** *Unemployment Insurance. Directions to Local Employment Committees regarding grant of unconvicted benefit.* Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 2108: price 6d.) (See p. 160.)

\* See page 158 of this issue.

**BOOT, SHOE AND SLIPPER WORKERS: ST. ANNES-ON-SEA.**—Rosendale Union of Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives v. Playshoe Co. *Difference*: Dismissal of two members of the Union in consequence, as the firm alleged, of the threatened refusal of non-union workers to work with members of the Union. *Agreement*: The Union members who struck work would be reinstated and recognised as members of the Union, but full recognition of the Union would be granted only when it could prove the membership of a substantial majority of the workers in the establishment. Agreed 7th April, 1924. (I.R. 765/1924.)

**BAKERS: DUNDEE.**—Scottish Union of Bakers and Confectioners v. Scottish Association of Master Bakers (Dundee Division). *Difference*: Claim for a minimum wage of 77s. per week and for certain modifications of working conditions. *Agreement*: The workers would be paid a minimum wage of 74s. for a 45-hours week, all overtime to be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half, and eight days clear holiday during the year to be paid for in lieu of Sunday sponging. Other working conditions agreed upon. Signed 30th April, 1924. (I.R. 443/1924.)

**SUGAR REFINERS: GREENOCK.**—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Greenock Sugar Refiners' Association. *Difference*: Claim for general advance in wages of 10s. per week. *Agreement*: It was agreed to refer the matter in dispute to the Industrial Court for decision. Signed 8th April, 1924. (I.R. 592/1924.)

### TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

#### CHANGES IN MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES DUE TO AN ALTERATION IN THE "COST-OF-LIVING" FIGURE.

Lower wage rates have become operative as from 1st May, 1924, in the following trades:—

##### Brush and Broom Trade (Great Britain).

Reduction of ¼d. per hour for certain classes of workers. The rates now in operation are for the period during which the "Cost of Living" Figure is less than 76 and not less than 71, and are set out in Column 10 of the Notices M. (35) and (36).

##### Coffin Furniture Trade (Great Britain).

Reductions for male workers, ranging from 1s. to 3s. 11d. per week of 47 hours. The general minimum time-rates now in operation are for the period during which the "Cost of Living" Figure is not less than 63 and not more than 75, and are set out in Column IV. of Part I. of the Notice U. (13).

#### RECONSTRUCTION OF GROCERY AND PROVISIONS TRADE BOARDS.

The Trade Boards established in 1920 for the Grocery and Provisions Trade in England and Wales and in Scotland have been re-constituted by the Minister of Labour. The Minister has appointed Sir Cyril Jackson, L.C.C., to be Chairman, Mr. J. P. Orr, C.S.I., to be Deputy Chairman, and Mrs. I. Drury to be the Woman Appointed Member of the Grocery and Provisions Trade Board (England and Wales); and Sir Thomas F. Wilson, K.B.E., to be Chairman, Mr. Alexander Murdoch to be Deputy Chairman, and Miss Grace Drysdale to be the Woman Appointed Member of the Grocery and Provisions Trade Board (Scotland). In consultation with the associations of employers and workers concerned, the Minister has also made new appointments to the seats held by representative members.

The constitution and proceedings of the re-constituted Boards are laid down in the Trade Boards (Grocery and Provisions Trade, England and Wales) (Constitution and Proceedings) Regulations, 1924,\* and in the Trade Boards (Grocery and Provisions Trade, Scotland) (Constitution and Proceedings) Regulations, 1924,† respectively.

### NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

**Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (Northern Ireland).** Proposal N.I.H.M. (N. 10), dated 11th April, 1924, to vary the General Minimum Time Rates and General Overtime Rates for Female Workers in the Retail Branch of the trade and to cancel the Piece-Work Basis Time Rates for Female Workers in that Branch. The Board's Notice of Proposal N.I.H.M. (N. 9), dated 20th December, 1923, has been withdrawn.

\* Statutory Rules and Order, 1924: No. 477. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.  
† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1924: No. 478/S.33. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

## LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, APRIL, 1924.

## ADMIRALTY.

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

*H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: Cast Iron Pipes:* The Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham.—*Cast Iron Pipes, Specials and Valves:* The Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Co., Sheepbridge Works, near Chesterfield.—*Steel Bars:* Dorman, Long & Co., Middlesbrough.—*Steel Tank:* The Motherwell Bridge Co., Ltd., Motherwell, near Glasgow.—*Portland Cement:* Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Chatham: Timber:* Jewson & Sons, Ltd., Norwich.

## ADMIRALTY.

(Contract and Purchase Department).

*Air Bottles, High Pressure:* Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Amplifiers:* India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.—*Beef, Corned:* Ellis Bedford, London, E.C.; Yuills, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Biscuits, Cabin:* Spratt's Patent, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Blooms, Steel:* W. Jessop & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Steel, Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield; D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—*Boots, Sea:* Regulation Boot Co. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds.—*Boxes, Ditty:* Lawson & Co., Glasgow.—*Bronze, Manganese, Ingots:* The Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Brooms, Brushes, etc.:* W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse, Glos.; S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham, Bucks; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; I. S. Varian & Co., Dublin; J. T. Millwood & Sons, London, S.E.; Rigby, Batcock, Ltd., London, E.; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Prison Commissioners, London, S.W.; E. A. & W. Greenslade, Ltd., Bristol; Newton & Cook, London, S.W.; J. Root & Sons, London, N.; Yates & Co. (Halifax), Ltd., Halifax; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Brushes, Ltd., St. Albans.—*Brushes, Painters:* Hamilton & Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.C.; R. A. Rooney & Sons, London, E.C.; S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; F. Brockley & Son, Epsom; J. Root & Son, London, N.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; E. A. & W. Greenslade, Ltd., Bristol; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Newton & Cook, London, S.W.; W. Morier & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—*Calico:* Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Manchester; Hugh Spencer & Co., Manchester.—*Caps, Forage:* E. Altman, Ltd., Aldershot; R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.—*Castings, Steel:* Carntyne Steel Castings Co., Renfrew.—*Collars, Stiff:* R. H. & S. Rogers, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Cotton Cleaning Cloth:* Fairlea Mill Co., Luddendenfoot, Yorks.; A. Worsley & Sons, Ltd., Bury.—*Counterpanes, Toilet Cloths and Coverlets:* Barlow & Jones, Ltd., Manchester; Jabez Johnson, Hodgkinson & Pearson, Ltd., Manchester.—*Distemper:* Jensen & Nicholson, Ltd., London, E.—*Felt, Brown:* Bury Felt Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bury.—*Firebricks:* Hill, Westlake & Co., Ltd., Southampton; J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge; G. Turnbull & Co., Ltd., Bonnybridge; H. Foster & Co., Ltd., Backworth, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Priestman Collieries, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Southwood, Jones & Co., Ltd., Risca, Mon.; J. Dougall & Sons, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Glenboig Union Fireclay Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—*Firehearth, Stoves and Gear:* Carron Co., Falkirk; Darwin, Yeardley & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; H. Wilson & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—*Gunmetal Articles:* Bowen & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Carron Co., Falkirk; J. J. Hardy & Sons, Ltd., Hartlepool; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—*Gunmetal Hose Fittings:* E. Barber & Co., Ltd., London, N.; Highton & Son, Ltd., London, E.; H. E. Rudge & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Stroud Metal Co., Ltd., Stroud, Glos.—*Handkerchiefs, White Cotton:* Fallows & Keymer, Ltd., Manchester; Eli Heyworth & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—*Hemp and Cotton Packings:* J. W. Roberts, Ltd., Leeds.—*Hull and Machinery of Cruiser:* The Fairfield Shipbuilding & Eng. Co., Ltd., Govan, Glasgow; Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—*Jean, Blue:* How & Coates, Ltd., Manchester.—*Jute Packing Material:* Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; Jute Industries, Ltd., Dundee; J. & D. Wilkie, Ltd., Kirriemuir.—*Lead, Sheet and Pipe:* A. D. Foulkes, Ltd., Birmingham; Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—*Leather Cloth Table Covering:* Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Leather Shoe Butts:* H. Nickels, Ltd., Leeds; D. Callender & Sons, Ltd., Leith; F. C. Jenner & Co., London, S.E.—*Leather Straps or Millbands:* S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Harbord & Poole, London, S.E.—*Leggings, Web:* Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.—*Lifts, Hydraulically operated:* Express Lift Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Linen Goods:* Thos. Adair, Ltd., Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.—*Linoleum and Cork Carpet:* Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd, Ltd., Kirkcaldy; Michael Nairn & Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy; Corticine Floor Covering Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Locks and Gear:* J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; H. Harrison & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall; A. Marston & Co., Ltd., Willenhall; J. Parkes & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall; E. Tonks & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall; Walsall Locks & Cart Gear, Ltd., Walsall.—*Machinery, Propelling, for Cruiser:* The Parsons Marine Steam Turbine Co., Ltd., Wallsend-on-Tyne; Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Wm. Beard-

more & Co., Ltd., Dalmar, Dumbartonshire.—*Medicines:* John Bell, Hills & Lucas, Ltd., London, S.E.; Burgoyne, Burdidge & Co., Ltd., London, E.—*Pepper:* Evans, Gray & Hood, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Plates, Steel, Boiler:* Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—*Reps, Damasks, etc.:* J. Holdsworth & Co., Ltd., Halifax; Glover Bros. (Leeds), Ltd., Leeds; Walsh & McCrea, Ltd., Halifax.—*Ribbons, Hat:* Geo. Kenning & Son, Coventry; T. Stevens (Coventry), Ltd., Coventry.—*Rope, Steel Wire:* Bullivant & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Shoes, Gymnasium:* New Liverpool Rubber Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—*Solder:* E. Austin & Sons (London), Ltd., London, E.; C. Burley & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Cowles & Co., Ltd., Hounslow; R. Jones, Birmingham.—*Table Glass:* Edinburgh & Leith Flint Glass Works, Edinburgh; Jas. A. Jobling & Co., Ltd., Sunderland; Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Stuart & Sons, Ltd., Wordsley; T. Webb & Corbett, Ltd., Stourbridge.—*Tiles:* Malkin Tile Works Co., Ltd., Burslem; Campbell Tile Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Gibbons, Hinton & Co., Ltd., Brierley Hill.—*Tool Steel:* Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; A. Balfour & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Marsh Bros & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—*Tubes, Water, and Fittings:* Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow; Russell Bros (Walsall), Ltd., Walsall; Harry W. Wyld, West Bromwich.—*Turntable:* Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—*Transmitters and Coils:* Radio Instruments, Ltd., London, W.C.—*Valves, Screw Down, Sluice, etc.:* Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Stevens & Struthers, Glasgow; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull.—*Vinegar:* Champion & Slee, Ltd., London, S.E.

## WAR OFFICE.

*Bags, Tool Kit:* French's, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Bearskin, Caps, Repair of:* L. Silberston, London, E.—*Blankets, G.S.:* J. Walker & Sons, Ltd., Mirfield.—*Cases, Wood:* Lawson & Co., Govan.—*Collars Head, Stable:* M. Harvey & Co., Ltd., Walsall.—*Crucibles:* Morgan Crucible Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Cylinders, Iron:* F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Ludlow Bros., Ltd., Birmingham.—*Gas, Water and Steam Pipes and Fittings:* Talbot Stead Tube Co., Ltd., Walsall.—*Gymnasium Apparatus:* Spencer, Heath & George, Ltd., Ponders End.—*Hides:* John S. Deed & Sons, London, W.C.—*Mattresses, M.S.:* R. Alcock & Co., Ltd., London, N.—*Mattresses, Single:* Atkinson & Co., London, S.E.—*Metal Rod:* King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—*Methylated Spirit:* H. Green & Co., Ltd., Hull.—*Motor Bodies, Supply and Fitting:* T. H. Gill & Son, London, W.—*Motor Spirit Mixture:* National Benzole Co., Ltd., Portsmouth and Poole.—*Oil, Mineral Burning:* Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Pneumatic Covers and Tubes:* Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—*Purses, Highland:* Leckie, Graham & Co., Glasgow.—*Sashes, Silk and Worsted:* Dalton, Barton & Co., Ltd., Coventry.—*Steel Carbon Plates:* Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—*Steel Sashes, Casements and Glazing Bars:* The Taylor Mfg. Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—*Surgical Appliances:* General Surgical Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Surgical Dressings:* A. Berton, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Tinplates:* Everitt & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—*Works Services: Maintenance:* Works: At Liverpool Outstations: Bradshaw & Son, Liverpool. At Bury: T. Carr, Halifax. At Kingston-on-Thames: A. G. Keatch, London, S.W. At Royal Arsenal Dockyard, etc.: Playfair, Toole, Ltd., Southampton. At Brighton; Chichester: Popkiss & Son, Brighton.—*Building Works and Services:* At Bovington: Jenkins, Hitt & Grant, Ltd., Weymouth. Erection of Wall at Sutton Oak, St. Helens, Lancs: J. Williams, Garstang, Lancs.—*Installations:* Of Electric Light, Mill Hill Barracks, Middlesex: The Alpha Electrical Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

## AIR MINISTRY.

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PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY WYMAN & SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, LONDON, E.C. 4.