

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, W. 1.

VOL. XXV.—No. 5.]

MAY, 1917.

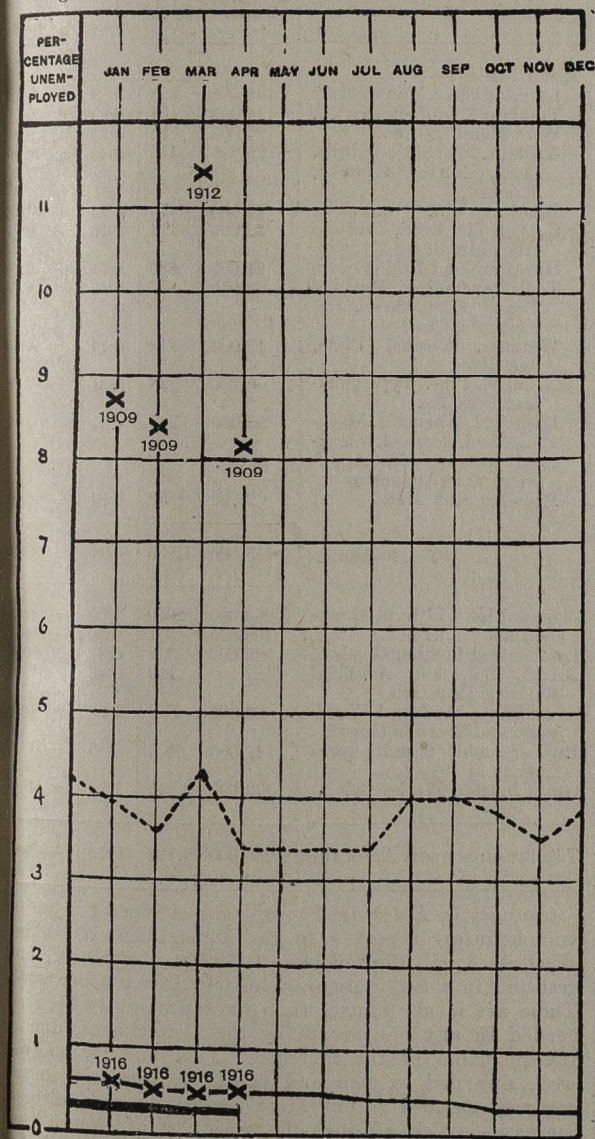
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1917. — Thin Curve = 1916.
..... Dotted Curve = Mean of 1907-16.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1907-16.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

THE LABOUR MARKET

IN
APRIL.

NEARLY all the principal industries were fully employed in April. Much overtime was worked, and, apart from increased earnings from this source, changes in the rates of wages affecting nearly one and a half million workpeople and resulting in a net increase of nearly £300,000 a week were reported as having taken effect during the month.

Employment in coal mining was good, and showed an improvement on a month ago. It was also good at tin and lead mines, and very good at iron and shale mines. At quarries employment continued fairly good on the whole.

In the pig iron industry employment continued good, and at iron and steel works very good. The engineering and shipbuilding trades were working at high pressure, with much overtime. In the tinplate trade there was a further reduction in the number of mills in operation, owing to the restricted supply of steel bars; the steel sheet trade showed little change. In most of the other metal trades employment continued good, and much overtime was worked by brass and sheet metal workers.

In the cotton trade employment continued good in the spinning branch, and fair in the weaving section. The woollen and worsted industries were fully employed. In the linen trade employment was good in Scotland, but only fair in Ireland, much short time being reported in the Belfast district. Employment continued good in the hosiery, jute, bleaching, calico printing and dyeing trades, and fairly good in the silk and carpet industries. In the lace trade it was very good in the plain net branch, fairly good in the curtain branch, and bad in the levers section.

The leather and boot and shoe trades were fully employed. In the corset trade employment was good; in tailoring it was fairly good; and in the shirt and collar, mantle, costume and blouse trades it was fair. Employment showed a decline in the felt hat trade; with silk hatters it was bad.

Men remaining in the building and brick trades were generally well employed, and cement workers were busy. In coachbuilding employment continued good; in mill sawing and with coopers it was fairly good. In the furnishing trades there was an improvement, and the miscellaneous woodworking trades were fully employed. In the paper, printing and bookbinding trades employment continued good; in the glass and pottery trades it was good generally. Employment in the food preparation trades continued good, except in the sugar confectionery branch, where it was only fair. Towards the end of the month good progress was made with agricultural operations, which had been hindered by the unfavourable weather of the earlier days. Employment with dock labourers was moderate on the whole; with fishermen it showed little change. The number of seamen shipped showed a decrease, but at most of the ports the supply of seamen was equal to the demand.

V.—Out-of-Work Allowances.—If, after being called up and employed, a Volunteer is discharged by his employer after completing the work allotted to him, and no further work is available for him, he may be entitled to receive, whilst no work is available for him, an out-of-work allowance at the rate of 3s. 6d. per day (including Sundays) for a period not exceeding four weeks, the first payment to be due one week after the commencement of unemployment.

Any question which arises as to the interpretation of the foregoing provisions shall be determined by the Director-General of National Service.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN HOLLAND.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DEPARTMENT.*

By a Royal Decree dated 19th September, 1916, the Government of Holland has established a department under the Ministry of Public Works for the purpose of dealing with insurance against unemployment, public employment exchanges, and other matters relating to the prevention and combating of unemployment or the alleviation of its effects.

The new department, which is to be entitled the "Department for Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges," is to put into execution the provisions of the Decree of 2nd December, 1916, under which the Government undertakes, as from 1st January, 1917, to make an annual contribution to Trade Union unemployment funds whose rules are approved by the Minister, and which comply with certain conditions.

The amount of the subsidy to be granted to an approved fund will, as a rule, not exceed 100 per cent. of the aggregate subscription received by such fund from its members. Half the subsidy will be paid by the Government and half by the communal authority of the district in which the unemployment fund is situated.

It is not obligatory upon the communes to assume the responsibilities assigned to them by the Decree, but the State will not contribute to an unemployment insurance fund if the commune concerned does not also pay its share.

Every subsidised unemployment fund is to be subject to supervision by the communal authority. Each member of such a fund has to register his name at the local Employment Exchange as soon as he becomes unemployed, and is required to accept "suitable" work offered by the Exchange, under penalty of losing his right to out-of-work benefit. The question as to whether a member is entitled to out-of-work benefit, and if so, to what amount, is to be decided by the officers of his fund in conformity with the rules. Where it is proposed to pay benefit, notice of such proposal must be forwarded to the communal authority of the district in which the unemployed member resides. Should the authority in question object to the payment of such benefit in the case of persons who have refused work offered to them by a public employment exchange or similar body, such payment will not be made. In case of a dispute the one side and a communal authority or the head of the Department for Unemployment Insurance on the other as to the payment of out-of-work benefit, or as to what should be considered to be "suitable" work, the matter may be referred to the Minister of Public Works, who will give an award only after he has consulted a special committee of three members consisting of the chairman of the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee (see below) and two other members of the same committee, one of whom will represent the Government and the communal authorities and the other the unemployment fund.

The Advisory Committee mentioned above is to be appointed for the purpose of advising the Minister

* Based mainly upon information supplied by the Director of the Department for Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, The Hague.

as to the best means of carrying out the Decree as to unemployment insurance. The members are to be at least twelve in number, and are to be appointed by the Minister. Half of them are to be chosen from representatives of the insurance funds nominated by the Central Federation of the Trade Unions to which the funds are attached, or, in the case of unattached funds, by the latter; the remaining six are to be representatives of the Government and of the communal authorities. The chairman is to be selected by the Minister from among the members.

The organisation of a national system of Employment Exchanges is the second principal function of the new Department. For this purpose the country has been divided into thirty districts, in each of which a District Employment Exchange will be established to link up the Communal Exchanges of the district. A Central Employment Exchange, which is to act as an intermediary between all the District Exchanges, has been established by the State. The expenses of the Central Exchange will be borne by the Government, which will also contribute to the cost of the District Exchanges jointly with the communes.

Legislative measures regulating insurance against unemployment and for the control of Employment Exchanges are to be prepared by the new Department.

EMPLOYMENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS.

HOLLAND.*

Employment in February.—Returns relating to employment in February were received by the Dutch Government Statistical Office from Trade Unions and municipal unemployment funds with a total insured membership of 114,470. The percentage of such members out of work during the month was 14.7, as compared with 9.5 in the preceding month and 8.5 in February, 1916:—

Table with 10 columns: Group of Trades, Number of Members Insured against Unemployment in Feb. 1917, Percentage actually Unemployed (Feb. 1917, Jan. 1917, Feb. 1916), Average Days Lost per Week per Member Unemployed (Feb. 1917, Jan. 1917, Feb. 1916). Rows include All Unions paying Unemployment Benefit and Municipal Unemployment Funds, Working in diamonds, Printing, Building trades, etc.

The comparison between February, 1917, and the previous month yields slightly different results when based upon data furnished by Trade Unions only (irrespective of whether they pay unemployment benefit or not) and when further limited to information received from Unions making returns for both months. On this basis the percentage of unemployment is found to be 14.6 in February, as compared with 9.2 in January. Among the members of these Unions the average number of working days lost owing to unemployment was in February 11.1 per cent., and in January 6.6 per cent. of the total number of days that might have been worked in the respective months.

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 3rd March, 1917

DENMARK.*

Employment in February.—According to returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Office, 11.0 per cent. of the 152,000 members of the Trade Unions reporting were unemployed at the end of February. The corresponding figure for the previous month was 9.4 per cent., while that for February, 1916, was 12.3 per cent. The average time lost through unemployment in February was 2.3 days per member.

CANADA.†

Employment in February.—“Manufacturing on the whole was active during February, though the inability of the railways to handle freight expeditiously occasioned delays and reduction of working forces in some instances. Metal mining continued active, though in some parts of the Cobalt district difficulty in securing labour interfered to some extent with outputs. In British Columbia the settlement of labour troubles in the Crow’s Nest Pass district not only increased outputs of coal mining companies but also of smelters, which had suffered from a shortage of coke. Building and construction was seasonably quiet in nearly all parts of the country. Lumbering showed a falling off in some districts where the cut was finished and work confined to haulage; too much snow was reported in a number of Quebec districts. Agriculture and fishing remained quiet. The removal of snow continued to give employment to some men in the cities, but other municipal work was very quiet.”

UNITED STATES.‡

Employment in February.—The following tables, giving comparisons as to the volume of employment in representative establishments in certain industries, (a) between February, 1917, and the preceding month, and (b) between February, 1917, and the corresponding month of 1916, are summarised from returns furnished to the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics:—

(a) Comparison of February, 1917, and January, 1917.

Table with 9 columns: Industry, Number of Establishments Reporting, Number of Workpeople (Jan. 1917, Feb. 1917, Increase/Decrease), Earnings (\$ (Jan. 1917, Feb. 1917, Increase/Decrease)). Rows include Boots and shoes, Cotton manufacturing, Cotton finishing, Hosiery & underwear, Woollen, etc.

In seven of the thirteen industries in the table there were more workpeople employed in February, 1917, than in January, 1917, while a decrease in the number is shown in six industries. The figures in the men’s ready-made clothing industry are somewhat affected by two strikes, one occurring in January and one in February. In seven of the industries the workpeople received more money in the aggregate in February, 1917, than in January, 1917, the greatest increase (9 per cent.) occurring in automobile manufacturing. In six industries less wages were paid in February, 1917, than in January, 1917, the greatest decrease (1.6 per cent.) being in the iron and steel industry.

* Statistiske Efterretninger, 28th April 1917. Danish Statistical Department. † The Labour Gazette, February, 1917. Issued by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa. ‡ Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, April, 1917. These figures represent the aggregate wages bill for two weeks in the case of the iron and steel, car building and silk industries, and for one week in other cases.

(b) Comparison of February, 1917, and February, 1916.

Table with 9 columns: Industry, Number of Establishments Reporting, Number of Workpeople (Feb. 1916, Feb. 1917, Increase/Decrease), Earnings (£ (Feb. 1916, Feb. 1917, Increase/Decrease)). Rows include Boots and shoes, Cotton manufacturing, Cotton finishing, Hosiery & underwear, Woollen, etc.

In eleven of the above industries the number of workpeople employed was greater in February, 1917, than in February, 1916. The greatest increase shown (21 per cent.) was in the iron and steel industry. The two industries showing a decrease were cotton and woollen manufacturing. The figures in the men’s ready-made clothing industry are somewhat affected by strikes occurring in February, 1917. The amount of money paid to workpeople in February, 1917, was greater than that in February, 1916, in each of the industries. The greatest increase reported is 37.8 per cent. for the iron and steel industry.

A RUSSIAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

A RECENT issue of the journal of the Russian Central War Industry Committee† states that at the Council of Ministers held on the 9th (22nd) March last the proposal of the Minister of Trade and Industry, with regard to setting up a Department of Labour in his Ministry, was accepted.

The special committee appointed to control the new Department will include an equal number of workmen and employers. It will consist of the following: Eight representatives of the Council of Workmen’s Deputies, two members from each of the Petrograd and Moscow Societies of Manufacturers, and four representatives from the Council of the Associations of Industry and Trade; also two members of the All-Russian County and Municipal Assemblies and two members of the Central War Industry Committee. The Minister of Trade and Industry will act as president, and he may invite officials of the factory and mining inspectorate, or other experts, to take part in the proceedings in a consultative capacity.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS IN PETROGRAD.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY, WORKSHOP COMMITTEES AND CONCILIATION BOARDS.

ACCORDING to a recent issue of the journal of the Russian Central War Industry Committee,† arrangements have been made between the Council of Workmen’s and Soldiers’ Deputies and the Association of Manufacturers in Petrograd for the introduction into factories and workshops of an eight-hour day, of workshop committees and of conciliation boards.

(1) Eight-Hour Day.—It is agreed that until a law is passed making the change general, eight hours of effective labour shall constitute a working day or shift, to be reduced on Saturdays to seven hours. The reduction in the hours worked is not to affect the rates of pay of the workpeople; and overtime is to be worked only with the consent of the workshop committees.

(2) Workshop Committees.—These are to be set up in all factories and workshops, their members being

* These figures represent the aggregate wages bill for two weeks in the case of the iron and steel, car building and silk industries, and for one week in other cases. † Izvestiya Tsentrального Voenno-Promyshlennogo Komiteta, 31st March, 1917 (N.S.), Petrograd.

ected from the workmen employed in each establishment, whose votes shall be equal, direct and secret. The functions of such workshop committees are (1) to represent the workpeople of their respective establishments in relation to the Government or to public authorities, (2) the formulation of opinion on questions of social economics affecting the workpeople of each factory or workshop, (3) the solution of questions affecting mutual relations between workpeople in their own factories, and (4) the representation of the working staffs in relation to the directors or proprietors of factories and workshops on questions that arise between the management and the workpeople.

(3) *Conciliation Boards.*—For the purpose of dealing with misunderstandings which may arise between employers and workpeople a conciliation board is to be set up in each establishment, to be composed of equal numbers of representatives of the workpeople and of the management. The method of electing the representatives of the workpeople is to be determined by the workshop committee. Meetings of the boards are to be held as necessity arises.

When such boards are unable to bring about an agreement between the parties the matter in dispute is to be referred to the decision of a Central Conciliation Board, which is to consist of representatives of the Council of Workmen's Deputies and of the Society of Manufacturers.

EIGHT-HOURS DAY ON AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

NEW ACT DECLARED CONSTITUTIONAL.*

IN the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1916, some account was given of the new Act establishing a working day of eight hours for railway employees in the United States and of the circumstances which led up to the passage of this measure. The new law was to come into force on 1st January, 1917, but the railway companies, dissatisfied with a measure which meant to them a disbursement of some £12,500,000 per annum, brought a test case before the Supreme Court as to the constitutionality of the law, placing in a reserve the sums which accrued to the men under it. This case was brought in November last and argued before the Supreme Court in January. On 10th March, before the Supreme Court had given its decision, a new strike was declared, to begin progressively on 17th March.

As in the case of the threatened stoppage in 1916, the President intervened, and representatives of the companies and of the men sat in almost continuous consultation. On 17th March the strike was postponed for forty-eight hours, and on 19th March the companies yielded to the demands of the men. A few hours later the decision of the Supreme Court was made known, affirming the constitutional character of the eight-hours law (commonly referred to as the Adamson law). The judgment further declares it to be constitutional to prescribe rates of wages, even when employees do not agree, and to impose compulsory arbitration.

INCREASED WAGES FOR STEEL WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

ACCORDING to a report in *The Iron Age* of 5th April, 1917, the chairman of the United States Steel Corporation stated that it had been decided to make an increase of about 10 per cent. in the rates of wages and salaries not exceeding \$521 per annum of employees of the subsidiary companies, such increase to take effect as from 1st May, 1917. "This is the fourth advance that has been made by the Corporation since 1st January, 1916. The number of employees in 1915 was 191,126, and the salaries and wages paid amounted to £36,833,513, while in 1916 the number of employees was 252,668 and the amount paid to them was £54,871,980. The number of employees is now probably somewhat larger, and the increase will add about £6,250,000 to the annual pay-roll."

* Based on a dispatch of March 22nd from H.M. Chargé d' Affaires at Washington.

PROFIT SHARING IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE United States Bureau of Labour Statistics has recently published a report* which includes particulars of all the profit-sharing schemes known to be in operation in that country in the year 1916. The report states that relatively few of the schemes adopted by American employers for the purpose of giving their employees some remuneration in addition to their regular earnings can properly be classified as profit sharing, as defined by the International Co-operative Congress held in Paris in 1889. According to this definition, profit sharing involves "an agreement freely entered into, by which the employees receive a share, fixed in advance, of the profits." It was further formulated by the Congress that the relative proportion of the working staff that must share in the profits in order to establish real profit-sharing conditions should be not less than 75 per cent.

The classification of the schemes in operation in the United States which is used throughout the report is as follows:

(a) Profit sharing, the essential features of which are: (1) that the amount to be distributed varies with and depends upon the net profits of the enterprise or the amount of dividends paid to stockholders; (2) that the proportion of profits to be distributed is determined in advance; (3) that the benefits of the scheme extend to at least one-third of the working staff, and include employees other than those in executive or clerical occupations; and (4) that the method of determining individual shares is known, at least in a general way, to the participating employees.

(b) Limited profit sharing, the essential features of which are the same as in (a), except that the benefits of the scheme are limited to less than one-third of the total employed, and exclude employees other than executive or clerical.

(c) Bonus schemes, "popularly known as profit sharing," under which the divisible fund does not depend upon or vary with the net profits of the enterprise, but is contingent upon the price at which the commodity manufactured is disposed of, the gross receipts, gross profits or estimated probable profits of the business, the wages or salaries earned and length of service, &c.

The report states that profit sharing, as confined to schemes falling under group (a), does not appear to have reached any considerable proportions in the United States. The number of such schemes known to be in operation at the time of the inquiry did not exceed sixty. Of these, only seven were in existence previous to 1900 (the first two having dated from 1886), and twenty-nine, or almost one-half, had been established since 1911. With regard to the establishments possessing schemes of profit sharing, twenty-five were engaged in manufacturing, twelve were mercantile, eight were banks, and four belonged to public services.

The number of establishments having in operation schemes coming under group (b) is stated in the report to be very large. The report contains details of eighteen such schemes. Particulars are also given of typical cases of bonus-earning schemes.

The concluding section of the report describes the result of inquiries which were made with a view to learning to what extent the objects sought by the establishment of profit-sharing schemes have been realised. The results of the working of bonus schemes appear to be excluded from this part of the investigation.

The principal objects of the introduction of profit-sharing schemes were stated by the employers to be as follows: (1) To stimulate the elimination of waste and to foster economy; (2) to increase efficiency; (3) to stabilise the working staff; and (4) to improve relations between employers and workpeople. Of all the employers interviewed, only three stated that the main object of their respective schemes was to furnish "an equitable distribution of the profits of the under-

* Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics. Whole Number 208-December, 1916.

taking, as a matter of justice, irrespective altogether of hopes for increased efficiency."

In order to discover the precise extent to which the hopes of employers in the introduction of the schemes were realised, they were asked to state the results as to the improvement of relations with their workpeople, the increase of permanency of their working staffs, and the increase of efficiency.

The consensus of opinion was to the effect that the schemes had a very decided tendency to establish more satisfactory relations between employers and workpeople; particularly where the profit-sharing schemes had been in operation for a considerable length of time. All informants without exception also were of opinion that the introduction of the schemes had increased the permanency of the staffs. With respect to increased efficiency, however, employers disagreed greatly as to the results achieved, only three of them stating definitely that this object had been attained.

COURSE OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

IN the following paragraphs relating to the course of retail prices in this and other countries the latest available statistics are given in every case, but it will be observed that while the returns for this country relate to 1st May, those for the other countries relate to various earlier dates. As prices in all countries are moving upwards, this difference of date is important, and should be borne in mind in making comparisons as between one country and another.

UNITED KINGDOM.

From 31st March to 1st May retail prices of the principal articles of food showed an average increase of between 1 and 2 per cent. The most marked increases during the period were in the prices of potatoes (averaging 11 per cent., or ½d. per lb.), margarine (5 per cent., or ½d. per lb.), and tea (4 per cent., or over 1d. per lb.). The only net decrease recorded was in the price of butter, which declined by nearly 4 per cent., or 1d. per lb., on the average.

As compared with a year ago, retail prices showed an average increase of 29 per cent. The prices of potatoes advanced about 65 per cent. over the twelve months, and those of cheese and eggs nearly 50 per cent. With the other articles included in the returns, the increases ranged from about 20 to 30 per cent., except with tea and granulated sugar, for which the advances were 13 per cent. and 8 per cent. respectively.

COMPARISON WITH JULY, 1914.

In the following Table is given a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st May in relation to the "normal" figures of July, 1914:—

Article.	Percentage Increase from July, 1914, to 1st May, 1917.		
	Large Towns (populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.
Beef, British—			
Ribs	81	79	80
Thin Flank	122	100	111
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs	108	101	104
Thin Flank	147	122	134
Mutton, British—			
Legs	75	74	74
Breast	124	99	111
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs	114	106	110
Breast	172	152	162
Bacon (streaky)	82	77	79
Fish	161	116	138
Flour	100	110	105
Bread	103	91	97
Tea	70	67	69
Sugar (granulated)	174	170	172
Milk	63	59	61
Butter—			
Fresh	70	76	73
Salt	67	73	70
Cheese	121	122	122
Margarine	61	55	56
Eggs (fresh)	57	72	78
Potatoes	162	123	142
ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	102	93	98

The prices recorded for butchers' meat at 1st May showed increases over those for July, 1914, ranging from 74 per cent. for British legs of mutton to 162 per cent. for frozen breasts of mutton, the rise in average prices ranging from 6½d. to 7½d. per lb., according to cut.

The prices of sugar, fish, potatoes and cheese were considerably more than twice as high as in July, 1914, and those of flour and bread were at, roughly, double the pre-war level. Advances of about 70 to 80 per cent. since July, 1914, were recorded for bacon, butter, eggs and tea, and of about 60 and 55 per cent. respectively for milk and margarine. With sugar and tea, part of the increase is due to additional taxation imposed since the beginning of the war.

In arriving at the general percentage increase in the above Table the several articles are weighted in accordance with the proportionate expenditure on them in pre-war family budgets, no allowance being made for the economies resulting from changes in dietary which have been effected since the beginning of the war, especially in those families in which the total income has not been increased by advances in rates of wages, greater regularity of employment, increased output, or the working of overtime. As an illustration of the possible extent of economies in this direction, it may be stated that if eggs were omitted from the dietary, margarine substituted for butter, and the consumption of sugar and fish reduced to one-half of that prevailing before the war, the general percentage increase since July, 1914, instead of being 98 would be 65.

With reference to other items of expenditure, there have been substantial increases, except with regard to rents, but the average advance has not been so great as with food. The increase from July, 1914, to 1st May, 1917, in the cost of all the items ordinarily entering into working-class family expenditure, including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c., may be estimated at about 70 per cent., taking the same quantities and descriptions of the various items at each date and eliminating advances arising from increased taxation.

BERLIN AND VIENNA.

No particulars of recent date regarding the movement of retail prices of food in Berlin and Vienna can be published this month, as official figures had not been received at the time of going to press.

ITALY.

During January retail food prices as a whole in Italy increased by 4.1 per cent. as compared with those of the preceding month, and were 44.2 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. The greatest increase during the month took place in the case of bacon, which advanced 13.6 per cent.; since December olive oil rose by 3.5 per cent., wheat bread by 3.0 per cent., and beef by 2.9 per cent. The percentages in the following Table are computed from index numbers published in the issue for 1st April of the journal of the Italian Labour Department (*Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro*), and are based on returns from forty-three towns in Italy:—

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in January, 1917, as compared with	
	December, 1916.	July, 1914.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wheat bread	+ 3.0	+ 23.8
Wheat flour	+ 1.6	+ 25.8
Macaroni, &c.	+ 1.1	+ 43.7
Beef	+ 2.9	+ 67.6
Bacon	+ 13.6	+ 78.3
Olive oil	+ 3.5	+ 44.9
Milk	+ 0.8	+ 18.2
ALL ARTICLES COMBINED	+ 4.1	+ 44.2

DENMARK*

The periodical computation of the Danish Statistical Department as to the effect of the rise in prices during

* *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 24th March, 1917. Statistical Department. Copenhagen.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

PRINTING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good for those remaining in these trades, practically no short time being reported, and very few men being out of employment, except in Ireland.

The following Table summarises returns received from Trade Unions :

Table with columns: Districts, No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1917., Percentage Unemployed at end of April, March, April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

The following Table summarises returns received from employers :-

Table with columns: Districts, Workpeople (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.), Earnings (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, with a shortage of men, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked.

The following Table summarises returns received from employers :-

Table with columns: Districts, Workpeople (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.), Earnings (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

The following Table summarises the returns from Trade Unions :-

Table with columns: Districts, No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1917., Percentage Unemployed at end of April, March, April, 1917., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

* Comparison of earnings with a year ago is affected by increases in rates of wages and war bonuses.

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole, with a shortage of men, notwithstanding the limited supplies of raw material available.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

Table with columns: MACHINE-MADE PAPER AND MILLED BOARDS (Northern Counties, Midlands, Wales, and Ireland, Southern Counties, Scotland), Per cent. change, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT remained good generally, and showed on the whole an improvement on the previous month. The shortage of labour continued, and overtime was worked in certain branches.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

Table with columns: BRANCHES (China Manufacture, Earthenware Manufacture, Other Branches), DISTRICTS (Potteries, Other Districts), Workpeople (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.), Earnings (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, with a shortage of labour.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

Table with columns: BRANCHES (Glass Bottle, Flint Glass Ware, Other Branches), DISTRICTS (North of England, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire, Other parts of the United Kingdom), Workpeople (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.), Earnings (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

EMPLOYMENT in the glass bottle trade remained good generally. With flint glass makers in the Midlands,

* Comparison of earnings with a year ago is affected by increases in rates of wages and war bonuses.

pressed-glass makers on the Tyne and Wear, and sheet and plate glass workers at St. Helens, employment continued good.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good except in the sugar confectionery trade. In this trade employment was only fair, owing to the restricted supply of sugar, and short time was worked in some cases.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

Table with columns: Trade, Workpeople (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.), Earnings (Week ended 28th April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

AGRICULTURE.†

England and Wales.—Work during April was hindered for nearly two-thirds of the month by cold and snow, but the last ten days were very favourable, and good progress was made in most districts with sowing and potato planting.

Scotland.—Assistance was again rendered by soldiers temporarily released for agricultural work. This is particularly referred to in the reports from Forfar, Perth, Lanark, Dumbaron, Dumfries, Kirkcudbright and Wigtown.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate in London; it was fairly good at Liverpool and quiet on the whole elsewhere. There was a general decline on a year ago.

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, &c., Total, At 110 Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves).

* Comparison of earnings with a year ago is affected by increases in rates of wages and war bonuses. † Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

London.—Employment generally continued moderate; it was not so good as a month ago and was much worse than a year ago.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during April was 2,040, compared with 1,938 in March and 2,276 in April, 1916.

East Coast.—Employment was slack on the Tyne, especially on general cargoes; it was moderate with trimmers and teamers on both Tyne and Wear.

Southern and Western Ports.—Employment was again good at Plymouth and Falmouth. It was slack and had declined at Bristol, and was fair at Gloucester.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was fair at Dundee, and very slack at Glasgow, Ayr and Troon. It was bad at Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed, on the whole, little change on the previous month.

East and South Coasts.—Employment with fishermen continued moderate at Hartlepool, and good on the whole at Hull, Grimsby and Scarborough.

Scotland.—Employment with fishermen was fair at Aberdeen and Peterhead, bad at Fraserburgh, and moderate at Macduff.

The total value of fish landed from fishing vessels in the United Kingdom during April was £978,284, showing an increase of £129,651 as compared with April, 1916.

SEAMEN.

The total number of seamen shipped at the principal ports in April showed a decrease compared with the previous month, but at most ports the supply of seamen was equal to the demand.

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen* shipped in (April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago., Four months ended April, 1916, April, 1917., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1917.).

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR TAKING EFFECT IN APRIL, 1917—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for 'Increases in Rates of Wages, and War Bonuses' and 'Decrease in Rates of Wages'.

* War bonuses and "war increases" have been so described where possible, but the information available is not, in all cases, sufficient to distinguish between these and increases not thus limited.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR TAKING EFFECT IN APRIL, 1917—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for 'Increases in Rates of Wages, and War Bonuses' and 'Change in Hours of Labour'.

* War bonuses and "war increases" have been so described where possible, but the information available is not, in all cases, sufficient to distinguish between these and increases not thus limited.

RETAIL PRICES OF BREAD.

The following information with regard to the prices of bread is derived from two main sources: (1) Master Bakers' Associations, and (2) Co-operative Societies.

(1) Master Bakers' Associations, &c.

Returns received from over 100 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations and from other sources, except Co-operative Societies, are summarised in the following Tables:-

Table showing Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on 1st May, 1917, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with a month ago and a year ago for various districts including London, Northern Counties, Lancashire, etc.

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under:-

Table showing Predominant Price per 4 lb. on 1st May, 1917, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with a month ago and a year ago for various places including London, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, etc.

(2) Co-operative Societies.

The following Table summarises the Returns received from 340 Co-operative Societies:-

Table showing Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on 1st May, 1917, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with a month ago and a year ago for various districts including England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

* Counter. † Delivered. ‡ - 1/2 d. on bread delivered and 1d. on counter sales, to equalise prices.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

(Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.)

The total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during April, 1917, was 65, of which 34 were due to lead poisoning, 2 to mercurial poisoning, 25 to toxic jaundice, and 4 to anthrax.

During the four months ended April, 1917, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 278, compared with 175 in the corresponding period of 1916.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Large table showing analysis of diseases by industries, categorized into Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, and Anthrax, with columns for industry, month, and number of cases/deaths.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN APRIL, 1917.

(Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.)

The number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment in April, 1917, was 284, a decrease of 2 on a month ago, but an increase of 54 on a year ago.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during April, 1917, numbered 30, compared with 36 in March, 1917, and 35 in April, 1916.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 108, a decrease of 1 on a month ago and an increase of 24 on a year ago.

The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in April, 1917, was 139, an increase of 5 on March, 1917, and of 35 on April, 1916.

During the four months ended April, 1917, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment was 1,198, as compared with 1,094, an increase of 104 on the corresponding period of 1916.

The Table shows the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March and April, 1917, and April, 1916.

Table showing the number of workpeople reported as killed during April, 1917, compared with March, 1917, and April, 1916, categorized by trade (Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories and Workshops, etc.).

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN APRIL.

The total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of April, 1917, was 13, compared with 15 at the end of April, 1916.

Table showing the number of applicants given employment relief, aggregate duration of employment relief, and total amount of wages paid for various districts in April 1917 and April 1916.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN APRIL.*

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS. The number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Employment Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during each of the four weeks ended 27th April, 1917, was 1,699, 2,020, 2,273 and 2,769; a total of 8,761 claims, of which 5,898 were made in the trades insured under the National Insurance (Unemployment) Act, 1911, and 2,863 were made in the trades insured under the National Insurance (Part II.) (Munition Workers) Act, 1916.

The weekly amounts paid to workpeople under the Acts of 1911 and 1916 respectively were £299 and £143. The corresponding payments made through associations were £111 and £2.

Table showing the average weekly number of claims made and the average weekly amount of benefit paid for various divisions in April 1917, March 1917, April 1916, and April 1915.

* The percentages unemployed in the Insured Trades will be found on page 160. † The figures for Association Payments relate to periods terminating one week earlier than the periods to which the Direct Payments relate.

H.M. Office of Works—continued.

Patman & Fotheringham, Park St., Islington, N. Canada, India and Empire Houses, Partitions: Galbraith Bros., Ltd., 63, Waterloo St., Camberwell, S.E. Chalfont; Colony for Epileptics, Erection of Three Homes: William Lacey, Staines Rd., Hounslow. Oxford Circus House, Partitions, &c.: Hall, Beddall & Co., Pitfield Wharf, Waterloo Bridge Rd., S.E. St. James's Palace, Residence of Sir D. Keppel, Alterations: H. J. Edgar, 3, Craden Terrace, Lancaster Gate, W. Treasury, Additional Temporary Building on Roof: Patman & Fotheringham, Park St., Islington, N. Windsor, Ordinary Works and Repairs: Hollis & Sons, 59, St. Leonard's Rd., Windsor. **Engineering Services:** Manchester Stationery Office, Heating Apparatus: G. N. Haden & Sons, Trowbridge. **Furniture:** Book-cases (open): Haskins Bros. & Co., 20-34, Old St., E.C. Cabinets (Card Index): Edmonds & Co., Ltd., Constitution Hill, Birmingham. Chairs: T. Glenister, Ltd., Temple Works, High Wycombe. Chairs and Couches: Hampton & Sons, Ltd., 8, Pall Mall East, S.W. Chests of Drawers: Sadgrove & Co., Grove Rd., Chadwell Heath, Essex. Presses: N. Norman, 78, Hoxton St., N. Presses (Plan): North of England School Furnishing Co., Ltd., Darlington. Tables: Thomas Bradford & Co., Crescent Iron Works, Salford, Manchester. Tables (Collapsible): Bennet Furnishing Co., Ltd., 47, Glengall Rd., Peckham, S.E. Tables (Officers) and Wash-hand Stands: Kingfisher, Ltd., West Bromwich; A. J. Gupwell & Co., Clyde Works, Park St., Birmingham; Siemens Bros., Caxton House, Westminster, S.W. Tables (Mobilisation): S. N. Soole & Son, Dunstable Works, Richmond. Tables (Typists) and Cupboards: H. H. Elliott, 62, Queen Victoria St., E.C.; J. Cooke, Porthill Saw Mills, near Langport, Stoke-on-Trent; Bennet Furnishing Co., Ltd., 47, Glengall Rd., Peckham, S.E. Tables (Writing): Wylie & Lockhead, Ltd., 13, Hart St., Bloomsbury, W.C. Wardrobes and Washstands: L. Ellison, Premier Cabinet Works, Cheetham Hill Rd.—**Miscellaneous:** Brushes (Hair Banister): F. Smith & Co., 169a, Borough High St., S.E. Fire Extinguishers: Minimax, Ltd., Feltham, Middlesex. Gloves (Chamois Leather): Fleming, Birkby & Goodall, Ltd., West Grove Mill, Halifax. Heaters (Oil): Pryke & Palmer, 40/41, Upper Thames St., E.C. Hose (Canvas Fire): G. Banham & Co., Ltd., Limefield Mills, Farnworth, near Bolton; William Rose Hose Co., Ltd., Metropolitan Works, Oldfield Rd., Manchester. Linoleum: Linoleum Manufacturing Co., Ltd., 6, Old Bailey, E.C. Nails (Wire): Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Ltd., 24/26, Lever St., Manchester. Oils and Grease: Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., 36, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. Overalls: Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds & Co., 69/72, Hatfield St., Blackfriars, S.E.; Arding & Hobbs, Clapham Junction, S.W.; Lybro, Ltd., Cable St., Liverpool. Pails (Fire): Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Palmer St., Birmingham. Rags (Clean): Adams & Co., Chatham Mills, Manchester; Northern Waste Co., Hanover Mills, London Rd., Manchester; City Polishing Cloth Co., City Warehouse, City Rd., Newcastle. Rugs (Hearth): Homfray & Co., Ltd., Albert Mill, Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire. Rugs (Axminster): Thomas Tapling & Co., Ltd., 31, Gresham St., E.C.; Coates & Co., Ltd., Balhousie Works, Perth. Tumblers: J. Green & Nephew, Ltd., 5, Upper Thames St., E.C. Windsor, Ironmongers' Work: Wellman Bros., 42/43, Peascod St., Windsor.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Protective: British L. M. Ericsson Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts.—**Apparatus, Repairing Wire:** George Plumpton, Ltd., Warrington.—**Apparatus, Telegraphic:** India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Silvertown, E.16.—**Apparatus, Telephonic:** Gent & Co., Ltd., Leicester; Peel Conner Telephone Works, Ltd., Salford, Manchester; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Woolwich, S.E.18; Western Electric

Post Office—continued.

Co., Ltd., North Woolwich, E.16.—**Arms, Air Line:** T. Gabriel & Sons & Burtons, Lambeth, S.E.1.—**Arms, Cup, Galvanized Iron:** Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Bolts, Arm:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; Phoenix Bolt and Nut Co., Handsworth, Birmingham.—**Bolts and Nuts:** Portland Bolt and Nut Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Boxes, Battery:** W. D. Tucker & Sons, Ltd., Tottenham, N.15.—**Brackets, Cast Iron:** Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Cable, Submarine:** Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co., Ltd., Greenwich, S.E.10.—**Cable, Telegraphic:** British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., North Woolwich, E.16; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Cells, Dry:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Woolwich, S.E.18.—**Clamps with Bolts, Nuts and Washers:** Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Cords, Telephone:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Woolwich, S.E.18.—**Extension and Modification of Telephone Exchange Equipment, Edinburgh:** Western Electric Co., Ltd., North Woolwich, E.16.—**Galvanometers:** India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Silvertown, E.16.—**Headresses:** Richard Burley, Ltd., Luton.—**Insulators:** Taylor, Tunncliff & Co., Ltd., Eastwood, Hanley.—**Paper:** R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Airdrie; James Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal; Reed & Smith, Ltd., Silvertown, Cullompton; C. Townsend Hook & Co., Ltd., Snodland, Kent.—**Plates for Rods, Stay:** Walls, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rods, Zinc:** Eyre Smelting Co., Ltd., Tonbridge.—**Screws, Coach:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham.—**String:** Mulholland & Co., Dublin.—**Telephone Storage Battery Repairs, Glasgow:** The Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., 3, Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W.1.—**Wire, Bronze:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor, Staffs; British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; F. Smith & Co. (incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. and Smiths, Ltd.), Salford, Manchester.—**Wire, Copper, Hard Drawn:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor, Staffs; British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Elliott's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; F. Smith & Co. (incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. and Smiths, Ltd.), Salford, Manchester; J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wire, Copper, Tinned:** British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott.—**Wire, Enamelled and Flameproof:** C. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Wire, Galvanized Iron:** Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; F. Smith & Co., Wire Manufacturers, Ltd., Halifax; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS, DUBLIN.

Castletown National School, Co. Donegal: Erection: Nell McGready, Frosses, Inver, Co. Donegal.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

Accountments: Frank R. Pardow & Co., Ltd., 42, Bridge St., Walsall; Fairbanks, Lavender & Son, Eldon Works, Walsall; John Ireland & Son, 12 and 13, Ellis's Quay, Dublin.—**Brushes and Other Barrack Requisites:** Thomas McKenzie & Sons, Ltd., 212 Great Brunswick St., Dublin; Thomas Henshaw & Co., Ltd., Christ Church Place, Dublin.—**Cases for Palliasses and Bolsters:** Todd, Burns & Co., Ltd., Mary St., Dublin.—**Disinfectants, &c.:** Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., 46, Mary St., Dublin.—**Harness and Saddlery:** T. J. Callaghan & Co., Ltd., 13 to 16, Dame St., Dublin.