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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 11th May, 1942 (exclusive of men numbering 25,628 who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 65,771, showing a decrease of 3,772 as compared with the corresponding total for 13th April. Those registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 2,599; this was a decrease of 682 as compared with 13th April. Those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 2,951, showing a decrease of 774 as compared with 13th April.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 11th May, 1942, were 43,192 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 1,505, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 3,190 temporarily stopped, and 281 unemployed casual workers. Of the 43,192 wholly unemployed, 1,896 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 13th April, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 4,313, those temporarily stopped showed a decrease of 10, and unemployed casual workers showed an increase of 36.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during May resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £225,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 630,000 workpeople, and in a decrease estimated at £6,500 in those of about 280,000 workpeople.

In the coal mining industry, rates of wages were increased in South Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire, and reduced

in the rest of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Cannock Chase, through the operation of sliding-scale agreements under which wage rates fluctuate in correspondence with the proceeds of the industry. Increases in wage rates were also granted in the road-stone quarrying industry, in the linen industry in Northern Ireland, in ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, in retail food and milk distribution, in the rubber industry, and for manual workers in the employment of local authorities; and there was an increase in the war risk money payable to officers and men in the merchant navy. On the other hand, there were slight reductions in the rates of wages of workpeople employed in the iron and steel industry, and in tobacco manufacture, under the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st June the official cost-of-living index figure was 99 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 100 per cent. at 1st May. For food alone, the index figure at 1st June was 59 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 60 per cent. at 1st May.

The decline in the index figures was due to reductions in the prices of milk in many districts. There was little change, on average, in the prices of other items covered by the statistics.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May, was 174. In addition, 5 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 179 disputes (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred) was 94,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in May was about 306,000 working days.

AVERAGE EARNINGS IN THE LAST PAY-WEEK OF JANUARY, 1942, AND PERCENTAGE INCREASES AS COMPARED WITH THE LAST PAY-WEEK OF OCTOBER, 1938.

Table with 11 columns for industry, sex, and percentage increase. Rows include Iron, Stone, etc., Mining and Quarrying; Treatment of Non-Metallic Minerals; Brick, Pottery and Glass Industries; Chemical, Paint, Oil, etc., Industries; Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding Industries; Textile Industries; Leather, Leather Goods and Fur Industries; and Clothing Industries.

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* Where no figure is given, the number of workers covered by the returns received was too small to provide a satisfactory basis for the calculation of a general average for the industry.

† Some of the firms who supplied returns showing the total earnings of all their wage-earners in the last pay-week of January, 1942, did not analyse their figures by sex and age. Consequently, the average earnings shown for "all workers" are based on somewhat larger numbers of returns than are the averages shown for men, boys, women and girls. As, however, the workpeople employed by firms whose returns were analysed by sex and age formed approximately 96.5 per cent. of the total number of workpeople covered by the averages shown for "all workers," these averages may generally be regarded as representative. In October, 1938, the returns shown the individual earnings of all the workpeople employed by the firms who supplied information.

‡ The number of workpeople in respect of whom information was received in October, 1938, was too small to provide a basis for a calculation of the average percentage increase between that date and January, 1942.

§ The figures given for the engineering, etc., industry are based partly on returns from firms who are members of the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation, and partly on returns from non-federated firms. The average earnings shown by the federated firms were considerably higher than those shown by the non-federated firms; for example, the average weekly earnings of "all workers" in January, 1942 (including men, boys, women and girls) were 99s. 9d. for the federated firms, as compared with 86s. 8d. for the non-federated firms.

¶ The average earnings in the cotton industry in October, 1938, were adversely affected by trade depression.

¶ As many of the principal firms in the linen industry in Northern Ireland did not supply information for October, 1938, enquiries were sent to these firms in January 1942, in addition to those who had furnished returns. Consequently the number of returns received in January, 1942, was much greater than in October, 1938. While the average earnings shown for January, 1942, are based on all returns received, the percentages of increase since October, 1938, have been calculated from the data supplied by firms who furnished returns for both dates.

** The number of workpeople now employed in the fur industry is much smaller than in 1938 and some firms whose operatives were earning high wages in October, 1938, were employing few or no workpeople in January, 1942.

AVERAGE EARNINGS IN THE LAST PAY-WEEK OF JANUARY, 1942, AND PERCENTAGE INCREASES AS COMPARED WITH THE LAST PAY-WEEK OF OCTOBER, 1938—continued.

Table with 11 columns for industry, sex, and percentage increase. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco Industries; Woodworking Industries; Paper, Printing, etc., Industries; Building and Contracting, etc.; Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries; Transport, Storage, etc.; Public Utility Services; and Government Industrial Establishments.

* † ‡ See footnotes on previous page.

§ The number of workpeople now employed in wallpaper manufacture is much smaller than in October, 1938.

¶ The figures relate to the permanent employees of dock, harbour and canal authorities; they do not cover dock workers paid by the day or half-day.

¶ In the case of the Government Industrial Establishments the comparisons between the average earnings in October, 1938, and January, 1942, are materially affected by the fact that the returns for the latter date covered a number of establishments, employing considerable numbers of workpeople, which were not in operation in October, 1938.

HOURS OF WORK AND MAN-POWER.

AFTER consultation with the Joint Consultative Committee of the National Joint Advisory Council,* the Ministry of Labour and National Service has decided to develop the principle, which has already been applied to a considerable extent, that the length of the working time in an industry or undertaking is an important factor to be taken into account in assessing the labour force required to be retained by the industry or undertaking. Where it is found that, exclusive of meal breaks, the hours worked fall short of 52 a week in the case of industrial work, or 46 a week in the case of office staffs, it will be assumed that a reduction of staff can be achieved by increasing the hours of work of the staff retained, unless special circumstances exist which make this inappropriate.

The foregoing principle is to be applied both in discussions with industries regarding the amount of labour which they should be permitted to retain and also in the consideration of applications for deferment of military service made by individual employers or requests for the retention of staff whom it is proposed to remove under the Registration for Employment Order.† Even where, in an industry or undertaking, it is not possible or appropriate to increase the general working hours,

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1940, page 156.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1941, pages 51 and 73.

individual workers who could reasonably be expected to work longer will, so far as practicable, either be withdrawn and be substituted by suitable workers who are available only for the shorter hours, or else, if this is not practicable, they may be expected to give additional services as part-time workers in other work.

It is emphasised that increased hours of work are asked for only where the increase is justified by the volume of work to be performed. In certain cases it may be possible to conclude arrangements with well-defined industries under which, though their labour force would be calculated on the basis of the standards mentioned above, some other means than a general increase of working hours should be accepted as producing equivalent results in the matter of the release of labour.

Where, in connection with the above arrangements, an industry or an undertaking increases the hours of work, this will not affect existing agreements or practice with regard to payment for time worked in excess of the agreed normal working week.

The above-mentioned principle as regards working hours is also to be applied to holidays. While the annual holidays of manual workers in the munitions industries and of administrative and clerical workers in Government Departments are being restricted, it is felt that, where holidays exceed two weeks in the course of a year, their curtailment should be considered as a means of saving man-power, and that retention of staff to enable longer holidays to be taken is not justifiable.

CONTROL AND ORGANISATION OF THE COAL INDUSTRY.

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

In a White Paper* published on 3rd June, the Government announced their general proposals concerning coal, covering both production and consumption and the organisation of the coal-mining industry. A summary of the principal features of these proposals is given below, in so far as they are directly concerned with labour and man-power in the industry.

Reviewing the general question of man-power, the Government point out that, in spite of the fact that the Essential Work Order has been applied to the coal-mining industry and that men are not, therefore, at liberty to leave it at will, there is a net wastage of some 25,000 men per annum. Last year wastage was offset, and a decline in output prevented, by the return to the mines of 33,000 men from other industries, and this year 6,500 men are being returned to the mines from the Army, 1,300 from the R.A.F. and 3,500 from industry and Civil Defence. These expedients, though they relieve immediate needs, cannot be repeated year by year, and more lasting remedies must be found for closing the gap between normal entry into and exit from the industry. To this end, the Minister of Labour and National Service has given instructions for the addition of coal-mining to the list of priority industries to which, under certain conditions, men not deferred in their present work may go, instead of being called up for military service; and as soon as the report is available of the Departmental Committee† appointed by the Minister of Labour and National Service to consider the problem of juvenile recruitment to the industry, the Government will consider, as a matter of urgency, what further steps should be taken to stimulate recruitment by improving the conditions and prospects (including facilities for training) of boys and youths entering the industry. The Government also propose to establish a Medical Consultative Service for the mines, with a view to the reduction of the numbers of workers leaving the industry on account of sickness of a not very serious character.

The Government's proposals for the re-organisation of the industry provide for the assumption by the Government of full control over the operation of the mines and for the organisation of the industry on the basis of national service. For this purpose, a responsible Minister would be appointed and national and regional machinery would be set up under his control. The Minister would be assisted by a Controller-General, whose chief officers would include a Labour Director responsible for the welfare, safety, health and working conditions of coal-miners and for the allocation of mining labour. A National Coal Board would be set up, the functions of which would comprise, *inter alia*, the consideration of matters relating to the maintenance of man-power and labour productivity, including the enrolment of new entrants and the instruction, training and advancement of boys and youths, and matters affecting the welfare, health and safety of mine-workers. In each coal-producing region, the powers of the Minister would be exercised through a Controller, who would be advised by a Regional Coal Board and assisted by a number of Directors, including one concerned with labour questions affecting the industry in the Region. The Controller would exercise full and undivided responsibility for the policy and general conduct of mining operations in his Region. It is not proposed, however, to interfere with the statutory responsibility of pit managers for questions of safety. Pit Production Committees would continue, as at present constituted, to assist pit managers to secure maximum output; but they should be relieved of all responsibility for dealing with individual cases of absenteeism. In the mining industry, as in other industries, absenteeism and persistent lateness should be made offences for which a man could be prosecuted without the prior issue of "directions."

Experience in other industries had shown, however, that in the large majority of cases absenteeism could be checked by methods of persuasion, without recourse to proceedings in the courts. In each Region, therefore, the Minister would appoint Investigation Officers, to whom all cases of absenteeism, persistent lateness and other disciplinary offences would be referred. This Officer would interview the man within twenty-four hours of receiving such a report. In suitable cases he might recommend prosecution, but the responsibility for instituting proceedings would rest with the National Service Officer.

As regards wages machinery, the Government state that the success of the proposed National Coal Board as a body for promoting increased production would, in their view, be gravely prejudiced if it were associated in any way with wages questions. However, a system should be developed by which questions of wages and conditions in the mining industry would be dealt with on a national basis and by a properly constituted national body. Accordingly, the Government propose to discuss with both sides of the industry the question of establishing a procedure and permanent machinery for dealing, against the background of a continuous review, both nationally and locally, with questions of wages and conditions (*see the article on this page entitled "Wages in the Coal-Mining Industry."*)

* Cmd. 6364. Coal. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net, (3d. post free).
† *See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1942, page 104.*

CONSUMPTION.

As a result of the measures outlined in the White Paper, together with greater economies in consumption, the Government count on bridging the existing gap between production and consumption, and providing a margin against contingencies. Substantial further economies in coal consumption must, however, be secured. As regard industrial consumers, such economies are to be achieved through improved methods of fuel consumption, and by the introduction of a system, of allocating coal to industry, similar to that for allocating raw materials. As regards domestic consumption, the Government have decided that the most practical and effective method of rationing the consumption of domestic fuel is by means of a "points" scheme of rationing on lines indicated in an annex to the White Paper. They have decided that it is not essential that this Scheme should be introduced forthwith. It is necessary, however, that the public should restrict their fuel consumption voluntarily as nearly as possible to the limits which would be imposed on them if rationing were introduced. The public will therefore be asked to practise the maximum possible economy on a voluntary basis. It is important, however, to ensure that if it should become necessary the scheme for the rationing of domestic fuel could be introduced at short notice; and all the necessary administrative preparations will therefore be made, including the issue of application forms to householders and the making of assessments by Local Fuel Overseers.

The proposals, as a whole, were approved by both Houses of Parliament on 11th June.

WAGES IN THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD OF INVESTIGATION.

WHEN the Government announced their general proposals covering the production and consumption of coal and the organisation of the coal-mining industry (*see the article on this page entitled "Control and Organisation of the Coal Industry"*) they took the view that the success of the proposed National Coal Board as a body for promoting increased production would be gravely prejudiced if it were associated in any way with wages questions.

After discussion with the industry of the position that had been reached in the wages negotiations, the Government decided to refer the whole question to a Board of Investigation. The Board was appointed on 5th June jointly by the Minister of Labour and National Service and the President of the Board of Trade and began work immediately. It was constituted as follows: The Right Honourable Lord Greene, O.B.E. (Chairman), Colonel Ernest Briggs, D.S.O., B.Sc., George Chester, Esq., Sir John Forster, Dr. Arnold D. McNair, C.B.E., F.B.A., LL.D.

The Board are required under their terms of reference not only to "consider and report in the first instance upon the immediate wages issue," but also to "inquire into the present machinery and methods of determining wages and conditions of employment in the industry, and to submit recommendations for the establishment of a procedure and permanent machinery for dealing with questions of wages and conditions of employment in the industry."

The Government have given an assurance that the decision taken following the report of the Board on the immediate wages issue* should operate retrospectively with effect as from 1st June.

LABOUR SHORTAGE IN COTTON SPINNING MILLS.

As the result of discussions between representatives of the Ministry of Supply (including Royal Ordnance Factory officials), the Trade Union leaders, the Cotton Controller and the Ministry of Labour, special steps are being taken to meet the serious shortage of cotton operatives for the spinning mills. This shortage is estimated at over 10,000 workers, but substantial numbers are in the lower grades. Employers in need of labour for the production of cotton yarn have been asked to furnish lists of operatives of the types in demand whom they formerly employed and now desire to re-employ, and these operatives are being approached with a view to their transfer back to the mills until the required complement is reached. Many former cotton operatives are now employed on munitions work, and it is anticipated that the number of such workers to be withdrawn from Royal Ordnance Factories will be not less than 2,000. If sufficient volunteers are not forthcoming the Minister of Labour is to use his powers under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations to direct the return of the workers to their former employment as cotton operatives.

It is emphasised that the supply of additional labour to employers is conditional upon efforts being made by the employers on their own account to meet the situation, and priority in the allocation of labour made available under the present arrangements is to be given to employers who adopt a system of part-time working.

* A summary of the first Report of the Board, dealing with this question and recommending general increases in wages, will be given in the next issue of this GAZETTE.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES.

WHOLESALE GROCERY AND PROVISION TRADE (ENGLAND AND WALES).

THE recently established Joint Industrial Council for the Wholesale Grocery and Provision Trade (England and Wales)* has adopted an agreement, the provisions of which are summarised below, regulating the rates of wages and conditions of employment of workers, other than transport and clerical workers, engaged in the distribution of groceries and provisions, other than by retail, in England and Wales. The rates and conditions laid down in the agreement, which became operative on and from the pay day in the week beginning 8th June, 1942, are stated to be minima and are not to prevent the payment of higher rates or the operation of better conditions, or to prejudice any worker who is in receipt of higher wages or is working under better conditions.

WAGES.

The agreement provides for the following scales of minimum weekly rates of wages:—*London Area* (i.e., the area within a circle of 16 miles radius from Charing Cross, including any towns through which the circumference of the circle passes): male workers, 21s. at 16 years, increasing to 72s. at 21 years and over; female workers, 20s. at 16 years, increasing to 45s. at 21 years and over. *Elsewhere*: male workers, 20s. at 16 years, increasing to 66s. at 21 years and over; female workers, 19s. at 16 years, increasing to 42s. at 21 years and over.

Women, 18 years of age and over, may be employed on work which was restricted to male labour before the war, at a minimum rate of 60 per cent. of the appropriate men's rate during the first three months, increasing to 70 per cent. during the second three months and 80 per cent. thereafter. Piecework rates are to be so fixed as to yield to a normal worker earnings not less than 20 per cent. in excess of the daywork rate. The rates of pay for sub-normal workers are to be settled by agreement between the individual employers and workers concerned, subject to the approval of the Joint Secretaries of the Joint Industrial Council and to reference, in cases of disagreement, to an Appeals Committee.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

The normal working week is not to exceed 48 hours, exclusive of meal times. For the purposes of overtime payment, the working week is to be reckoned either cumulatively or on the basis of a schedule of daily hours. Where a cumulative week is worked, overtime is to be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for the first five hours beyond 48 hours in any one week, and thereafter at the rate of time-and-a-half, provided that overtime rates are paid for all hours of work in excess of nine in any one day in the case of a 5½-day week, or ten in the case of a 5-day week. Where a scheduled week is worked, the rate of payment for overtime is time-and-a-quarter for the first two hours in excess of the normal working day and time-and-a-half thereafter. For work on Sundays, payment is at double-time rate, and for work on a statutory or public holiday an additional day's pay is to be given.

Workers who have completed twelve months' service are to receive six days' holiday with pay annually, and those with less than twelve months' but more than 26 weeks' service in any one calendar year are to receive one day's paid holiday for every eight weeks' service completed. Holidays are to be taken consecutively, and when, owing to war conditions, they cannot be granted, payment in lieu is to be made.

Workers with over twelve months' service with an employer are entitled to not less than two weeks' sick leave at full pay and four weeks at half pay in each year, subject to the production of a medical certificate. For service of less than twelve but more than six months with an employer, the minimum sick leave is one week at full pay and two weeks at half pay.

The agreement provides for the settlement by the Joint Industrial Council, through an Appeals Committee, or, if the Committee fails to agree, by the Independent President, of claims for special relief made by employers who consider that, owing to economic, financial or trading difficulties, they are unable to operate the agreement, in whole or in part.

CONTROL AND ORGANISATION OF DOCK LABOUR.

Dock Labour Schemes under the Essential Work (Dock Labour) Order have come into operation at eight ports, in addition to those mentioned in earlier issues of this GAZETTE.† The eight ports are Aberdeen, Boston, Cardiff, Dundee, Grangemouth, King's Lynn, Leith and Swansea. The terms of employment under the Schemes are those laid down in the agreement of the National Joint Council for Dock Labour of 16th July, 1941, which were summarised on page 32 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1942.

* *See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1942, page 85.*

† *See the issues of this GAZETTE for February, 1942, page 32, and April, 1942, page 84.*

REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF PRODUCTION.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL BOARDS.*

THE Report* has recently been published of the Committee which, under the chairmanship of The Rt. Hon. Sir Walter Citrine, K.B.E., was appointed by the Minister of Production on 18th February, 1942, "to examine the present constitution and functions of the Production Executive's Regional Boards and of the Central Joint Advisory Committee to the Production Executive and to make recommendations as to any changes in these matters that may appear to be necessary or desirable." The Report is accompanied by a Memorandum by the Minister of Production setting out the policy of the Government on the recommendations of the Committee and, subject to certain comments contained in the Memorandum, declaring the intention of the Government to take immediate steps to put the Committee's recommendations into practical effect.

The Government, in adopting the Committee's proposals, have had full regard to the functions of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in relation to the labour factor in production. Thus, the Government accept the Committee's view that the wider responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in regard to man-power generally, as distinct from industrial man-power, must be safeguarded when there is a question of settling local disputes concerning, *inter alia*, allocation of labour. They accept the recommendation that in such cases the Regional Director of Production and the Regional Controller of Labour and National Service should act jointly. The Regional Controllers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service will continue to sit on the Regional Boards and other Executive Committees, and a representative of the Ministry will serve on the Regional Organisation Committee which, on the recommendation of the Citrine Committee, has been appointed for the central co-ordination of the work of the Regional Organisation.

HOURS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

EXTENSION OF GENERAL EMERGENCY ORDER FOR COTTON SPINNING OR DOUBLING.

AN Order was made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 29th May, 1942, extending until 27th June, 1942, the operative period of the General Emergency Order for Cotton Spinning or Doubling, which was due to expire on 30th May, 1942. As reported on page 84 of the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1942, this General Emergency Order makes provision whereby factories in which the spinning or doubling of cotton yarn is carried on are exempted, as respects women and young persons employed in accordance with specified conditions, from the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, as to hours of employment and holidays; the right of occupiers of such factories to avail themselves of the Order being subject, however, to the grant by the Inspector of Factories for the District of written permission to do so.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1941.

A "Provisional Statement of Number of Deaths by Accidents at Mines and Quarries in Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during 1941"† has been issued by the Mines Department.

The Statement shows that, in all, 997 persons were killed by accidents which occurred during the year 1941 at mines and quarries in Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man. The corresponding figures for 1940 and 1939 were 1,008 and 783 respectively. Of the total number of deaths caused by accidents in 1941, 923 occurred at mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, and of these 501 resulted from falls of ground.

FACTORY VENTILATION IN THE "BLACK-OUT."

HURRIED measures taken on the outbreak of war to blackout factories often resulted in serious interference with the means of ventilation and affected the health and productive capacity of the workers. Much has since been done to remedy the defects, but the subject remains one of pressing importance, particularly in the summer months. A pamphlet—*Factory Ventilation in the Black-out*—was issued in the early part of the war and has now been re-issued in a slightly revised form by the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The pamphlet describes briefly the various measures which can be taken to improve ventilation without permitting the escape of interior artificial light, such as mechanical ventilation, provision of light-trap ventilators and stimulation of air movement. A number of drawings are included, showing simple ideas for the construction of light-traps at ventilator openings, such as windows and other wall and roof openings.

* Cmd. 6360. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free).

† H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net; 2d. post free.

‡ *Factory Ventilation in the Black-out*. Factory Form 301 (Revised, February, 1942). H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (4d. post free).

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN MAY.

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 Great Britain and Northern Ireland during May resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £225,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 630,000 workpeople, and in a decrease estimated at about £6,500 in those of 280,000 workpeople.

The principal industries and services in which wages were increased were coal mining in certain districts, roadstone, etc., quarrying, the linen industry in Northern Ireland, ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, the merchant navy, the non-trading services of a large number of local authorities, retail food distribution, milk distribution and rubber manufacture. Those in which wages were reduced included coal mining in certain districts, the iron and steel industry, and tobacco, etc., manufacture.

In the coal mining industry, increases occurred in South Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire owing to the operation of sliding-scale agreements under which wage rates fluctuate in correspondence with the ascertained proceeds of the industry. Roadstone, etc., quarrymen received an increase of 3d. an hour in war bonus. In the linen industry in Northern Ireland there were increases of about 10 per cent. in the flax spinning section and 7 per cent. in the weaving section. In ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring there was an increase of 1½d. an hour for men and of 1d. an hour for women and juveniles in some cases. The minimum weekly rates of wages fixed by the Retail Food Trades Joint Industrial Council for England and Wales were raised by 5s. for branch managers and branch manageresses, by amounts ranging from 1s. 6d. to 3s., according to age, for other male workers, and from 1s. to 2s. for other female workers. In milk distribution, the Trade Board minimum rates were raised by 5s., 3s. or 2s. a week, according to area, for men and 3s. or 2s. a week for women in England and Wales and by 3s. a week for men and women in Scotland. In

rubber manufacture there were additions to Trade Board minimum rates ranging from 3d. to 1½d. an hour for men, youths and boys and from 3d. to 1d. an hour for women and girls. Other groups of workpeople whose wage rates were increased including timeworkers and pieceworkers in the woollen and worsted industry in the South of Scotland and signalmen and traffic regulators on main-line railways.

There were decreases in wages in the coal mining industry, under sliding-scale agreements, in Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire), Nottinghamshire and Cannock Chase. In the iron and steel industry (including pig iron manufacture, iron puddling and steel melting and rolling), the flat-rate addition to wages was reduced, under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, by 0.8d. a shift for men and 0.4d. a shift for youths and boys. In tobacco, etc., manufacture there were decreases in Trade Board minimum time rates of 4½d. a week for men and 3d. a week for women and juveniles, with corresponding decreases for piece workers. Other industries in which reductions occurred included iron mining in some districts and tinsplate manufacture.

Of the estimated total increase of £225,000 a week, about £1,000 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the coal mining industry or in the cost of living; £184,000 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies; and nearly all the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between the employers and workpeople or their representatives. The whole of the estimated decrease of £6,500 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the coal mining industry or in the cost of living.

The changes reported in the first five months of 1942, in the industries covered by the statistics, are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £560,000 a week in the full-time wages of over 3,000,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of about £10,000 in those of 300,000 workpeople. In the corresponding five months of 1941 there was a net increase in these industries estimated at about £1,000,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 6,650,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes in hours of labour were reported during May.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Coal Mining	Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire)	1 May	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Decrease of 0.99 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 5.08 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	South Derbyshire	1 May	Do.	Increase of 1.67 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 78.37 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Nottinghamshire	1 May	Do.	Decrease of 2 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 108 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Cannock Chase	1 May	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than engine winders, deputies and firemen, examiners and shotlighters.	Decrease of 0.85 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 45.77 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Leicestershire	1 May	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 1.11 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 82.71 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Warwickshire	1 May	Do.	Increase of 2 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 88 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Cumberland	25 May	Iron ore miners	Increase of 6d. a shift for men and of 3d. a shift for youths and boys. War bonus increased by 3d. a shift (1s. 11½d. to 2s. for those 18 years and over and 11½d. to 1s. for those under 18).
	Furness and district	23 May	Do.	War bonus increased by 2d. a shift (1s. 11d. to 2s. 1d.) for those 18 years and over, and by 1d. (11½d. to 1s. 0½d.) for those under 18 years.
	Cleveland	3 May	Iron ore miners	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men, and by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys.
	Leicestershire and adjoining parts of Lincolnshire	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	
North Lincolnshire	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen and limestone quarrymen.		
Other Mining and Quarrying.	Northamptonshire (including Corby)	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased‡ by 1d. a shift (1s. 11½d. to 2s. 0½d.) for those 18 years and over, the flat-rate addition for those under 18 remaining unchanged at 1s. a shift.
	Banbury and district	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	
	South and West Durham	3 May	Limestone quarrymen	
	West Cumberland	25 May	Limestone quarrymen	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased‡ by 0.1d. an hour (3.2d. to 3.3d.) for men, and by 0.05d. (1.6d. to 1.65d.) for youths and boys.
	Scunthorpe (certain firms)	25 May	Slag and tar macadam workers	War bonus increased by 3d. an hour (3½d. to 4½d.) for men and by proportional amounts for youths.
	Various districts in Great Britain.§	21 May	Roadstone, limestone and igneous quarry workers.	Increase of 3d. an hour for timeworkers, and of an equivalent amount for pieceworkers. Rates after change for timeworkers: Grade A areas, delvers and hewers, 1s. 10d., bottom delvers 1s. 8½d., saw frame feeders, 1s. 7d., labourers, 1s. 5½d.; Grade B, 1½d. an hour less than Grade A.
	Yorkshire	1 May	Sandstone and freestone quarry workers.	Minimum hourly rates adopted, of 5½d. at 14 years, increasing to 1s. 2d. at 20 years.
Great Britain	4 May	Youths and boys employed in the silica and moulding sands industry		

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in the weekly wages and hours of labour exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural workers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of overtime working, etc.

† Flat-rate advances, previously paid in addition to basis rates and percentages, remained unchanged.

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

§ The districts affected include North-East England, North Lancashire and South Westmorland, Clitheroe district, Derbyshire and district, North Wales, Leicestershire and district, Warwickshire, West Midlands, South-East and South-West England, South Wales, and West, South and East Scotland.

|| The districts include (Grade A) Huddersfield, Crosland Moor, Bradford district (including Thornton, Shipley, Idle and Queensbury), Keighley district (including Haworth), Halifax and Brighouse districts and Horsforth, and (Grade B) Fawley Bridge district.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Other Mining and Quarrying. (Contd.)	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	21 May	Pennantstone quarry workers (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in the building industry). Able-bodied men	War bonus increased by 3d. an hour for men and for youths, 18 years and over, and by 3d. for boys, 15 to 17 years of age. Rates after change for men: drillers, barriers-down and mixers, 1s. 7½d., quarrymen and crusher feeders, 1s. 6½d., labourers, 1s. 5½d. New scale of rates adopted, of 1s. 4d. an hour for setters, moulders (hand and machine made), 1s. 3½d. for sorters (kiln car), crowders, off-bearers (hand made) and temperers (hand and machine made), 1s. 3d. for labourers, earth diggers, sorters (clamp) and off-bearers (machine made), and 11s. a shift of 8 hours for burners, plus 1d. an hour war bonus in each case.
	Stock Brick Making.	1st full pay week commencing 1 Apr.	Youths and boys Women and girls	New scale of rates adopted, of 17s. a week at 14 years, increasing to 50s. at 20 years, plus 4d. a day war bonus in each case. New scale of rates adopted, of 23s. 6d. a week at 16 years, increasing to 36s. at 18 years, plus 4d. a day war bonus in each case.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	Cleveland and Durham, West Cumberland and North Lancs., North Lincs., North Staffs., South Staffs., Bilston, Northants. (excluding Corby), and South Wales and Monmouthshire.	3 May	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men and by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys.
	Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blast-furnaces.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 4.8d. to 1s. 4d.) for men and by 0.4d. (8.4d. to 8d.) for youths and boys.
	West of Scotland	Pay period commencing nearest 1 May.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at certain blast-furnaces.	
	Great Britain†	4 May	Workpeople employed at steel sheet rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 5.6d. to 1s. 4.8d.) for men, by 0.4d. (8.8d. to 8.4d.) for youths and boys, and by amounts varying from 0.4d. to 0.8d., according to age, occupation and experience, for women, 18 years and over.
	North-East Coast Area	3 May	Workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men and by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys.
	Great Britain‡	3 May	Workpeople employed in steel melting shops (melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, gas producermen, semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc.).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 5.6d. to 1s. 4.8d.) for men and by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for workers under 21.
	North-East Coast Area	3 May	Workpeople employed at steel rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men, by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys, and by 0.4d., 0.6d. or 0.8d., according to age, occupation and experience, for women, 18 years and over.
	Barrow-in-Furness	3 May	Rail millmen, merchant millmen, enginemmen, cranimen, etc.	
	Workington	3 May	Steel millmen and labourers (dual workers).	
	Scunthorpe	3 May	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers.	
Corby	3 May	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men, by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys, and by 0.4d., 0.6d. or 0.8d., according to age, occupation and experience, for women, 18 years and over.	
Bilston	3 May	Steel millmen, maintenance men, etc.		
West of Scotland	3 May	Millmen, gas producermen, enginemmen, cranimen, firemen and mill labourers, semi-skilled workers and general labourers employed at steel rolling mills.		
South-West Wales	3 May	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 5.6d. to 1s. 4.8d.) for men and by 0.4d. (8.8d. to 8.4d.) for youths and boys.	
Engineering	Certain districts in England§	Beginning of 1st full pay period after 30 Jan.	Metal dressers (as defined in Award).	Minimum basic rates adopted of 36s. to 42s. a week, according to district, plus in each case a bonus of 35s. 6d. for timeworkers.
	North Staffordshire¶	1st full pay week in May.	Skilled toolroom workers	Basic rate adopted of 50s. a week. Rate after change for timeworkers, 50s., plus a bonus of 35s. 6d.
	Manchester district	1st full pay period following 13 May.	Boiler firemen, enginemmen, etc., employed in engineering establishments.	Minimum basic rates adopted, for a working week of 47 hours, of 33s. to 46s., according to size of boiler, for boiler firemen, of 33s., 35s. or 42s., according to type of engine, for enginemmen, and of 30s. for auxiliary workers, plus 35s. 6d. bonus in each case.
	England and Wales**	4 May	Workpeople employed on galvanising processes (excluding the process of annealing).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 5.6d. to 1s. 4.8d.) for men, by 0.4d. (8.8d. to 8.4d.) for youths and boys, and by amounts varying from 0.4d. to 0.8d., according to age, occupation and experience, for women, 18 years and over.
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.	3 May	Men, women and juveniles (excluding those engaged on maintenance work).	Cost-of-living bonus reduced* by 0.8d. (1s. 7.2d. to 1s. 6.4d.) for men and for women on men's work, 21 years of age and over, and by 0.4d. (9.6d. to 9.2d.) for other women and juveniles.
	Edinburgh	12 May	Farriers	Increase of 2½d. an hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 11d., doormen, 1s. 10½d.
Iron and Steel Scrap.	Great Britain	1st pay day after 6 April.	Men, youths and boys and women (18 years and over).	Increase of 1d. an hour for men and of proportional amounts for other workers. Rate after change for men, 68s. a week.
Woollen and Worsted Industry.	South of Scotland	Beginning of 1st full pay period following 13 May.	Timeworkers and pieceworkers	Current minimum average rates of lower paid timeworkers raised to 60s. a week for men and 43s. for women, with consequential adjustments in the rates of some higher paid workers, resulting in increases of amounts ranging from 1s. 3d. to 5s. 3d. a week for men, of 1s. 3d. for women, and of 2s. 9d. for certain classes of pieceworkers.
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield	Pay day in week ending 9 May.	Men, women and juveniles	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 100 to 99 per cent. on basis rates. Minimum weekly rates after change: men, 63s. 8d., plus 2s. 6d. for 48 hours (special payment); women, 18 years and over, 39s. 10d., plus 1s. 6d. for 48 hours (special payment).
	Various districts in Great Britain	21 May	Workpeople employed in flax spinning. Workpeople employed in linen, cotton and silk weaving.	Further increase of 12½ per cent. (22½ to 35 per cent.) on wages in operation before 4th December, 1939. Further increase of 9 per cent. (27½ to 36½ per cent.) on wages in operation before 4th December, 1939.
Linen, etc., Industry	Northern Ireland	4 May	Workpeople employed in flax spinning. Workpeople employed in linen, cotton and silk weaving.	Further increase of 9 per cent. (27½ to 36½ per cent.) on wages in operation before 4th December, 1939.
	Great Britain	1st full pay period after 18 May.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases on current earnings of 1½d. an hour for men and of 1d. for women and male and female learners.
Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring.	Northern Ireland	4 May.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Minimum rates increased by 7½ per cent.††

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

† This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Sheet Trade Board, the principal districts concerned being Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Glasgow district.

‡ This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms affiliated to the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts concerned being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, the Midlands, South Wales and the West of Scotland.

§ The districts concerned are Barrow, Birmingham, Bradford, Coventry, Derby, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, London, Loughborough, Nottingham, Oldham and Peterborough.

¶ This increase was the result of Award No. 213 of the National Arbitration Tribunal, dated 18th May, 1942.

** The districts covered are Burslem, Etruria, Hanley, Longport, Milton, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent.

†† This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.

‡‡ This increase took effect under an Order issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Order of the Minister of Labour (Northern Ireland), obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing, Wholesale Mantle and Costume Making, Baking, Tobacco, etc., Merchant Navy, Railway Service, Local Authorities, Skip and Basket Making, Distribution, Rubber Manufacture, and Cinematograph Film Production.

* These changes took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office. † Including Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Didsbury, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Stretford, Urmston, Flixton, Irlam and Cadishead, Barton, Patricroft, Eccles, Swinton, Pendlebury, Prestwich, Middleton, Oldham, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Walkden, Hyde, Denton, Royton, Shaw, Crompton and Glossop. ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. § These increases applied to the crews of all vessels covered by the National Maritime Board Rate of Pay Agreements, and also, subject to the consent of the Government Department concerned, to the crews of railway-owned vessels.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st June, 1942.

Table showing Index Points and Percentage Change since July, 1914, for Food (59%) and All Items (99%).

In many areas the price of milk on 1st June was lower than a month earlier. Apart from this, the retail prices of the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics showed no appreciable change at 1st June as compared with 1st May. The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st June, 1942, with the corresponding prices at 1st May, 1942, and 1st September, 1939:

Table comparing Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) and Percentage Increase or Decrease at 1st June, 1942, compared with 1st May, 1942, and 1st Sept., 1939. Includes items like Beef, Mutton, Bacon, Fish, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Eggs, and Potatoes.

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st May, 1942, and 1st June, 1942, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:

Table showing Average Percentage Increase or Decrease since July, 1914, at 1st Sept., 1939, 1st May, 1942, and 1st June, 1942. Includes items like Beef, Mutton, Bacon, Fish, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Cheese, and Eggs.

On the basis of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the average level of retail food prices at 1st June, 1942, was about one-half of one per cent. lower than at 1st May, about 15 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939, and about 59 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

The average level of working-class rents (including rates) at 1st June showed no appreciable change as compared with 1st May, being about 1 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939, and about 64 per cent. above that in July, 1914.

* A fall of 1 point on a total of 160 for "food" (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to about one-half of one per cent. Similarly, a fall of 1 point on a total of 200 for "all items" is equivalent to one-half of one per cent.

† The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind was seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative. ‡ On 1st May and 1st June, 1942, two brands of margarine, "special" and "standard" were on sale at 9d. and 5d. per lb., respectively. The figures for 1st September, 1939, and July, 1914, are averages calculated from the prices of various brands on sale at those dates.

§ Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st May and 1st June, 1942, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1d. for small eggs (in category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for fresh eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

As regards clothing, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st June the retail prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about the same as at 1st May, and about 95 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. During May there was a slight increase, averaging about one-half of 1 per cent., in the prices of boots and shoes, but in the remaining groups of items included in the figures (viz., men's suits and overcoats; woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery; and cotton materials and hosiery) there was, on balance, a slight decline, some increases in the prices of "non-utility" articles having been more than offset by increasing sales of "utility" cloth and apparel, at prices controlled by the Board of Trade. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make an exact comparison over a long period of years, but such information as is available indicates that at 1st June the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 305 per cent.

In the fuel and light group, the average level of prices of coal and of gas was about the same at 1st June as a month earlier. Prices of coal averaged about 22 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 136 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; prices of gas averaged about 27 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 97 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There was little change during the month in the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches. In the fuel and light group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st June was approximately the same as at 1st May, about 27 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 132 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards other items* included in these statistics, there were increases, averaging about 2 per cent., in the prices of domestic ironmongery, brushes and pottery during May, but the remaining items showed little change. In the group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st June was about the same as at 1st May, about 47 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 163 per cent. above the level of 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 working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st June, 1942, is approximately 99 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 100 per cent. at 1st May and with 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average percentage increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or readjustments in consumption and expenditure since the outbreak of the war.

The rise of 44 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 28 per cent. Of these 44 points, about 4 points represent the effect of the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches; and approximately 6 points are due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.

SUMMARY TABLE: ALL ITEMS.

Average percentage increases as compared with July, 1914.

Summary Table showing Average percentage increases as compared with July, 1914, for years from 1920 to 1942 across months Jan to Dec.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation," is obtainable, price 3d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the last page of this GAZETTE.

* Soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushes, pottery, tobacco and cigarettes, fares and newspapers.

Award No. 214 (26th May, 1942).—Parties: The Members of the Brassfounders' Employers' Association and members of the National Society of Brass and Metal Mechanics employed by them. *Claim:* For an increase in wage rates, the payment of a lieu rate to day workers and a revision of the method of apportioning piece-work earnings. *Award:* The Tribunal found against the claim.

Further details of these cases and full particulars of the awards which are not summarised above may be obtained from the awards themselves, copies of which may be obtained, price 1d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

During May, 1942, the Tribunal issued twelve awards, Nos. 107-118. Seven of the awards are of significance for the whole or a substantial part of the industry or occupation concerned, either throughout Northern Ireland or in a particular locality, and these awards are summarised below. The other five awards relate to cases affecting individual firms or local authorities.

Awards Nos. 107 and 108 (1st May, 1942).—Parties: The Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union on behalf of breadservers employed by (1) the Members of the Belfast Master Bakers' Association, the Provincial Association of Master Bakers, and the North of Ireland Bakers' Alliance, and (2) the Belfast Co-operative Society Ltd. *Claim:* For an increase in wages of 5s. per week. *Awards:* The Tribunals found, in each case, that the claim had not been established.

Award No. 109 (8th May, 1942).—Parties: The Members of the Belfast and North of Ireland Carriers' Association and carters and certain motor-drivers employed by them. *Claim:* For certain improved conditions of employment and rates of wages. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that (1) with effect as from the first full pay period following 8th May, 1942, (a) the present weekly rate of wages of drivers of light horse-drawn vehicles be increased by 1s. 6d. and (b) the present weekly rate of wages of drivers of motors of over two tons carrying capacity be increased to £3 18s. 6d., and no lesser rate should be payable, and (2) the other parts of the claim had not been established.

Awards Nos. 115 and 116 (22nd May, 1942).—Parties: The Belfast Members of the Northern Ireland Coal Importers' Association and certain of their employees. *Claims:* For (1) certain improved conditions with regard to wages and overtime pay, and (2) the restoration of "twenty-four available hours a day for coal discharge, as provided for by the Agreement between the Committee and the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union, dated 19th August, 1940, which Agreement is still operative, subject to the Awards of the Tribunal dated 29th May, 1941, and 6th October, 1941." *Awards:* As regards (1) the Tribunal found that the claim had not been established. As regards (2) the Tribunal awarded that, with effect as from 1st June, 1942, the above-mentioned Agreement dated 19th August, 1940, as extended by the Supplemental Agreement for week-end discharge during the period of the present war in regard to the hours of work, should be restored and continue in force until 30th September, 1942. (As from 1st June, 1942, this Award cancels Awards Nos. 47 and 65, dated 29th May, 1941, and 6th October, 1941, respectively, particulars of which were given on pages 128 and 227 of the June, 1941, and November, 1941, issues of this GAZETTE.)

Awards Nos. 117 and 118 (27th May, 1942).—Parties: A Portadown Member and the Ballymena Members of the Northern Ireland Country Master Bakers' Association and certain of their employees. *Claims:* For an increase of 3s. 6d. per week on the present rates of wages of bakers. *Awards:* The Tribunals found, in each case, that the claim had not been established.

Further details of the above cases and full particulars of the awards which are not summarised may be obtained from the awards themselves, copies of which may be obtained by making written application to the Ministry of Labour, Stormont, Belfast.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

No proposals to vary minimum rates of wages have been issued since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

In pursuance of the powers conferred by the Trade Boards Acts, the Minister of Labour and National Service in Great Britain and the Ministry of Labour in Northern Ireland, have made Orders confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the Trade Boards indicated below. Copies of the Orders may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, either directly or through any bookseller:—

Baking Trade Board (Scotland).—Order BKS. (9), dated 13th May, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in certain specified areas and specifying 27th May, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Rubber Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order RU. (12), dated 14th May, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 22nd May, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).—Order A. (21), dated 21st May, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 1st June, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.W.M. (19), dated 11th May, 1942, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers and specifying 16th May, 1942, as the date from which these rates became effective.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.W.D. (37), dated 12th May, 1942, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers and the general minimum piece-rates for certain female workers in the Factory Branch of the said trade, and specifying 18th May, 1942, as the date from which these rates became effective.

SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES (WAR SERVICE) ACT.

On 13th May, 1942, the Minister of Labour and National Service certified the following employment to be such as, in his opinion, may properly be treated for the purposes of the Superannuation Schemes (War Service) Act, 1940*, in the same manner as service in the Forces of the Crown:—Employment in the Electricity Supply Industry, being employment with an authorised undertaker within the meaning of the Electricity (Supply) Acts, 1882 to 1936.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

IN the list below, the full titles, the serial numbers and the prices are given of Orders made by the Minister of Labour and National Service which have been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders* since the last issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, as well as of other Orders relating to matters with which the Ministry is concerned, either directly or indirectly.

Copies of Statutory Rules and Orders may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses shown at the foot of this page. The prices quoted are all net, those in brackets including postage at Inland Postal rates.

S.R. & O. 1942, No.	Title and Price.
961	Order in Council amending Regulations 18, 27A, 58AB and 62 of, and the Third Schedule to, the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, adding Regulations 1c, 20AB, 45AB, 47AB, 50A, 55B, 73A and 74A thereto and revoking Regulation 18E thereof. 4d. (5d.)
962	Order in Council extending the Defence (Home Guard) Regulations, 1940, to the Isle of Man. 1d. (2d.)
1073	The Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Tribunal (Amendment) Order, 1942, dated May 29, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulations 58AA and 98 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.) [This Order provides that in cases where trade disputes or any question relating to the observance of recognised terms and conditions are reported to the Minister under Articles 2 and 5 of the principal Order, the reports must be in writing and must contain such particulars as the Minister may require.]

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1940, page 185.

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