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

EMPLOYMENT.

THERE was little change, on the whole, in the state of employment during May. In the coal mining industry, in tinsplate and steel sheet manufacture, and in the carpet trade it continued good; in the tailoring trade it was fairly good; and in the iron and steel, woollen and worsted, furnishing, paper, printing, and brick trades it was fair. In most of the other large industries it was still slack, but a further slight improvement was reported at iron mines, in pig-iron manufacture, in certain other sections of the metal trades, and in the building trades. There was a decline, however, in the wool textile industry, and the shipbuilding industry was affected by the lock-out of platers, rivetters, etc.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions from which returns are received was 11·3 at the end of May, as compared with 11·3 at the end of April, and with 16·4 at the end of May, 1922. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 10·7 at 21st May, as compared with 10·9 at 23rd April, and 13·5 at the end of May, 1922. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 28th May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 1,261,000, of whom 959,000 were men and 229,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 30th April the total was also 1,261,000, of whom 963,000 were men and 218,000 were women.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in May resulted in an aggregate reduction of nearly £100,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 900,000 workpeople, and in an increase of over £90,000 in the wages of 700,000 workpeople. The number of workpeople affected by increases in wages and the total amount of increase are the largest recorded in any month since January, 1921.

The largest group of workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced were building trade operatives, who sustained reductions, in the majority of districts, of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d. per hour in the case of craftsmen (with an additional reduction ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in the case of plumbers in London and certain other localities), and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour in the case of labourers. Other classes of workers whose wage rates were reduced included electric cable makers, heating and domestic engineers, hosiery workers in the Midlands, carpet workers, furniture warehousemen and removers, cement workers, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery and fruit preserving workers, compositors in provincial towns, and tramway workers. Under the Trade Boards Acts there were reductions in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople in the pin, hook and eye and snap fastener trade, and in the brush and broom trade in Great Britain, and for certain classes of workers in the ostrich and fancy feather

and artificial flower trade in Great Britain, the dress-making and women's light clothing trade in Scotland, and the rope, twine, and net trade in Northern Ireland.

The principal groups of workpeople who obtained increases in wages were coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, the East Midlands, Scotland, and the Radstock district; the amounts of increase varied, in different districts, from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 7 per cent. on current rates. There were also increases in the wages of iron miners in Cumberland, Furness and Lincolnshire, blast-furnace workers in Cumberland and Lincolnshire, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and the West of Scotland, and Siemens steel workers in South and West Wales.

During the first five months of 1923 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of £340,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,350,000 workpeople, and in a net increase of over £100,000 in the weekly wages of 760,000 workpeople. In the corresponding five months of 1922 there was a net reduction of nearly £2,320,000 in the weekly wages of 7,000,000 workpeople, and a net increase of £3,000 in the wages of 17,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

On 1st June the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 69 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 70 per cent. at 1st May. For food alone the corresponding percentages were 60 and 62 respectively. The slight decline during May was mainly due to reductions in the prices of butter and cheese.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

For further particulars and details of the statistics, reference should be made to the article on page 202.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May was 49. In addition, 41 disputes which began before May were in progress at the beginning of the month.

The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in May (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 48,000, as compared with 110,000 in the previous month and 382,000 in May, 1922 (when disputes were in progress in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, involving about 350,000 workpeople). The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during May was 807,000 working days, as compared with 1,077,000 days in April, 1923, and 7,879,000 days in May, 1922. Particulars of the principal disputes in progress are given on page 212.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (No. 2) BILL.*

A BILL "to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and the Acts amending that Act, and to amend the law with respect to employers' liability insurance, the notification of accidents, first aid, and ambulance," was introduced in the House of Commons on the 15th May.

Clauses 1-5 relate to the amendment of the benefits payable under the principal Act, i.e., the Act of 1906. Provision is made for the repeal of the Workmen's Compensation (War Addition) Acts of 1917 and 1919; but certain increases are proposed in the amounts payable under the Act of 1906, either on the death of a workman or as weekly payments during a workman's incapacity. It is proposed, however, that the total amount payable to the dependants of a deceased workman shall not exceed £500 (instead of £300, as under the principal Act); and that the maximum weekly payment shall be 30s., instead of £1.

In fatal cases the important principle is introduced that compensation shall vary according to the number and ages of the children left by the deceased workman; and, while 50 per cent. of the average weekly earnings remains the basis of compensation in cases of incapacity, provision is made for increasing this proportion in cases where wages are less than 50s. a week.

Clause 6 provides that "an accident resulting in the death or serious and permanent disablement of a workman shall be deemed to arise out of and in the course of his employment, notwithstanding that the workman was at the time when the accident happened acting in contravention of any statutory or other regulation applicable to his employment, or of any orders given by or on behalf of his employer, or that he was acting without instructions from his employer, if such act was done by the workman for the purposes of and in connection with his employer's trade or business."

The purpose is to bring within the Act certain classes of cases at present excluded on the ground that the accident occurred while the workman was doing something he was not employed to do, and so did not arise "out of" the employment.

Clauses 7 and 8 extend the provisions of the principal Act to cover certain classes of share fishermen; taxi-cab drivers and the like, who hire their vehicles or vessels from the owners; certain persons casually employed for the purposes of any game or recreation; and certain persons employed on a ship otherwise than as members of the crew as at present limited by section 7 of the principal Act.

Clauses 9 and 10 amend and simplify the provisions of the principal Act with regard to (i) the notification of accidents and (ii) the reference of matters to a medical referee.

Clause 11 provides that, in certain cases where a memorandum of agreement for the payment of a lump sum is sent to a County Court for registration, the registrar (or the judge) of the County Court may require either party to the agreement to furnish information, or to appear before him in person, and may require the parties to obtain a report as to the workman's condition from a medical referee; and, where it appears that the workman's chances of recovery cannot as yet be approximately determined, may refuse to record the memorandum. The approved society or committee administering the sickness or disablement benefit payable to the workman under the Health Insurance Acts may appear before the registrar (or judge) and object to the registration of any such agreement.

Clause 12 authorises an employer to make an agreement with a workman for the payment of compensation in cases of disablement owing to certain industrial diseases, without requiring the workman to obtain a certificate from the certifying surgeon; and such agreements are to be enforceable in the same way as agreements to pay compensation in cases of accident.

Clause 13 restricts the power of an employer to end or diminish a weekly payment otherwise than in pursuance of agreement or arbitration. Under the new clause, this will be permitted only—

(a) Where a workman in receipt of a weekly payment in respect of total incapacity has actually returned to work;

(b) Where the weekly earnings of a workman in receipt of a weekly payment in respect of partial incapacity have actually been increased.

Further, (c) in certain cases, where the employer has obtained from the proper medical practitioner a certificate that the workman has wholly or partially recovered, and has served a copy of this certificate on the workman, together with a notice of his intention to end or diminish the weekly payment; and the workman has within a week sent the employer a report from a duly qualified medical practitioner disagreeing with the certificate served on him by the employer, the weekly payment is not to be ended or diminished until the case has been referred to a medical referee.

It is further provided that "nothing in this section shall authorise any employer to diminish a weekly payment so as to reduce it to an amount below the amount payable in the case of partial incapacity under this Act."

In Clause 14 it is proposed to amend section 3 of the principal Act, relating to the certification of schemes by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, so as to secure that adequate provision has been made for the discharge of liabilities arising under such a scheme, both during its currency and after it is revoked or expires. Clause 15 amends section 5 of the principal Act in such a way as to increase the security of the workmen in the event of the employer's bankruptcy.

In Clause 16 it is proposed to amend section 11 of the principal Act, so as to provide for the more effective detention of ships for the purpose of enforcing claims for compensation against owners who are resident abroad.

* Bill 134 (House of Commons); H.M. Stationery Office. Price 6d. net.

Clause 17 defines a dependant as a person "dependent wholly or partially on contributions from another person for the provision of the ordinary necessities of life suitable for persons in his class and position."

Clause 18 makes certain provisions as to the repayment, by the person liable to pay compensation, of outdoor poor relief (or of part thereof) advanced by an authority.

Clause 19 makes a number of minor amendments in the principal Act. Clause 20 makes certain provisions as to the payment of fees to medical referees.

Clause 21 amends the requirements of the Notice of Accidents Act, 1906, and of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, in regard to the notification of accidents. It requires all accidents to be notified which cause loss of life to an employed person, or disable him for more than three days from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed.

Section 22 requires one or more first-aid boxes or cupboards to be provided in each factory (one for each 150 persons employed), except in certain cases where an ambulance room is provided.

Section 23 provides that certain provisions of the Act shall not apply to accidents that happened before the commencement of the Act.

Section 24 gives the short title of the Act; provides that it shall not apply to Northern Ireland; and fixes the 1st January, 1924, as the date of the Act's coming into operation.

The Bill was read a second time on the 30th May, and referred to a Standing Committee.

The Home Office have issued an explanatory memorandum* for the purpose of illustrating certain of the provisions in Clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill, dealing with the benefits to be payable in cases of death and in cases of disablement.

The Home Office have also issued a leaflet† containing the undertaking given by the Accident Offices Association, after negotiations with the Government, on behalf of its constituent insurance offices, limiting the charges to employers in respect of employers' liability insurance. The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department gave the gist of this undertaking as follows, in his speech on the second reading:—

"The loss ratio which the total amount paid by the companies under the Association in any year in respect of compensation, including reasonable medical and legal expenses, bears to the total amount of the premiums received by the companies in that year is to be not less than 60 per cent. during each of the next three years. After those years it is to be 62½ per cent., or such other proportion, not less than 60 per cent., as may be agreed upon; and further, if the amount paid in respect of compensation falls short of or exceeds the above loss ratio, the companies will be bound to make a corresponding rebate, or will be entitled to make an additional charge, as the case may be, to the employers before the next premium is paid."

WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADE.**ARBITRATOR'S AWARD.**

SIR HUGH FRASER, the Arbitrator appointed by the Lord Chief Justice following the recent discussions as to wages and hours in the building trade (see page 122 of the April GAZETTE), issued his award on 15th May. The award is signed by the Assessors and by representatives of the National Allied Building Trades Employers and the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives.

The Arbitrator finds that the Agreement of the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry "requires revision by mutual consent in the interests of the entire industry and in order that the purposes and intentions of the parties thereto should be more clearly indicated," such revision to be made on or before the statutory meeting in January, 1924. In the meantime, he awards that certain alterations should be made in the document forthwith.

Under the terms of the National Council's Agreement provision was made in Clause 14 (b) of Section 2 (i.e., Rules of the Council) for the automatic adjustment of wages in accordance with the cost-of-living index numbers as published by the Ministry of Labour, the rates of wages in operation at 11th April, 1921, being taken as corresponding with an index number of 170 per cent. above the pre-war level, and a variation of ½d. per hour being made for every complete average variation of 6½ points in the index number, the resulting changes to be made on 1st February or 1st August in any year. In Clause 14 (c) provision was made, enabling the status of workers to be varied, as follows:—"Provided always that due consideration shall be given to evidence submitted to the Council by any of the parties as to whether the state of trade or other circumstances warrant a variation in the general status of the workers or any section of them, and provided further that should the Council, after hearing evidence, decide that a variation of status should be given effect to, then such decision shall be subject to ratification as in the case of constitutional amendments." The Arbitrator awards that this last-mentioned clause should be deleted, and directs that both employers and operatives should strictly adhere to the sliding scale in wage adjustments. The award also amends the sliding scale by substituting 5½ for 6½ points as determining the rise or fall in wages and, for London only, alters the index number from which the scale operates from 170 to 164½.

As regards wages, the award provides that, as from 26th May,

* Cmd. 1876; price 2d. net. † Cmd. 1891; price 2d. net.

the wages of craftsmen shall be reduced by ½d. per hour in London, by 1d. per hour in Grade A and B towns in the provinces, and by ½d. per hour in Grade C towns, while the wages of labourers are to be maintained as nearly as possible at 75 per cent. of the craftsmen's wages, all the reductions to be on account of future adjustments rendered necessary by the operation of the sliding scale. No further variation in wages is to be made prior to January, 1924.

Particulars of the reductions in wages applicable to the various towns as a result of the award, and the rates of wages payable thereafter, will be found on pages 214 and 222.

EXCHANGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS FOR THE YEAR 1922-23.

THE Minister of Labour desires to call the attention of employers and insured contributors to the fact that the Unemployment Books for 1922-23 cease to be current on the 1st July, 1923, and must be exchanged for new Books during the week ending the 7th July, 1923.

Employers should communicate immediately with the nearest Employment Exchange or Branch Employment Office of the Ministry of Labour, if they have not already done so, respecting the special facilities available in this connection.

SHIPBUILDING TRADE DISPUTE.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for last month (p. 159) contained an account of the earlier stages of this dispute, which arose out of the refusal of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders to accept an agreement between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades in regard to the conditions of overtime and nightshift working, and resulted in a lock-out of members of the Boilermakers' Society employed in Federated shipyards as from 30th April.

At the annual meeting of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, held in May, it was decided that the Boilermakers' Society should be expelled from the Federation. Subsequently a conference between representatives of the Boilermakers' Society and of the Employers' Federation was arranged, and took place on 30th May, but no settlement was reached and the lock-out continued. At a conference of representatives of the Boilermakers' Society, held on the 5th and 6th June, it was decided to inform the employers that the Society were prepared to recommend their members to resume work under the agreement on a time-rate (instead of a piece-work) basis, or, alternatively, to refer the questions at issue to arbitration. The employers were, however, unable to agree to either of these proposals.

DUNDEE JUTE WORKERS' DISPUTE.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for April (page 123) and for May (page 159) gave an account of the earlier stages of this dispute, up to the point where the spinning "flats" at the Camperdown works (Messrs. Cox Bros., Ltd.), at which the original dispute had occurred, were thrown open for the resumption of work upon the terms in operation when the dispute began. The workpeople, however, did not return to work in these flats, and the Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers accordingly gave notice that the general lock-out would be re-imposed as from the 1st June unless work was resumed by the 29th May.

Attempts to secure a settlement having been ineffective, the general lock-out, affecting about 29,000 workpeople, was re-imposed as from 1st June. On 2nd June the Minister of Labour invited representatives of employers and workers to meet him in London. Representatives of the workers proceeded to London; but, after communications between the Minister and the employers, a meeting of the Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers was held on 6th June, at which it was decided to withdraw the lock-out notices and to re-open all the works on 8th June, except the Camperdown works (where the original difficulty arose). These works still remain closed at the time of going to press.

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE fifty-fifth annual Congress of delegates from Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom was held at Edinburgh on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of May, 1923, and was attended by about 1,560 delegates, representing 570 societies. There were also representatives from various outside bodies in the United Kingdom, from co-operative organisations in Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Holland, Sweden, Poland and Georgia, and also from the League of Nations. The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a federation of about 1,300 societies, with an aggregate membership of some 4,500,000. The Congress President was Mr. Robert Stewart, J.P. (Chairman of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society).

The question of the proposed establishment of a daily newspaper to be owned by the co-operative movement was again discussed, and it was resolved that the detailed scheme should be referred to the constituent societies for consideration, and that

the attitude of the societies should be reported to the 1924 Congress.

The subject of Trade Boards received attention, and a resolution was carried to the effect that the Congress "views with grave concern the proposal of the Government to adopt the recommendations of the Cave Committee concerning Trade Boards, and places on record its conviction that from the experience of the co-operative movement the urgent need is not to reduce the scope and powers of Trade Boards, but to extend them and to make the awards of such Trade Boards binding upon all traders."

With regard to co-operative labour conditions and disputes, a resolution was moved proposing the appointment of a Committee to examine the existing machinery of the National Joint Committee of Trade Unionists and Co-operators. After considerable discussion the resolution was declared lost.

As regards unemployment, a resolution was adopted demanding legislation establishing the principle of the right to work, or the provision of adequate maintenance.

A further resolution declared the Housing (No. 2) Bill, at present before Parliament, inadequate.

On the subject of education, societies were urged to organise more efficient education and training for junior employees and to place their educational grants upon a membership basis, instead of basing them upon trading surpluses. A resolution was also carried demanding that the Education Act of 1918 should be made fully operative.

International affairs were discussed in an emergency resolution on the Russian question calling on the Government to maintain and improve relations with Russia, and on a resolution protesting against the continued occupation of parts of Germany.

The next Congress is to be held in Nottingham in Whit-week, 1924.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

DURING the four weeks ended the 27th May, 1923, twenty-three meetings of Joint Industrial Councils were reported to the Ministry of Labour. A number of meetings of District Councils and Sub-Committees were also reported to have been held.

WAGES, HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

At the adjourned second annual meeting of the Joint Industrial (District) Council, North Midlands area, for *Brewery Workers and Beer Bottlers* a reduction of 3s. per week on the second pay day in June and a further 2s. per week on the second pay day in October was agreed. With regard to workpeople at *Workshop*, it was further agreed that the reduction on the second pay day in October should be 1s. if Yorkshire wages are not reduced prior to that date. An amended statement of minimum wages was prepared accordingly.

A report, prepared by a Wages and Conditions Committee, and adopted by the *Needles and Fishhooks* Joint Industrial Council, provides (1) that manufacturers need no longer approach or notify the trade union officials prior to working overtime, and (2) that existing overtime rates shall continue to be paid.

A number of other councils have discussed piece-work prices and claims for higher wages.

OTHER TOPICS.

The Employers' Federation for the *Tin Mining* industry has been disbanded; and, as a consequence, the Joint Industrial Council will be in suspense for the time being.

The Works Committee of the Joint Industrial Council for the *Match Manufacturing* industry, at various meetings during the month, have dealt with questions relating to summer holidays, supplementary unemployment benefit, sick benefit, and safety and welfare.

Unemployment by industry, and the bill proposing that compulsory powers should be given to Joint Industrial Councils, were discussed by several Councils.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.**INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.**

At 29th May, 1923, the number of men in training was 14,060, and the number awaiting training 9,059. Since 1st August, 1919, 72,549 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to the 6th June, 1923, 44,701 apprentices have been accepted for training with 17,854 employers, as compared with 44,701 apprentices with 17,853 employers on the 9th May, 1923.

The apprentices rejected up to the 6th June, 1923, numbered 2,179, this being the same as on the 9th May, 1923. Of those accepted, 43,011 had terminated their training, and 1,690 were still in training. The corresponding numbers on the 9th May, 1923, were 42,888 and 1,813.

The number of men who have received institutional training has increased during the four weeks from 2,311 to 2,312.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

On the 31st May, 1923, the number of employers on the King's National Roll was 28,507.

The undertakings given by these employers under the provisions of the National Scheme for the Employment of Disabled ex-Service men cover approximately 300,000 disabled ex-Service men.

SETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN ON THE LAND.

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have issued a Report* on the present position and future prospects of ex-Service men settled on the land as small-holders in England and Wales. The number of applicants (including a certain number of civilians) provided with holdings between 18th December, 1918, and 15th January, 1923, was 18,960, and the acreage of the land so provided was 268,407. The number of "failures," i.e., men who left their holdings for financial or similar reasons, up to Lady Day, 1923, was 1,226, or 6.5 per cent. of the total number provided with holdings. In considering the "failures" the report states that, generally speaking, men have failed in the South of England more than in the North or in Wales, in the East more than in the West, on arable land more than on grass, on market garden more than on other holdings, and among tenants of county boroughs (among whom there was a large proportion of "town-dwellers") more than among tenants of county councils (the larger part of whom were agriculturists). Taking the country as a whole, the proportion of failures is, as will be seen, very small, and the most striking fact at the present time is the large proportion of ex-Service men who are cultivating their holdings well and increasing their head of stock.

The case of disabled trainees provided with "cottage holdings" (i.e., a cottage and one to five acres of land), the number of whom does not exceed 300, is different. For a number of causes explained in the Report, it is stated that probably 50 per cent. of these men will ultimately fail.

With regard to future prospects, while some of the initial difficulties are now disappearing, much depends upon the prospects during the 1923 season. If the season proves as bad as either 1921 or 1922, and agricultural prices continue as unremunerative, the number of failures is certain to show a serious increase.

ALCOHOLISM AND WORKERS' LEISURE IN FRANCE.†

DURING the course of an investigation which the French Ministry of Labour has been conducting since May, 1919, into the use made by French workmen of the increased leisure conferred upon them by the laws regulating hours of employment, especially the eight-hour day Act of 23rd April, 1919, the opportunity was taken to inquire whether the reduction in working hours had led to increased alcoholism. The replies received from competent representatives both of the employers and of the workers pointed to the conclusion that alcoholism is decreasing, and this was supported by the statistics of consumption of alcoholic liquors. In Paris, for instance, the reduction, per head of population, in the consumption of alcoholic drink during the period 1919-1922, as against the period 1901-1913, was approximately 20 per cent.

The decrease in the consumption of alcoholic beverages is stated to be due in part to their greater cost, to the laws against alcoholism passed during the war, and to temperance propaganda; but it appears to be still more largely due to a change in manners.

The old type of French workman, who spent his scanty leisure in the public-house, and who sought there an artificial energy to enable him to meet the demands on his strength made by excessive working hours, seems to have almost disappeared, and his place to have been taken by a type that seeks its recreation in sport, the cultivation of an allotment and other healthier pursuits. The younger generation, it is stated, does not drink; it has a deeper consciousness of the dignity of labour, and a far stricter sense of discipline.

It is noteworthy that many of the replies to the French Ministry of Labour's inquiry attribute this change, in the first place, to the effect of the shorter working hours, which do not exhaust either the workman's energy or his interest, and which enable him to live in the suburbs, where he can find a natural outlet for his surplus energy; and, in the second place, to the greater discipline in the factories and workshops, brought about by the need for the fullest possible utilisation of the shorter working hours. The Eight-hour Day Act of 1919 is stated to have given impetus to this change in working-class manners, which has been increasingly observable since 1st April, 1904, the date of introduction of a general ten-hour day.

PHOSPHORUS IN MATCH INDUSTRY: ESTHONIA AND THE BERNE CONVENTION.

THE Swiss *Recueil des Lois Fédérales* for 21st February, 1923, notifies the adhesion, by letter dated 2nd February, 1923, of Esthonia to the Berne Convention of 1906, prohibiting the use of white (yellow) phosphorus in the match-making industry.

* Stationery Office Publication price 6d. net.
† *Bulletin du Ministère du Travail*, Jan.-March, 1923.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN SWEDEN: NEW ACT.*

THE Government Bill to extend the Hours of Work Act for a further period of three years was passed by the Swedish Diet on 3rd May, 1923. Amendments to the Bill were made in the course of its passage through Parliament. The chief points on which the new Act differs from the previous Act are summarised below:—

Overtime.—With a view to assisting seasonal occupations, the amount of overtime allowed without special permit at certain periods of the year is increased from 30 to 50 hours a month, the annual limit of 200 hours being retained; the further amount which may be authorised by the Labour Council is similarly increased from 20 to 30 hours a month, the annual limit being raised from 120 to 150 hours.

Exclusion of certain categories of workers.—Caretakers living on the premises have been excluded from the application of the Act on the ground that in work of this kind it is extremely difficult to determine what should be considered as effective hours of work. It was also pointed out that a very large number of exemptions had already been granted by the Labour Council for persons performing duties of this nature. Workers employed in the digging and cutting of peat and on constructional work in agriculture are also excluded.

Method of counting workers for the purpose of exclusion of small undertakings.—The Act does not apply to undertakings in which the number of workers employed does not exceed four. Hitherto, in calculating the number of workers employed in an undertaking, those workers who for special reasons were exempt from the application of the Act have been included. According to the new Act, such workers will not be included in calculating, for the purposes of the Act, the total number of workers employed. This amendment will particularly affect restaurants and commercial undertakings.

Procedure in disputes.—Hitherto only the ordinary tribunals or the parties concerned have been entitled to appeal to the Labour Council for an award in regard to disputes concerning the application of the Act. The new Act, however, extends this right to directors of public prosecutions, factory inspectors and mines inspectors.

In the light of the results of the investigation into the effects of the eight-hour day conducted by the Department for Social Affairs and the Board of Trade, the Government considered that it was not desirable to regulate hours of work in hospitals and poor relief institutions, etc., by a general Act, but that a special Act should be passed later. This point of view was approved by Parliament.

DECASUALISATION OF DOCK LABOUR AT DUTCH PORTS.†

THE organisation called the "Dock Reserve" was instituted at the Ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam at the end of 1918 to deal with the excess of dock labour created by the increased importance of these Dutch ports in the early years of the war. The dock workers were divided into two classes, viz.: (a) those who were dock workers before the war, and (b) all other workers. The first class was selected by the employers in consultation with the workers' union; the members of the second class have no particular privileges. The details which follow apply only to the first class.

An estimate was first made of the number of workers necessary for each day, and then allowance made for a certain "reserve." In 1921 there were 3,000 on the Reserve at Amsterdam, and 6,000 at Rotterdam. Members of the Reserve must place themselves at the disposal of the Shipping Association which manages the organisation, and which pays the members compensation for days on which they find no work. The members of the Reserve must report for duty three times a day: at 7.30 a.m., for the morning shift; if they find no work then, at 11 a.m. for the midday shift; and those still without work at 1 p.m. in readiness of night work. They must undertake no work other than that assigned to them by the manager of the employment exchange.

The arrangements for compensation for unemployment are as follows:—

(a) For complete unemployment a sum of 1.75 florins a shift (2.50 florins for Saturday), the total compensation not to exceed 20 florins a week.

(b) For partial unemployment, a sum equal to the difference between 70 per cent. of the wage earned and 30 florins. No compensation is paid if the worker earns 30 florins or more.

The Dutch Shipping Federation, which manages the Reserve, is divided into two associations, the North (Amsterdam) and the South (Rotterdam). Labour is engaged by different methods in the two ports. At Amsterdam all the workers are registered, and when an employer requires, say, 50 men, he receives the first 50 on the list. The next employer receives the next on the list. One advantage of this method is that the reservists have the opportunity of handling all sorts of goods and are not unduly

* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 1st June, 1923. International Labour Office, Geneva. A short account of the Government Bill referred to in the text was given in the *MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE*, April, 1923, page 124.

† *Belgian Revue du Travail* (April, 1923), quoting from the Dutch *Transportarbeider*.

COAL MINERS IN TURKEY:

REGULATION OF WORKING CONDITIONS.*

AN Act recently promulgated in Turkey regulates the working conditions of miners employed by persons or companies working, under a concession, the mines in the coal basin of Heraclea, Asia Minor.

Working hours are fixed at eight a day, including a rest period of half an hour and the time occupied in entering and leaving the mine. Overtime, not to exceed four hours and paid for at double rates, is permissible, but only by agreement between the workman and the employer. Forced labour on *corvées* is forbidden, as well as the employment of children under 16 years, underground, or under 13 years, above-ground.

Wages are to be fixed by a Committee, consisting of two mining officials and a representative of the workers' trade union. Wages are a first charge on the assets of the mine, and provision is made for the seizure, if need be, of the stocks of coal, and, if the proceeds are insufficient, of the real and personal estate of the employer, to satisfy this charge.

The system under which the different groups of workers were placed under the authority of officials known as "kehaya" is abolished, and in its place committees are to be elected by the members of the groups.

The employer must erect dwellings, bath-houses, dispensaries, kitchens, schools and mosques of an approved type. The dispensaries, which must be managed by qualified persons, must be furnished with first-aid equipment. Working-clothes must be provided.

On each pay-day, a sum equal to two per cent. of the total wages-bill, which is not to be deducted from the workers' wages, must be handed over by the employer to the savings and mutual benefit fund of the workers' trade union, for the upkeep of hospitals, etc., to be established by the union. Workers who are injured accidentally, or who fall ill as a result of their employment, will be entitled to free medical attention at these hospitals, which will be managed by a Committee of at least five members, recruited from the mine deputies and from the Health Service, the doctors and members of the trade union. This Committee will also have general charge of hygiene in the mines and of the dispensaries referred to above. The employer may be sued in the civil courts for damages in respect of disability or death arising out of employment in the mine.

Penalties for contraventions of the provisions of the Act are laid down.

AMENDMENT OF JAPANESE FACTORY ACT.†

Two Bills to amend the Japanese Factory Act of 28th March, 1911, and embodying certain of the proposals contained in the Draft Conventions adopted by the Washington International Labour Conference of 1919, have passed both Houses of the Japanese Diet, and await the fixing, by Imperial Ordinance, of a date of enforcement to become law.

The principal changes which will be introduced by these two measures are as follows:—

(1) The Factory Act is made applicable to factories employing not less than 10 (instead of 15) operatives. This amendment will bring a very considerable number of additional establishments under the provisions of the Factory Acts.

(2) Article 2 of the Factory Act, which prohibited the employment of children under 12 years of age, has been repealed and replaced by a new Industrial Workers (Minimum Age) Act, which embodies the provisions of the Washington Draft Convention fixing the minimum age for the admission of children to industrial employment, and which thus raises the general minimum age in Japan to 14 years.

(3) Children of less than 16 (instead of 15) years and women cannot be employed for more than 11 (instead of 12) hours a day, or during the hours 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. (instead of 4 a.m.). Articles 5 and 6 of the Factory Act, which permitted certain exceptions and the employment of women and children on night shifts for a period of 15 years, have been repealed; but for a period of three years after the date of enforcement of the new Act the words "15 years" are to be read as "15 years," and women and children are to be permitted to work on night shifts "in cases where workmen are employed in two or more shifts." This provision is made in order, *inter alia*, to allow the cotton industry to adjust itself to the new conditions.

(4) The words "pregnant women" in Article 12 of the Factory Act—which empowers the Minister to issue special regulations, forbidding the employment of sick persons or pregnant women—are to be amended to read "women before and after childbirth or women who are nursing their children."

(5) Article 15 of the Factory Act required employers to afford assistance to operatives or their families in case of injury, sickness or death arising out of their employment, provided there was not gross negligence on their part. This proviso has been withdrawn.

(6) The maximum penalty for a breach of the law has been increased from 500 to 1,000 yen.

* Based on a despatch from H.M. Commercial Secretary, Constantinople, dated 14th May, 1923.

† Based on a despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Tokio.

‡ Work may be prolonged to 11 p.m. when the sanction of the Government Authorities has been obtained.

specialised. Also it secures that well paid work is fairly distributed.

At Rotterdam the employer has the right of choice. He informs the exchange of the number of workers required and his foreman comes to select them himself. Workers who are not engaged have their work-cards stamped.

Wages are paid once a week. Every day the employer notifies the management of the Reserve of the name and numbers of the workers employed by him and the sum due to them. This is added up and paid on Saturday.

Any frauds or contraventions of the Reserve regulations by the workers are punishable by expulsion from the organisation. The employers are obliged to engage their workers through the Reserve subject to a penalty of 5,000 florins for each worker not so engaged.

At both ports there are a considerable number of permanent workers whose wages are slightly lower than those of the Reservists on account of the permanency of the work. If a company wishes to increase its staff of permanent workers it does so from the Reserve.

In addition to compensation for unemployment the Reservists receive sick benefit through the Reserve. A pensions system also came into operation on 1st January, 1920.

Expenses are borne by the Shipping Associations which administer the Reserve. The workers are engaged in buildings provided by the Associations. Each shipping firm pays a contribution equal to 25 cents. per ton of goods delivered in Holland. The purchaser pays the same sum.

NIGHT WORK OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN ITALY.

By an Act dated 6th April, 1922, the Italian Government was authorised to give effect to certain of the Draft Conventions, including the two relating to the night-work of women and young persons, adopted in 1919 by the Washington International Labour Conference. The *Gazzetta Ufficiale* for 1st May, 1923, publishes the text of a decree, dated 15th March, 1923, which repeals Article 5 (dealing with the night-work of women and young persons) of the Act of 10th November, 1907, on the employment of women and young persons, and substitutes a text embodying the provisions of the two Draft Conventions in question. The principal alterations introduced by this amendment of the Italian Act are: (1) The raising from 15 to 18 years of the general age limit for the employment at night of young persons, and (2) the definition of the term "night" as a period of eleven consecutive hours, including the interval between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. (instead of a night-period defined as 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. from 1st October to 31st March and 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. from 1st April to 30th September).

AGRICULTURAL WAGE COMMITTEES IN HUNGARY.*

AN Act recently passed in Hungary for the regulation of the wages of agricultural workers provides that if in any district or locality the wages of agricultural workers are inadequate for the maintenance of the worker and his family, the Minister of Agriculture, on the advice of the competent Chamber of Agriculture, may issue orders from time to time fixing a minimum wage for such workers during the years 1923 and 1924. Further, a committee to fix agricultural wages is to be set up in each district, consisting of a President, a Vice-President, four ordinary and four deputy members. The members and their deputies are to be elected by the employers' and workers' groups in the Local Agricultural Commissions. The ordinary members will elect the President and Vice-President from a list of five persons nominated by the competent Chamber of Agriculture.

At meetings of the Wage Committees held for the purpose of fixing wages, two employer and two worker members must be present, in addition to the President. In urgent cases wages may be fixed by one employer and one worker member and the President. In fixing wages the capacity, age and sex of the worker and the kind of work to be done must be taken into consideration.

Any employer who, after the minimum rates have been duly published, engages a worker or pays a worker at a lower wage will be liable to a fine not exceeding 6,000 kronen, unless he is liable to a heavier penalty under previous legislation. The worker may, within a period of 45 days after the termination of the work, demand payment of the difference between the wage fixed and the wage which he has received.

The Act also provides that any agricultural agreement whereby the worker is required to do any work without an adequate wage or other specified remuneration shall be considered null and void. Also any agreement is to be null and void whereby the employer, in case of shortage of work, is entitled to discharge temporarily without compensation a worker employed under an agreement covering a certain period.

* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 11th May, 1923. International Labour Office, Geneva.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,176,052 in branches covered by the returns received reported 133,243 (or 11.3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of May, 1923, compared with 11.3 per cent. at the end of April, 1923, and with 16.4 per cent. at the end of May, 1922.

Table showing Trade Union Percentages of Unemployed by Trade, Membership of Unions, Unemployed at end of May, 1923, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 10.7 per cent. (males 11.8 per cent., females 8.0 per cent.) at 21st May, as compared with 10.9 (males 12.1 per cent., females 7.9 per cent.) at 23rd April. A Table showing the estimated number insured and the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 211.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in May, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 205 to 209.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table showing Summary of Employers' Returns for Mining and Metal Trades, including Coal Mining, Pig Iron, Tinplate and Steel Sheet, and Iron and Steel.

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table showing Summary of Employers' Returns for Other Trades, including Textiles, Boot and Shoe, Pottery, and Brick.

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

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

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

§ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.

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

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

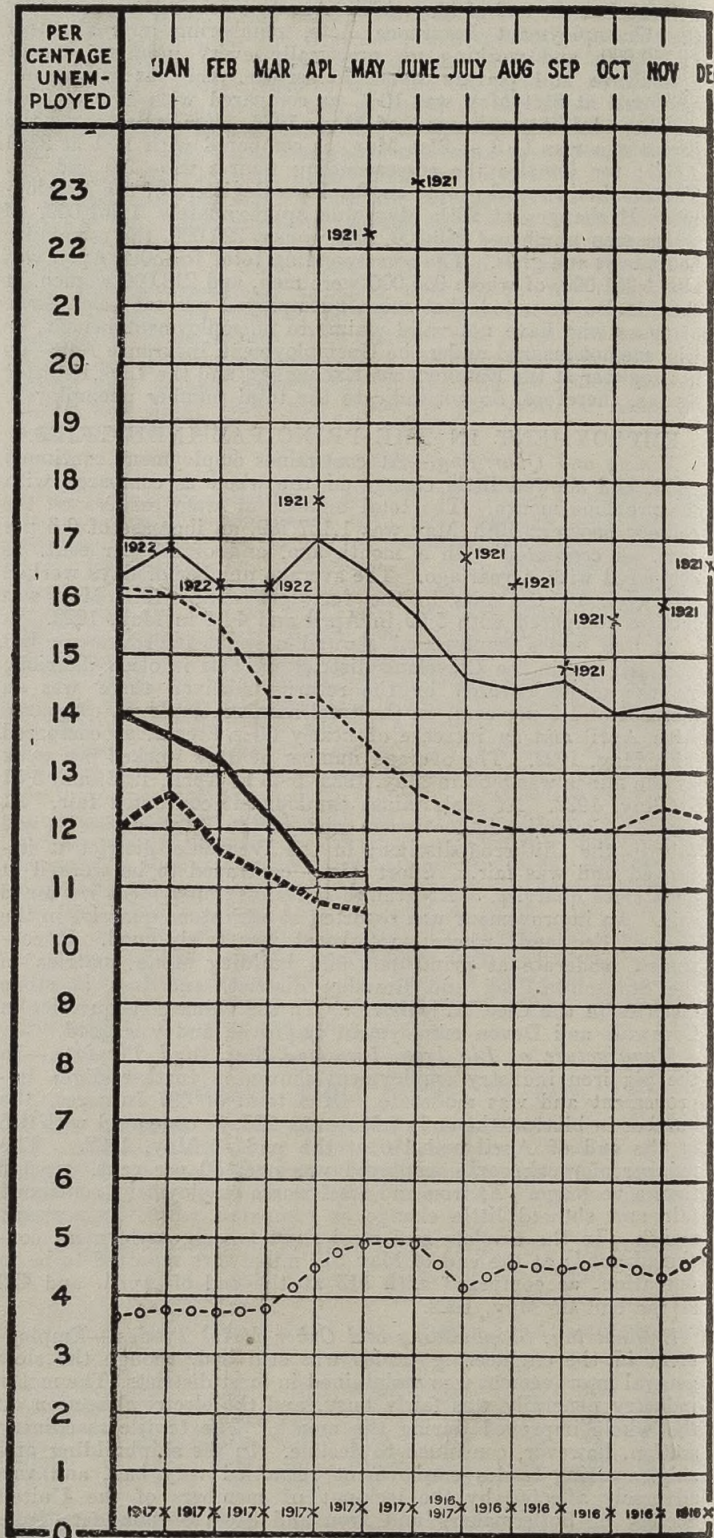
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS :-

Thick Curve ----- = 1923.
Thin Curve ----- = 1922.
Chain Curve -o-o-o-o- = Mean of 1913-22.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1921-1922.

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

Thick Dotted Curve ----- 1923.
Thin Dotted Curve ----- 1922.



NOTE.

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

The figures for insured workpeople relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and exclude the Irish Free State. Detailed figures are given on page 211.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males and females, of adults and juveniles, and of skilled and unskilled workers in the respective industries. The particulars given relate only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued good, and showed little change, on the whole, as compared with the previous month; it was much better than a year ago.

The average weekly number of days (5.59) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 19th May showed a decrease of 0.10 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th April, but an increase of 0.74 on a year ago. In the fortnight ended 19th May, 1923, however, an average of 0.09 of a day was due to holidays, chiefly in the Lancashire and South Wales districts; in the Cumberland and Westmorland district an average of about half a day was lost on account of disputes. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 19th May showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. on the number at 28th April and of 5.3 per cent. on a year ago.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 2.9 per cent. at 21st May, as compared with 3.2 per cent. at 23rd April.

The following Table shows, for the principal districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked by the collieries, as indicated by the returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals :-

Table showing Coal Mining statistics by Districts, including Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books and Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 19th May was 0.18 of a day, of which 0.09 of a day was due to holidays and 0.05 of a day to transport difficulties and want of trade. In the fortnight ended 28th April the average time lost was 0.08 of a day, of which 0.04 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. In the fortnight ended 27th May, 1922, the average time lost was 0.89 of a day, of which 0.83 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. The non-winding time in each of these periods was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 26th May, 1923 (including the Whitsun holidays), was returned to the Mines Department at 20,464,000 tons, compared with 21,263,600 tons in the four weeks ended 28th April, and with 19,145,500 tons in the four weeks ended 27th May, 1922.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted in May to 9,704,024 tons, or 931,607 tons more than in April.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron, &c., was got and drawn from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked. † Including Cannock Chase.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

ALTHOUGH there was a slight general improvement during May, employment remained bad in the Cleveland district and fair in other districts. A considerable improvement was shown as compared with a year ago.

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

Table showing Iron and Shale Mining statistics by Districts, including Number of Workpeople employed at Mines and Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.

Shale Mining.

Employment continued fair. At mines employing 4,487 workpeople in the fortnight ended 19th May there was a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the total number employed, as compared with the previous month, and an increase of 3.1 per cent. compared with May, 1922. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.96 in May, 1923, 5.81 in April, 1923, and 5.95 in May, 1922.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued moderate and showed a further slight improvement.

Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of May, as shown by returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 223, compared with 216 at the end of April and 110 at the end of May, 1922.

Returns received by the Federation from 86 firms, employing 24,029 workpeople at the end of May, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of April, and of over 50 per cent. as compared with May, 1922.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, 1923, April, 1923, and May, 1922, according to returns collected by the Federation.

Table showing Pig Iron Industry statistics by District, including Total Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of month.

The production of pig iron in May amounted to 714,200 tons, as compared with 652,200 tons in April and with 407,900 tons in May, 1922.

* See * footnote in previous column.

Returns received from firms employing 15,442 workpeople in the week ended the 19th May showed that about 29 per cent. of these workpeople were working short time, to the extent of about 10 hours a week on the average.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment in the wool-sorting department was still good, but showed a marked change for the worse, some short time being worked towards the end of the month. In wool-combing the change was much more marked; one firm dismissed some of its workpeople and a number of other firms went on short time.

In the manufacturing section employment was bad, and worse than a month earlier, especially in the coat and fine men's-wear trade of Huddersfield, Keighley, Leeds and Halifax, and, to a less extent, in the dress goods trade of Bradford, Keighley and Silsden.

The following Table summarises the information received from those firms which furnished returns for the three periods under review:-

Table with columns: Departments, Week ended 19th May, 1923., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago., Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, £, Per cent., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago. Includes Wool Sorting and Combing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

Table with columns: Districts, Week ended 19th May, 1923., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago., Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, £, Per cent., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago. Includes Bradford District, Keighley District, etc.

Returns received from firms employing 29,290 workpeople showed that about 13 of these workpeople were working short time, to the extent of about 9 1/2 hours a week on the average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 1,562,700 lbs. in May, 1923, compared with 34,755,600 lbs. in April, 1923, and 98,889,300 lbs. in May, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,072,100 lbs., compared with 2,833,100 lbs. in April, 1923, and 5,067,200 lbs. in May, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 17,373,000 square yards, compared with 12,876,300 square yards in April, 1923, and 16,481,000 square yards in May, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 117,455 pairs, 90,080 pairs and 54,105 pairs in May, 1923, April, 1923, and May, 1922, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

THERE was a temporary slight improvement in the state of employment at most centres of the boot and shoe trade in the middle of May owing to pressure of orders for Whitsuntide; but this was not maintained, except to a small extent at some centres, and employment at the end of the month was slack on the whole.

Employment at Leicester continued fair, only a small amount of short time being worked. There was a further slight improvement at Northampton; but short time was still worked and about half the factories closed for a whole week at Whitsuntide.

At Wellingborough employment was still bad. Apart from a temporary improvement before the holidays, employment at Kettering continued poor; there was much unemployment, and those who remained in employment were working only about three-quarter time, on the average.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the boot, shoe, and slipper making and repairing trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.9 on the 21st May, as compared with 8.5 on the 23rd April.

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

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

Table with columns: England and Wales, Scotland, Great Britain, Number of Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago., Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, £, Per cent., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago. Includes London, Leicester, Northampton, etc.

Returns received from firms employing 40,949 workpeople in the week ended the 19th May showed that about 24 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, to the extent of 12 hours a week on the average.

The exports of boots and shoes in May, 1923, amounted to 87,523 dozen pairs, or 23,016 dozen pairs more than in April, 1923, and 27,679 dozen pairs more than in May, 1922.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, taken as a whole, continued to improve during May; though generally only moderate it was better than in May of last year. It was reported as very good in the Bournemouth, West Middlesex, North and West Surrey, Leicester and Harrogate districts, and good in certain other districts, chiefly in the south-eastern and south-western counties; on the other hand it was bad or very slack in certain centres, including Middlesbrough, Southport, Wigan, Coventry, Crewe, Grimsby, Goole and Cardiff and the North of Ireland.

For the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the percentage unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books remaining lodged at Employment Exchanges, fell to 12.3 at 21st May, as compared with 14.2 at 23rd April and 16.5 in May, 1922.

Employment was considerably better with plasterers, and there was some improvement with all the other occupations mentioned in the Table below; it continued generally bad with builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works, was fair with bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners and painters, and moderate or slack with other classes.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 21st May and the decrease in the percentage as compared with 23rd April.

Table with columns: Occupation, Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 21st May, 1923., Percentage of Unemployment at 21st May, 1923., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 23rd Apl., 1923. Includes Building Trade (Carpenters, Bricklayers, etc.), Construction of Works, Divisions (London, South-Eastern, etc.), Males, Females.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during May was fair on the whole, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the Peterborough district it was good, and showed a marked improvement, but in the Nottingham and Coventry districts it was reported as bad. It was much better than a year ago.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 21st May, was 9.3, as compared with 10.9 at 23rd April.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under comparison:-

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago., Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, £, Per cent., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago. Includes Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Midlands and Eastern Counties, etc.

Returns from firms employing 6,450 workpeople show that 6 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of six hours on the average, during the week ended 19th May.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades remained slack generally, but a slight improvement was reported, especially in the sanitary earthenware and tile trades. At Worcester and Derby it was reported as good, in the Poole and Bridgwater districts as fairly good, and in Glasgow as very bad.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.1 at 21st May, 1923, as compared with 10.5 at 23rd April, 1923.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under comparison:-

Table with columns: BRANCHES (China Manufacture, Earthenware Manufacture, etc.), DISTRICTS (Potteries, Other Districts), Total, Number of Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago., Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, £, Per cent., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago.

Returns from employers relating to short-time working showed that, of 9,927 workpeople covered, 30 per cent. were working, on an average, about 18 hours less than full time in the week ended 19th May.

SEAMEN.

DURING May employment with seamen was moderate on the whole. At almost all the ports considerable numbers of men were unemployed.

The percentage of seamen unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.4 at 21st May, as compared with 19.0 at 23rd April.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate and declined towards the end of the month. Employment on the Tyne remained quiet. The demand was slack on the Wear and quiet on the Tees. At Hull employment was fair early in May; it declined later, but improved again in the latter part of the month. The demand at Southampton was brisk for the greater part of the month, but declined at the end. It was quiet at Bristol and moderate at Avonmouth, declining in both ports at the end of the month. The demand at Cardiff was fair in the first half of May, and declined subsequently.

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

On the Clyde a moderate demand declined towards the middle of May, and improved afterwards. At Leith and at Belfast employment was quiet.

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

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen* shipped in (May, 1923., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago., Five months ended (May, 1923., May, 1922.)). Includes ENGLAND & WALES (East Coast, Bristol Channel, Other Ports), SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during May continued generally moderate. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the canal, river, harbour, dock and wharf service, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 21st May, 1923, was 22.9, as compared with 21.8 at 23rd April.

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

Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London (In Docks: By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, etc., Total, At Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves). Includes Week ended (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th May, 1923), Average for 4 weeks ended 26th May, 1923, Average for April, 1923, Average for May, 1922.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in May was 365, as compared with 888 in the previous month, and with 1,291 in May, 1922.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teamers on the Tyne and Wear continued good; with other classes of workers on the Tyne it was moderate and worse than a month earlier. At Blyth it was fair, and better than in April. At Middlesbrough employment continued brisk at the docks and slack at the wharves. At Hartlepool it was good. It showed a decline at Hull and Goole, and was, generally speaking, moderate at other East Coast ports.

Southern and Western Ports.—At Southampton employment continued quiet; it was slack at Plymouth and Bristol. At the South Wales ports it was fair and somewhat better than in April. At Liverpool the average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses, under the Liverpool Docks Scheme, as employed in the four weeks ended 26th May, was 14,502, compared with 14,973 in the five weeks ended 30th April, and 14,426 in the corresponding period of last year.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment at Glasgow and Dundee continued fair and slack respectively. At Aberdeen it remained fair, and at Ayr a slight improvement was reported. At Belfast it was fair and better than in April.

* 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.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

The number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland... of applications for employment outstanding from work-

During the four weeks ended 28th May the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 69,058, of which 40,338 were for men, 17,122 for women, and 11,598 for juveniles.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 28th May, 1923:-

Table with columns: Week ended, Applications by Employers, Vacancies Filled, Applications outstanding at end of week (From Workpeople, From Employers).

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraphs is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 7th May are dealt with below:-

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of 573,742 applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 7th May showed a daily average of 23,906—a decrease of 3.0 per cent., compared with the daily average of the previous month.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 7th May there were 93,663 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,903, as compared with 4,022 during the preceding period.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 76,974—a daily average of 3,207, as compared with 3,368 during the previous statistical month.

Juveniles.—During the period 30,139 applications were received from boys, and 31,052 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 7,474, and 6,640 vacancies were filled.

Statistics relating to Building Trades (men) and to Domestic Service occupations (women) for the four weeks ended 7th May have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below:-

In the building trades 12,153 vacancies were notified for men and 9,680 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were:—Carpenters, 2,608 vacancies notified and 2,069 filled; bricklayers, 2,068 vacancies notified and 1,381 filled;

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 81,209† at 7th May, compared with 101,921† at 9th April.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 7th May was 15,739. Of this number 6,913 were for resident domestic servants, 3,083 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,586 for charwomen, and 1,350 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 807.

Of the 9,904 vacancies filled 2,804 were placements in resident domestic service, 2,261 as non-resident, 3,248 as charwomen, and 1,011 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 7th May for work in domestic services was 32,458, compared with 32,026 on 9th April.

The figures above, except those in the first three paragraphs, are exclusive of dock labourers and coal porters. The number of casual jobs found for men in these occupations during the period of four weeks ended 7th May was 1,627.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 28th May, 1923, there were on the Live Registers 932,400 men, 217,000 women, and 72,000 juveniles, compared with 1,165,000 men, 235,000 women, and 85,800 juveniles at 1st January, 1923.

† Workmen on short time are not included.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas and for the principal towns therein the number of persons remaining on the "live registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 28th May, 1923.

Table with columns: Area, Number of Persons remaining on the Live Registers at 28th May, 1923 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 30th Apr., 1923.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, substantially all persons for whom Health Insurance contributions have been paid, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment.

of unemployment within a period of six consecutive days shall be treated as a continuous period of unemployment, and any two such continuous periods separated by a period of less than three weeks shall be treated as one continuous period of unemployment.

Table with columns: Industry, Estimated number of Insured Workpeople (Males, Fe. males, Total), Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 21st May, 1923 (Males, Fe. males, Total), Percentage Unemployed (Males, Fe. males, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 23rd April, 1923 (Males, Fe. males, Total).

* In addition to the figures given for total unemployment there were 53,663 persons, or 0.5 per cent., working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to Unemployment Insurance benefit.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 49, as compared with 52 in the previous month, and 38 in May, 1922. In these new disputes 15,000 workpeople were directly involved and 3,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition 30,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 41 disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 90, involving 48,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during May of 807,000 working days.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries:—

Table with 5 columns: Groups of Industries, Started before 1st May, Started in May, Total, Number of Disputes in progress in May, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in May.

Causes.—Of the 49 disputes beginning in May, 18, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 9, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on demands for advances in wages; 6, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on

details of working arrangements; 7, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, on questions of unionism and non-unionism; and 9, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected during May in the case of 16 new disputes, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, and 13 old disputes, directly involving 2,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 8, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 12, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 5 disputes, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1922 AND 1923.†

Table with 6 columns: Groups of Industries, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING MAY, 1923.

Table with 6 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute Began, Date when Dispute Ended, Cause or Object, Result.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of nearly £100,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 870,000 workpeople and in an increase of over £90,000 in the wages of 700,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected are shown below:—

Table with 4 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases).

In the building industry the rates of wages of skilled workers, except plasterers and painters in Scotland, were reduced by ¼d. per hour in London, by 1d. per hour in nearly all the larger towns (the principal exceptions being Liverpool and Birkenhead), and by ½d. per hour in the smaller towns. Labourers sustained reductions ranging from ¼d. to ¾d. per hour in different localities.

In the coal mining industry there were increases in rates of wages in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, Scotland and the Radstock district, the amount of increase ranging from 2½ per cent. on current rates in the Radstock district to 7 per cent. in Durham.

In the metal trades the principal increases affected blast-furnacemen in Cumberland and Lincolnshire, iron-puddlers and millmen in the North of England and the West of Scotland, and Siemens steel workers in South and West Wales.

The principal reductions in the textile trades affected hosiery workers in the Midlands, carpet workers, silk workers at Leek and hosiery workers at Hawick.

In the transport group, men employed in the furniture warehousing and removing industry sustained a reduction of 1s. per week, and there were also reductions affecting road transport workers at Newcastle, Bristol and Cardiff.

In the public utility services the principal reduction affected tramway workers, whose rates of wages were reduced by 1s. and 6d. per week in the case of men and youths respectively.

The principal bodies of workpeople affected by reductions in wages in other trades included compositors in the provincial

towns, whose wages were reduced generally by 3s. 6d. per week, workpeople employed in the cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery and fruit preserving trades, cement workers, and slipper makers at Rossendale.

The principal decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts affected workpeople in the pin, hook and eye and snap fastener trade, and in the brush and broom trade in Great Britain.

Of the decreases taking effect in May, 63, amounting to £18,700 per week, took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales; 23, amounting to £8,000 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including £2,000 under cost-of-living sliding scales, also included above); six, amounting to £2,900 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders (including £600 under cost of living sliding scales, included above); three, amounting to £60,200, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining 73 cases, amounting to £12,300, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for only £5,000 per week. Of the increases in wages, 29, amounting to £92,000 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry, or on selling prices, the remaining four cases being arranged by negotiation between the parties.

Summary of Changes in January—May, 1923.

Table with 4 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net, Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases).

In the corresponding five months of 1922 there was a net reduction of nearly £2,320,000 in the weekly rates of wages of 7,000,000 workpeople and a net increase of £3,000 in the weekly wages of 17,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

Increases in recognised hours of labour reported in May affected about 1,400 workpeople.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923.

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

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Particulars of change (Decreases in italics).

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES—(continued).				
Building (contd.)	Aberystwyth ...	4 May	Building trade operatives ...	Decrease* of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.
	Belfast ...	1 May	Painters Labourers	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.). Increase of 2d. per hour for general labourers (10d. to 1s.), and of 1½d. per hour for special labourers and hodsmen (11½d. to 1s. 1d.).
	Coleraine ...	1 May	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, slaters, plumbers, plasterers and painters	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3½d.).
	Portadown London and Districts within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross; also Grays and Purfleet and Epsom	1 May 26 May	Bricklayers and masons Building trade operatives	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.). Decrease of ½d. per hour for craftsmen and crane engines, etc., drivers, and of 1d. per hour for scaffolders, labourers, etc. Rates after change: masons (slaters), granite masons, and spindle and four-cutter machinists, 1s. 8½d.; painters, 1s. 6½d.; bricklayers, banker masons, plumbers, plasterers, slaters, and other craftsmen, 1s. 7½d.; electric derrick drivers, 1s. 6½d.; steam derrick drivers, 1s. 6d.; marble polishers, 1s. 5½d.; crane and traveller drivers, 1s. 5d.; engine drivers, 1s. 3½d.; scaffolders and timbermen, 1s. 3½d.; labourers, boiler attendants and crane signalmen, 1s. 2½d.
	Various other towns in Great Britain	26 May	Building trade operatives (excluding plasterers and painters in Scotland)	Decreases for craftsmen of 1d. per hour in Grade A and B towns and of ½d. per hour in Grade C towns; and for labourers of from 1d. to 2d. per hour so as to maintain wages at approximately 75 per cent. of the craftsmen's rate in each district.† [For towns affected and rates of wages after change see Table on p. 222.]
Birmingham and District	24 May	Gas fitters	Decrease* of 2d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 5d.).	
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Northumberland...			Increase of 9.85 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 105.15 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 9½d. per day.
	Durham	1 May	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 13.48 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 105.16 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to subsistence allowance for surface workers operative from 1 January, 1922 (see p. 80 of February, 1922, GAZETTE).
	Yorkshire and East Midland Area†	26 April	Radstock	Increase of 9.31 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, making wages 54.52 per cent. above the standard of 1911.
	Scotland	1 May		Increase of 3.31 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 35.48 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
	Durham	1 May		Increase of 8.63 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, making wages 132.82 per cent. above the standard of 1888, subject to subsistence allowance for surface workers operative from 1 January, 1922 (see p. 80 of February, 1922, GAZETTE).
Coke and By-products Manufacture	West Yorkshire ...	1st full pay in May	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase of 13.48 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 105.16 per cent. above the standard subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day.
	South Yorkshire ...	1 May		Increase of 3.35 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 50.35 per cent. above the standard.
	South Wales ...	1 May		Increase of 9.31 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 54.52 per cent. above the standard.
Iron Mining			Iron ore miners	Increase of 5 per cent. on standard base rates of 1916 and 1917, making wages 22½ to 32½ per cent. above standard.¶
	Cumberland ...	7 May	Winding enginemn Other underground and surface workers	Increase of 7d. per shift in the bargain price (10s. 2d. to 10s. 9d.), and of 7d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 6d. to 8s. 1d.).
	Furness District ...	13 May	Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters, whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements)	Increase of 5½d. per shift (8s. 10½d. to 9s. 3½d.). Increase of 3½d. per shift for men, and of 1½d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change for underground 1st class leading labourers, 6s. 9d. per shift.
Quarrying	North Lincolnshire	6 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase of 9d. per shift in the bargain price for miners (8s. 7d. to 9s. 4d.); of 8½d. in the minimum wage (7s. 10d. to 8s. 6½d.); of 8d. per shift for surfacemen; and of 4d. per shift for boys under 16.
	West Cumberland	14 May	Limestone quarrymen	Increase of 3½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 43½ per cent. above the standard plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
	Portland	26 May	Banker masons, stone machinists, smiths and labourers	Increase of 3½d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 6d. per shift for other men, and of 3d. for boys under 16. Rates after change: blacksmiths and joiners, 9s.; knobblers, 9s. 2½d. per shift; day borers (1st class), 8s. 8½d.; day labourers (1st class), 8s. 0½d.; ruddmen, 7s. 6½d. per shift.
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay in May	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen on maintenance work, but including bricklayers) employed at blast-furnaces	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 6d.; machinists, 1s. 5½d.; smiths, 1s. 4½d.; labourers (semi-skilled), 1s. 3½d., (unskilled) 1s. 2½d.
	North Lincolnshire	6 May	Blastfurnacemen	Increase of 10½ per cent. on standard rates of 1919, making wages 44½ per cent. above the standard, plus in some cases, an output bonus.**

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.
 † In the case of some towns which were re-graded the amount of the reduction was less than that specified, and in a few cases the re-grading resulted in no reduction being made. For particulars of the Arbitrator's Award, under which the reductions took effect, see page 198.
 ‡ Viz., Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.
 § In the case of West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1st May was 52.36 for the Eastern area and 49.52 for the Western area.
 ¶ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
 ¶ The increase was given under the terms of an agreement by which it was decided that two reductions totalling 17½ per cent. which were made in December, 1921, and May, 1922, should be partially restored to the extent of 5 per cent. on 1st February, 5 per cent. on 1st May, and 2½ per cent. on 1st August.
 ** The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slagers, fillers, etc., is 82 in the Workington area and 77 in the Furness area.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE—(continued).				
Pig Iron Manufacture (contd.)	North Lincolnshire	6 May	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at ironstone mines and in iron and steel works	Increase* of 1.25 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 31.75 per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: patternmakers, 4s.; boiler-smiths, 4s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 4s.; plus in each case 31.75 per cent. and a tonnage bonus.
	North of England	28 May	Iron puddlers Iron millmen	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Barrow-in-Furness	28 May	Merchant millmen	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
	South and West Wales	6 May	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) engaged in Siemens steel manufacture	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 23½ per cent. above the standard, plus an additional 20 per cent. to those with base earnings of not more than 30s. per week; an additional 6d. per shift to those with a base rate of 30s. 1d. to 40s. per week, and an additional 4d. per shift to those with a base rate of 40s. 1d. to 50s. per week.†
Engineering, Ship repairing, etc.	West of Scotland	28 May	Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 45 per cent. above the standard.
	Lincoln, Gainsborough and Newark	1st pay day in May	Patternmakers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rate after change: 46s. per week, plus 10s. per week war wage.
Sheet Metal Working Light Castings Manufacture	Thames District ...	16 May†	Shipwrights, blacksmiths, joiners, sheet metal workers, patternmakers, fitters, electric crane drivers, sawyers, plumbers, electricians and french polishers	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: patternmakers, 69s.; shipwrights and blacksmiths, 65s. 6d.; joiners and sheet metal workers, 68s.; fitters, plumbers, electricians and sawyers, 65s.; french polishers, 67s. 6d.; electric crane drivers, 65s.
	Dundee	1 May	Painters Riggers	Decrease of 2d. per day. Rate after change: 68s. per week. Decrease of 2½d. per day except Saturday. Rate after change: Saturday, 7s. 9d.; other week days, 11s. 9½d.
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Electric Cable Making	West of Scotland	2 April	Sheet metal workers and gas fitters	Decrease of 1d. per hour (being the withdrawal of the special advance granted in June, 1920).
	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire		Men, 21 years and over, other than plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates Youths 18 to 20 years Boys 14 to 17 years Women 18 years and over	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: 48s. 11½d. to 54s. 10d.
Bobbin and Shuttle Making	Great Britain, other than the above counties	3rd pay day in May	Girls 14 to 17 years Men, 21 years and over, other than plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates Youths 18 to 20 years Boys 14 to 17 years Women 18 years and over	Decrease of 1s. 2½d. per week. Decrease of 3½d. per week. Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: 25s. 6d. to 29s. 6d., plus service bonus if any. Decrease of 6d. per week. Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: 43s. 6d. to 49s. 6d.
	North-East Coast District		Girls 14 to 17 years	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week. Decrease of 3d. per week. Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: 25s. 6d. to 29s. 6d., plus service bonus if any.
Surgical Instrument Manufacture	North Western District	1 May	Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electric cable making industry	Decreases of 2s. 11d. per week for plumber-jointers, of 2s. 6d. per week for jointers, and of 2s. 3d. per week for jointers' mates.
	England and Wales	1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the bobbin making industry; also shuttle-makers employed by certain firms at Garston and Blackburn.	Decreases, according to Zone, of 1s. 11d. or 1s. 10d. per week for plumber-jointers, of 1s. 10d., 1s. 9d., or 1s. 8d. per week for jointers, and of 1s. 6d., 1s. 5d., or 1s. 4d. per week for jointers' mates.
Hame Making	Sheffield	7 May	Surgical and dental instrument makers	Decreases, according to Zone, of 1s. 11½d., 1s. 10½d., or 1s. 9½d. per week for plumber-jointers, of 1s. 9½d., 1s. 8½d., or 1s. 8½d. per week for jointers, and of 1s. 4½d., 1s. 4½d. or 1s. 3½d. per week for jointers' mates.
	Walsall	14 May	Hame makers	Decrease of 1s. per week for men, and of 6d. per week for women. Rates after change: higher skilled men, 64s. 6d.; lesser skilled men, 55s.; labourers, 45s.; women, 26s.
Gold, Silver and Allied Trades	Sheffield	28 May	Workpeople employed in the razor making trade	Addition of 45 per cent. previously paid on revised pre-war piecework prices reduced to 40 per cent., and a decrease of 5 per cent. in wages for timeworkers.
	London	1st pay day in May	Silversmiths, polishers, platers, gilders, chasers, stampers, burnishers, etc.— Timeworkers Pieceworkers	Decrease of 15 per cent. for flat side glazed tongs grinding, for untempered horn setting in and whetting, and for all blades ground glazed sides down to 2½ in. stone 3 in. blade, leaving current piecework prices subject to bonus of 12½ per cent. Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving pre-war prices subject to an addition of 90 per cent.
Heating and Domestic Engineering	Walsall	14 May	Hame makers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for men 21 years of age and over (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6d.). Decrease of 10 per cent. on pre-war prices, leaving pre-war prices subject to an addition of 60 per cent.
	London	1st pay day in May	Pipe fitters	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade A,** 1s. 7d.; Grade B,** 1s. 6½d.; Grade C,** 1s. 5½d.; Grade D,** 1s. 4½d.
	Scotland	1 May	Pipe fitters and charge hands ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: pipe fitters, 1s. 5½d.; charge hands—Glasgow and Paisley, 1s. 6½d.; Edinburgh, 1s. 6½d.

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
 † Boys under 18 get 3d. per shift actually worked, in addition to the 23½ per cent. under the sliding scale.
 ‡ Further reductions in wages have been arranged to take effect for various classes of workpeople in June, July, August, September, and October. Particulars of the reductions will appear in subsequent issues of the GAZETTE.
 § This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.
 ¶ The decreases for time rate described took effect under an agreement made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Cable Making Industry. Reductions were also made in the wages of the pieceworkers.
 ¶ No reduction took place on polished hollow work or blades ground on less than a 2½ in. stone, and on setting in and whetting other than the item mentioned above.
 ** The Grades are as follows:—Grade A.—London. Grade B.—Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and Walsall and all towns between; together with the Potteries District, Stafford, Coventry, Rugby, Tamworth and Burton-on-Trent; Lancashire and Cheshire; Newcastle-on-Tyne; Scarborough. Grade C.—Parts of Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Worcestershire not included above; and Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Cardiff and Bristol. Grade D.—All other Districts.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Farriery	Sunderland	Week beginning 30 April	OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued).	
			Farriers	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: <i>Men</i> , 1s. 6d.; <i>doormen</i> , 1s. 5½d.
Manufacture of Metal Pens and other Metal Smallwares	Birmingham and District	7 May	Male timeworkers over 21 years of age	Decrease* of 1s. 4d. per week for skilled men and charge hands, and of 1s. per week for others. Rates after change: toolmakers over 25 years, 79s. 4d. and 69s. 10d.; toolmakers 21 to 25 years, 59s. 10d.; charge hands in hardening shops and rolling mills, 71s. 10d.; charge hands in shanking mills and tempering and colouring shops, 63s. 10d.; others, 49s.
			Male timeworkers under 21 years of age	Decreases* of amounts, varying according to age, from 3d. to 9d. per week.
			Apprentices	Decreases* of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 6d. per week.
			Female dayworkers	Decreases* of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 5d. per week.
			Female pieceworkers	Decrease* in the basis piecework rate of 5d. per week (26s. 7d. to 26s. 2d.)
Lock, Latch and Key Making	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Districts; also London, Bolton, and Wigan	1st pay day after 1 May	Female learners	Decreases* of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 5d. per week.
			Men (excluding outworkers) ...	Decrease* of 5 per cent. on rates as fixed in February, 1920, leaving such rates subject to a deduction of 25 per cent.
Pin, Hook and Eye, etc., Trade	Great Britain	1 May	Women	Decrease* of 5 per cent. on scheduled rates of May, 1922, leaving such rates subject to a deduction of 15 per cent.
			Outworkers in the key industry (males)	Decrease of 15 per cent., leaving wages 125 per cent. above the list of 1912.
Spring Manufacture	Sheffield	1st full pay after 18 May	Workpeople employed in the pin, hook and eye and snap fastener trade:—	Decreases in the general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates, fixed under Trade Boards Acts, as follows (see also p. 193 of May GAZETTE):—
			Male timeworkers 21 years of age and over (other than homeworkers)	Decreases in minimum time rates of 2½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 5½d.) for those employed as pin makers; of 2d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 3½d.) for those employed as hairpin machinists, hook and eye makers, machine blackers or automatic machinists (including snap fastener machinists); of 2d. per hour (1s. 3d. to 1s. 1d.) for those employed as blackers (other than machine blackers), electro-platers, whiteners or wire straighteners; and 1d. per hour (11½d. to 10½d.) for all other male workers 21 years of age and over.
Coloured Cotton and Woollen Goods etc., Manufacture	Glasgow and West of Scotland	1st pay day in May	Female timeworkers (other than homeworkers)	Decreases in minimum time rates of 1d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.) for charge hands, and of amounts varying (according to age) up to 1d. per hour for other workers.
			Female pieceworkers (other than homeworkers)	Piecework basis time rate fixed at 7½d. for all workers, resulting in a decrease of 1d. per hour for those 18 years of age and over.
Silk Manufacture	Leek	18 May	Laminated spring fitters and vicemen, smiths and strikers	Decrease* in flat rate bonus of 1s. per week.
			TEXTILE TRADES.	
Hosiery Manufacture	Midlands†	Pay day in week beginning 23 May	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of shirtings, costume cloths, and other coloured cotton and woollen goods	Decrease of 7s. 6d. per week in "set" wage.
			Workpeople employed in the silk manufacturing industry	Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers, and addition of 5 per cent. to existing rates for pieceworkers withdrawn. Rates after change: <i>warpers' pattern time rate</i> , 1s. 6½d.; others, 1s. 4½d. per hour.
Carpet Manufacture	Great Britain	Pay preceding 1st pay day in June	Tenters	Decrease of 3s. 7d. per week in "set" wage.
			Warpers, beamers, twistors and drawers	Decrease of 3s. 3d. per week in "set" wage.
Elastic Web Weaving	Leicester	28 May	Brush beamers	Decrease* of 2s. per week for male workers 22 years and over (except braidworkers, for whom the reduction was 1s. 6d.), of 1s. 6d. per week for female workers 18 years and over, and of proportionate amounts for juniors. Rates after change: <i>men</i> , 22 years and over, pickers, 47s.; <i>braidworkers</i> , 49s.; fully qualified braid speeders and knitting tacklers, 55s.; millmen, 49s.; weavers, 53s.; women 18 years and over, 27s.
			Workpeople employed in carpet manufacture	Bonus of 8d. in the shilling on earnings reduced* to 7d. in the shilling.
Rope, Twine and Net Trade	Northern Ireland	1 May	All classes of workpeople (except dyers, trimmers and finishers)	Flat rate bonus of 9s. 9d. per week for men and 7s. 6d. per week for women reduced* to 6s. 6d. and 5s. per week respectively, the bonus of 30 per cent. previously paid on base rates remaining unchanged.
			Male and female workers ...	Flat rate bonus of 3s. 4½d. per week reduced* to 2s. 3d. per week, the bonus of 22½ per cent. on base rates remaining unchanged.
Hosiery Manufacture	Hawick	1st pay day in May	Apprentices	Decrease* of 10 per cent. in percentage advances paid on basis rates, leaving wages 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. above basis rates for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
			Workpeople employed in elastic web weaving	Bonus reduced* from 15s. to 14s. in the £.
Rope, Twine and Net Trade	Northern Ireland	1 May	Elastic web weavers	Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change 4d. and 3½d. (See also p. 193 of May GAZETTE.)
			Female workers:—	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1d. per hour for those 18 years and over, and of ½d. per hour for those under 18 years. Minimum rates after change: hand braiders (nets), house machine minders, spreaders, carders, spinners, twistors, reellers, warpers, plaiters, scourers, polishers, ballers, lesson roll winders, parcelers and sample makers, 61d. and 53d.; drawers and rovers, 6d. and 5½d.; winders, spoolers, cop winders, plaiting winders and piecers, 53d. and 51d.; layers, 43d. and 41d.; all other classes (excluding learners who have had less than 12 months' experience), 4½d. and 4d. (See also p. 193 of May GAZETTE.)

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.
† Viz.: Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley, and Coventry Districts.
‡ The higher rates quoted apply in each case to workers employed in the County Borough of Belfast; and the lower rate for those employed in all other districts.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Silk Dyeing, etc.	Leek	18 May	TEXTILE TRADES—(continued).	
			Male workers	Decrease* of 2s. per week for those 22 years and over, and 1s. per week for those under 22 years. Rates after change: dyers and glossers, 22 years, 51s.; 22½ years, 53s.; adult mixers, 53s. to 61s.
Calico Printing	Macclesfield	Pay day in week ending 19 May	Male workers	Decreases* of 6d. per week for those 15 to 19½ years of age, of 1s. per week at 20 to 22 years, and of 1s. 1d. per week for those 22½ years and over; the rates for those under 15 remaining unchanged. Rates after change: 14 years, 16s., increasing to 31s. at 18 and under 18½, 44s. 6d. at 21 and under 21½, and 49s. at 22 years; permanent men, 22½ years and over, 50s. 9d.
			Female workers	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week for adults, and of proportionate amounts for juniors. Rate after change at 18 and over, 27s.
Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland, and certain firms in Yorkshire	Pay preceding 1st pay day in June	Machine calico printers	"Cost of living" wage reduced* from 65.45 per cent. to 59.5 per cent. on basic wages, the flat rates bonus of 10s. per week for journeyman, and 9s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
			Timeworkers	Decrease* of 3d. per hour for dyers, scourers and trimmers, 1d. per hour for menders and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 years and over, and proportionate decreases for auxiliary workers under 18. Rates after change: dyers and scourers, 1s. 2½d.; trimmers, 1s. 5½d.; and auxiliary workers—Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley—men, 18 to 21, 9½d.; 21 and over, 1s. 1½d.; women 18 and over, 8½d.; qualified menders, 10½d.
Boot and Shoe Industry	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby, and Hinckley	Pay day in week ending 1 June	Pieceworkers:—	Bonus of 60 per cent. on list prices, previously paid, reduced* to 50 per cent.
			Web trimmers and jersey trimmers	Bonus of 40 per cent. on list prices, previously paid, reduced* to 32½ per cent.
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trades	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby, and Hinckley	1 June	Dyers, scourers, menders and other pieceworkers	Decrease* of 1s. in the £.
			CLOTHING TRADES.	
Laundry Trade	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby, and Hinckley	1 May	Shoe and slipper operatives ...	Decrease* of 3½ per cent. on gross wages.
			Female workers employed in the wholesale manufacturing and all other branches except the retail branch of the dress-making and women's light clothing trade	Learners: New scale of minimum hourly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from 1d. to 1d. per hour. Other than learners: Decrease in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: time, 6½d., piecework basis time rate, 7½d.
Ostrich and Faney Feather and Artificial Flower Trade	Cornwall and North of Scotland	28 May	Female workers employed in the laundry trade	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1d. per hour in the time rates, in the guaranteed time rates for pieceworkers, and in the piecework basis time rates. Minimum time rates after change: 8s. at under 15 years, increasing to 26s. at 18 and over; guaranteed time rate for pieceworkers: 8s. at under 15 years, increasing to 22s. at 18 and over; minimum piecework basis time rate (all ages), 8d.; casual or emergency workers time rates: under 18, 6½d. 18 and over, 7d.; piecework basis time rate (all ages), 8½d. (See also p. 193 of May GAZETTE.)
			Male workers (except those employed as dyers in the feather trade)	New scale of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from 1d. to 2½d. per hour, and decrease of 2d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate. Minimum time rates after change: 2½d. at under 15 years, increasing to 1s. at 22 and over.
Merchant Shipping Service	Great Britain and Ireland	16 May	Sea-going wireless telegraphists	New schedule of rates adopted resulting in decreases of 21s. 6d. per calendar month for those in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year, of 25s. per calendar month for those in 4th, 5th and 6th year, and 22s. 6d. for those in 7th, 8th and 9th year. Rates after change: starting at £7 12s. 6d. per calendar month in first year, and increasing with each year of service to £12 15s. in fifth year, £15 17s. 6d. in seventh year, £17 7s. 6d. in eighth year, and £18 17s. 6d. in ninth year.
			Shoremen and hoistmen ...	Adoption of a percentage addition of 105 on pre-war tariffs, subject to a minimum wage of £3 per week.
Coal Carters, etc., Labour	Leith	4 May	Coal tipplers, shoremen and hoistmen	Addition of 10½ per cent. on pre-war tariffs reduced to 105 per cent. subject to a minimum wage of £3 per week.
			Workpeople employed in the furniture warehousing and removing industry	Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: warehousemen—London, 62s. 6d.; industrial areas, 57s. 6d.; other areas, 54s. 6d.; porters—London, 52s. 6d.; industrial areas, 48s. 6d.; other areas, 45s. 6d.
Road Transport	Newcastle-on-Tyne	8 May	Workpeople employed in the road transport industry	Decrease of 2s. per week. Rates after change: one horse drivers, 50s.; two-horse drivers, 53s.; petrol wagon drivers (heavy) and steam wagon drivers, 60s.; steam wagon steers, 54s. per week.
			Coal carters	Decrease of 3s. per week for carters, 2s. per week for motormen, and of 1s. per week for juveniles. Rates after change: one-horse drivers, 56s.; two-horse drivers, 58s. 6d.; heavy wagon drivers, 70s.; steers, 65s.; loaders, 63s.; stablemen, 56s. per week.
Road Transport	Bristol	11 May	Workpeople employed in the road transport industry	Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change: one-horse carters, 56s.; two-horse carters, 58s. 6d.
			Coal carters	Decrease of 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change: carters, 52s.; motor lorry drivers, 60s. 6d.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.
† The reduction did not apply to auxiliary workers at Nottingham.
‡ Viz.: The Administrative County of Cornwall and the Counties of Shetland, Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Inverness, Nairn, Moray (Elgin), and Banff.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	
Agriculture	Durham	14 May	Male agricultural labourers ...	AGRICULTURE AND FISHING. Rate of 32s. adopted for adult workers for a week of 52½ hours, with proportionate rates for those under 21*.	
	North Northumberland	12 May	Female workers	Rates adopted up to 11 May, 1924, for a week of 52½ hours for adult workers, and for juniors varying from 7s. at under 14 years to 25s. at 18, and to 30s. at 20 years.†	
	Cheshire	1 May	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rates adopted up to 11 May, 1924, for a week of 52½ hours for adult workers, and for juniors varying from 8s. at under 14 years to 18s. at 17.†	
	Lancashire ...	1 May	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rate of 32s. adopted for adult workers for a week of 54 hours up to 31 October, with proportionate rates for those under 21.†	
	Carnarvonshire ...	14 May	Adult male labourers	Rates adopted up to 31 October as follows:—Northern Area: 37s. 6d. per week for special classes, and 35s. for other workers; Eastern Area: 40s. per week for special classes, with proportionate rates for other workers; Southern Area: 35s. per week for special classes, and 32s. 6d. for other workers.†	
	Denbighshire and Flintshire	1 May	Male labourers	Rate of 32s. 6d. adopted for a week of 60 hours.†	
	Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire	1 May	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rates adopted up to 30 November for adult workers of 33s. for a week of 61 hours for horsemen and stockmen and of 27s. 1d. for a week of 50 hours for other workers, with proportionate rates for those under 21 years.†	
	Printing Trades	Various towns in England and Wales (except London)‡	Pay day in week ending 5 May	Printers' assistants (21 years of age and over) employed in newspaper offices:— Brake hands and controller hands	PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES. Compositors, composing machine operators (book, jobbing and newspaper), and rotary minders Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: jobbing compositors—Grade I towns, 77s. 6d.; Grade II, 74s. 6d.; Grade III, 71s. 6d.; Grade IV, 68s. 6d.; Grade V, 65s. 6d.; Grade VI, 62s. 6d.; Linotype operators (jobbing) and monotype operators on daywork—Grade I, 86s.; Grade II, 82s. 6d.; Grade III, 79s.; Grade IV, 75s. 6d.; Grade V, 72s.; Grade VI, 68s. 6d. Compositors on morning and evening newspapers, 12s. and 2s. 6d. respectively more than the rates for jobbing compositors; linotype operators and rotary minders on morning and evening newspapers, 13s. and 2s. 6d. respectively more than the rate for linotype operators in jobbing offices. Monotype operators on night work 9s. more than monotype operators on day work. Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change for daywork:—Grade I towns, 72s. 6d.; Grade II, 69s. 6d.; Grade III, 66s. 6d.; Grade IV, 63s. 6d.; Grade V, 60s. 6d.; Grade VI, 57s. 6d. Men on nightwork receive 6s. more than corresponding grade on daywork. Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change for daywork:—4s. less than above rates for brake hands and controller hands; men on nightwork receive 6s. more than corresponding grade on daywork. Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change for daywork:—3s. less than above rates for brake hands and controller hands; men on nightwork receive 6s. more than corresponding grade on daywork.
		Belfast	Pay day in week ending 5 May	Compositors and linotype operators (book, jobbing and newspaper)	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: compositors—jobbing, 74s. 6d.; evening news, 77s.; morning news, 86s. 6d.; linotype operators—jobbing, 82s. 6d.; evening news, 85s.; morning news, 95s. 6d.
		Lancaster	26 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, french polishers, machinists and upholsterers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6d.)
Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport Districts		1 May	Furniture trade operatives ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for craftsmen, of 2d. per hour for labourers, 3d. per hour for female workers, and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers, polishers, mattress makers and machinists (after 4 years on machine), 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3d.; glassworkers—bevelers, silverers and cutters, 1s. 8d., brilliant cutters, 1s. 9d., fitters, 1s. 6d., packers, 1s. 5d.; upholsterers and female polishers, 1s.	
North-East Lancashire and Todmorden		1 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists	Decrease of 3d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.), and a proportionate decrease for apprentices and improvers.	
Birmingham and West Bromwich		Pay day in week ending 11 May	Carpet and blind fitters ...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 5d.).	
Derby		26 May	Furniture trade operatives (males)	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).	
High Wycombe ...		Pay day in week ending 26 May	Furniture trade operatives:— Women timeworkers	Decrease of 3d. per hour (10½d. to 10d.).	
North Staffordshire (including Stoke, Hanley, Newcastle-under-Lyme)		26 May	Labourers	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1½d.).	
Reading		26 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, french polishers and upholsterers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).	

* The rate was not agreed to by the workers' side of the Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the employers' side.
† The rates were agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Renal) Act, 1921.
‡ For the list of towns included in the various grades see note * on p. 420 of GAZETTE for October, 1922, and note † on p. 495 of GAZETTE for November, 1922. Working has been upgraded from Grade V. to Grade IV.
§ Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Nelson, Padiham, and Preston.
¶ The change took effect under an arrangement by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)		
Furniture and Woodworking Trades	Edinburgh	26 May	Cabinet makers and machinists Upholsterers and french polishers Female polishers and sewers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.). Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 6½d.). Decrease of 3d. per hour (9½d. to 9¼d.).		
	Scotland	1st pay day in May	Woodcutting machinists	Decrease* of 3d. per hour for journeymen. Minimum rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 4½d.		
	Leicester	1st pay day in May	Packing case makers	Decrease* of 3d. per hour (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 4d.).		
	Scotland (except Aberdeen)	1st pay day in May	Packing case makers and woodcutting machinists employed in packing case shops	Decrease* of 3d. per hour for journeymen, and 3d. per hour for apprentices. Rates after change: packing case makers: Glasgow, 1s. 4½d.; Edinburgh, Leith, Dunfermline and Dundee, 1s. 3½d.; woodcutting machinists (all districts), 1s. 4½d.		
	GLASS, BRICK, CHEMICAL, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES.	Manchester	1 May	Plumbers employed in chemical works	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8d.).	
		England and Wales (except London)†	26 May	Building trade artisans (including plumbers) employed by chemical manufacturers	Decrease of 1d. per hour.	
		Great Britain‡	1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the cement trade (except bricklayers, joiners, and other skilled tradesmen)	Decreases for dayworkers of 3d. per hour for men 18 years and over, and 3d. per hour for youths under 18 and for women, and proportionate decreases for piece and shift workers.	
		FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.	Certain towns in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire including Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Chesterfield, and Pontefract; also Grimsby	Pay day in week beginning 7 May	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trades by co-operative societies	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: foremen, chargemen and singlehands, 69s. 6d.; dough-mixers, ovenmen and secondhands, 64s. 6d.; tablehands, 59s. 6d.; allied workers, 51s. 6d.; juniors, 16s. 9d. at 16 to 17, increasing to 26s. at 18 to 19, and to 38s. at 20 to 21; skilled women: 15 years, 13s. 6d., increasing to 22s. 6d. at 18, and to 35s. 6d. at 21 and over; forewomen, 42s. 3d.; unskilled women, 15 years, 10s. 6d., increasing to 19s. at 18 years, and to 31s. at 21 and over.
			Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Keighley, Leeds, Wakefield and York	Pay day in week ending 5 May	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trades by co-operative societies	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week for male adult workers, and of 9d. per week for male juniors and female workers. Rates after change: foremen, chargemen and singlehands, 69s.; dough-mixers, ovenmen and secondhands, 64s.; tablehands, 59s.; allied workers, 51s.; male juniors, 17s. at 16 to 17 years, increasing to 26s. 3d. at 18 to 19, and to 38s. 3d. at 20 to 21; female workers: skilled 15 years, 13s. 9d., increasing to 22s. 9d. at 18 years, and to 36s. 8d. at 21 and over; forewomen, 43s.; unskilled, 15 years, 10s. 9d., increasing to 19s. 3d. at 18 years and to 31s. 9d. at 21 and over.
			Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey	21 May	Adult workers	Decrease* of 2s. per week (68s. to 66s.)§
Baking and Confectionery Trades			Preston and District	15 April	Adult workers	Decrease of 3s. per week for labourers and of 4s. per week for all other workers. Rates after change for daywork and nightwork respectively:—Bread section—foremen, 70s., 81s.; journeymen, 67s., 77s.; tablehands (21 and over), 62s., 72s.; singlehands, 68s., 78s.; confectionery section—foremen, 70s.; 2nd hands, 67s.; tablehands (21 and over), 62s.; bread or confectionery sections' labourers, 52s., 60s.
			Leicester	1st pay day after 21 May	Juniors and male apprentices ...	Decrease of 2s. per week for those of 18 years, and of 1s. per week for other workers. Rates after change: daywork, 20s. at 16 years, increasing to 29s. at 18, and to 35s. at 20 years, nightwork, 35s. at 18 years, increasing to 41s. at 20 years.
				1st pay day after 21 May	Adult workers	Decrease* of 3s. per week. Rates after change: ordinary bakeries—forehands, 65s.; singlehands and secondhands, 63s.; tablehands, 61s.; factories 5s. per week more in each case.
			Nottingham and District	Pay day in week ending 2 June	Youths and deliverers under 21	Decrease* of 1s. 9d., 2s. 3d. and 2s. 7d. per week for those of 18, 19 and 20 years respectively. Rates after change: 18 years, 33s. 9d.; 19, 41s. 3d.; 20 years, 49s. 7d.
	Eastbourne ...		28 April	Workpeople employed in the baking and confectionery trades	Decrease* of 3s. per week for adult male bakers and confectioners, and proportionate decreases for women and juveniles. Rates after change: adult male workers—forehands, 65s. 6d.; 69s., 70s.; single and secondhands, 63s. 6d.; tablehands, 61s.; (confectioners 2s. per week extra in each case). Adult female workers, skilled 46s., semi-skilled, 41s. 9d.	
			26 May	Adult workers	Decrease* of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 57s.	
			28 April	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trades	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week (62s. 6d. to 60s.)§	
		24 Mar.	Adult workers	Decrease* of 7s. per week (65s. to 58s.)§		
		1st week in May	Adult workers	Decrease of 6s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.		
		7 May	Adult workers	Decrease of 6s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 74s.		
Dundee	12 May	Adult workers	Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.			
	19 May	Adult workers	Decrease of 8s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 67s.			
	1st week in May	Adult workers	Decrease of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 78s.			
	1st week in May	Adult workers	Decrease of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 78s.			

* The change took effect under an arrangement made whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.
† The reduction took effect under an agreement arrived at between the Chemical Employers Federation and the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives dated 27th October, 1922, whereby it was arranged that the wages of building trade artisans employed in chemical works should be 1d. per hour less than the current standard building trade rate of the district for the respective crafts.
‡ The reductions took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Cement Manufacturing Industry. Further reductions of similar amounts have been arranged to take effect from first pay day in September. It was recommended by the Council that the full reduction of 1d. per hour for men should not be put into operation if such reduction would reduce the minimum rate to less than 10½d. per hour.
§ The rate quoted refers to tablehands.
¶ Including Ayr, Dalmeilington, Irvine, Kilmarnock, and Troon.
‡ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923—(continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades, Miscellaneous Trades, and Public Utility Services.

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
† The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee of the cocoa, chocolate, sugar confectionery and jam industries.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923—(continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Waterworks, Electricity Supply, Tramways, Non-trading Services of Local Authorities, and Public Utility Services.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923.

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Shows changes in hours for Baking and Confectionery in Ayrshire and Inverness.

* The undertakings affected are those which follow the Schedule B. rates of the Home Counties Joint Industrial Council for Waterworks Undertakings, and include the following:—Ashford U.D.C.; Barnet District Gas and Water Co.; East Surrey Water Co. (Redhill); Newhaven and Seaford Water Co.; Sevenoaks Waterworks Co.; South West Suburban Water Co.
† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.
‡ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry and include the following, which are shown in their respective Classes:—Class I: Aberdare, Barry (water inspectors only), Cardiff, Neath, Newport, Rhymney Valley; Class III: Breconshire (under Cardiff Corporation).
§ The undertakings affected by the reduction include the following:—Zone A: Darlington, Middlesbrough, Newcastle and District Electric Lighting Co., Ltd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd. (partly), South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland, Tyne-mouth, West Hartlepool; Zone B: Skelton and Prutton Electric Supply Undertaking, Ltd., Berwick-on-Tweed Urban Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; Zone C: Northern Counties Electricity Supply Co., Ltd. (Alnwick, Maltton, Morpeth and Thirsk), Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd. (partly).
¶ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the North Western Area Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry, and include the following, which are shown in their respective Zones:—Zone A: Cambuslang Electric Supply, Paisley, Edinburgh; Zone C: Alloa, Kirkcaldy, Perth, North Berwick and District Electric Light and Power Co.
** The decrease took effect under the sliding scale of the National Joint Council for the Tramways Industry. A complete list of the districts in which the decrease has been put into operation is not available, but it is known that it has not taken effect in the case of the following undertakings:—Camborne and Redruth, Cheltenham, Colchester, Dundee (see above), Glasgow, Lancaster (see above), Rothesay, Scarborough, York, West Ham.
†† The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Joint Industrial Council for Gloucester, Somerset and Wiltshire, and include the following, which are shown in their respective Grades:—Grade A: Bristol (see also above for additional reduction); Grade B 1: Gloucester, Swindon (from 13 June), Taunton; Grade C 1: Radstock (from 15 June); Grade D: Taunton R.D.C.
‡‡ This decrease is the result of a decision of the Corporation to adopt ultimately the rates fixed by the Joint Industrial Council for Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire; it was arranged that the necessary reduction of 3s. 6d. should be made in three instalments of 6d., 1s. 6d. and 1s. 6d. on the first pay days in May, July, and August respectively. This decrease is in addition to a reduction under the sliding scale of the Joint Council (see above).
§§ The Authorities affected are those that follow the recommendations of the Joint Wages Board for Local Authorities in Glamorgan, and include Aberdare, Barry, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Mountain Ash, Neath (from 1 June), Ogmere and Garw, Penarth, Pontypridd and Rhondda.
|| Including Ayr, Dalmeilington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock and Troon.
¶¶ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JUNE, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by reductions in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in June:—Men employed on civil engineering construction; skilled men employed in the Thames ship-repairing industry; metallic bedstead makers; boot and shoe makers; road transport workers at Liverpool and Birkenhead. Reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts have also been arranged to take effect in June in the following trades:—Chain; jute; boot and shoe-repairing; paper bag; paper box; perambulator and invalid carriage; and brush and broom. In the case of iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands wages have been increased in June. Details of these changes will be published in the July issue of the GAZETTE.

RATES OF WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Table shows the revised rates of wages to operate from 26 May, 1923, for craftsmen (bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plumbers, plasterers and painters), and labourers in Great Britain (outside London), after the reductions referred to on page 214, resulting from the recent Award of an Arbitrator (see page 198). For particulars of the towns included in the various grades as distinguished by the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry see below. The rates of wages in the London district are shown on page 214.

Table with 9 columns: Grade, Craftsmen, Labourers, Grade, Craftsmen, Labourers, Grade, Craftsmen, Labourers. It lists rates for various grades (A, A1, A2, A3, B, B1, B2, B3, C, C1, C2) across different categories.

GRADING OF TOWNS.

The towns in which the above Grade rates have been reported to apply are shown below, divided into their main Area Groups. The principal exceptions are indicated in the notes appended to each Group. In towns marked * the rate for painters is 1d. less than that paid to other craftsmen, and in those marked † it is ½d. less than the craftsmen's rate.

NORTH EAST COAST:-

Grade A.—Alnwick, Anfield P.ain, Birtley, Bishop Auckland, Blackhill, Blyth, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Darlington, Durham, Ebchester, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Hebburn, Hexham, Jarrow, Lanchester, Leadgate, Medomsley, Middlesbrough, Morpeth, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Seaham Harbour, Stanley, Stockton, Sunderland, Thornaby, Tynemouth, Wallsend, Whitburn and Whitley Bay.

YORKSHIRE:-

Grade A.—Alltofts, Barnsley, Batley, Bingley, Birstall, Bradford, Brighouse, Calder Valley, Castleford, Cleckheaton, Cleethorpes, Colne Valley, Crosshills, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Gomersal, Grimby, Guiseley, Halifax, Harrogate, Hebden Bridge, Heckmondwike, Holmfirth, Horbury, Hoyland, Huddersfield, Hull, Ilkley, Immingham, Keighley, Knottingley, Leeds, Liversedge, Mexborough, Mirfield, Morley, Norman-on-Ossett, Penistone, Pontefract, Pudsey, Rawdon, Rotherham, Sunthorpe, Selby, Sheffield, Shipley, Sowerby Bridge, Stocksbridge, Wakefield, Wombwell, and Yeading. Grade A3.—Barnoldswick, Beverley, Bridlington, Goolse, Hornsea, Scarborough, Skipton, Wokingham, and York. Grade B3.—Kirby Moorside, Malton, Northallerton, Norton and Wetherby.

NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES:-

Grade A.—Aberington, Ailington, Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Atherton, Bacup, Barrow, Birkdale, Bispham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Blackrod, Bolton, Broughton (Flints), Burnley, Bury, Carlisle, Chester, Chorley, Cleveleys, Clitheroe, Colne, Connahs Quay, Dalton-in-Furness, Darwen, Denton, Droylsden, Eccles, Farnworth, Fleetwood, Frodsham, Glossop, Great Harwood, Haslingden, Hawarden, Helsby, Heywood, Higher Kinnerton, Horwich, Hyde, Kirkham, Leigh, Leyland, Littleborough, Longridge, Lynton, Lytham, Manchester, Middleton, Mossley, Nelson, Ormskirk, Oswaldtwistle, Oldham, Padiham, Pendlebury, Poulton, Preston, Prestwich, Quensferry, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Rishton, Rochdale, Runcorn, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, St. Helens, Saddleworth, Sale, Salford, Shaw, Skipton, Southport, Stalybridge, Stockport, Swinton, Thrumpton, Toldmore, Tyldesley, Walkden, Warrington, Westhoughton, Whalley, Whitefield, Widnes, Wigan and Wilmslow. Grade A1.—Lancaster and Morecambe. Grade A3.—Askan, Broughton-in-Furness, Buxton, Cleator Moor, Congleton, Conistone, Crewe, Distington, Epsom, Grange-over-Sands, Harrington, Kearsley, Macclesfield, Marple, Market Drayton, Middlewich, Milom, Mord, Nantwich, New Mills, Northwich, Sandbach, Tarporley, Ulverston, Winsford and Al Over, Whitehaven, Workington and Wrexham. Grade B1.—Colwyn Bay, Conway, Holywell, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Mostyn, Prestatyn, Rhos and Rhyl. Grade B2.—Bala, Cockerham, Kendal and Penrith. Grade B3.—Ambleside, Bangor, Bowness-on-Windermere, Carnarvon, Grasmere, Holyhead, Langdale and Windermere.

[NOTE.—In the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts the rates remain unaltered at 1s. 10d. for plumbers, 1s. 9d. for other craftsmen, and 1s. 4d. for labourers. The new rate for plumbers at Warrington is reported as 1s. 8d.]

MIDLAND COUNTIES:-

Grade A.—Alfreton, Balper, Bilston, Birmingham, Blackheath, Burslem, Chesterfield, Coalville, Coventry, Derby, Hanley, Hasnor, Hinckley, Ilkeston, Kaniworth, Leicester, Lincoln, Long Eaton, Loughborough, Mansfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Nottingham, Ripley, Stoke-on-Trent, Sutton Coldfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, West Bromwich, Willenhall and Wolverhampton. Grade A3.—Atherstone, Bawley, Boston, Brerley Hill, Bromsgrove, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock, Coaseley, Darlaston, Dudley, Gainsborough, Gornal, Grantham, Halesowen, Hednesford, Kidderminster, Knowle, Leamington, Leek, Lichfield, Louth, Malvern, Market Harborough, Matlock, Melton Mowbray, Newark, Northampton, Oakingates, Old Hill, Peterborough, Redditch, Refford, Rugby, Rugeley, Shifnal, Skegness, Sleaford, Solihull, Stafford, Stamford, Stourbridge, Stourport, Stratford-on-Avon, Swadincote, Walsall, Warwick, Wednesbury, Wellington, and Worcester. Grade B1.—Kettering and Wellingborough. Grade B2.—Ashbourne, Bridgnorth, Horncastle, Oakham, Oundle, Raunds, Rushden, Spalding, Thrapston, Uttoxeter and Wirksworth. Grade C.—Buckden, Eaton Socon, Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots.

[NOTE.—The reduction did not apply to plumbers in the Potteries district and at Stafford, where the rate remains at present 1s. 9d. The new rate for plumbers at Leek is reported as 1s. 6d. and for plumbers at Chesterfield, 1s. 8d.]

EASTERN COUNTIES:-

Grade B1.—St. Albans, Southend-on-Sea and Westcliff. Grade B2.—Norwich. Grade B3.—Baldock, Bedford, Berkhamsted, Biggleswade, Braintree, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Colchester, Halstead, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Henlow, Hertford, Hitchin, Hoddesdon, Ingatstone, Ipswich, Letchworth, Luton, Norwich, Ongar, Sawbridge, Stevenage, Stotfold, Ware, and Welwyn. Grade C.—Aldborough, Attleborough, Aylsham, Braughing, Clacton, Cromer, Dovercourt, Dunstable, Ely, Fakenham, Felstead, Frinton, Gorleston, Halesworth, Harwich, Hunstanton, King's Lynn, Leighton Buzzard, Leiston, Lowestoft, March, Muck Hadham, Newmarket, Puckeridge, Rethem, Sax nundham, Southwold, Standon, Stowmarket, Walton-on-the-Naze, Wickham Market, Wisbech, Woodbridge, Wymondham and Yarmouth. Grade C2.—Bungay, Coltishall, East Dereham, Hadleigh, Haverhill, Royston.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES:-

Grade B.—Leatherhead. Grade B1.—Gosport, Portsmouth and Southampton. Grade B2.—Bournemouth, Brighton (see below), Christchurch, Eastbourne, Fareham, Hove, Poole, Reading, and Titchhurst. Grade B3.—Abingdon, Addlestone, Amersham, Ascot, Ashford (Middlesex), Beaconsfield, Bracknell, Byfleet, Chessington, Cremling, Egham, Eton, Gerrard's Cross, Goring, Gravesend, Guildford, Henley, Laleham, Maidenhead, Marlow, Northfleet, Oxford, Staines, Stanwell, Sunningdale, Sunninghill, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Wallingford, Windsor, Woking, Wokingham, and Wycombe. Grade C.—Arundel, Ashford (Kent), Aylesbury, Baxshot, Banbury, Basinstoke, Bicester, Blechley, Bognor, Bosham, Brookenhurst, Camberley, Canterbury, Chatham, Chichester, Chipping Norton, Deal, Dorking, Dover, Fareham, Faringdon, Faversham, Fenny Stratford, Folkestone, Gillingham, Haslemere, Hastings, Herts Bay, Hythe, Lambourn, Liphook, Littlehampton, Lynton, Mafeking, Margate, Milton Regis, Newbury, New Milton, Newport Pagnell, Pangbourne, Petworth, Ramsgate, Rochester, Sandgate, St. Leonards, Sevenoaks, Sittingbourne, Strood, Stony Stratford, Tame, Walmer, Wantage, Wendover, Westgate, Whitstable, Winchester, Winslow, Witney, Wolverton, and Worthing. Grade C2.—Alton, Andover, Bishop's Waltham, Farnham, Godstone, Hawkhurst, Hartley Wintney, Isle of Wight, Rye, Smallfield, Staplehurst, and Uckfield.

[NOTE.—It is understood that the reduction has not yet been made at Brighton and Hove and Eastbourne, the rates remaining at 1s. 4½d. for tradesmen and 1s. 0½d. for labourers. The new rate for plumbers at Dorking is reported as 1s. 4½d., for labourers at Basinstoke, 1½d., and for labourers at Folkestone, Hythe and Sandgate, 1s.]

SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES:-

Grade A.—Bristol. Grade A2.—Keynsham. Grade B.—Plymouth* and Devonport.* Grade B2.—Bath, Cheltenham, Gloucester,* Hereford,* Swindon,* and Tewkesbury.* Grade B3.—Exeter,* Newton Abbot, Portishead, Stroud and Taunton. Grade C1.—Barnstaple, Braford-on-Avon,* Bridgewater, Brighthelm, Bruton, Burnham-on-Sea, Calne,* Castle Cary, Cheddar,* Cirencester,* Coleford,* Corsham,* Crewkerne,* Dawlish, Dorchester,* Exmouth, Fairford,* Frome,* Glastonbury, Lydney,* Melksham,* Midsomer Norton, Minehead,* Radstock, Shepton Mallet, Street, Tetbury,* Tisbury,* Trowbridge,* Wells, Westbury,* Weston-super-Mare, Weymouth,* and Yeovil.*

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE:-

Grade A.—Aberavon, Aberdare, Abertillery, Ammanford, Barry, Bridgend, Briton Ferry, Brynawr, Cardiff, Chepstow, Dyffryn Valley, Ebbw Vale, East Glamorgan, Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Valleys, Garw Valley, Gorseston, Llanelli, Maesteg, Merthyr, Mountain Ash, Neath, Newport, Ogmore Vale, Pontardawe, Pontardulais, Pontypridd, Porthcawl, Port Talbot, Rhodfa and Raynham Valleys, Sirhowy Valley, Swansea, and Tredegar. Grade A2.—Abergavenny. Grade B.—Brecon, Carmarthen, Llandilo and Llandrindod Wells. Grade B2.—Fishguard, Hay, Mounouth and Talgarth.

SCOTLAND:-

Grade A.—Airdrie, Alloa, Alva, Armadale, Ayr, Bathgate, Bellshill, Bridge of Weir, Buckhaven, Burntisland, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Darnbaron, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourrock, Grange-over-Sands, Greenock, Haddington, Hamilton, Harthill, Irvine, Kennoway, Kilmaronock, Kirkcaldy, Larbert, Largs, Leith, Leslie, Leven, Markinch, Methil, Motherwell, Neilston, Newmains, Paisley, Pencaitland, Perth, Port Glasgow, Raith, Rosyth, Stenhousemuir, Uddingston, Uphall, Wemyss, Whitburn, Windygates and Wishaw. Grade A2.—Arbroath, Montrose and Peebles. Grade B.—Dumfries, Galashiels, Hawick and Maxwelltown.

[NOTE.—The rates quoted do not apply to plasterers and painters in Scotland, who are not affiliated to the National Wages and Conditions Council. The new rate for labourers at Leslie, Markinch and Perth is reported as 1s. 2½d., and at Arbroath, Bathgate, Irvine and Montrose 1s. 1d. It has been reported that the reduction did not apply to plumbers in the Dumfries, Dundee and Falkirk districts. The reduction has not been put into operation at Aberdeen.]

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns have been received from 134 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving particulars of the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed in May. The summarised figures for May are given in the following Table, together with similar figures relating to plans passed in these localities in the first five months of this year.

In the 134 localities to which the figures relate, plans were passed in May for buildings of an estimated cost of over £4,150,000, compared with an average of over £3,260,000 in the preceding four months.

Table showing Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 134 towns from which returns have been received. Columns include District and Aggregate Population, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, etc.

Table (a) MAY, 1923. ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties. Columns include County, £, and £.

Table (b) JANUARY TO MAY, 1923. ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties. Columns include County, £, and £.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The numbers of applications received and of assisted passages granted during May, 1923, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act (see March, 1923, GAZETTE, page 84), together with the number of assisted passages granted from the inception of these schemes to the end of May, 1923, are shown in the following Table:-

Table showing Assisted Passages granted in May, 1923, and Total Assisted Passages granted (1922, Jan.-May, 1923) for various destinations like Australia, New Zealand, Ontario, etc.

The numbers of applications shown are exclusive of any dependants of the applicants for whom assisted passages are desired, but the numbers of passages granted relate to the total numbers, inclusive of dependants.

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area. † Approximate total.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1923, was 56. There were seven deaths reported during the month, four of which were due to lead poisoning (two in the pottery and one each in the smelting of metals and shipbuilding industries), two due to anthrax (handling of horsehair) and one due to epitheliomatous ulceration (pitch). In addition, three cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during May, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

Table showing Cases of Lead Poisoning, Cases of Other Forms of Poisoning, and Cases of Anthrax. Columns include Category, Number of Cases, and Total.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.‡

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during May, 1923, was 189, as compared with 208 in the previous month and 178 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:-

Table showing Fatal Industrial Accidents by Trade and Industry. Columns include Trade, Number of Accidents, and Total.

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland. † Cases include all attacks reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. ‡ Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. § In the three persons affected in the Pottery industry two were females. ¶ In addition one case among dock labourers was reported. †† Based on Returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons relieved on one day* in May, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 516 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 36 per 10,000 on the previous month, and of 125 per 10,000 on a year ago.

As compared with April, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 61,809 (or 6.5 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief was lower by 1,950 (or 1.6 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 59,859 (or 7.2 per cent.). Five districts showed increases, and every other district showed a decrease. The greatest changes were decreases in the Dundee and Dunfermline district (732 per 10,000), in the Sheffield district (122 per 10,000), and an increase in the Newcastle district (121 per 10,000).

As compared with May, 1922, the total number relieved decreased by 216,839 (or 19.5 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 1,604 (or 1.3 per cent.) and the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 218,443 (or 22.0 per cent.). One district showed no change, three districts showed increases, while every other district showed a decrease. The greatest decreases were in the Stockton and Tees district (609 per 10,000), in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (561 per 10,000), in the Birmingham district (476 per 10,000), and in the Sheffield district (416 per 10,000). Seven other districts showed decreases ranging from 106 to 298, and sixteen districts showed increases ranging from 8 to 99 per 10,000 of the population.

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief on one day* in May, 1923.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a		
	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.		Month	
					ago.	Year ago.
			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Year ago.		
ENGLAND & WALES.‡						
Metropolis.						
West District ..	9,019	9,455	18,474	227	- 16	- 65
North District ..	10,126	24,930	35,056	349	- 23	- 29
Central District ..	2,538	3,114	5,652	425	- 26	- 69
East District ..	9,329	54,498	64,365	1,015	- 15	..
South District ..	19,898	83,784	103,682	546	- 35	- 85
TOTAL, Metropolis ..	51,450	175,779	227,229	507	- 25	- 56
West Ham ..	4,088	66,294	70,382	955	- 28	- 30
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ..	2,633	35,633	38,266	787	+121	- 155
Stockton and Tees District ..	1,138	21,508	22,646	861	- 36	- 609
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	3,855	7,270	11,125	142	- 2	- 27
Wigan District ..	1,784	12,253	14,037	323	- 5	- 185
Manchester District ..	8,680	28,183	36,863	365	-120	- 274
Liverpool District ..	9,897	57,189	67,086	567	8	- 297
Bradford District ..	1,742	4,265	6,007	164	- 11	- 75
Hull District ..	1,217	3,169	4,386	116	- 6	- 66
Leeds District ..	2,427	10,401	12,828	267	- 12	- 58
Barnsley District ..	911	8,125	9,036	289	- 6	- 106
Sheffield District ..	2,692	42,254	44,946	893	-122	- 416
Hull District ..	1,767	12,942	14,709	475	- 23	- 114
North Staffordshire ..	2,040	6,171	8,211	203	+ 8	- 39
Nottingham District ..	2,115	9,551	11,711	257	+ 2	- 50
Leicester District ..	1,157	2,647	3,804	162	- 5	- 83
Wolverhampton District ..	3,186	26,123	29,309	418	- 84	- 298
Birmingham District ..	6,943	46,983	53,926	586	- 84	- 476
Bristol District ..	2,548	13,614	16,162	399	+ 16	- 12
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,361	13,471	15,832	343	- 43	- 57
TOTAL "Other Districts"	59,093	361,797	420,890	417	- 31	- 206
SCOTLAND.‡						
Glasgow District ..	4,768	118,897	123,665	1,277	+ 32	+ 221
Paisley & Greenock Dist.	771	17,595	18,366	959	- 71	+ 162
Edinburgh & Leith Dist.	1,547	15,516	17,063	406	- 53	8
Dunfermline & Dunfries ..	716	3,888	4,604	214	-732	- 27
Aberdeen ..	513	6,521	7,034	442	- 54	+ 54
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	375	6,628	7,003	650	- 48	- 561
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts	8,690	168,843	177,533	888	- 82	+ 92
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in May, 1923	123,321	772,713	896,034	516	- 36	- 125

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 26th May, and those for Scotland to 12th May.
 † These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district.
 ‡ Exclusive of casuals; of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only. The figures for Scotland include destitute able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor-law relief.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available	
	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
	109	168	120	80	60	1923.	
UNITED KINGDOM	June	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna)	9,320†	328,100	139,900	May	
Belgium †	369	310	281	314	
Czechoslovakia ‡	1,246	1,330	828	Mar.	
Denmark	112	136	84	80	
Finland	882	1,005	966	Mar.	
France (Paris) §	161	273	206	197	
(other towns) ¶	188	288	250	221	
Germany	1,391	6,736	461,900	May	
Holland (The Hague)	143	113	80	62	
(Amsterdam)	110	117	85	46	
Italy (Rome)	106	218	302	359	
(Milan)	210	345	406	392	
Norway	189	219	195	133	
Poland (Warsaw)	45,555	129,711	857,864	
Sweden §	210	197	132	79	
Switzerland	110	57	61	
United States	88	115	45	39	
BRITISH DOMINIIONS, &c.							
Australia	47	94	61	48	
Canada	86	127	48	38	
India (Bombay)	88	74	60	
Irish Free State	44	64	44	43	
New Zealand	39	97	16	
South Africa	

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, Florence, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, average, 1913; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in May the increase for all working-class families ranged from 314 to 316 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. ¶ Figure for August.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.*	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†					Latest figures available	
		July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
		105	152	119	84	69	1923.	
UNITED KINGDOM ..	A, B, C, D, E	105	152	119	84	69	June	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								
Austria (Vienna) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	9,700	264,400	114,900	May
Belgium ..	A, C, D, E	..	..	353	279	266	313
Bulgaria ..	A, D	..	..	1,512	2,331	2,398	Oct. †
Denmark ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	111	162	99	98
Finland ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	811	1,039	1,018	1,129
France (Paris) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	263‡	1,954	1,894	224
Germany ..	A, B, C, D	..	..	213	5,222	381,500	May
Italy (Rome) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	105	213	287	329
(Milan) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	180	341	394	388
Luxemburg ..	A, C, D	..	..	..	284	259	323
Norway ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	202§	202§	155§	137
Poland ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	..	25,609	78,698	571,125
Spain (Madrid) ..	A, D	..	..	74	90	79	78
(Barcelona) ..	A, D	..	..	81	91	73	63
Sweden ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	167	170	136	90
Switzerland ..	A, D	..	..	..	59	60	60
United States ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	77§	117§	80	67§
BRITISH DOMINIIONS, &c.								
Australia ..	A, B	..	..	33	67	46	43
Canada ..	A, B, C, E	..	..	..	..	..	40
India (Bombay) ..	A, B, D	..	..	56	90	62	46
Egypt (Cairo) ..	A, D	..	..	..	..	..	93
Irish Free State ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	89	77	65	55
New Zealand ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	49	57	44	31
South Africa ..	A, B, D	..	..	32	62	30	20

* A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other of Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Rome, Milan, and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Egypt and Germany, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May. † 1922.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries, are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 203-204 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment" (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

GERMANY.

Employment in April.—The issue of the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* for 1st June reports that the indications of improvement in the state of employment increased during April. Towards the end of the month the slump already observed in the sales of industrial products became somewhat less acute, owing to the fall in the value of the mark and to the efforts of home buyers to cover their needs as far as possible before a fresh rise in prices took place. A certain revival in the building industry also contributed. There is no justification, however, for regarding this improvement in the general situation as lasting. Even the degree of improvement in the labour market should not be rated too highly. Many reports from the Rhine provinces and the Ruhr, the two districts of greatest industrial importance, are lacking. Moreover, the reduced number of discharges of workpeople consequent upon the readiness of employers, before resorting to the dismissal of staff, to introduce short-time working, must be taken into account. Nevertheless, despite these and other reservations, it cannot be denied that there are clear indications of a better state of employment.

The figures relating to the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donations in April are incomplete, returns not having been received relating to the Rhine Provinces. So far as can be ascertained, the total for 1st May was 291,511, as compared with 243,986 on 1st April. A further 353,507 persons working on short time were also being assisted from public resources.

Returns from Trade Unions show an increased number of organised workers out of employment. Out of 5,963,567 included in the returns, 419,858 were unemployed on 28th April, giving a percentage of 7.0 (as against 5.6* at the end of March, and 0.9 at the end of April, 1922). The following Table gives particulars for the leading Unions:—

Unions.	Membership reported at end of Apr. 1923.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Apr., 1923.	Mar., 1923.	Apr., 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	5,963,567	7.0	5.6*	0.9
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building (Soc. Dem.) ..	496,999	11.0	13.7	1.6
(Christian) ..	58,192	6.7	9.6	0.1
Painters (Soc. Dem.) ..	54,119	8.3	11.6	0.9
Metal (Soc. Dem.) ..	1,353,955	6.5	2.3	0.6
(Hirsch-Duncker) ..	120,850	2.1	1.8	0.3
Textile (Soc. Dem.) ..	683,647	4.7	3.8	0.3
(Christian) ..	133,977	8.1	4.8	0.1
Clothing ..	62,514	4.7	4.9	0.1
Foot and shoe ..	90,425	5.6	5.7	0.5
Transport ..	498,440	4.1	3.1	1.0
Printing ..	63,418	11.4	11.3	1.9
Bookbinding ..	93,691	8.4	9.8	0.8
Woodworking (Soc. Dem.) ..	416,365	7.1	4.8	0.5
Glass ..	51,165	5.3	2.1	0.8
Food preparation ..	78,868	4.3	2.8	..
Baking and confectionery (Soc. Dem.) ..	75,267	10.2	11.8	4.7
Tobacco (Soc. Dem.) ..	80,483	32.3	37.3	2.9
Factory workers (irrespective of trade) ..	578,774	7.4	5.3	0.6
Factory and transport workers (Christian) ..	125,077	13.5	9.6	0.5
Municipal and State workers ..	203,264	2.5	1.8	1.7

The above totals do not include persons partially employed, of whom in April there were 28.5 per cent. among the 5,337,712 Trade Union members covered by the returns on this subject. The corresponding percentage for March was 23.6.

The returns from public Employment Exchanges show that in the month under review 1,152,403 applications for employment were made by workpeople, against which may be set 423,322 offers of situations by employers. On the average, there were 365 applications for each 100 vacancies for men and 164 for each 100 for women, as compared with 340 and 150 respectively in the preceding month.

Statistics of membership of sickness insurance societies show that in 5,063 societies making returns the membership (i.e., the number of persons under obligation to insure, and hence assumed to be in work) rose from 11,734,092 on 1st April to 11,955,546 on 1st May, or by 1.9 per cent.

* Revised figure.

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in May.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 2nd June was 9,362 (6,443 men and 2,919 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 9,832 (5,342 for men and 4,540 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 27,101 persons (21,349 men and 5,752 women) in situations, and in addition found employment for 2,605 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns, six departmental and thirty-seven municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 7th June, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 2,081 (1,959 men and 122 women). This total shows a decrease of 119 when compared with the corresponding figure (2,200) for the preceding week. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully indicate the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

SWEDEN.*

Unemployment in March.—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions on 31st March was 19.9, as compared with 20.8 at the end of the preceding month and 30.6 on 31st March, 1922. The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns:—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Mar., 1923.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Mar., 1923.	28th Feb., 1923.	31st Mar., 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	129,222	19.9	20.8	30.6
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Iron and steel	7,658	54.8	51.7	29.6
Moulders	2,521	19.6	25.1	42.2
Engineering	31,616	21.9	24.7	42.6
Electrical workers ..	2,524	26.0	21.3	31.0
Textile	4,776	2.4	1.8	5.4
Clothing	3,344	11.2	13.5	12.3
Boots, shoes and leather ..	6,232	7.2	7.9	23.1
Food trade	3,697	12.6	10.8	12.0
Brewery	3,062	7.8	11.2	9.2
Tobacco	2,885	7.9	2.6	2.2
Sawmill	8,149	27.4	16.8	34.2
Woodworking	6,033	31.1	29.3	52.1
Paper	8,072	3.9	5.1	14.2
Municipal workers	4,532	4.8	6.1	4.8
Commercial employees ..	6,118	9.5	8.3	12.2
General and factory workers ..	12,253	25.9	28.6	36.3
(trades not specified)				

UNITED STATES.†

Employment in April.—The Federal Department of Labour Statistics at Washington presents reports concerning the volume of employment in April, 1923, from 5,651 representative establishments, covering 2,139,053 employees in forty-three manufacturing industries. A comparison of the figures with those for identical establishments in March, 1923, shows that, on the whole, there was an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number of persons employed in the later month. Increases are shown in nineteen industries and decreases in twenty-four. The largest increase (12.2 per cent.) was in the brick and tile industry, while carriages and wagons, petroleum refining and automobile manufacture showed increases of 5.4, 4.9 and 4.3 per cent. respectively. Decreases are shown in fertilisers (7.2 per cent.), men's clothing (6.7 per cent.) and women's clothing (3.4 per cent.).

The aggregate wages paid show a net increase of 1.4 per cent. over those of the preceding month. There were increases in twenty-nine industries, brick and tile and carriages and wagons

* *Sociale Meddelanden*, No. 5, 1923. Stockholm
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

leading with seasonal increases of 16.7 per cent. and 11.7 per cent. respectively. Increases were also shown in glass (5.2 per cent.), foundry and machine shop products (5.4 per cent.), lumber (sawmills) and lumber (millwork) (5.7 per cent. and 6.6 per cent. respectively), and pottery (7.0 per cent.).

The following Table affords a comparison between returns from identical establishments in thirteen manufacturing industries in April, 1923, and April, 1922:—

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.		Inc.(+) or Dec.(—)	Aggregate Weekly Earnings.		
		Apr., 1922.	Apr., 1923.		Dollars	Dollars	Per cent.
Iron and steel ..	115	119,414	145,329	+ 21.7	2,464,839	3,951,552	+ 60.3
Car building and repairing ..	85	38,485	55,530	+ 44.3	1,017,377	1,575,713	+ 54.9
Automobiles ..	45	95,927	143,515	+ 49.6	3,120,525	4,973,041	+ 59.4
Cotton manufacturing ..	53	36,324	55,393	+ 52.5	539,682	1,008,717	+ 86.9
Dyeing and finishing textiles ..	25	12,595	15,887	+ 26.1	252,351	362,910	+ 43.8
Hosiery and knit goods	80	31,342	31,655	+ 1.0	514,918	560,363	+ 9.8
Woolens	22	16,917	26,634	+ 57.4	378,221	623,142	+ 64.8
Silk	35	10,381	12,429	+ 19.7	175,293	270,633	+ 54.4
Men's clothing ..	43	28,231	27,012	- 4.3	635,567	779,868	+ 23.1
Boots and shoes ..	89	58,696	64,078	+ 9.2	1,288,294	1,513,176	+ 20.5
Tobacco, &c. ..	74	14,457	15,349	+ 6.2	232,757	283,475	+ 21.8
Leather	40	12,193	13,934	+ 14.3	250,119	327,944	+ 31.1
Paper	72	22,134	26,641	+ 20.4	499,979	679,990	+ 35.0

The net increase in the number of persons employed in the thirteen industries was 27 per cent. Twelve industries show increases and one a decrease. Woollen goods, cotton goods, automobiles and car building and repairing show the largest increases (57.4 per cent., 52.5 per cent., 49.6 per cent. and 44.3 per cent. respectively).

All thirteen industries show increases in aggregate earnings, the largest being 86.9 per cent. in cotton goods and 64.8 per cent. in woollen goods.

CANADA.*

Employment in May.—For 1st May, 1923, returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 5,820 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 752,037 workers. On 1st April the same firms reported 720,270. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st May is 91.4, as compared with 87.6 for 1st April and 83.3 for 1st May, 1922.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

ACCIDENT TO COLLIER WHICH DID NOT ARISE IN THE COURSE OF HIS EMPLOYMENT—BREACH OF INSTRUCTIONS—ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DEATH.

A WORKMAN was employed at a tip in filling trams with stones, and on a certain occasion he proceeded with the trams on a journey from the tip towards the level, riding upon the trams. He was last seen before the accident half sitting upon a tram and half walking. It was contrary to the colliery instructions for men other than riders to sit upon the trams unless specially instructed to go with the trams in the absence of the rider. On this occasion the tram went off the lines and the workman was found lying with his foot caught in the rope, and he died soon afterwards. The workman's dependant instituted proceedings for compensation, but the County Court Judge found that the deceased had exceeded his instructions and that the accident did not arise in the course of his employment. Upon the hearing in the Court of Appeal, it was held that in view of the evidence placed before the County Court Judge it was open to him to come to the conclusion that the workman had taken it upon himself to accompany the tram and that the Court ought not to interfere with this finding. It was also held that there appeared to be no evidence of any emergency justifying the workman in going outside his duty, that this point had not been taken before the County Court Judge, and that the appeal should be dismissed. —(Court of Appeal. *Watkins v. Cwmgwyrach and Empire Colliery Co. Ltd.*)

(2) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

DECLARATION OF LIABILITY AND NO COMPENSATION—RIGHT TO QUESTION ACCURACY OF JUDGE'S NOTE—APPEAL.

This was an appeal from the Wiltshire County Court Judge against an award which was a declaration of liability and no compensation. The workman appealed on the ground that the County Court Judge stopped the case before completion of the hearing. The only note made by the Judge was "declaration as prayed." It was stated in a local newspaper containing a

report of the case that the County Court Judge had stopped the case, whereupon the workman's solicitor wrote to the Judge to enquire if that was accurate. The Judge then made an additional note, in which he stated that he asked the advocate for the workman whether he was in a position to urge anything further on his behalf, and that the case was not pressed further. The accuracy of this additional note was questioned, and it was contended that the question put to the workman's advocate by the Judge was a misdirection. The Court of Appeal held that there was no reason to take the note of a County Court Judge as necessarily correct, and it was open to question the accuracy of the note on proper material being put forward in evidence as to what actually did take place at the hearing, but in this case there was not sufficient evidence to contradict the note made by the County Court Judge some time after the hearing, and the appeal must therefore be dismissed.—(Court of Appeal. *Mines v. Selje.*)

(3) Workmen's Compensation.

AWARD FOR TOTAL INCAPACITY—WORKMAN UNABLE TO STAND FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS—CAPACITY TO DO LIGHT WORK.

The appellant in this case was a painter who fell from a ladder and suffered a fracture of the left ankle in February, 1920, as the result of which three operations became necessary. He remained in hospital until the middle of 1922, when an agreement was entered into to pay him £1 15s. a week. He received this weekly payment until October, 1922, when the respondents made an application to the County Court Judge to review this amount. An award was made by the Judge of £1 a week for partial incapacity, finding that the only incapacity at that time was the workman's inability to stand on a ladder, and that he was capable of doing any form of light work. The appellant appealed from this decision on the ground that he was totally incapacitated and that there was no evidence that he could do any form of light work. The evidence was that the appellant was incapable of working for more than two hours while standing. Held, that on the evidence the Court of Appeal could not say that the County Court Judge was bound in law to say that the appellant was totally incapacitated. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—(Court of Appeal. *Fowler v. Minter.*)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

VOLUMES containing the collected decisions of the Umpire appointed under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, respecting disputed claims to benefit, are published by H.M. Stationery Office.

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE NO. 4510, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—SUSPENDED WORKWOMAN OFFERED PERMANENT WORK—GAVE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER TO UNDERSTAND THAT SHE EXPECTED EARLY RE-ENGAGEMENT WITH OLD EMPLOYER.

The applicant had been unemployed for about 5 weeks when, on 19th January, 1923, she was offered permanent employment near her home in her usual trade and at the standard rate for the class of work.

The applicant stated that she interviewed the prospective employer and, in the course of answers to his questions, she told him that her last employers had suspended her owing to a breakdown, and that she expected to go back to them. The employer thereupon stated that it was no use engaging her because he wanted someone who would remain with him permanently. The applicant stated that since she had applied for this job she had been to see her last employers, and they had stated that they would not be re-opening for 6 months.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed on the ground that the applicant had not refused an offer of employment. She had applied for the work but was not engaged by the employer.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the applicant had lost the employment offered through her own fault in informing the employer that she would return to her old employer. He did not think the applicant was entitled to refuse permanent work because she was only suspended.

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

"I am not satisfied that on the 19th of January the applicant was unable to find suitable employment. She had been out of work for over a month when she was sent by the Local Exchange to apply for a vacant situation in her usual employment. Although she had been only temporarily suspended there was no immediate likelihood of work restarting in her previous employment, but she appears to have given the prospective employer a wrong impression about this and in consequence he did not engage her. I see no reason for doubting, however, that he would have engaged her if she had said she was willing to take permanent employment with him. In view of the uncertain prospects in the employment which she had had previously, the fact that acceptance of the new employment might have involved the loss of her connection with her former employer cannot be regarded as rendering the proposed employment unsuitable."

CASE NO. 4646.—SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—RESIDENTIAL WORK AS NURSEMAID UNSUITABLE FOR FULLY QUALIFIED DISPENSER AND CHEMIST'S ASSISTANT—UNEMPLOYED 15 WEEKS.

The applicant, who was 21 years of age, had been unemployed for about 15 weeks when she was offered permanent residential work as a nursemaid near her home at a wage of 10s. to 12s. per week. It was reported that there was no prospect of any other work locally.

The applicant refused the offer on the ground that she was a fully-qualified dispenser and chemist's assistant, having had five years' training in this occupation. She had had a high school education, and had passed the necessary pharmaceutical examination. She contended that to accept residential work would reduce her chances of obtaining work in her usual trade to a minimum, and, consequently, her future prospects would be prejudiced. She was seeking work in her own trade by personal enquiry and by answering advertisements in the newspapers. She contended, further, that she was totally inexperienced in nursemaids' work.

Recommended, by a majority of the Court of Referees, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed on the ground that the applicant had refused an offer of suitable employment. The insured contributors' representative dissented on the ground that the applicant should have further opportunity to secure work in the trade for which she had been trained. Leave to appeal to the Umpire was granted.

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

"The applicant appears to be a fully-qualified dispenser and chemist's assistant, and is entitled to regard employment as a nursemaid as unsuitable."

CASE NO. 4720.—SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—AVAILABILITY FOR WORK AND INABILITY TO OBTAIN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT—SEASONAL WORKER UNEMPLOYED BETWEEN FISHING SEASONS—NO PROSPECT OF AND NO EFFORT TO OBTAIN OTHER WORK—SHOULD LEAVE LOCALITY TO FIND WORK.

The applicant's usual occupation was that of a fishworker, and she was normally employed in this occupation for about 5 months each year. Her home was near Fortrose, Scotland, and she

lodged her claim for benefit at Fortrose on 22nd November, 1922, after she had returned from Yarmouth, where she had been employed for 2 months as a fish curer. Her claim for benefit was disallowed by the Insurance Officer on the ground that for the purposes of the Unemployment Insurance Acts she could not be regarded as unemployed for the period during which she did not normally follow an occupation.

The applicant, age 24 years and unmarried, stated that during the war and up to September, 1919, she was employed on munition work. She had since been employed as a fish worker for the periods June to September and October to November in each of the years 1920, 1921 and 1922, and for the remaining months of these years she had been unemployed owing to the seasonal nature of her occupation.

Recommended, by the Court of Referees, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court upheld the Insurance Officer's decision, although they felt that benefit should be allowed for a month or so, when they suggested the applicant should be offered domestic work.

The applicant appealed to the Umpire.

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

"This applicant appears to have normally followed the employment of a fish curer from June to November (inclusive) in each year. During the remainder of the year she lives at home in a district where at that time, owing to the seasonal nature of the industry, there is no possibility of her obtaining employment as a fish curer in that district.

"She does not appear to have had any training or experience which would fit her for any other kind of work which is available locally, nor is there any evidence that she has been accustomed to do any such work or to make serious efforts to find such work in the period from December to May.

"As she is a single woman, there is no apparent reason why she should not look for work in other districts where employment in fish curing is to be had when it is not to be had in her own district, and as she has not done so I am not satisfied that she is unable to find suitable employment.

"If, on the other hand, her domestic ties make it impossible for her from December to May to leave that district—in which during that period there is no possibility of her getting work locally—I am of the opinion that she is not available for work during that period."

CASE NO. 4747, SECTION 8 (2).—EMPLOYMENT LEFT VOLUNTARILY—ASSOCIATION RULE AGAINST WORK WITH NON-FEDERATED EMPLOYER—PAINTER LEFT WORK WITH A FIRM OF CHOCOLATE MAKERS—FUTURE PROSPECTS PREJUDICED BY NON-OBSERVANCE OF RULE—FULL DISQUALIFICATION.

Four painters, who had accepted employment with a firm of chocolate makers, left this employment on 6th February, 1923, after working for only a few days, because the firm were not members of the Master Painters' Association in Scotland. On behalf of the applicants their Association stated that they had an agreement with the Master Painters' Association which said that members of the Association should only employ or work for members of the other Association. Under this agreement the applicants were compelled to give up the employment because failure to observe the agreement involved expulsion from their Association, and because the rule was in operation practically throughout Scotland, their prospects of again securing work as painters would be seriously prejudiced.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed on the ground that the applicants were justified in leaving. The Court thought that Case No. 919 (Benefit, 1911, Act) applied.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. He thought Case No. 919 did not apply in cases where the full district rate was paid. It appeared to him that the rule in question was intended to apply only to employers whose trade was that of a master painter and not to employers in other industries who required painters on their staff. The men's Association recognised that the chocolate makers could not be members of the Master Painters' Association, neither could a firm of engineers be members, although requiring a staff of painters, and to insist that painters should refuse to work for such employers was unreasonable. He thought the case was covered by the decision on Cases Nos. 367, 2263, etc.

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

"By an agreement between Associations of employers and employees in the Edinburgh and Leith district the employers have agreed to employ only members of a recognised Trade Union, and the members of the employees' Association have agreed only to work for members of the Employers' Association.

The applicants, who are members of the employees' Association, accepted work with a firm of chocolate makers, but left after a few days because the firm are not members of the Employers' Association; and it is suggested that they were justified in so doing on the ground that, if they had continued in the employment they would have been expelled from their Union and would thereby have been prejudiced in getting other employment.

In my opinion they had not just cause for leaving. If the Association insist that their members shall only work for particular employers, or employers who belong to a particular association, they must be prepared to take upon themselves the charge of their members for whom there is available employment with other firms who pay the recognised rates and observe the generally recognised conditions of employment.

CASE No. 4755, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—OFFER OF WORK AWAY FROM HOME MADE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE—STANDARD RATE FOR NEW DISTRICT OFFERED—COUNTRY MONEY NOT PAYABLE.

The applicant, a bricklayer, living in London, had been unemployed for 3 weeks when he was informed by his local Employment Exchange of the existence of a vacancy for a bricklayer at Margate. The work was expected to be permanent and the standard time rate of 1s. 4d. per hour for the Margate district would have been paid.

The applicant refused the offer on the ground that country money was not paid. He claimed that under an agreement between his Trade Union and the Employers' Federation he was entitled to the London district rate of 1s. 8d. per hour, plus 21s. per week subsistence allowance.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed on the ground that the refusal was reasonable.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court, and the case was referred to the Umpire.

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

The applicant, who lives in the London district, was offered, through his Local Exchange, work at Margate, at the standard rate of wages for that district. This offer was refused because the applicant would not have been paid country money.

By the Working Rule Agreement for Building Trade Operatives in the London district "workmen who are sent from the shop or job" to a point outside the London district are entitled to receive country money with travelling expenses and payment at standard rates for time occupied in travelling one journey each way for the job.

If the applicant had had his name submitted to the employer at Margate through the Employment Exchanges, and had been accepted by the employer, he would not have been sent by the employer from the shop or job. Those words appear to me not to refer to a case of this kind, and I understand that it is not the general custom for employers to pay country money in such circumstances.

In my opinion, therefore, as the applicant was offered and refused employment at the standard rate of wages for the district he was not unable to obtain suitable employment."

INSURANCE INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1923.

The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Order, 1923, dated May 17, 1923, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923 (13 Geo. V., c. 2).

WHEREAS it is provided by Section 10 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act of 1923"), that for the purpose of securing in the case of a special scheme that like rates of benefit shall be payable to the person to whom the scheme applies as are payable under the Act of 1923, and that the benefits under the scheme shall otherwise be not less favourable than those provided by the general provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1922 (but for no other purposes), the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") may, after consultation with the body charged with the administration of the scheme, by order vary or amend the provisions of the scheme, and any such order may provide for consequential amendments as to the rates of contributions and otherwise.

And whereas by the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) Order, 1921, the Insurance Industry Unemployment Insurance Scheme (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme") was approved by the Minister. And whereas the Incorporated Insurance Industry Unemployment Insurance Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Joint Board") is the body charged with administration of the Scheme.

And whereas by the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Order, 1922 (hereinafter referred to as the Amendment Order, 1922), it has been necessary for the purposes mentioned in Section 15 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922, to vary and amend the provisions of the Scheme.

And whereas for the purposes mentioned in Section 10 of the Act of 1923 it is necessary further to vary and amend the provisions of the Scheme.

Now, therefore, the Minister, after consultation with the Joint Board, hereby makes the following Order:—

1. The variations and amendments of the provisions of the Scheme contained in the schedule hereto shall have effect as from the twelfth day of April, 1923.

2. This Order may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Order, 1923, and this Order and the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) Orders, 1921 and 1922, may be cited together as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) Orders, 1921 to 1923.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this seventeenth day of May, 1923.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

SCHEDULE.

1. The Fourth Special Period defined in paragraph 2 (2) of the Schedule to the Amendment Order, 1922, shall be extended so as to terminate on the seventeenth day of October, 1923,

instead of on the first day of July, 1923, and the provisions of the said Schedule relating to benefit within the Fourth Special Period shall have effect subject to the following modifications:—

(1) The periods for which a person may be authorised to receive out-of-work benefit shall be periods not exceeding in the aggregate forty-four weeks.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in the Scheme no person shall, except by virtue of an authorisation given by the Joint Board under paragraph 3 of the Schedule to the Amendment Order, 1922, as amended by this Order, receive out-of-work benefit in the Fourth Special Period for periods amounting in the aggregate to more than twenty-six weeks, and no person shall, whether by virtue of such an authorisation as aforesaid, or otherwise, receive out-of-work benefit in the Fourth Special Period for periods amounting in the aggregate to more than forty-four weeks.

(3) Where a disabled person, as defined by sub-section (1) of Section 9 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921, is in the opinion of the Joint Board by reason of his disability unable to undertake whole-time employment, the Joint Board may, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3 (3) (b) of the Schedule to the Amendment Order, 1922, authorise that person to receive out-of-work benefit.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs 3 (1) (b) and 3 (5) of the Schedule to the Amendment Order, 1922, shall cease to have effect, and paragraph 5 (1) (b) of the same Schedule shall have effect, with the omission of the words from "or where the benefit" to "within the Fourth Special Period."

2. (1) Clause 7 (1) of the Scheme shall have effect as if for the words "which section" there were substituted therein the words "and in section 5 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, and those sections (except paragraph (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Act)."

(2) The Joint Board may by rules provide for the transition from the provisions of Clause 7 (1) of the Scheme to the same provisions as amended by this Schedule, and prescribe that a period of consecutive days shall for the purposes of the scheme as amended as aforesaid begin or end on such days as may be prescribed, and that such a period may be inclusive or exclusive of Sundays.

3. The following shall be substituted for paragraph 5 of the Second Schedule to the Scheme:—

"5. A period of unemployment shall not be deemed to commence until the date on which the person insured under the scheme makes application for out-of-work benefit in the manner provided by the Scheme: Provided that rules may be made by the Joint Board for allowing some earlier date to be substituted for the date of application in cases in which good cause is shown for delay in making application."

4. The Joint Board shall, in exercising the powers conferred upon them by this Schedule, give effect to any general direction which may from time to time be given by the Minister.

5. Save as in this Schedule otherwise expressly provided, nothing herein contained shall operate so as to deprive any person of, or to prevent any person from receiving, any out-of-work benefit, which he would have been entitled to receive if the provisions of this Schedule had not come into force.

6. This Schedule shall be construed as one with the Scheme and the Schedule to the Amendment Order, 1922.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

SHEET METAL WORKERS, COACH BODY MAKERS AND FINISHERS, ETC., AT EASTLEIGH.—The Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. Southern Railway. Decision.—Under Schedule B to Decision No. 728, Notes I. and II., the qualifications entitling a man to be classified as a Grade I. craftsman are twofold, viz.:—

(a) To have served an apprenticeship to his trade

or
To have served in the various branches of his trade for a period of five years.

(b) To have become fully qualified in the skilled branches of his trade.

Provided that a man possesses these qualifications and is employed by the Railway Company in his trade, he is entitled to the rate applicable to Grade I. of his trade. If, however, he is not employed in his trade, but is employed in some other occupation, the rate payable to him is not the rate of his trade but that of the occupation in which he is for the time being employed. Issued 2nd May, 1923. (795.)

STRIPPERS, STAYERS AND TUBERS, EASTLEIGH—RATES OF PAY.—The Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. Southern Railway. Decision.—If the men normally engaged on tubing and staying are skilled platers or riveters, they are entitled to receive a rate as platers or riveters; otherwise, the rate payable is that specified in Decision No. 728 for tubers and stayers as such. The position of the men who, as an alternative to dismissal on account of slackness of trade, have been offered and accepted temporary employment as strippers at the strippers' rate of pay does not appear to arise directly as a matter of the interpretation of Decision No. 728. Issued 2nd May, 1923. (796.)

MILLWRIGHTS, EASTLEIGH—RATES OF PAY.—The Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. Southern Railway. Decision.—In fixing a rate for millwrights in Decision No. 728, the Court intended that such rate should be paid to millwrights performing the ordinary and customary duties of their class. At the same time the Court specifically stated that the rates set out in the Decision are not intended to prejudice the position of men possessing special qualification or skill, or employed under conditions recognised by the management as entitling them to rates higher than those normally paid. The Decision should be applied in that sense. Issued 2nd May, 1923. (797.)

WAGON MAKERS, EASTLEIGH—RANGE OF RATES OF PAY.—The Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. Southern Railway. Decision.—The claim that the men concerned are entitled to the maximum rate of the range is not justified by the terms of Decision No. 728. Issued 2nd May, 1923. (798.)

HOLDERS-UP—TENDER WORK—GRADING ADOPTED AT CREWE.—The Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway. Decision.—In accordance with the method explained in paragraph 23 of Decision No. 728 for applying a range of rates, the men are entitled to a basic rate of 37s. per week. The Decision is to operate as from 1st April, 1923. Issued 2nd May, 1923. (799.)

SAW MILL LABOURERS, COWLAIRS—GRADING—ASSISTANTS, MATES AND HELPERS.—The Workers' Union v. London and North Eastern Railway. The Union claimed that the men should be classified as sawyers' helpers and should be paid a basic rate of 54s. per week. Decision.—On the evidence before them, the Court were of opinion that the men in question did not fall in the class described in Decision No. 728 as "assistants, mates and helpers." Issued 2nd May, 1923. (800.)

FITTERS' HELPERS, EASTFIELD—RUNNING SHED DIFFERENTIAL—RANGE OF RATES OF PAY.—The Workers' Union v. London and North Eastern Railway. Decision.—Under the Industrial Court (Procedure) Rules, 1920, the Court were concerned in these proceedings only with the interpretation of Decision No. 728. The Company are carrying out the procedure laid down for the application of that Decision in the case of a range of rates, and accordingly the Union's application on this point failed. On the question of running shed differential, the Court declared that Decision No. 728 provided no differential in the case of the men concerned. Issued 2nd May, 1923. (801.)

SMITHS' STRIKERS, BOILERSMITHS' STRIKERS, STRIPPERS AND FLANGING SQUAD, ETC.—RATES OF PAY AT ST. ROLLOX—RANGE OF RATES.—The Workers' Union v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway. Decision.—The Company are carrying out the procedure laid down in Decision No. 728 in regard to the rates of pay and the Union's claim that the men concerned are entitled to the maximum rate of the range is not justified by the terms of the Decision. Issued May 4th, 1923. (802.)

BRUSH HANDS, COACH WASHERS, COACH CLEANERS—GRADING ADOPTED AT THE ST. ROLLOX WORKS.—The Workers' Union v. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway. Decision.—The men concerned are properly classified as carriage cleaners and washers and the rate paid falls within the range of rates scheduled for that occupation in Decision No. 728. Issued 4th May, 1923. (803.)

SAW MILL LABOURERS, ST. ROLLOX—ASSISTANTS, MATES AND HELPERS.—The Workers' Union v. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway. Decision.—On the evidence before them, the Court are of opinion that the men in question do not fall in the class described in Decision No. 728 as "assistants, mates and helpers." The claim for an additional 4s. per week for men engaged on the heavier work is not one which can be raised as a point of interpretation. Issued 4th May, 1923. (804.)

MACHINISTS, COWLAIRS—GRADING—TURRET LATHES AND BORING MACHINES.—The Workers' Union v. The London and North Eastern Railway. The Union contended that certain men engaged on turret lathes were responsible for the correct production of the articles required. It appeared that in every new job, the foreman superintended the production of the first few articles, but on the placing of any similar job, after this, the machinist himself set up the work and machine and was responsible for the correct production of the articles. Decision.—The machinists may be regarded as working without special supervision, and are therefore entitled to be rated under Grade III. Effective as from 1st April, 1923.

The men engaged on boring machines are employed in drilling plain holes, in practically every case with the aid of self-setting jigs, which the men themselves do not prepare. These men have been placed in Grade IV., as skill in the operation is not required. On certain of the machines, the driller may have to insert a boring bar as a steadying pin, and to use a cutter for the purpose of flattening the face of the hole. These men have been placed in Grade III. Decision.—The Court find that this grading is not inconsistent with the terms of Decision No. 728. Issued 10th May, 1923. (805.)

BOILERMAKERS, HEATON RUNNING SHEDS—NIGHT SHIFT PAYMENT—SCHEDULE F—DECISION NO. 728.—The Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. The London and North Eastern Railway. Under Schedule F to Decision No. 728 the day shift is from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the night shift 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., and shifts running into both day and night shifts are intermediate. All ordinary time worked in the night period, whether night shift or intermediate, shall be paid for at a rate and a third. The men concerned work in two shifts, one 7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m., the other commencing at 10.30 p.m. and finishing

at 7.30 a.m. The difference between the parties was as to the rate of payment of the latter shift. Decision.—Under the Industrial Court (Procedure) Rules, 1920, the Court were concerned in these proceedings only with the interpretation of Decision No. 728, it not being within the authority of the Court to consider the claim on its merits. In these circumstances the Court decided that the company's interpretation was not inconsistent with the terms of Decision No. 728. Issued 10th May, 1923. (806.)

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES' EMPLOYEES—WEST LOTHIAN AREA—ANNUAL HOLIDAY WITH PAY.—Co-operative Wages Board representing Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, Hillwood, Crofthead and West Benhar Co-operative Societies v. National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers. Decision.—The Court decided that the following clause should be inserted in the annual agreement for 1923:—

In addition to the customary and statutory holidays now paid for, employees with at least a year's service to have 12 consecutive days' holiday in the year 1923 with full pay. Employees with less than a year's service to have consecutive days' holiday, with full pay, equivalent to one day for each month's service. Issued 11th May, 1923. (807.)

NEWSPAPER OFFICES, MANCHESTER—ENGINEERS AND OTHERS—WAGES—PROPOSED REDUCTION.—Certain morning and evening newspaper offices in Manchester v. Electrical Trades Union and Amalgamated Engineering Union. Decision.—The Court decided that the rates of wages of the men concerned shall be reduced by 7s. 6d. per week on and after the first pay day in June, 1923, a further 5s. per week on and after the first pay day in September, 1923, and a further 5s. per week on and after the first pay day in December, 1923. Issued 23rd May, 1923. (808.)

MACHINISTS, COWLAIRS—GRADING—SCREWING MACHINES.—Workers' Union v. London and North Eastern Railway. The Workers' Union claimed for the upgrading of certain machinists at the Cowlairs workshops. The men concerned are engaged on screwing machines, and have been placed in Grade IV. in the application of Decision No. 728. In the case of an alteration from one job to another, the foreman supervises the first cut. The need for skill on the part of the machinist arises only at the beginning of each new operation when he uses a lever, again locking the die to its cutting position. In the majority of railway shops the work is carried out by youths and boys.—Decision.—Having regard to the amount of supervision required and to all the circumstances the Court decided that the men concerned do not come within Grade III., but as the men may be employed on work of varying difficulty and responsibility, the management should have regard to paragraphs 28 and 29 of Decision No. 728, with the object of determining whether any and what re-adjustment of rates higher than the Grade IV. rate should be made in particular cases. In the event of any re-adjustment being made the same should operate from the date of the decision. Issued 23rd May, 1923. (809.)

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

MEN ON MORGAN GAS MACHINES: GORSEINON.—Iron and Steel Trades Confederation v. South Wales Siemens Steel Association. Difference: Review of the circumstances appertaining to output in the melting shops of the steel works of the Grovesend Steel and Tinplate Company, Limited, Gorseinon, since the date of the hearing by the Board (which issued its award on 29th January, 1923, see LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1923, page 74), in view of the volume of output of furnaces worked by the gas machines having fallen so low as not to have provided the men on their tonnage rates with wages equivalent to their old datal rates. Board of Arbitration: Sir William W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman), Mr. W. Simons (Employers' representative) and Mr. W. Dodgson (Workpeople's representative). Award: A retrospective payment of the tonnage rates should be made to the men concerned from the beginning of the first pay period following 29th January, 1923, to 28th April, 1923, on the basis of an assumed output of 510 tons per full week (and proportionately for any part of a week) from each furnace in operation during the week after taking into account the rates already paid by the employers to the men concerned; in other respects the award of 29th January, 1923, should continue. Issued 14th May, 1923. (I.R. 389/5/1923.)

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES—LONDON.—Employees' side v. Employers' side of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of London. Difference: As to the number of qualities of material into which glacé kid should be divided, for the purpose of compiling a piecework statement for machine-sewn turn shoes under paragraph 2 of the National Conference Agreement. Umpire: Mr. W. Addington Willis. Award: For the purpose of compiling the said piecework statement the Board should divide the grades of material and workmanship in glacé kid into four classes or qualities. Issued 28th May, 1923. (I.R. 113/2/1923.)

PLUMBERS: GLASGOW.—United Operative Plumbers' and Domestic Engineers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland v. Glasgow and West of Scotland Plumbers' and Domestic Engineers' (Employers) Association. Difference: Whether operative plumbers who were employed on work in connection with the Gleneagles Hotel and employed at the job were entitled to country allowance. Arbitrator: Mr. James Macdonald. Award: Operative plumbers engaged or taken on at the job were not entitled to country allowance. Issued 16th May, 1923. (I.R. 857/2/1923.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

TUGBOATMEN: CARDIFF.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Bristol Channel Tugboat Owners' Association. Difference: Attempt by the men to introduce a rota system and a system of pooling, without reference to the employers, in regard to the meeting of vessels by tugboats. Agreement: The men would not again attempt to interfere with the proper carrying out of the owners' contracts or working of the boats; and the owners would take steps to bring the contract books up to date. Signed 31st May, 1923. (I.R. 1057/1923.)

ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS: CARDIFF AND DISTRICT.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Cardiff and District Commercial Road Transport Association. Difference: Proposal for reductions of 7s. 6d. per week in the wages of motor lorry drivers and of 3s. in the wages of horse drivers. Agreement: A reduction of 1s. per week should take place as from the 4th or 5th May, according to commencement of pay week, bringing the weekly minimum rates to 60s. 6d. for motor drivers and 52s. for horse drivers for a 48-hours week. All other conditions should remain unchanged. These rates should operate for a period of not less than three months, and a joint meeting of the parties should take place prior to the expiration of the period for the purpose of reviewing the position. Signed 4th May, 1923. (I.R. 301 2/1923.)

OPERATIVE BAKERS: DUNDEE.—Scottish Operative Bakers' Society v. Dundee Master Bakers' Association. Difference: Proposal to reduce wages by 11s. per week and to increase hours to 48 per week. Agreement: Wages should be reduced by 2s. per week, to a minimum of 78s. per week, as from the first pay week in May, and by three further cuts of 2s. per week in June, July and August. Working hours should be 45 and 46 per week where previously they were 45 and 47. Overtime, holidays, conditions as to apprenticeship and other conditions were fixed. Agreed 1st May, 1923. (I.R. 469/1923.)

BAKERS: CARNOUSTIE.—Carnoustie Branch of the Scottish Union of Operative Bakers and Confectioners v. Carnoustie Master Bakers' Association. Difference: As to the terms affecting the new working agreement for 1923 and 1924. Agreement: On the 19th May, 1923, the wages paid to operative bakers should be reduced to 67s. per week, the hours worked under the existing agreement to continue, viz., 45 hours per week—7 1/2 hours per day; employers employing less than 5 men—47 hours per week. Men should receive an additional 2s. 6d. per week for early start. The Union should waive control of apprentices' wages. The agreement should remain in operation until the last pay day in April, 1924. In the event of either party desiring alteration on the expiry of the agreement one month's notice should be given. A Joint Committee should be appointed to deal with all matters affecting wages and working conditions. Agreed 9th May, 1923. (I.R. 489/1923.)

FLINT GLASS MAKERS.—National Flint Glass Makers' Society v. British Flint Glass Manufacturers' Association. Difference: Proposal to reduce wages by 3d. per move. Agreement: A reduction of 3d. per move should come into operation on the last day in June, 1923. Agreed — May, 1923. (I.R. 668/1923.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

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

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

Order R. (37) and (38), dated 23rd May, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for female workers employed in the net section of the trade, and confirming general minimum piece-rates (as varied and fixed) for female home workers, and specifying 4th June as the date from which the rates become effective.

General minimum time-rates:—6 3/4d., 6 1/2d. or 6 1/4d. per hour, according to occupation, for female workers of 18 years of age and over, with lower rates for younger workers.

Piece-work basis time-rates:—7 1/2d., 7d. or 6 3/4d. per hour, according to occupation, for all female workers.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (Scotland).

Order H.M.S. (13), dated 1st June, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates (as varied) for female learners (other than those in their first year of employment) in all branches of the trade, except the Wholesale Cloth Hat and Cap Making Branch, and specifying 4th June as the date from which the rates become effective.

The general minimum time rates for learners in their second, third and fourth years of employment are 2 1/4d., 4d. and 5 1/2d. per hour respectively for Area A, and 2d., 3 1/2d. and 5d. per hour respectively for Area B. These areas are defined in the above mentioned Order H.M.S. (13).

The definitions, conditions and provisions governing the applications of the minimum rates are set out in H.M.S. (14).

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order J. (28) and (29), dated 4th June, 1923, confirming (i) a piece-work basis time-rate (as fixed) of 7 1/4d. per hour and overtime rates (as varied) for female weavers in Great Britain outside the areas of Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Carnoustie, Dundee and Tayport; and (ii) general minimum piece-rates (as fixed) and overtime rates (as varied) for female weavers em-

ployed on hessian weaving in Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Dundee and Tayport, and specifying 11th June as the date from which the rates become effective.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

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

Made-up Textiles Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal, M.T. (6), dated 31st May, 1923, to vary, by reduction, the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal, J. (30), dated 4th June, 1923, to fix a piece-work basis time-rate and to vary overtime rates for all female weavers employed on piece work in the area of Carnoustie.

Button-making Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal, V. (11), dated 7th June, 1923, to vary, by reduction, minimum rates of wages for all female workers.

Particulars of the proposed variations may be obtained by reference to the London and Edinburgh Gazettes.

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

The "cost of living" index figure having fallen to 70, as recorded in the May issue of this GAZETTE, the minimum rates of wages effective from 1st June, 1923, are those applicable during the period when the "cost of living" figure falls within the limits specified by the respective undermentioned Trade Boards.

These rates will remain in operation so long as the "cost of living" figure remains within the limits so specified.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

The rates applicable are those set out in the Board's Notices D. (19), (20) and (21) for the period when the "cost of living" figure is 70 or below. The principal rates operative during this period are as follows:—

General minimum time-rates:—

(A) Male Workers.

(i) Surgical bootmakers, 1s. 7d. per hour; (ii.) male workers of 21 and over with at least three months' experience in operating (a) power sole stitchers or both power sole stitchers and Blake (or Richardson) machines, and employed whole time in operating such machines, 72s. per week; (b) Blake or Richardson machines, and employed whole time in operating such machines, 67s. per week; (iii.) pressmen responsible for cutting and costing, 67s. per week; (iv.) foremen and managers, 72s. per week; (v.) male workers other than those specified above, 57s. per week; (vi.) learners and apprentices: Lower rates operate for these younger workers, providing conditions laid down by the Trade Board are complied with.

(B) Female Workers.

(i) Surgical bootmakers, 1s. 7d. per hour; (ii.) foremen and managers, 72s. per week; (iii.) workers (other than learners) employed on benching and/or finishing, 57s. per week; (iv.) all other workers of 21 and over, 40s. per week; (v.) learners and other younger workers: Lower rates are in operation.

A guaranteed time-rate of 72s. per week is effective for foremen and managers, and for female workers employed as foremen and managers a guaranteed time-rate of 67s. is in force.

General minimum piece-rates:—The rates for repairing and certain items of surgical work set out in the Board's notice D. (21) must be reduced by 12 1/2 per cent., and the rates for making (except the items of surgical work referred to above) set out in the same notice must be reduced by 5 per cent.

NOTE.—A week means a week of 48 hours.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).

The rates applicable as from 1st June, 1923, are those set out in the Board's Notices M. (35), (36) and (37) for the period during which the "cost of living" figures is less than 71 and not less than 66.

The principal rates operative during this period are as follows:—

General minimum time-rates:—(a) Male workers of 21 years of age and over employed on (i.) certain specified occupations, 1s. 1 1/4d. per hour; (ii.) all other operations, 10 3/4d. per hour; (b) Female workers, (i.) pan hands (all ages), 6 1/4d., 10d. or 1s. 1 1/4d. per hour, according to nature of work; (ii.) other workers of 21 years of age and over, 6 1/4d. per hour; (c) lower rates for younger male and female workers, learners and apprentices.

Guaranteed time-rates for female learners, 2 1/2d. to 5 3/4d. per hour, according to age at entry and experience.

Piece-work basis time-rates: (a) Female workers (other than pan hands), 7d. per hour; (b) female pan hands (other than learners), 7d. and 11d. per hour, according to the operations on which employed.

General minimum piece-rates:—A reduction of 22 1/2 per cent. from the rates specified in the Board's Notice M. (37).

Chain Trade Board (Great Britain).

The rates applicable for making hand-hammered chain (from iron supplied by employers) are those set out in the Board's Notice C. (15), less 5 per cent. while the "cost of living" figure is more than 63 but not more than 72.

Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

The rates applicable, per week of 48 hours, are those set out in the Board's Notice P. (9) for the period when the "cost of living" figure is less than 71 but not less than 61, and are summarised below.

General minimum time-rates:—

(A) Male Workers.

(i) Machine tacklers, 23 years of age and over, 66s., with lower rates for younger workers; (ii.) paper-bag cutters, 23 years of age and over, 60s., with lower rates for younger workers; (iii.) hydraulic pressers, slitters, stock-keepers, packers and despatchers, of 21 years of age and over, 52s. 6d., 53s. 6d., 55s., 57s. during the first, second and third twelve months and subsequent employment in the same occupation respectively; (iv.) all other workers other than learners, 52s. 6d., with lower rates for learners.

(B) Female Workers, including homeworkers, 29s., with lower rates for learners.

Piece-work basis time-rate for all female workers, 31s.

Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain).

The rates applicable, per week of 48 hours, are those set out in the Board's Notice B. (10) for the period when the "cost of living" figure is less than 71 but not less than 61, and are summarised below.

General minimum time-rates:—

(A) Male Workers.

(i) Machine minders, die makers, forme setters, cutters (including shears and guillotine) and head stock-keepers of 23 years of age and over, 66s., with lower rates for younger workers; (ii.) all other male workers other than learners, 49s., with lower rates for learners.

(B) Female Workers, other than learners, 29s. 6d., with lower rates for learners.

Piece-work basis time rates:—(i.) Male workers, other than those specified in (A) (i.) above, 54s. 6d.; (ii.) female workers, 31s. 6d.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).

The rates applicable, per hour, are those set out in the Board's Notices I. (14) and (15) for the period when the "cost of living" figure is less than 72 and not less than 63, and are summarised below.

General minimum time-rates:—

(i) Workers of 21 years of age and over, employed on certain specified operations, rates ranging from 11 1/2d. to 1s. 4 3/4d. for male workers, and from 7d. to 9 1/4d. for female workers, according to operation and grade of worker.

(ii) Other workers of 21 and over, 11 1/2d. for male workers and 6 3/4d. for female workers, with lower rates for younger workers and apprentices.

Piece-work basis time-rates, 10 per cent. above appropriate general minimum time-rates (except in the case of apprentices).

Particulars of the minimum rates of wages referred to above may be obtained by reference to the London and Edinburgh Gazettes.

REGULATIONS.

GENERAL REGULATIONS dated 15th May, 1923, made by the Minister of Labour under paragraph 9 of the First Schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1918, for the conduct of an Enquiry (and of all proceedings preliminary and incidental thereto) with regard to a Draft Special Order made by the Minister under the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918.

The Minister of Labour in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by paragraph 9 of the First Schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1918, and of every other power him thereunto enabling, hereby makes the following regulations for the conduct of an Enquiry (and of all proceedings preliminary and incidental thereto) with regard to a Draft Special Order made by him under the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918:—

1. The Enquiry shall be opened at such time and place as may be fixed, with the approval of the Minister, by the person appointed by him to hold the Enquiry (in these regulations referred to as the Commissioner), and not less than fourteen days' notice of the time and place so fixed shall be sent by post by the Commissioner or on his behalf to all persons who have sent to the Minister any objection to the Draft Order which the Minister does not consider to be of a frivolous character.

Provided that the non-receipt of such notice by any such person shall not invalidate the proceedings or render necessary an adjournment of the Enquiry.

2. The Commissioner may also notify in like manner any other persons appearing to him to be affected, and shall give notice generally of the holding of the Enquiry in such manner as he may think fit.

3. The Commissioner may adjourn the Enquiry from time to time as he thinks fit, and may hold adjourned sittings at any place for the convenience of persons entitled to be heard.

4. The Commissioner may give such directions as he thinks fit as to the order in which the persons appearing at the Enquiry shall be heard.

5. If any person who has not made objections to the Draft Order in accordance with the First Schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1918, claims to appear at the Enquiry as an objector, such person shall furnish to the Commissioner within such time as the Commissioner may direct a statement of his objection in writing in the manner provided by the First Schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1918.

Act, 1918. The Commissioner shall forward a copy of each such statement to the Minister.

6. If any person claims to be heard at the Enquiry as a person affected, such person shall furnish to the Commissioner within such time as the Commissioner may direct a summary in writing of the evidence which he desires to give at the Enquiry. The Commissioner shall forward a copy of each such summary to the Minister.

7. The Commissioner may exclude any statement or evidence which appears to him to be irrelevant to the Enquiry or to involve unnecessary repetition of arguments already stated or of evidence already given.

8. Subject to the provisions of the First Schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1918, and to these regulations all the proceedings shall be conducted in such manner as the Commissioner may direct.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Labour this 15th day of May, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Three.

H. J. WILSON, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

STAMPED OR PRESSED METAL WARES TRADE: PUBLIC ENQUIRY.

The Minister of Labour has caused a Public Enquiry to be held, under the provisions of the first schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1918, as the result of objections received to the proposals contained in his Notices of Intention and Draft Special Orders amending the Definition of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade and making certain consequential amendments in the Definition of the Button-making Trade for purposes of the Trade Boards Acts. (See LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1923, page 163.)

The Commissioner holding the inquiry is Sir William Mackenzie, K.C., K.B.E. sittings were held at 5, Old Palace Yard, S.W. 1, on Wednesday and Thursday, 6th and 7th June, at which evidence was received from the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board, the Engineering and the National Employers' Federations, the Association of British Steel Pen Makers, the Penworkers' Federation, the National Union of Manufacturers (Incorporated), and from individual employers.

The sittings will be resumed in Birmingham on Tuesday, 19th June, at the Council House.

Communications in connection with the inquiry should be addressed to the Commissioner at 5, Old Palace Yard, London, S.W. 1.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO LABOUR.

CENSUS.—(1) Census of England and Wales, 1921. (a) County of Essex. (b) County of Kent. (c) County of Surrey. (S.O. publications: price 12s. 6d., 14s., 10s.) (2) Census of Scotland, 1921. Vol. I. Part 34, County of Stirling. Part 35, County of Sutherland. Part 36, County of West Lothian. Part 37, County of Wigtown. (S.O. publications: price 7s., 3s. 6d., 5s. 6d., 4s.)

EX-SERVICE MEN.—Report on the present position and future prospects of ex-Service men settled on the land in England and Wales. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication: price 6d.) (See also page 200 of this GAZETTE.)

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—Registered provident societies in Great Britain. General Summary, 1920-1921. (S.O. publication: price 3d.)

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—(1) Ninth report on the work of the National Insurance Audit Department, 1922. Treasury. (S.O. publication: price 9d.) (2) National Insurance Fund Accounts (Appendix). Receipts and payments for year ended 31st December, 1920. (Cmd. 1881: price 3d.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—Statement showing the rate moneys and other moneys expended and received during the financial year ending 31st March, 1921, by Boards of Guardians and other local authorities charged with the administration of the laws relating to the relief of the poor in England and Wales. (Part I. of the Annual Local Taxation Returns, England and Wales, 1920-1). Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication: price 3s. 6d.)

SAVINGS BANKS.—(1) Post Office Savings Banks Fund, Fund for the Banks for Savings, Friendly Societies Fund—Accounts showing the interest accrued in respect of securities standing in the names of the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt, 1921. Treasury. (S.O. publication, price 2d.) (2) National debt (savings banks and friendly societies). Account, 6th August, 1917, to 20th November, 1919. Treasury. (H.C. 59: price 3d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—National Insurance (Unemployment) Acts, 1911 to 1919, 1920, 1921. Unemployment Fund Account, (a) 1920-21. (H.C. 57: price 3d.). (b) 1921-22. (H.C. 84: price 2d.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—Registrar-General's statistical review of England and Wales, for the year 1921. Tables, Part II. Civil (New Annual Series, No. 1.) (S.O. publication: price 5s.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—(1) Workmen's Compensation (No. 2) Bill. Explanatory memorandum. (Cmd. 1876: price 2d.) (2) Employers' Liability Insurance. Undertaking given by the Accident Offices Association on behalf of its constituent insurance offices. (Cmd. 1891: price 2d.) (See also page 198 of this GAZETTE.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MAY, 1923.

ADMIRALTY.
(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

Alternators and Spares: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Ammunition Hoists:** Veritys, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Battery Boxes:** A. C. Cossor, Ltd., London, N.; Lawson & Co., Glasgow.—**Beech Wedges:** Bartlett, Bayliss & Co., Ltd., Bideford, Devon; Bowerman & Sons, Ltd., Bridgewater, Somerset; C. R. Claridge, Exeter; J. G. Foster, Emsworth, Hants; East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsstead, Herts; J. Jones & Son, Ltd., Ladbroke, Stirlingshire.—**Bilge Blocks, Double Web Type, for Floating Dock:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Bolts, Bright Steel, Nuts, Studs and Screws:** E. H. Bentall & Co., Ltd., Maldon, Essex; C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston; J. C. Prestwich, Ltd., Atherton, near Manchester; E. Mercer, Ltd., Hollinwood, near Manchester.—**Boots for Boys:** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds.—**Boots, Half:** St. Crispin Productive Society, Ltd., Raunds; Owens, Smith, Raunds.—**Calico, Red:** Calico Printers Association, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Candles:** Palmer & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Canvas, R. N. and M. N.:** Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; Webster & Sons, Arbroath.—**Carbon Tetrachloride:** Albright & Wilson, Ltd., Oldbury.—**Cases, Tobacco:** A. Lloyd & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; E. Marshall, Plymouth.—**Chain, Mooring, and Gear:** N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Dudley; Earl of Dudley's Round Oak Works, Ltd., Brierley Hill.—**Chain, Rigging:** W. Griffin & Sons, Ltd., Cradley Heath; J. B. Homer & Son, Cradley Heath.—**Cloth, Blue, No. 2:** H. Booth & Son, Gildersome; Calbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley; J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley; Wm. Lupton & Co., Leeds.—**Cloth, Linen Duck:** Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Linfield, Belfast.—**Cocks, Gunmetal and Plated:** E. Barber & Co., London; J. Blakeborough & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse; Hayward-Tyler & Co., Ltd., London; W. Hepton & Son, Leeds; Hyde & Sons, Wolverhampton; The Stroud Metal Co., Ltd., Stroud, Glos.—**Collars, Stiff (C.P.O.):** Bryce & Weston, Ltd., Londonderry.—**Collars, White Soft:** John Desmond & Co., Ltd., Londonderry.—**Drills, High Speed:** T. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Drysaltery:** F. Allen & Sons (Poplar), Ltd., London, E.; Jessop & Co., London, E.C.; Liverpool Borax Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Rosin & Turpentine Import Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Skilbeck Bros., London, E.C.—**Electrodes:** Quasi Arc Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Enamels:** Indestructible Paint Co., Ltd., London, E.; Jensen & Nicholson, London, E.—**Engine, Fire:** Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Engine, Oil:** Campbell Gas Engine Co., Halifax.—**Files and Rasps:** S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. J. Saville & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; H. Rossell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; T. Turner & Co. (Sheffield), Ltd., Sheffield; Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Flags, Bunting, English and Foreign:** Adam & Lane & Neeve, Ltd., London; W. Cockshaw, Leeds; Kirk, Hall & Co., Leeds; Porter Bros., Ltd., Liverpool; E. W. Perrett, London; J. W. Plant & Co., Leeds; E. Riley & Co., Ltd., Leeds; J. Smith & Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.; A. Smart & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Framework for Panels:** Westminster Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Gauges, Pressure:** Dewrance & Co., London; G. Salter & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Gunmetal Articles, Miscellaneous:** Barr & Co., Greenock; Carron Co., Falkirk; Dodd & Oulton, Ltd., Liverpool; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; J. J. Hardy & Sons, Ltd., Hartlepool; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; The Stroud Metal Co., Ltd., Stroud, Glos.; T. Wilson & Sons (Swalwell), Ltd., Swalwell-on-Tyne.—**Hawsers, Steel Wire:** Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Hose Fittings, Gunmetal:** E. Barber & Co., London; J. Downton & Co., Ltd., London; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; The Stroud Metal Co., Ltd., Stroud, Glos.—**Lagging of Steam and Exhaust Pipes:** Hobdell Way & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Lead Sheet and Pipe, etc.:** Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., London; Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London.—**Linen for Hydrographic Stores:** Broadway Damask Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Machine, Drilling and Tapping:** H. W. Kearns & Co., Ltd., Broadheath, near Manchester.—**Methylated Spirit:** Methylating Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Morocco Skins, Buffalo Hides, etc.:** Thomas Cundall, London, S.E.; J. T. Hart & Sons, London, S.E.; J. & A. Hillman, Ltd., Dudley; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Paint, Oxide of Zinc:** Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paint, White Lead:** Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Pipes, Charging:** United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Ponders End; Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Rope, Steel Wire:** Binks Bros., Ltd., London, E.; Caledonian Wire Rope Co., Ltd., Airdrie; Craven & Speeding Bros., Sunderland; E. Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.; R. S. Newell & Son, Ltd., Liverpool; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Shirts, White Soft:** Salisbury Manufacturing Co., London, E.—**Silver Solder:** E. W. Oakes & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Socks and Stockings:** A. E. Hill, Ltd., Wigston; A. Kemp, Leicester; F.

Main, South Wigston; R. W. Myhill & Co., Leicester; Alfred Yates & Co., Leicester.—**Solder:** E. Austin & Sons (London), Ltd., London, E.; Quirk, Barton & Burns (St. Helens), Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.; J. Ratcliff & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Sheldon Bush & Patent Shot Co., Bristol.—**Steam Heating Equipment:** Dilworth & Carr, Ltd., Preston.—**Steel Boiler Plates:** Leeds Forge Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Steel Lockers:** F. Braby & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Estler Bros., London, E.; G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; J. Sankey & Sons, Ltd., Wellington.—**Steel, Tool:** W. Oxley & Co., Ltd., Rotherham.—**Steel, Wire, Line and Strand:** R. S. Newell & Son, Ltd., Liverpool; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Thermometers, Hydrometers, etc.:** A. C. Cossor & Son, London, N.; Heath & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; T. A. Reynolds, Son & Co., London, E.C.; Simmonds & Webster, London, N.—**Travellers, Electric:** H. Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—**(Sub-Contractors for Electric Control Gear:** Allen, West & Co., Ltd., Brighton.—**Sub-Contractors for Motors:** F. & A. Parkinson, Ltd., Leeds)—**Tubes, Steel:** Tubes, Ltd., Birmingham; Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow; John Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Turbine Blading Material:** Aston Chain & Hook Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Valves and Seacocks:** J. Broadfoot & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Sir James Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Smith Bros. & Co. (Hyson), Ltd., Nottingham.—**Voice Piping and Gear:** Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.; The United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.

ADMIRALTY.

(CIVIL ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF'S DEPARTMENT.)

Chatham: C.I. Pipes: Cochrane & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Devonport:** Creosoted English Elm: Fox, Elliott & Co., Ltd., Plymouth. Creosoted Pitch Pine: Plymouth & Oreston Timber Co., Ltd., Plymouth. Creosoted Pitch Pine: Burt, Boulton & Hayward, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Portsmouth:** Asbestos Roofing Sheets: British Fibrocement Works, Ltd., London, W.C. Glazed Bricks: Scourse & Kingston, Ltd., Bournemouth, Bristol. Lead: Nicholls & Clarke, Ltd., London, E. Portland Cement: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Rosyth:** Corrugated Steel Sheets: F. Braby & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Gibraltar:** Fir Timber: Gabriel, Wade & English, Ltd., London, S.E.—**H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad:** Steel Oil Tanks: The Motherwell Bridge Co., Ltd., Motherwell, near Glasgow.

WAR OFFICE.

Acids: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.; Stavely Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., N. Chesterfield.—**Baths, Slipper and Accessories:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Binoculars:** Aitchison & Co., Ltd., Bromley.—**Brushes, Hair:** Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham.—**Barrows, Stable:** J. Edwards & Sons, Ltd., Inkpen.—**Canvas, Packing:** Strathmore Linen Co., Ltd., Coupar Angus.—**Caps, Forage:** L. Silberston, London, E.—**Copper, Sheet:** H. H. Vivian & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Curtains, Sandfly:** Thos. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; Frank Lane, London, E.C.; Waring & Gillow, Ltd., London, W.—**Cylinders, Iron:** F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Grates with Mantels, etc.:** Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Harness and Saddlery:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., Broomhead.—**Kegs, Paint:** The Clyde Coopers Co., Ltd., Glasgow; W. P. Lowrie & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Lead, Pig:** Ethovan, H. J., & Son, Ltd., London.—**Leathers, Stirrup:** Wilmott, Bennett, Walsall.—**Lift, Dismantling and Re-erection of:** Waygood Otis, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Linseed Oil, Raw:** Seaton, J. L., & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Linseed Oil, Boiled:** Youngusband, Barnes & Co., Rotherhithe.—**Oat Sacks:** Barber & Morrison, Ltd., Deptford; Hardie & Smith, Ltd., Dundee.—**Oil, Lubricating:** Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., Belvedere, Kent.—**Paint, Dry:** Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Petroleum, Fuel Oil:** Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., Purfleet.—**Pig Iron:** Distington Hamamite Iron Co., Ltd., Distington.—**Pipes, C.I., Ventilating, Waste, Smoke and Rainwater:** Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge.—**Pipes, Hose, Canvas:** Wm. Rose Hose Co., Salford.—**Soap, Soft, Potash:** P. Lunt & Co., Liverpool.—**Soles, Half, Leather, Plain:** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; R. S. Lawrence & Co., Edmondton.—**Spoke Pieces, Oak:** Taylor, J., Ltd., Longparish, Hants.—**Steel, Staircase:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., Stratford.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** N. Aldershot: T. Carr, Halifax. Dorchester, Weymouth, Portland; Guest & Goodall, Ltd., Ascot. Carrickfergus: Miskimmin, J., & Sons, Ltd., Belfast. Guildford: Morgan & Son, North Aldershot.—**Building Works and Services:** Dettingen Barracks, Blackdown: Messrs. Geo. Kemp & Co., Aldershot.

AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: C. A. Vandervell & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Aeroplane Trailers:** R. A. Dyson & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Aircraft:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes.—**Aircraft, Conversion of:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of:** Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircraft Spares:** H. G. Hawker Eng. Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—**Airscrews:** D. M. Davies, London, N.; Lang Propellers, Ltd., Weybridge; Lang Propellers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Artificers' Work (Calshot):** Playfair, Toole, Ltd., Southampton.—**Bolsters, Hair:** Bayswater Bedding Co., London, W.—**Bomb Carrier:** Trojan, Ltd., Croydon.—**Brushes, Sweeping:** A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Newton & Cook, London, S.W.—**Clips, P.R. Tubing:** Hunt & Turner, Birmingham.—**Coal, Steam:** Wm. Cory & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; Peake, Oliver & Peake, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cocks, Petrol:** Dewrance Co., London, S.E.—**Cocoa Nut Matting:** E. H. Price, Leicester; Tubbs, Lewis & Co., London, E.C.—**Dynamometer and Accessories:** Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—**Engines, Aero:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Grinding Machines:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Hearth Rugs:** Treolar & Sons, London, E.C.—**Magnetos:** The British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Magnetos and Spares:** The British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Married Quarters, Erection of (Calshot):** H. G. Ross, Netley Abbey.—**Mattresses:** Bayswater Bedding Co., London, W.—**Mechanical Transport Spirit (Iraq):** Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paraffin (Iraq):** Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pumps, Centrifugal, Petrol:** Dewrance Co., London, S.E.—**Radiators, B.F.:** Excelsior Radiators, Ltd., Leeds; Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Radiators, D.H. 9 A.:** Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Radiators (Vernon Lion):** Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rectification of "Falcon III.":** Engines: Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Rectification of 70 "Falcon" Engines:** Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Screws (Term Contract):** Guest, Keen & Nettelfolds, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Sheets, Cotton:** G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester.—**Supercharger for Lion Engine, Series II.:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Type Test on "Cub" Engine:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Valves, W/T. Type:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Watford C.6 Magneto Spares:** North & Sons, Ltd., Watford.—**Wheels, Tyres & Tubes:** Palmer Tyre Co., London, W.C.—**Wheels, Shields & Tyres:** Palmer Tyre Co., London, W.C.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Anticorrosive Composition: Red Hand Compositions, London, E.C.—**Asbestos Cement Sheets, etc.:** The Bell's Polite & Everite Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Axleboxes:** The Patent Axle Box & Foundry Co., Wolverhampton.—**Bedsteads:** Whitfield Bedsteads, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Boilers, Headers and Mud Drum:** Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Boots:** S. Walker, Walgrave, Northants; R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds, Wellingboro'.—**Bridge:** The Patent Shaft & Axletree Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**B.R.C. Fabric:** The British Reinforced Concrete Co., Manchester.—**Buttons, Materials:** Rylands & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Castings, Phosphor Bronze:** The Phosphor Bronze Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., London, E.C.; Tunnel Portland Cement Co., London, E.C.—**Coal Tar:** Brotherton & Co., Leeds; Shields & Ramsay, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cranes, Electrical:** Herbert Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Drill, Khaki:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Manchester; Cottrill & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Drill, White:** T. Barnes & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Dynamite:** Christopher & Co., Wigan.—**Electrodes, etc.:** The Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Export Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Engine, Steam:** Robey & Co., Ltd., Lincoln.—**Flannel:** J. Radcliffe & Co., Rochdale.—**Fuse:** Bickford, Smith & Co., London, S.W.—**Glass, etc.:** Helliwell & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Jerseys:** Toller & Lankester, Leicester.—**Knickers:** T. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lathes:** J. Lang & Sons, Ltd., W. Glasgow.—**Locks, etc.:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Locomotive Engines and Tenders:** Nasmyth, Wilson & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Meters:** Landis & Gyr, Ltd., Hampton Hill, Middlesex.—**Motor Lorries:** The Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Oil, Fuel:** Miller Bros., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Oil, Lubricating:** C. C. Wakefield & Co., London, E.C.—**Oznaburg:** W. Ewart & Sons, Belfast.—**Paper:** C. Baker & Co., London, E.C.—**Pipes:** The Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., Nottingham.—**Printing Machine:** Harrild & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pump, Steam:** Worthington-Simpson, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Quinine Bisulphates:** Howards & Sons, Iford.—**Quin. Sulph. Tablets:** A. H. Cox & Co., Brighton.—**Roller, Motor:** Barford & Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Serge:** T. & J. Tinker, Huddersfield.—**Signalling Materials:** The Westinghouse Brake & Saxby Signal Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Spares for Engine:** Belliss & Morcom, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Stationery:** Waterlow & Sons, London, E.C.—**Steel:** The Wolverhampton Corr. Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, near Birkenhead.—**Steel Girder Bridges:** The Widnes Foundry Co., Ltd., Widnes, Lancs.—**Steel Joists:** P. & W. Maclellan, Glasgow.—**Steel Shelving:** J. Westwood & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Steelwork:** The Tees Side Bridge & Engg. Works, Ltd., Middlesbrough; The Horseley Bridge & Engg. Co., Tipton, Staffs; The Brandon Bridge Building Co., Ltd., Motherwell.—**Switchgear:** The British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Surgical Instruments:** Down Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tablets:** Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., London, E.C.—**Telephone Poles:** Bullens, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Telephone Cable, etc.:** The British Insulated & Helsby Cables, London, W.C.—

Tiles, Asbestos Roofing: Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., London, E.C.—**Timber Sleepers:** C. Leary & Co., London, E.C.—**Troughing:** Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Tubes, etc.:** E. Smith, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Tyres and Tubes:** The Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Wagon Covers:** Gourcock Ropework Co., London, E.C.—**Wagon Stanchions:** Head, Wrightson & Co., Ltd., Thornaby-on-Tees.—**Wagons, Goods:** G. R. Turner, Ltd., Langley Mills, Notts.—**Water Cooling Plant:** Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—**Water Pipe Fittings:** The Staveley Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Staveley Works, near Chesterfield.—**Weighing Machines:** H. Pooley & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wire, Armco:** Tyer & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Wire, Copper:** Rd. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester.—**Woodworking Machinery:** A. Ransome & Co., Ltd., Newark-on-Trent.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Fire Alarm: A. C. Brown, London, E.C.—**Apparatus, Telephonic:** Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., Liverpool; British L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts.; General Electric Co., Ltd. (Peel Conner Telephone Works), Coventry; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Apparatus, Testing, Protective, etc.:** British L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts.; International Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Arms, Wood:** A. Bruce and Co., Grays, Essex; W. F. Holloway Bros., Liverpool.—**Bands and Couplings, C.I.:** Jones and Attwood, Ltd., Stourbridge; Planet Foundry Co., Ltd., Guide Bridge, near Manchester.—**Bicycles and Parts:** Bayliss, Wiley and Co., Ltd., Tyseley, Birmingham; Enfield Cycle Co., Ltd., Redditch; J. O'Neill, Ltd., Dublin; Perry & Co., Ltd., Tyseley, Birmingham; Stonehouse Works Co., West Bromwich.—**Bolts, Arm:** C. Richards and Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Cabinets, Telephone:** Siemens Bros. and Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Telegraphic and Telephonic:** British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott and Helsby; Connolly's (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley; Enfield Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; W. T. Glover and Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. and Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Carrier Tricycles and Parts:** The Receiver and Manager Messrs. Alldays and Onions, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cases, Packing, etc.:** W. Bridgewater and Sons, Birmingham.—**Castings, Joint Box:** Planet Foundry Co., Ltd., Guide Bridge, Manchester; United Steel Companies, Ltd. (Messrs. T. Butlin and Co. Branch), Wellingborough.—**Cells, Porous, Leclanche:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Clips, Arm:** Bullens, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Coils, Loading:** Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Combinations, Motor Cycle:** Enfield Cycle Co., Ltd., Redditch.—**Cords, Telephone:** British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Ebonite Coating:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Irons, Chimney Corner:** D. Willatts, Ltd., Cradley Heath, Staffs.—**Joists, Rolled Steel:** Redpath, Brown and Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Line, Sash:** Gourcock Ropework Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow.—**Lugs, Lead:** T. Francis and Co., Ltd., Sparkbrook, Birmingham; I. N. Lyons, Ltd., London, N.—**Poles, Telegraph:** Armstrong, Addison and Co., Sunderland; Burt, Boulton and Hayward, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Spindles:** Bullens, Ltd., Tipton; Horton & Son, Ltd., Darlaston; T. W. Lench, Ltd., Blackheath, Staffs.—**Tins, Motor Spirit:** J. Feaver, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tyres, Solid Rubber:** Reliance Tyre Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Tin, Ingot:** Quirk, Barton and Burns (St. Helens), Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.—**Troughing, Wood, Creosoted:** Burt, Boulton & Hayward, Ltd., London, E. and S.E.; Calder and McDougall, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Wallboards for Telephones:** Timber Fireproofing Co., Ltd., Market Bosworth, Nuneaton.—**Wire, Bronze:** Enfield Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex.—**Wire, Copper:** T. Bolton and Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor; Electro Metals Co., Lydbrook; F. Smith and Co. (incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd.), Salford, Manchester.—**Wire, Switchboard:** General Electric Co., Ltd. (Peel-Comer Telephone Works), Coventry.—**Wire, Vulcanised, India Rubber:** Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs.—**Conveyance of Mails:** W. Palmer, Okehampton; The Stockport Borough Carriage Co., Ltd., Stockport.—**Alterations at Saham P.O.:** F. Tucker, Ely.—**Cable—Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing:** St. Albans-Barnet, Glasgow-Stirling-Falkirk: Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Birmingham-Kidderminster: Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Manchester-Bury, Manchester-Stockport: W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester. Nottingham-Newark: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Telegraph, Re-serving:** St. Margaret's-Dunkirk: Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Conduits, Laying:** Bradford (Sections I. and II.): H. Wilson, Halifax. Westminister and Chelsea: Finsbury, Shoreditch and Holborn; Camberwell, etc.: A. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Gray's Inn Road, W.C.: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Northwood, Middlesex; Sevenoaks (Godden Green), Watlington and Wadhurst: J. F. Hodge & Co., Rednal, near Birmingham. Broadstairs: J. F. Hodge & Co., Rednal, near Birmingham. Deptford, etc.:

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