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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT at 12th September showed a decline as compared with 15th August.

Insured Persons in work (see note * below).—It is provisionally estimated that at 12th September, 1938, the number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain, exclusive of persons within the agricultural scheme, was approximately 11,380,000. This was 22,000 less than at 15th August, 1938, and 326,000 less than at 13th September, 1937.

Numbers unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 12th September, 1938, there were 1,324,151 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 61,808 more than at 15th August, 1938, and 233,184 more than at 13th September, 1937.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 12th September, 1938, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 412,494 persons who were on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work. This was 26,530 less than at 15th August, 1938, but 220,757 more than at 13th September, 1937.

Numbers unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 12th September, 1938, there were on the registers in Great Britain 61,973 unemployed persons who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration. This was 4,098 more than at 15th August, 1938, and 5,473 more than at 13th September, 1937.

Applicants for Benefit or Allowances.—The total of 1,798,618 persons on the registers at 12th September, 1938, included 1,042,115 persons with claims admitted for insurance benefit, 531,677 persons with applications authorised for unemployment allowances, 54,656 persons with applications for benefit or allowances under consideration and 170,170 other persons, of whom 49,881 were under 16 years of age.

Percentages Unemployed.—Among persons, aged 16-64, insured under the general scheme of unemployment insurance (including the special schemes for the banking and insurance industries) the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 12th September, 1938, was 13.2, as compared with 13.0 at 15th August, 1938, and 9.7 at 13th September, 1937. Among persons within the agricultural scheme, the percentages were 4.2 at 12th September, 1938, 4.3 at 15th August, 1938, and 3.1 at 13th September, 1937. For the two schemes combined the percentage for 12th September, 1938, was 12.8 as compared with 12.6 for 15th August, 1938, and 9.4 for 13th September, 1937.

Industries in which the Principal Variations occurred.—There was a decline in employment, between 15th

August and 12th September, in building, the distributive trades, hotel and boarding house service, the cotton industry, iron and steel manufacture, certain branches of engineering, the fishing industry, food manufacture, and the port transport industry. On the other hand employment improved in the wool textile, carpet, hosiery, pottery, boot and shoe and clothing industries, and in coal mining.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in September resulted in an increase estimated at £2,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 55,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £12,600 in those of 288,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased were coal miners in Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Somerset, and motor omnibus drivers and conductors in Scotland. The principal decreases affected coal miners in Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Derbyshire, South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, and Scotland.

The changes so far reported in the nine completed months of 1938 are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of nearly £260,000 a week in the full-time wages of about 2,360,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of about £35,000 in those of 265,000 workpeople.*

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st October the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 55 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 56 per cent. at 1st September, 1938, and 58 per cent. at 1st October, 1937. For food only the percentages were 39, 40 and 43, respectively.

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, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to 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.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in September was 59. In addition, 14 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of workpeople involved in these 73 disputes, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, was about 26,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in September was about 90,000 working days.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first nine months of 1938 was about 1,120,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 213,000.

* Of the 288,000 workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in September, over 100,000 had received increases of greater or equal amounts during the earlier months of 1938.

* These estimates have been compiled on the basis adopted throughout the past year. It appears probable, however, in the light of information now becoming available from the exchange of unemployment books beginning in July, 1938, that some increase will be necessary in the estimates of the numbers of insured persons in employment month by month since the summer of 1937. The statistics have not yet been completed, but revised estimates for the whole period will be published in next month's issue of this GAZETTE.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further decline between 15th August and 12th September.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 30.5* at 12th September, 1938, as compared with 29.1* at 15th August, 1938, and with 12.6 at 13th September, 1937. In the preparing and spinning departments the corresponding percentages were 25.8*, 28.4*, and 11.0; in the manufacturing department they were 34.4*, 29.9*, and 14.3.

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

Table with columns for DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, and Total, showing Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before, for Week ended 17th Sept., 1938.

Returns from firms employing about 45,600 workpeople in the week ended 17th September, 1938, showed that about 17 1/2 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing 15 hours each on the average.

At Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Glossop and Hyde employment showed little general change and was bad on the whole; at Stockport, however, some improvement was reported.

In the Oldham district employment was in the spinning and manufacturing departments; extended stoppages and short-time working were reported, and a large amount of machinery remained idle. Employment was very bad with weavers of velvets, fustians and calicoes. It was fair, however, with weavers of sheeting and fancy and heavy goods.

At Bolton employment continued bad with spinners and weavers and slack with cardroom workers, with a good deal of short-time working. At Leigh employment was bad; extended stoppages and short-time working were general. At Rochdale and Bury there was some improvement in the manufacturing department, but employment was bad in the spinning department.

At Preston, Great Harwood and Padiham employment showed little change; at Accrington, however, a slight improvement was reported; at Darwen, Blackburn, Burnley, Chorley, Nelson and Colne employment showed a further decline. In the Rossendale Valley employment was bad.

In Yorkshire employment remained bad at most centres.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 56 Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres of Lancashire and Cheshire at 12th September, 1938 :-

Table showing numbers of men and women on registers, categorized by Department and type of unemployment (Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped).

* See footnote * in first column on page 388.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed some seasonal improvement between 15th August and 12th September, and short-time working decreased in most sections. Employment, however, was still slack generally, and much worse than a year ago. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople aged 16-64 at 12th September was 18.2* as compared with 22.4* at 15th August, 1938, and with 9.8 at 13th September, 1937.

Worsteds Section.—Employment continued slack generally. Returns from employers for the week ended 17th September, 1938, showed that in the worsteds section as a whole 34 1/2 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time in that week, losing 11 1/2 hours each on the average, and 7 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 6 hours each. In the sorting, combing and preparing departments 29 1/2 per cent. were on short time losing 16 1/2 hours each on the average, and 11 1/2 per cent. were on overtime averaging 8 hours each. In the spinning department, 32 1/2 per cent. were on short time losing 9 1/2 hours each on the average, and 8 1/2 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 5 hours each. In the weaving department, the corresponding figures were: short time† 47 1/2 per cent. and 13 hours; overtime, 1 per cent. and 4 hours.

Among woollens employment was better than in the previous month but was very slack; in the woolcombing department it continued very slack for the time of year, though an improvement was reported by some firms. In the spinning and weaving departments employment improved on the whole, but much short time was still being worked, particularly in the weaving department.

At Bradford employment showed an improvement, but remained poor on the whole. At Shipley there was little change, but short-time working was less prevalent, except in the woolcombing department. At Halifax an improvement occurred and there was less short-time working. At Keighley employment remained very poor, but some improvement occurred in the spinning department. At Huddersfield employment was slightly better than in the previous month but remained very poor generally.

Woollen Section.—Employment showed a further slight improvement in most districts and departments. Returns from employers for the week ended 17th September, 1938, showed that in the woollen section as a whole 27 1/2 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time in that week, losing 11 hours each on the average, and 13 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 7 hours each. In the spinning department, 21 per cent. were on short time, losing 9 1/2 hours each on the average, and 25 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 8 hours each. In the weaving department the corresponding figures were: short time† 32 1/2 per cent. and 10 1/2 hours; overtime, 5 per cent. and 5 hours.

Employment at Huddersfield and in the Colne Valley district again improved slightly but continued very slack. At Leeds and at Morley employment was better than in the previous month but was slack generally. Employment in the Heavy Woollen district declined slightly on the whole and was poor. The rag and shoddy trade continued poor. In the blanket trade in Yorkshire, employment remained fair on the whole; at Witney it continued to improve. Among flannel workers at Saddleworth a slight improvement was reported but employment remained poor. At Rochdale employment was fair. In the West of England employment improved in some districts and was fairly good on the whole. In some parts of the South of Scotland employment was slightly better than in August; the woollen cloth trade showed little change and was still slack on the whole.

Carpet Section.—Employment showed an improvement on the whole, but remained slack generally. The percentage unemployed at 12th September, 1938, was 11.8* as compared with 18.1* at 15th August, 1938, and with 5.6 at 13th September, 1937.

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

Table showing employment statistics for Wool Textile Industry, categorized by Departments, Wool Section, Woollen Section, and Carpet Section, with columns for workpeople, wages, and employment changes.

* See footnote * in first column on page 388. † The figures given in this column do not take into account, in the case of weaving departments, other forms of under-employment such as "playing for warps," or tending one loom instead of two. ‡ Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in September showed a further improvement. There was still, however, a considerable amount of short-time working, and employment was worse than a year ago.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 11.2* at 12th September, 1938, as compared with 13.5* at 15th August, 1938, and with 9.1 at 13th September, 1937.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who made returns :-

Table showing employment statistics for Boot and Shoe Industry, categorized by Districts, with columns for workpeople, wages, and employment changes.

Returns from firms employing about 62,150 workpeople in the week ended 17th September, 1938, showed that 27 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing 7 hours each on the average, while nearly 12 1/2 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 3 hours each on the average. Short-time working continued at Leicester, at Northampton, in the Stafford district and at Bristol and Kingswood. There was, however, considerable overtime working at Higham and Rushden, and at Norwich.

Employment in London showed a further improvement; it was moderate in both North and East London.

At Leicester employment showed a further slight improvement, and was fair. In the Leicester Country district the improvement in employment continued.

Employment at Northampton was fair, but there was much short-time working. In the Higham and Rushden district there was little change; at Kettering employment improved and overtime working increased. At Raunds employment remained good.

At Stafford employment showed a slight improvement, but much short-time working continued. At Norwich the improvement in employment continued.

Employment in the Bristol and Kingswood district showed little change and was fair. At Leeds there was a slight improvement and employment, was fair. In the Lancashire slipper trade employment improved at most places and was good at Bacup. Employment at Kendal was very good.

Employment was fairly good at Kilmarnock and showed a slight improvement at Maybole.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 53 Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 12th September, 1938 :-

Table showing numbers of men and women on registers for Boot and Shoe Industry, categorized by Department and type of unemployment.

* See footnote * in first column on page 388. † Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

Table showing employment statistics for Wool Textile Industry, categorized by Districts, Worsteds Section, Woollen Section, and Carpet Section, with columns for workpeople, wages, and employment changes.

The following Table shows, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 17th September, 1938, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 20th August, 1938 :-

Table showing percentage changes in numbers employed, categorized by Wool Section and Woollen Section, with sub-columns for Sorting, Spinning, Weaving, Other Depts., and All Depts.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 17 Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 12th September, 1938 :-

Table showing numbers of men and women on registers for principal wool textile trade centres, categorized by Department and type of unemployment.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages. † Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight decline in some areas during September, but continued fairly good on the whole.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 9.9* at 12th September, 1938, as compared with 9.0* at 15th August, 1938, and 7.1 at 13th September, 1937.

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

Table with columns for Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month, Year before, and Per cent.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 20,656 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, about 3 1/2 per cent. were working on an average nearly 10 hours less than full time in the week ended 17th September, 1938.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT showed a decline during September, principally in the decorating section, but remained fair on the whole.

As regards individual occupations, employment was moderate with slaters and tilers and with painters, but with other classes of skilled operatives it continued fair.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages* unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, at 12th September, 1938, and the increases or decreases compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table with columns for Occupations, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1937, Numbers aged 16-64 unemployed at 12th Sept., 1938, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentages.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

Returns as to the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were approved during September have been received from 144 Local Authorities (representing towns with a population of 17,637,000 in 1931).

An analysis of the figures for September, 1938, by districts and by classes of buildings, is given on page 409 of this issue.

* See footnote * in first column on page 388.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire, although still slack on the whole, showed a considerable improvement, due to resumption of work after extended holidays in August.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 17.2* at 12th September, 1938, as compared with 26.5* at 15th August, 1938, and 13.0 at 13th September, 1937.

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

Table with columns for BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month, Year before, and Per cent.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,389 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 2,054, or nearly 20 per cent., were working on an average nearly 9 hours less than full time in the week ended 17th September, 1938.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper-making industry showed a decline in September and was moderate generally; short-time working was reported in many districts.

In the letterpress printing industry employment showed a slight decline as compared with August but was good on the whole.

In the lithographic printing industry employment declined, but remained fairly good on the whole.

In the bookbinding industry employment showed little change as compared with the previous month or with a year ago.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the paper and paper-board industries was 11.5* at 12th September, 1938, as compared with 11.0* at 15th August, 1938, and with 4.0 at 13th September, 1937.

The following Table summarises the returns from various trade unions which furnished information.

Table with columns for Letterpress Printing, Lithographic Printing, and Bookbinding, No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1938, and Percentage Unemployed at end of Sept., 1938, Aug., 1938, and Sept., 1937.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT declined at some ports in September, and was slack generally; it was worse than in the corresponding period last year.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in dock, harbour, river and canal service was 26.4* at 12th September, 1938, as compared with 25.2* at 15th August, 1938, and 22.6 at 13th September, 1937.

* See footnote * in first column on page 388.

London.—EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement compared with August, 1938, but was rather worse than in September, 1937.

The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received:—

Table with columns for Period, In Docks (By Port of London Authority, By Ship-owners, etc.), At Wharves making Returns, Total, Docks and Principal Wharves.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during September was 974, as compared with 973 in August, 1938, and with 963 in September, 1937.

North-East Coast.—EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole, with a tendency to improve at some ports.

Mersey.—EMPLOYMENT at Liverpool showed a slight decline, but was moderate generally; at Garston it improved, and was fair.

The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 30th September, 1938, was 11,629, compared with 11,284 in August, 1938, and with 12,129 in September, 1937.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—EMPLOYMENT at Cardiff improved slightly in the last week of the month, and was fair; at Swansea there was little change, and employment was moderate.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—EMPLOYMENT at Glasgow declined slightly, but was still fair; at Leith it fluctuated somewhat but remained moderate.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT among seamen in September showed a slight decline. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in shipping service, was 23.0* at 12th September, 1938, compared with 22.5* at 15th August, 1938, and 19.5 at 13th September, 1937.

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

Table with columns for Principal Ports, Number of Seamen shipped in, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month, Year before, and Nine Months ended.

* See footnote * in first column on page 388. † It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE Table below shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 12th September, 1938.

Large table with columns for Area, Number of persons on Register at 12th September, 1938 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in totals as compared with 15th Aug., 1938, and 13th Sept., 1937.

* The figures for Rutherglen are included. † Percentage rates of unemployment for about 760 Towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1937, PERCENTAGES AT 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1938, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 15TH AUGUST, 1938, 13TH SEPT., 1937, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 12TH SEPT., 1938.

* See last two paragraphs of text on page 394.
† See footnote * on page 394.

PERCENTAGES AT 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1938.*

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1937, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 15TH AUGUST, 1938, 13TH SEPT., 1937, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 12TH SEPT., 1938.

II. PERSONS INSURED UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL SCHEME.†

Table with columns: FARMING, FORESTRY, ETC., MARKET GARDENING, HORTICULTURE, ETC., PRIVATE GARDENING, OTHER GARDENING, and TOTAL (AGED 16-64)§.

* See last two paragraphs of text on page 394.
† See footnote * on page 394.
‡ The percentages for all industries and services combined for September, 1937, and for August and September, 1938, used for this comparison, are based on the numbers insured at July, 1937.
§ See footnote ‡ on page 395.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED. GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns: Industries, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the numbers insured, aged 16-64, recorded as unemployed at 12th September, 1938, compared with 15th August, 1938, Males, Females, Total.

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. SEPTEMBER, 1938.

Table with columns: Division, Men Aged 18-64, Boys Aged 16 & 17, 14 & 15, Women Aged 18-64, Girls Aged 16 & 17, 14 & 15, and Total.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1938.

Table showing composition of unemployment statistics for Great Britain on 12th September 1938, categorized by gender (Men, Boys, Women, Girls) and total. Includes sections for 'A. Insured on Register', 'B. Others on Register', 'C. Total on Register', and 'D. Insured Unemployed'.

The figures relating to insured persons include workers previously in domestic employments which first became insurable on 4th April, 1938. The numbers of these on the register were 1,555 men, 55 boys (16-17), 24 boys (14-15), 1,674 women, 214 girls (16-17) and 117 girls (14-15); the corresponding figures for the two months file were 170 men, 3 boys (16-17), 11 boys (14-15), 759 women, 58 girls (16-17) and 37 girls (14-15) respectively.

APPLICANTS FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

DIVISIONAL ANALYSIS—12TH SEPTEMBER, 1938.

Table showing divisional analysis of applicants for insurance benefit and unemployment allowances on 12th September 1938, categorized by division (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain).

CLAIMS ADMITTED FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT: General Scheme. London: 106,497; South-Eastern: 41,780; South-Western: 37,704; Midlands: 105,835; North-Eastern: 99,888; North-Western: 138,562; Northern: 56,912; Scotland: 78,027; Wales: 63,594.

Table showing divisional analysis of applicants for insurance benefit and unemployment allowances on 12th September 1938, categorized by division (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain).

AGRICULTURAL SCHEME. London: 491; South-Eastern: 2,257; South-Western: 1,080; Midlands: 948; North-Eastern: 720; North-Western: 753; Northern: 489; Scotland: 1,206; Wales: 831.

APPLICANTS AUTHORISED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES: London: 34,561; South-Eastern: 14,848; South-Western: 14,429; Midlands: 41,422; North-Eastern: 47,898; North-Western: 103,404; Northern: 69,341; Scotland: 90,438; Wales: 67,637.

Table showing applicants authorised for unemployment allowances, categorized by division (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain).

* These exclusions represent (a) insurance benefit claimants in receipt of unemployment allowances in supplementation of benefit (numbering 7,163 at 12th September, 1938); and (b) persons disqualified for short periods from receiving benefit, who are shown in line 2 (b) of the Table.

† See explanation on page 394. ‡ Including 7,163 persons for whom payment of unemployment allowances in supplementation of benefit had not been authorised. § Including 2,957 persons, disqualified for short periods from receiving benefit, who had applications authorised for unemployment allowances.

PERIODS OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT.

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT OR UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

The following Table gives an analysis, according to the length of their last spell of registered unemployment, of persons aged 16-64, applying for insurance benefit or unemployment allowances (including those applicants whose position in relation to insurance benefit and unemployment allowances had not been determined), who were registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as unemployed on 12th September, 1938. Corresponding particulars are not available in respect of persons, registered as unemployed, who were not applicants for insurance benefit or unemployment allowances.

Of the persons who had been on the register for extended periods a proportion, which will increase as the period on the register increases, will have had one or more short spells of employment, lasting not more than three days each, during such periods.

Table showing periods of registered unemployment for persons aged 16-64, categorized by length of unemployment (Less than 3 months, 3 months but less than 6 months, etc.) and total. Includes sections for 'Applicants, aged 16-64, who had been on Register' and 'NUMBERS'.

Of the 1,039,477 applicants who had been on the register for less than three months, approximately 852,000 or 81.7 per cent. of the total number of applicants had been on the register for less than six weeks.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND. GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Table shows, approximately, the income and expenditure of the Unemployment Fund* for the periods stated:—

Table showing income and expenditure of the Unemployment Fund for Great Britain, categorized by period (Four weeks ended 24th Sept., 1938, etc.) and type of account (General Account, Agricultural Account).

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES (GREAT BRITAIN). As from 1st April, 1937, the cost of unemployment allowances is met from the Unemployment Assistance Fund which is reimbursed by the Exchequer. For the period of four weeks ended 24th September, 1938, expenditure on these allowances (excluding the cost of administration) amounted to approximately £2,595,000 as compared with £2,528,000 during the four weeks ended 27th August, 1938, and £2,665,000 during the four weeks ended 25th September, 1937.

* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 49 of 1938 for the period ended 31st March, 1937).

† Statutory provision was made for the repayment (including interest) of the debt outstanding on 1st July, 1934 (amounting to £105,780,000) by half-yearly payments of £2,500,000 commencing on 30th September, 1934. Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1938, an additional sum of £20,000,000 was repaid on 31st March, 1938, and thereafter the half-yearly payments are reduced to £2,005,259.

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1938.

Table showing juvenile unemployment statistics on 12th September 1938, categorized by division (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain, N. Ireland, Gt. Britain and N. Ireland).

Note.—These figures include considerable numbers of boys and girls who, though registered at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux as applicants for employment, are remaining whole time at school until employment is obtained. See article on page 48 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February 1938.

INSURED JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1938.

Table showing insured juveniles under 18 years of age recorded as unemployed on 12th September 1938, categorized by division (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Special Schemes, Great Britain, N. Ireland, Gt. Britain and N. Ireland).

Note.—These figures include not only insured juveniles on the register, but also those whose unemployment books were in the "two months' file." (See paragraph below the Table in next column.) The effect of the inclusion of those with books in the "two months' file" is specially marked in the London Division. The figures include juveniles previously in domestic employments which first became insurable on 4th April, 1938, numbering 35 boys and 154 girls aged 14-15, and 58 boys and 275 girls aged 16-17.

JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1938.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment for four weeks ended 19th September 1938, categorized by division (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain).

JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, IN ATTENDANCE AT AUTHORISED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

Table showing juveniles under 18 years of age in attendance at authorized courses of instruction, categorized by division (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain).

* Comparable figures for other Educational Institutions are not available. † Of these, nine Junior Instruction Centres and nine Classes were temporarily closed.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG BOYS AND GIRLS, UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE, IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows for each industry group, and for the principal industries, the numbers of insured boys and girls under 16 years of age recorded as unemployed in Great Britain, and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at 12th September, 1938.

Table showing unemployment among boys and girls under 16 years of age in insured industries, categorized by industry (Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Pottery, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making, etc., Glass, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Other Metal Industries, Textiles, Leather and Leather Goods, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Paper, Printing, etc., Building and Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services, Agricultural Scheme).

The figures above include those boys and girls whose unemployment books were in the "two-months file" of lodged books, i.e., boys and girls who had registered as unemployed at some date within the previous two months and were not known to have found work, but were not maintaining registration as applicants for employment. The figures do not include unemployed juveniles previously in domestic employments which first became insurable on 4th April, 1938, numbering 35 boys and 154 girls in Great Britain and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

* Persons insured under the special schemes for the banking and insurance industries have been included in these figures.

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS.

(See explanatory article on pages 382-3.)

[NOTE.—The figures given for 1937 are provisional and subject to slight revision when certain information, at present outstanding, has been received. The sub-division of the total membership into male and female is partly estimated, as some trade unions are unable to state precisely the numbers of males and females comprised within their total membership.]

I.—NUMBER OF UNIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE END OF 1937, AND MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE AND TOTAL) OF ALL UNIONS AT THE END OF 1937 AND 1936, WITH PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP AT THE END OF 1937 COMPARED WITH 1936.

Table with columns: Group of Unions, No. of Trade Unions at end of 1937, Membership of all Unions at end of (1937, 1936), and Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Membership at end of 1937 compared with end of 1936.

II.—MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE AND TOTAL) OF ALL UNIONS AT THE END OF 1913, 1920, 1935, 1936 AND 1937.

Table with columns: Group of Unions, Males (1913-1937), Females (1913-1937), and Total (1913-1937).

* The figures for industrial groups are exclusive of the membership of certain large unions the membership of which is spread over a variety of industries; the whole membership of these unions is included above under "Other Transport and General Labour" or "Commerce and Distribution."
† A considerable number of agricultural workers belong to a general labour union which is classified under "Other Transport and General Labour."

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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in the rates of wages reported to have come into operation in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at £2,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 55,200 workpeople, and in a decrease of £12,600 in those of 288,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased were coal miners in Leicestershire, Cannock Chase, and Somerset; iron puddlers and millmen in the North-East Coast area; engineering and foundry labourers in the Manchester area; adult male labourers and women employed in the metal pen making industry in Birmingham and district; workpeople employed in the net trade in Great Britain, for whom there were increases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts; timeworkers employed in the coir mat and matting industry in Great Britain; wood-cutting machinists employed in packing case shops in Scotland; and motor omnibus drivers and conductors in various districts in Scotland, for whom there was an increase of 1/4d. an hour.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced were coal miners in Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Derbyshire, South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, and Scotland, the decreases being due to fluctuations in the proceeds of the industry as shown by the district ascertainment. Other workpeople whose wages were reduced included cokemen and by-product workers in Durham and South Yorkshire; iron puddlers and millmen in the West of Scotland; and skip and basket makers in Lancashire and Cheshire.

Of the estimated total increase of £2,000 per week, about £250 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies; £520 was due to sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the industry; and the remaining £1,230 was due to direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Of the total decrease of £12,600, about £12,550 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the industry, and the remaining £50 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the cost of living.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1938 †

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

In the corresponding nine months of 1937, there was a net increase of about £528,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 4,290,000 workpeople, and a net decrease of about £10 in those of 100 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,* the changes reported during the nine completed months of 1938 are estimated to have affected about 155,000 workpeople, of whom about 1,500 have had their hours increased by nearly 1/2 hour per week, and 153,500 their hours reduced by just over 2 per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change.

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

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 or cities. In every case, the percentage calculation is based on the cost of a fixed list of commodities taken in identical quantities.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1914 to July 1937. Columns include Country, July 1934, July 1935, July 1936, July 1937, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in all items for various countries from July 1914 to July 1937. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1934, July 1935, July 1936, July 1937, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

* Exceptions to this are: Finland, Italy (Rome), January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Portugal, South Africa, 1914; Egypt, Germany (other than Vienna), 1913-1914; Netherlands, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are weighted averages for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, at Vienna, on prices converted at the rate of 1.44 Schilling equals one pre-war Krone, and, in the other cities or countries, on prices in the ordinary currency. † Fuel and light are also included in these figures. ‡ The method of calculation was revised in 1937. § Figure for August. ¶ The figures for 1936 and subsequent years are on a revised basis. ¶ Figure for June. ** A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. †† Figure for 3rd Quarter. ††† The method of calculation was revised during the latter half of 1936. §§ Decrease. ||| Revised figure.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

STATISTICS of workpeople killed in industrial accidents in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported in September are given below:

Table of fatal industrial accidents categorized by Railway Service, Mines and Quarries, and Factories. Includes sub-categories like Brakesmen, Shipbuilding, and various factory trades.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE total number of cases of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during September, under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 43; the total number of deaths reported was 6.

Table of industrial diseases categorized into I. Cases (Lead Poisoning, Anthrax, Epitheliomatous Ulceration) and II. Deaths (Lead Poisoning, Anthrax, Epitheliomatous Ulceration).

SHIPBUILDING: 3RD QUARTER, 1938.

ACCORDING to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of September, 1938, amounted to 885,481 tons.

The tonnage launched during the quarter was 87,463 tons; a decrease of 69,507 tons as compared with the June quarter. The tonnage launched during the quarter under review was 309,770 tons; an increase of 23,037 tons as compared with the previous quarter.

* For mines and quarries the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 1st October. † Trading vessels, steam and motor, 19; fishing, steam and motor, 1. ‡ Cases include all attacks reported 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. § Viz. one mercurial, one arsenical.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

SEPTEMBER, 1938.

RETURNS as to the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were approved during September have been received from 144* of the 146 Local Authorities which supply such information to the Department. The returns received from these 144 Authorities (representing towns with a total population of 17,637,000 in 1931) are summarised in the following Table, in which are also given comparisons with September, 1937, in respect of the same 144 Authorities:—

Table of building plans approved by district, showing Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Churches and Public Buildings, and Other Buildings. Includes totals for England and Wales, Yorkshire, Lancs. and Cheshire, etc.

AUGUST 1938.

In last month's issue of this GAZETTE figures were given for 144 Local Authorities in respect of plans approved during August, 1938. Returns for the latter month are now available for all of the 146 Local Authorities covered by the Department's enquiries (representing towns with a total population of 17,864,000 in 1931). The estimated cost of the buildings included in the returns was £6,446,100 compared with £9,615,600 in July, 1938, and £5,846,800 in August, 1937.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE Umpire is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown (see Section 40 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935), for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions are final.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the leave of the Chairman of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself. The claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

The following recent decision is of general interest:—

Case No. 3515/1938. (13.9.38).

SECTION 23 OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1935—CONTINUOUSLY UNEMPLOYED—DERBYSHIRE MINERS' HOLIDAY SAVINGS SCHEME—PAYMENT FOR HOLIDAYS UNDER THE SCHEME HELD TO BE PAYMENT OF WAGES IN RESPECT OF RECOGNISED HOLIDAY.

The material circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision:—

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit is disallowed in respect of the period 20th to 25th June, 1938, both dates included, which period cannot count as a period of continuous unemployment.

* The outstanding returns were distributed as follows:—Lancs. and Cheshire (one); and South-Eastern Counties (one). † Particulars are not available for the London County Council area. ‡ Selected decisions of the Umpire are published: (i) in monthly pamphlet—U.I. Code 8B. (The latest pamphlet is that for August, 1938, price 2d. net); the pamphlets are also obtainable by annual subscription of 2s. 6d. net; (ii) in annual volumes (the latest volume is that for 1936, price 3s. net); (iii) in the following special volumes:—(a) U.I. Code 8, containing specially selected decisions prior to 19th April, 1938 (price 15s. net); (b) U.I. Code 8A, containing specially selected decisions from 19th April, 1938, to 12th March, 1939 (price 6s. net); and (c) U.I. Code 8C, containing selected decisions from 13th March, 1939, to 31st December, 1934 (price 10s. net). The analytical guide to Umpire's decisions (U.I. Code 7), originally published in 1930, is under revision. Certain sections of the guide have now been revised up to date and are on sale.

“Under the terms of the Derbyshire District Miners' Holiday Savings Scheme (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Scheme’) the claimant received on 17th June, 1938, the sum of £1, which in the Scheme is designated an ‘additional sum.’ The Insurance Officer has decided that the aforesaid period was one of customary holiday for the claimant and as he received payment in respect of it he is not entitled to benefit for any day within the period, nor can the period count as part of a continuous period of unemployment. The Court of Referees, to whom the claimant appealed against the Insurance Officer's decision, has (by a majority) decided that the aforesaid period was one of recognised holiday, and that in respect of it the claimant is not entitled to receive benefit but that it may count as part of a period of continuous unemployment.

“The Chief Insurance Officer has appealed against the decision of the Court of Referees in so far as it allows the period to count as part of a period of continuous unemployment.

“On the appeal of the Chief Insurance Officer two contentions have been raised by the Derbyshire Miners' Association. They are (1) that the period in question was not one of recognised holiday; and (2) that the payment of the ‘additional sum’ was not ‘wages,’ consequently Decision 6084 had no application to this case.

“Clause 1 of the Scheme reads:—‘Owing to the reduction in the number of working days in consequence of exigencies of trade and the restrictive effect of the Coal Mines Scheme, it is considered desirable to group together some of those days on which employment is not or will not be available in the industry into a period of six consecutive working days (excluding Sunday) in each year during which each colliery within the district governed by the Derbyshire District Wages Board should be closed down except for necessary work of repair and maintenance. Such period is hereinafter referred to as ‘the closing down period.’

“The fact that the material period is designated ‘the closing down period’ and not ‘the holiday period’ does not prevent that period being a holiday period just as the designation in the title of the Scheme ‘Holiday Savings Scheme’ is not conclusive that the period in respect of which payment under the Scheme was made was a holiday. To decide what was intended to be effected by the Scheme it must be read as a whole, and the decision must not be based upon the designations which the parties to the Scheme have chosen to adopt if consideration of the whole Scheme indicates that such designations are inapt (see Lake v. Campbell, 5 L.T.R., per Willes J., at page 584, and Decision 2354/38).*

“The Scheme, which is dated 29th November, 1937, was made at a time when the question of holidays with pay was of general interest in this country, and when a committee had been appointed by the Minister of Labour to investigate that subject.

“Holidays are frequently taken at a period of slackness of trade because so to do benefits both the employer and the employees. In the case of the employees the taking of a holiday at such a period may entail less loss of wages.

“Two other clauses in the Scheme were relied upon as indicating that the ‘closing down period’ was not a period of holiday. They were clauses 5 and 8, which read as follows:—

“5. If in the opinion of any colliery owner the state of trade or conditions at his colliery do not justify a closing down period the ‘additional sums’ hereinbefore referred to shall be paid to the workmen at such time or times as may be decided by the colliery owner.”

“8. Any workman required by the colliery owner for necessary work of repair or maintenance or other service to continue at work during the closing down period shall nevertheless be entitled to receive the additional sum as hereinbefore mentioned.”

“With regard to clause 5, it is difficult to appreciate in the light of what is stated in clause 1 of the Scheme, and the evidence given to me relating to the coal mining industry in Derbyshire, that clause 5 would ever require to be put into operation. It is not uncommon for employees to agree to abandon for one year a recognised holiday and to work therein (see, for example, Decisions 1262† and 1099/27‡), and it is not unnatural that the employees were prepared to agree, on consideration that they received the ‘additional sums’ when their services were required, to forego in one year a ‘closing down period’ in the unlikely event of it not being practicable to allow such a period, provided they did not in that year lose the benefit of receiving the additional sums.

“Clause 8 must be read in conjunction with clause 1, ‘closed down except for necessary work of repair and maintenance.’ So read it means that any workman required for work of necessary repair and maintenance, or required for any service in connection with such work, shall not lose the benefit of receiving ‘the additional sum.’ Many colliery workers are required to render services, which cannot strictly be termed work of repair or maintenance, when such last-mentioned work only is being performed, such as pumpmen, winding enginemen and men in charge of the ventilation. Whether any grade of workman, such as maintenance men, is excluded from the general body of workmen in relation to a recognised holiday is a question of fact to be decided in each individual case (Decisions 2792/29 and 7535/31; neither reported).

“In practice it appears that a workman who is required to work during a ‘closing down period,’ receives the ‘additional sum’ and takes a holiday at a period other than the closing down period (see Decision 3520/38).§

“Why an insured contributor was not allowed to receive benefit during a period of recognised holiday was stated by my predecessor at a time when unemployment benefit was payable under the National Insurance Act, 1911. He said in Case 228§ (Benefit (1911) Cases), ‘I do not consider that a workman has been continuously unemployed

* See Vol. XVII, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 41 (Pamphlet No. 6/1938). † Vol. I, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 318. ‡ Vol. VI, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 65 (Pamphlet No. 3/1927). § Not printed.

London, E.C.; Hampton & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. Heavy Motor Driven Pumping Units: Sulzer Bros. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. India Rubber Shock Absorbers: Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham. Iron Bedsteads, Collapsible: The Vono Co., Dudley Port, Staffs; T. Adshad & Sons, Dudley; Hoskins & Sewell, Ltd., Birmingham; Peyton, Hoyland & Barber (1933), Ltd., Birmingham. Label Holders for Drop Bag Fittings: J. H. Potter & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield. Laboratory Fittings: Dick & Benzie, Glasgow. Lockers, Steel for Flying Clothing: Valor Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Locks, Cylinder, Cupboard: Walsall Locks & Cart Gear, Ltd., Walsall. Locks, Cylinder, Till: Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co., Willenhall. Manilla Ropes: East London Ropeworks, Ltd., London, E. Medical First Aid Outfit Boxes: Huntley, Bourne & Stevens, Ltd., Reading. Pigeon Hole Racks: Gleds (Joinery), Ltd., Barking. Plan Presses: Wake & Dean, Ltd., Bristol; J. Walsh, Ltd., Sheffield. Portable Flight Desks: D. M. Davies (Slough), Ltd., Slough. Racking: Rubery Owen & Co., Ltd., Darlaston. Racks: Hampton Timber Co., Ltd., Hampton; King & Co. (Northampton), Ltd., Northampton. Rubberised Cotton Cloth: Greengate & Irwell Rubber Co., Ltd., Manchester. Rubber Hose: British Tyre & Rubber Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Self Adhesive Tape: A. de St. Dalmas & Co., Ltd., Leicester. Shirts: W. Sugden & Sons, Ltd., Cleckheaton. Stirrup Pumps: Service Castings Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Suction Collecting Heads: Knowsley Cast Metal Co., Ltd., Manchester. Tables—Deal, Folding: Duncan Tucker (Tottenham), Ltd., London, N. Tables—Kitchen: Papworth Industries, Cambridge. Tables—Pedestal, Writing: Maynard (1933), Ltd., London, W.C.; Hampton & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; Maynard (1933), Ltd., London, W.C. Tables—Standards, C.I.: Dudley & Dowell, Ltd., Birmingham. Turpentine: E. M. Hamilton & Co., Liverpool. Wire Lift Rope: R. Hood Haggie & Son, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Picks (Heads and Handles) and Shovels, etc.: C. Thomas & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. H. Smith & Sons (Oldbury), Ltd., Birmingham; Shepherd & Sons (1925), Ltd., Ormskirk; Rudders & Paynes, Ltd., Birmingham; Gilpin & Whitehouse, Ltd., Cannock, Staffs; Buck & Hickman, Ltd., E.; W. G. Birkinshaw & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton. Bedford & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; J. W. Carr & Co., Ltd., E.C.; English Tools, Ltd., Wigan; Fiddian & Sons, Stourbridge; W. Hunt & Sons, Birmingham; E. & W. Lucas, Ltd., Sheffield; Midland Saw & Tool Co., Ltd., Birmingham; A. F. Parkes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Perks & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; G. Pike, Ltd., Birmingham; G. Potts & Co. (Blackheath), Ltd., Birmingham; J. Potts & Sons, Ltd., Old Hill, Staffs; A. B. Salmen's (Successors), Ltd., N.; C. T. Skelton & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. C. E. Swindell & Co., Ltd., Dudley; C. Whitehouse & Sons, Ltd., Cannock, Staffs; Yardley & Co. (Stourbridge), Ltd., Stourbridge; G. Wolfe & Sons, Ltd., Bathgate; Hardypick, Ltd., Sheffield; Shepherd & Sons (1925), Ltd., Ormskirk, Lancs. Tubular Steel Stretcher Frames & Wire Mattresses: Hoskins & Sewell, Ltd., Birmingham; T. Locker & Co., Ltd., Warrington; Vono Co., Dudley Port, Staffs; T. Adshad & Sons, Dudley; Peyton, Hoyland & Barber (1933), Ltd., Birmingham; A. Phillips, Ltd., Birmingham; W. Rhodes, Ltd., Nottingham. Tubular Steel Stretcher Frames: Pel, Ltd., Birmingham. Wire Mattresses for Tubular Steel Stretcher Frames: National Iron & Wire Works, Co., Ltd., Manchester.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Angles, M.S.: Lilleshall Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Arm Drilling Machine:** Kitchen & Wade, Ltd., Halifax.—**Automatic Telephone Exchange Equipment:** Automatic Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd., London, W. C.—**Axes, etc.:** V. & R. Blakemore, Birmingham.—**Balancing Tank:** P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Bars, M.S., etc.:** Whitehead Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Newport, Mon.—**Bitumen:** British Bitumen Emulsions, Ltd., Slough.—**Blankets:** James Walker & Sons, Ltd., Mirfield; Wormalds & Walker, Ltd., Dewsbury.—**Blouses:** Hobson & Sons (Ldn.) Ltd., London, W.—**Bolts & Nuts, etc.:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., London, E.C.; C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Boots:** John Horrell & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; Wilkins & Denton (London) Ltd., London, E.C.—**B.R.C. Fabric:** British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd., Stafford.—**Cable:** Ismay Cables, Ltd., Dagenham.—**Cable, etc., for lightbuoys:** N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Dudley.—**Cable Terminal Boxes:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Canvas:** G. D. Peters & Co., Slough.—**Canvas Hose:** Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Carton Making and Filling Machine:** Satona, Ltd., London, W.C.—**C.I. Socket and Spigot Pipes:** Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., Nottingham.—**Cattle Wagons:** Metropolitan Cammell Carriage & Wagon Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Clear Span Deck Bridges:** Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Motherwell Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Motherwell; Patent Shaft and Axletree Co., Ltd., Wednesbury; Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Clear Span Through Bridges:** A. Findlay & Co., Ltd., Motherwell.—**Clothing:** G. H. Penney & Co., London, E.C.—**Coaches:** Metropolitan Cammell Carriage & Wagon Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Coal Tar:** Lancashire Tar Distillers, Ltd., Manchester.—**Copper Ingots:** I.C.I. Metals, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Copper Tubes:** Yorkshire Copper Works, Ltd., Leeds.—**Copper Wire:** R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester.—**Copper Wire, etc.:** Spencer Wire Co., Ltd., Wakefield.—**Currency Notes:** T. de la Rue & Co., London, E.C.—**Coupler and Drawbar Spares:** A.B.C. Coupler & Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Covered Goods Wagons Bodies:** C. Roberts & Co., Ltd., Wakefield.—**Delta Bronze Reinforcement Rods:** Delta Metal Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Dia-phones:** Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., Smethwick.—**Disintegrator and Equipment:** Hathorn, Davey & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Drill:** E. Clegg & Son, Ltd., Littleborough.—**Dry Core Cable:** W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Pirelli-General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton.—**Dunlop Covers and Tubes, etc.:**

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