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

**EMPLOYMENT.**

EMPLOYMENT showed little change, on the whole, during September. Among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed was 11·4 at 24th September, compared with 11·5 at 27th August and with 11·3 at 23rd July; at the end of September, 1922, the corresponding percentage was 12·2. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 11·3 at the end of September, compared with 11·4 at the end of August. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 1st October, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was approximately 1,285,000, of whom 955,000 were men and 244,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 27th August the total was 1,266,000, of whom 943,000 were men and 237,000 were women.

Employment was good on the whole in the coal-mining industry, and in the tinsplate and steel sheet trades; fairly good in the coachbuilding, brickmaking, and carpet trades; and fair in the building, printing, leather industries, and in certain sections of the metal trades. In most of the other large industries it was slack or bad.

As compared with the previous month there was some improvement in coal mining and in the pottery trades; but there was a decline in pig-iron manufacture, and in some sections of the textile trades and of the woodworking trades.

**WAGES.**

In the industries for which statistics are compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in September resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £46,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 560,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of over £35,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 600,000 workpeople. This is the third successive month in which a small net increase in wage rates has taken place, after a continuous period of falling wages extending from January, 1921, to June, 1923.

Of the total number of workpeople whose rates of wages were changed in September, nearly three-fourths were employed in the coal mining industry. In Northumberland, Durham, and South Wales there were increases ranging from  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. on current wage-rates, and in the Forest of Dean there was an increase of over 11 per cent. on current rates. In Scotland, however, there was a reduction of over  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on current rates, and there was also a slight reduction in Yorkshire and the East Midlands.

In other industries the principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased were those employed in the gold, silver, and allied trades at Birmingham, and in the textile making-up and packing trades at Manchester. There were also increases, under the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales, in the minimum rates of wages fixed

under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople in the boot and shoe repairing, paper bag, paper box, and brush and broom trades.

The principal reductions in wages, apart from those in the coal mining industry referred to above, affected workpeople employed in the gas industry, iron-ore miners and blast-furnace workers in Cumberland, certain classes of men employed in the Thames ship-repairing industry, and workpeople in the road transport industry in London.

Since the beginning of 1923 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a reduction of over £500,000 in the weekly wages of 3,160,000 workpeople, and an increase of over £300,000 in the weekly wages of 1,130,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1922 there was a reduction of over £3,900,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 7,500,000 workpeople, and an increase of about £11,500 in the wages of 75,000 workpeople.

**COST OF LIVING.**

At 1st October 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, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 75 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 73 per cent. at 1st September. For food alone the corresponding percentage at 1st October was 72, compared with 68 a month earlier. The rise in the percentage was mainly due to increases in the prices of milk, butter, cheese, and eggs.

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 for 1st October reference should be made to the article on page 366.

**TRADE DISPUTES.**

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September, was 29. In addition, 28 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in September (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 54,000, as compared with 68,000 in the previous month and 15,000 in September, 1922. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during September was about 1,029,000 working days, as compared with 1,200,000 days in August, 1923, and 142,000 days in September, 1922.

The principal dispute in progress was that involving members of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders in federated shipyards, which began on 30th April and is still unsettled.

RATES OF WAGES AT AUGUST, 1914, AND SEPTEMBER, 1923.

In the April issue of this GAZETTE (pages 121 and 122) particulars were given of the comparative level of rates of wages at August, 1914, and March, 1923. During the past six months changes in rates of wages have occurred in some industries, and revised particulars are accordingly given below comparing the level of wages at the end of September, 1923, with that at August, 1914. Similar details as to the relative level of wages at the end of 1920, when wages generally were at their highest point, were given on pages 398 to 400 of the issue of the GAZETTE for October, 1922, and comparisons between the level of wages at December, 1920, and September, 1923, can readily be made by reference to that issue.

**Building Trades.**—At the end of September the hourly rates of wages in the larger towns showed increases, compared with the pre-war rates, ranging mostly from 8d. to 10½d. per hour in the case of skilled men and 6½d. to 8½d. per hour in the case of labourers. On the basis of the unweighted averages of the standard rates of wages of the principal classes of workmen, the average increases in hourly rates at the end of September, 1923, in towns with populations over 100,000, were as shown in the following Table:—

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Hourly Rates of Wages in large towns at		Average Percentage Increase over Pre-war Hourly Rates at 30th September, 1923.
	4th August, 1914.	30th Sept., 1923.	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per Cent.
Bricklayers .. .. .	9-9	18-3	90
Masons* .. .. .	9-8	18-9	93
Carpenters and Joiners ..	9-8	18-8	93
Plumbers .. .. .	9-6	18-9	96
Plasterers .. .. .	9-7	18-9	94
Painters .. .. .	8-8	18-6	112
Labourers .. .. .	6-6	14-1	114

If the increases shown are combined in the proportions of the relative numbers of men employed in the different occupations, the resulting general average increase over pre-war rates is approximately 8½d. per hour (or about 105 per cent.) at the end of September. It should be observed that the percentages given are general averages for all the large towns combined, and that there is much variation in the percentage increases in different towns.

Owing to the fact that changes in the normal weekly hours of labour are now being arranged (see page 324 of the September issue of this GAZETTE), and that in many districts settlements have not yet been arrived at, it is not practicable to give a comparison of the level of weekly rates of wages at August, 1914, and September, 1923, similar to that relating to March, 1923 published in the April issue of the GAZETTE. As, however, the normal weekly hours of labour have been reduced since 1914, the average percentage increase in weekly rates is appreciably less than that in hourly rates shown above.

**Coal Mining.**—The information available as to the changes in wages in the coal mining industry is insufficient to show the average increase in rates of wages in this industry since 1914. The general district percentage additions to standard basis rates of wages at the beginning of August, 1914, and at the end of September, 1923, in the principal coalfields were as shown below:—

District.	Date of Standard.	Percentage additions to the standard rates of the years specified at—	
		4th Aug., 1914.	30th Sept., 1923.
Northumberland .. .. .	1879	50	145-06
Durham .. .. .	1879	57½	131-88
Yorkshire and E. Midlands ..	1911	10	58-37
Lancs., N. Staffs. and Cheshire	1911	10	32-00
S. Staffs. and Salop .. .. .	1911	10	32-00
S. Wales and Mon. .. .. .	1915†	6½	41-47
Scotland .. .. .	1888	75	162-94

These figures do not provide a full measure of the increase in wage rates, since special advances or allowances have been granted in addition, in many districts, to particular grades of men. In some cases the basis rates of wages (to which the percentages added) have been varied; some of the lower-paid grades of workmen in certain districts are receiving special allowances in order to maintain their wages at a "subsistence level"; men on afternoon and night shifts in South Wales, whose normal working week is generally one of five shifts, have been paid, since 1915, as for an extra shift each week; and piece rates of wages were increased, in the case of workpeople whose normal work-

\* When different rates were paid to banker masons and fixers respectively, the rates used are those for banker hands.

† As the standard basis rates to which the percentages apply vary in different districts, the percentages quoted should not be taken as indicating the relative level of wages in different districts.

‡ For the purpose of comparison the level of wages at August, 1914, when the percentage addition was computed in terms of the old standard of 1879, has been expressed in terms of the new standard of 1915, now in operation.

ing hours were reduced, in 1919, in order to maintain earnings at the previous level. The percentage increase in rates of wages resulting from the combined effect of all these changes is not known precisely.

As regards earnings, however, statistics compiled by the Mines Department provide means of estimating the percentage increases in the average earnings per man-shift worked between June, 1914, and September, 1923, in the principal districts. Actual returns are not yet available, but it is estimated that when they are made up they will show the figures to be approximately as follows:—

	Per cent.
Northumberland .. .. .	84
Durham .. .. .	77
Yorks. and E. Midlands .. .. .	71
Lancs., N. Staffs. and Cheshire	46
South Wales .. .. .	58
Scotland .. .. .	74
Other districts .. .. .	55
Great Britain .. .. .	66

**Other Mining and Quarrying.**—For iron miners in Cleveland and limestone quarrymen in Durham rates of wages at the end of September were about 56 per cent. over the pre-war rates. In Cumberland the bargain price for iron-ore miners in September, 1923, was about 72 per cent. above the pre-war level.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—The general advance over pre-war rates, for men on time rates in the engineering trade, now amounts to 17s. per week, except in certain districts where the men are paid at hourly rates, in which cases it amounts to 17s. 10½d. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance on time rates ranges from 7s. or 7s. 10½d. a week in the case of skilled men to 15s. or 16s. a week in the case of lower-paid labourers. In some cases, however, further advances have been granted to particular classes of men, both in the engineering and in the shipbuilding industries.

The following Table shows the unweighted averages of the district time rates of wages of men in certain representative occupations in 16 of the principal engineering centres and 13 of the principal shipbuilding centres at 4th August, 1914, and at 30th September, 1923, together with the corresponding percentage increase over pre-war rates. The figures relate to a full ordinary week of 53 hours in some districts and 54 in others in 1914, and of 47 hours generally at September, 1923:—

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates in the principal centres.		Average Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at 30th September, 1923.
	4th August, 1914.	30th September, 1923.	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per Cent.
Engineering:			
Fitters and Turners .. .. .	38 11	56 5	45
Ironmoulders .. .. .	41 8	59 1	42
Patternmakers .. .. .	42 1	60 10	45
Labourers .. .. .	22 10	40 3	76
Shipbuilding:			
Shipwrights .. .. .	41 4	48 7	38
Ship Joiners .. .. .	40 0	50 5	26
Platers .. .. .	40 4	47 7	18
Riveters .. .. .	37 9	45 0	19
Labourers .. .. .	22 10	38 6	68

For semi-skilled classes the percentages range between those shown for skilled men and those for labourers.

In the case of piece-workers the general advance in the engineering industry amounts to 10 per cent. on basis piece rates plus a flat rate advance of 10s. per week. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance is 10 per cent. on basis piece rates, and, in addition, a portion of certain special advances, granted under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of awards and consequential extensions, is still paid to some classes of men. The information at the disposal of the Department is not sufficient to enable a reliable calculation to be made of the effect of the average percentage increase in the wages of piece-workers in these industries.

**Other Metal Trades.**—In the heavy iron and steel trades (smelting, puddling, rolling, forging, etc.), in which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the selling price of the finished products the increases over pre-war rates vary very widely, being in some cases (e.g., with certain blastfurnace labourers) equivalent to over 100 per cent. on the pre-war level, while at the other extreme the rates for iron and steel workers in South Wales show a net increase of only about 23 per cent. In the tin plate and steel sheet trade in South Wales the net increase over pre-war rates amounts to 39 per cent. Among other metal-working industries the general increases over pre-war rates of wages at the end of September (for male time-workers) were 17s. a week in the sheet-metal working trade, 17s. 6d. a week in the nut and bolt industry in the Midlands, 17s. 6d. a week for unskilled and semi-skilled men in the spring, tube and various other industries in the Midlands, and 18s. 6d. a week in the light castings industry.

**Cotton Industry.**—In August, 1914, piece rates of wages in this industry generally stood at 5 per cent. above the standard list prices. At the end of September, 1923, they were 95 per cent. above the standard. A part of the increase, however, was granted in 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly working hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. If proportionate allowance is made for

this reduction in working hours, weekly full-time rates of wages would appear to be generally about 61 per cent. above the pre-war level. In addition, however, special increases or allowances have been granted to certain classes of operatives, the effect of which would be to augment this percentage.

**Wool Textile Industry.**—The rates of wages of woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire are calculated by the addition of a "cost-of-living wage" to basic rates. At the end of September, 1923, the pre-war basic rates had been increased generally by 10 per cent., and to the basic rates so increased was added a "cost-of-living wage" of 72½ per cent. and 63½ per cent. in the case of time-workers and piece-workers, respectively,\* making total increases over pre-war rates of approximately 80 to 90 per cent. for a full working week. These figures are exclusive of special increases in the rates of wages of particular sections of workpeople, which would tend to augment the percentages quoted. In addition, a general advance of over 15 per cent. on hourly and piece rates was granted in March, 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. The average percentage increase in hourly rates, therefore, is correspondingly greater than that in weekly rates quoted above.

**Other Textile Industries.**—In certain other important sections of the textile trades the increases over pre-war rates at the end of September, 1923, were as follows:—

Trade and Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates of Wages in certain large towns* at		Average Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at 30th September, 1923.
	4th August, 1914.	30th Sept., 1923.	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per Cent.
Printing and Bookbinding:—			
Hand Compositors on book and jobbing work .. .. .	35 8	73 9	107
Bookbinders and machine-rulers .. .. .	33 11	73 4	117
Furniture Making:—			
Cabinet makers .. .. .	39 9	72 6	82
Upholsterers .. .. .	38 9	72 5	87
French polishers .. .. .	37 1	72 3	95
Baking:—			
Table Hands .. .. .	30 1	63 4	111

The hours of labour in a normal full week at September, 1923, were generally 48 in the printing and baking trades, and 44 to 47 in the furniture trade, compared with 50 or 51 in the printing trades, 48 to 60 for bakers and 49½ to 54 in the furniture trade at August, 1914, and the percentage increases in hourly rates are therefore greater than those in weekly rates, shown in the Table.

In the pottery industry the general level of rates of wages is now 50 per cent. above the pre-war level, but increases in basic rates have been granted in addition to certain classes of workpeople. In 1919 the hours of labour were reduced from 52 to 47 per week, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages.

For unskilled labourers in the non-trading departments of Local Authorities in nearly 40 towns, the average weekly rate of wages shows an increase of about 90 per cent. over that for August, 1914. In this case also the hours of labour have been reduced without any reduction in weekly rates of wages.

**Agriculture.**—In a number of counties and districts in England and Wales rates of wages have been agreed upon by voluntary Conciliation Committees of employers and workpeople, and in some others uniform rates of wages have been recommended by the employers' organisations for general adoption. The rates of wages so agreed to or recommended at the end of September ranged from 25s. to 35s. a week for ordinary labourers. In the same districts in 1914 the cash rates of wages, which were subject to the addition of certain allowances, ranged from 13s. to 21s. a week. It is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture that the average of the rates of wages prevailing for ordinary labourers in England and Wales at September, 1923, represented an increase of about 56 per cent. over the average of 1914.

SUMMARY.

Both the amounts of increase and the corresponding percentages on pre-war rates show a wide diversity among different classes of workers. In some cases the increases in full-time weekly rates at the end of September, 1923, were equivalent to only about 20 per cent. on the pre-war rates. On the other hand, they were equivalent in some cases to over 100 per cent. on pre-war rates. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable the average percentage increase for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of September, 1923, weekly full-time rates of wages of adult workpeople, in the industries for which information is available, averaged about 70 per cent. above the level of August, 1914, as compared with 170 to 180 per cent. at the end of December, 1920, when wages generally were at their highest level. As considerable reductions in normal weekly working hours were made in nearly all industries in 1919 and 1920, the percentage increases in hourly rates of wages, since 1914, are substantially greater.

It should be observed that the above particulars relate to rates of wages for full-time working, and that no account is taken of the loss of earnings which is now being caused by unemployment and short-time working, or of the effects of increased or reduced exertion on the earnings of work-people paid at piece-rates of wages, as to which comprehensive statistics are not available.

GUIDE TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS.

The Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics have issued a Guide to current official statistics.† In an introductory note to the volume it is described as "the first attempt at a comprehensive survey of British official statistics."

The main body of the Guide is in two parts, the first taking each of the Government Departments in turn, and mentioning the publications, containing statistics, issued by each of these Departments; while the second part is a subject index, in which the publications are grouped (with many cross-references) under the appropriate subject headings.

In order to enhance the utility of the volume, a fairly broad interpretation of the term "statistics" has been adopted, and reference has been made, not only to those publications which contain aggregated numerical data exhibited in tabular form, but to such as include important lists of items capable of aggregation, bare statistical references in letterpress form to matters of general interest, accounts, and prepared tables having a statistical foundation. Volumes of a "research" character involving the application of statistical methods are also included.

\* The averages are based on the rates current in 26 towns in the Printing and Bookbinding and Baking Trades and in 17 towns in the Furniture Trade.  
† Guide to Current Official Statistics: First Issue (1922). H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1s. net.

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS, TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS, AND TRADES COUNCILS.

TRADE UNIONS.

In Tables which appear on page 383 statistics are given relating to the membership of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of 1922. The statistics are based on information collected by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for Northern Ireland, from Trade Unions registered under the Trade Union Acts, and by the Ministry of Labour from unregistered Unions. They relate to all employees' societies—including those of salaried and professional workers, as well as those of manual wage-earners—which are known to include among their functions that of negotiating with employers with the object of regulating the conditions of employment of their members.

As figures for the Irish Free State are not included in the statistics prepared by the Department for 1922, the figures for 1921 and for previous years have been revised so as to exclude societies whose headquarters are situated within the Free State. The figures now given, therefore, differ from those (relating to the United Kingdom) published in the September, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE.

The total number of societies, of the descriptions referred to above, known to the Department to have been in existence at the end of 1922, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 1,190, as compared with 1,241 at the end of 1921.

The total membership of the end of 1922 was approximately 5,580,000,\* as compared with 6,613,000 at the end of 1921, showing a decrease of 1,033,000, or nearly 16 per cent. The number of male members was approximately 4,712,000, showing a decrease of 898,000, or 16 per cent., as compared with the previous year, and the number of female members was about 868,000, showing a decrease of 135,000, or 13.5 per cent. The total of 5,580,000, however, includes about 29,000 members in Irish Free State branches and 67,000 members in other overseas branches of certain Unions, in addition to a number of persons (principally teachers) who are members of more than one society and are therefore counted more than once in the figures. When allowance is made for these cases, the net number of members in Great Britain and Northern Ireland appears to have been about 5,470,000 at the end of 1922, as compared with 6,490,000 at the end of 1921.

As shown by the following Table, the total membership rose from 4,133,000 in 1913 to 3,323,000 in 1920. During 1921-22 there was a heavy fall, but at the end of 1922 the male membership still showed an increase of over 1,000,000, or 27 per cent., and the female membership an increase of 435,000, or over 100 per cent., as compared with the end of 1913.

Year.	Number of Trade Unions at end of Year.	Membership at end of Year.* (000's omitted).			Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Total Membership of previous Year.
		Males.	F. males.	Total.	
1913	1,266	3,700	433	4,133	+ 21.0
1914	1,256	3,707	436	4,143	+ 0.2
1915	1,225	3,665	491	4,356	+ 5.1
1916	1,221	4,014	626	4,640	+ 6.5
1917	1,234	4,618	878	5,496	+ 18.4
1918	1,254	5,321	1,209	6,530	+ 18.8
1919	1,346	6,595	1,325	7,920	+ 21.3
1920	1,358	6,988	1,340	8,328	+ 5.2
1921	1,241	5,610	1,003	6,613	- 20.6
1922	1,190	4,712	868	5,580	- 15.6

In comparing the memberships shown for 1914-18 with those for 1913 and 1919-22, it should be observed that most Trade Unions included men serving with H.M. Forces in their returns of membership during the War, though there were many exceptions to this general practice.

REDUCTIONS IN 1922.

From the Tables given on page 383, it will be seen that the decrease in membership in 1922 affected nearly all the main groups of Trade Unions shown. The largest numerical decreases were in the groups of general labour (277,000), metal, engineering and shipbuilding (165,000), railway and other transport (111,000), and mining and quarrying (106,000). The largest percentage decreases were in the groups of builders' labourers (53 per cent.), agriculture (38 per cent.), furnishing (38 per cent.), and general labour (36 per cent.). In several groups the decreases were comparatively small, notably in the boot and shoe, "other" transport, cotton, and paper, printing, etc., groups, and the groups of carpenters and joiners and of iron and steel workers, in which cases the percentage decreases ranged between 2.5 and 7.5. In the teaching group there was an increase in membership of 3 per cent., and in the hosiery group an increase of 5 per cent.

\* The figures for 1922 are provisional and may be subject to slight revision when further information is available. The sub-division of the total membership into male and female is not exact, as estimates have been made for some Trade Unions which are unable to state precisely the numbers of males and of females comprised within their membership. The figures relate to Societies whose headquarters are situated in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and differ, therefore, as regards 1921 and previous years, from those published in the September, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, which related to all Societies in the United Kingdom.

In most of the groups of Trade Unions the percentage decrease in the female membership was greater than the corresponding decrease in the male membership. The cotton and teaching groups, however, in which females are more numerous than males and in which a large proportion of the total female membership of all Trade Unions is concentrated, were important exceptions to this rule, with the result that the total of all the groups of female membership showed, as mentioned above, a smaller proportional decrease than the total male membership.

COMPARISON WITH 1920 AND WITH 1913.

The second of the detailed Tables given on page 383 shows the total membership (also sub-divided into male and female) in the main groups of Trade Unions at the end of 1913 and of each of the years 1919-1922. In each of the groups shown, except teaching, the total membership in 1922 was much below that of 1920, the most noticeable decreases being shown in general labour (765,000 or 61 per cent.), agriculture (118,000 or 56 per cent.), commerce and finance (205,000 or 46 per cent.), building (193,000 or 34 per cent.), clothing (72,000 or 31 per cent.), railway and other transport (372,000 or 30 per cent.), metal, engineering and shipbuilding (303,000 or 27 per cent.), and mining and quarrying (311,000 or 27 per cent.). In comparison with 1913, however, each group of Trade Unions except mining and quarrying showed a marked increase. The largest numerical increase in comparison with 1913 was for the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group, which rose from 546,000 to 839,000 within the period. In the case of agriculture the membership increased from 21,000 to 93,000,\* and in the case of paper, printing, etc., it increased from 84,000 to 180,000.

The decrease in female membership in 1922, as compared with 1920, exceeded 40 per cent. in clothing and 60 per cent. in commerce and finance, and was over 70 per cent. in general labour. In the cotton group, however, the decrease was only 13 per cent., and in teaching there was an increase of 7 per cent. In comparison with 1913 the female membership in the cotton trade unions had increased by 40,000 (about 19 per cent.), at the end of 1922. In the commerce and finance, teaching and general labour groups it was more than double, and in the "other" textile, clothing, and public services groups it was nearly treble the 1913 figure. In the paper, printing, etc., group the female membership was 49,000 at the end of 1922, compared with 6,000 at the end of 1913, an increase of more than 700 per cent.

FEDERATIONS OF TRADE UNIONS.†

Returns obtained by the Department from Federations of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland show that at the end of 1922 their gross total membership, as represented by payment of fees, was approximately 6,286,000. Corresponding figures are given below for the end of each year since 1913 :-

Year.	Number of Federations.†	Approximate Gross Total Membership.†
1913	127	4,373,000
1914	139	4,733,000
1915	150	4,946,000
1916	164	4,982,000
1917	181	6,480,000
1918	151	8,630,000
1919	134	9,914,000
1920	114	10,818,000
1921	101	8,599,000
1922	90	6,286,000

The decline in the number of Federations between 1917 and 1922 is due mainly to the merging of local into national Federations.

As there are many cases in which particular Trade Unions, or branches of Trade Unions, are affiliated to more than one Federation, a large number of Trade Union members are counted more than once in the gross membership given above, which, for that reason, exceeds the total number of members of all Trade Unions. In the following Table the membership of each federated Trade Union is counted only once, irrespective of the number of Federations to which the Trade Union was affiliated. The Table shows, for the years 1913, 1921 and 1922 (a) the total membership (to the nearest thousand), in each group, of those Trade Unions (or of those sections or branches of Trade Unions) which were affiliated to Federations, and (b) the percentage proportion of federated membership to the total membership of each group as shown in the Table on page 383.

In most groups of Trade Unions the proportion of federated membership was higher in 1921 and 1922 than in 1913, the principal exception being the metal, engineering, etc., group, in which the largest Union, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, was not federated in 1921 and 1922, although in 1913 the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, which contributed the larger part of the membership of this Union on its formation, was affiliated to the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, and to the General Federation of Trade Unions. The most noticeable change in the proportion of federated membership in 1922 as compared with 1921 was in the commerce and finance group.

Among agricultural workers\* and teachers none of the unions were affiliated to Federations, and in the railway group two of the three largest unions were not federated. In the mining and quarrying group, on the other hand, the membership of Trade

\* Exclusive of agricultural workers organised in general labour unions. † See \* note in previous column.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN 1922.

The following particulars relating to Industrial Co-operative Societies have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the statutory returns (supplemented in a few cases by additional information) furnished to his Department. The figures relate only to such of the societies, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, as are primarily connected with industries other than agriculture, and are co-operative in character. Where necessary the figures quoted for 1921 have been adjusted in respect of information obtained since the publication of details for that year in the November, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE.

Up to and including the year 1920 the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of societies registered in Ireland.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The number of Industrial Co-operative Societies, as described above, in Great Britain in 1922, was approximately 1,540. The aggregate membership of these Societies at the end of 1922 was 4,499,000. Their sales in the year amounted to £257,312,000\*, and resulted in a net surplus (before deduction of interest on share capital) of £15,165,000. The total share, loan and reserve capital was £126,907,000. As compared with 1921 membership decreased by 60,000, or 1.3 per cent., while the capital was increased by £2,379,000. The increase of capital, however, was due entirely to deposits and loans received by the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, the capital of the Retail and Productive Societies being reduced by £1,354,000, or 1.4 per cent. Sales again showed a marked decrease, amounting to £71,091,000, or 21.6 per cent., and attributable no doubt to the continued trade depression and fall in prices. The latter factor alone, as measured by the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, would more than account for the decrease. The aggregate surplus on the year increased by £1,289,000, or 9.3 per cent. This improvement was wholly due to the Wholesale Societies, as the aggregate surplus of the Retail Societies showed a decrease of 21.9 per cent.

The total number of persons directly employed by Societies at the end of 1922 (excluding coolie labour employed in the English and Scottish Wholesales' Joint Tea, etc., Departments), was 180,239, or 5,503 less than in the preceding year. Their wages amounted to £25,336,000, a figure £4,053,000, or 13.8 per cent., less than that for 1921.

While some of the societies are engaged only in distribution and some only in production, others are engaged in both forms of industry. In the following statistics production and distribution are dealt with separately.

Production.

In 1922 there were 1,146 Industrial Co-operative Societies of various types engaged in production. The total number of persons employed in production by these societies was 71,093, the amount paid as wages during the year £9,630,000, and the value of the productions £62,609,000†. The corresponding figures for 1921 were—1,165 societies, 73,647 employees, £11,302,000 wages, and £82,496,000 value of productions. In the year under review, the societies comprised 1,000 retail societies, two wholesale societies, one corn-milling society, 51 breadmaking and other consumers' societies, and 92 associations of workers. Of the employees, 41,532 were men, 20,005 women, and 9,506 young persons under eighteen years of age.

In the following Table the value of productions of each group of societies, together with the totals for all societies, are shown for the years 1913-1922 :-

Year.	Value of Productions.					Grand Totals of all Societies.
	Associations of Consumers.					
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.		Productive Societies.		Associations of Workers.	
Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Corn Milling Societies.	Baking and other Consumers' Societies.			
1913	£ 14,692,632	£ 11,376,511	£ 1,003,579	£ 1,270,579	£ 1,732,337	£ 30,075,638
1914	15,705,336	12,790,390	1,035,044	1,291,950	1,778,664	32,601,387
1915	19,310,204	17,596,639	304,616	1,508,872	2,399,930	41,120,261
1916	22,865,734	22,120,357	241,894	1,784,125	2,592,210	49,574,320
1917	25,408,072	25,568,097	310,991	1,836,854	3,253,846	56,779,860
1918	23,833,206	24,910,938	254,673	1,871,021	3,687,060	54,696,876
1919	28,465,088	36,321,546	528,228	2,498,552	4,496,935	72,310,381
1920	38,376,634	48,072,892	354,301	2,988,323	5,403,814	95,196,964
1921	38,123,374	37,925,115	341,114	2,671,585	3,435,150	82,496,338
1922	29,980,520	27,619,886	239,080	2,088,326	2,671,345	62,609,157

\* Including Farm and Dairy produce valued at £1,512,000, and wholesale as well as retail sales.

† Including Farm and Dairy produce valued at £1,512,000.

‡ Up to and including the year 1920 the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of Societies registered in Ireland.

Unions not represented in any Federation was very small, all the principal miners' unions having been connected with the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, either by direct affiliation or through district Federations.

Group of Trade Unions.	Membership of Trade Unions affiliated to Federations. (000's omitted.)			Percentage Proportion of Federated Membership to Total Membership (as shown on page 383).		
	1913.	1921.	1922.	1913.	1921.	1922.
Agriculture*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Quarrying	905	948	835	98	100	99
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	523	591	469	96	59	56
Textile	422	691	629	81	96	96
Clothing (including Boot and Shoe)	97	149	139	91	83	84
Woodworking and Furnishing	55	94	78	92	91	93
Paper Printing, etc.	82	193	178	98	99	99
Building	96	457	370	39	97	98
Railway	32	61	51	10	12	12
Other Transport	298	437	393	81	89	88
Commerce and Finance	15	183	80	11	65	34
Public Administration Services	116	174	149	49	44	41
Teaching	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	47	136	111	46	68	67
General Labour	257	749	472	75	99	98
Totals	2,945	4,863	3,954	71	74	71

The Federations with the largest membership at the end of 1922 were the General Federation of Trade Unions, to which over 120 Trade Unions, representing many different trades, were affiliated, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, and the National Federation of General Workers. The gross membership of these four Federations was over three millions, but, apart from the Miners' Federation, each of the Federations referred to included in its membership a large number of workers who were also included in the membership of one or both of the other two bodies.

The Trades Union Congress, which in 1922 represented 171 organisations, and a total membership of over 5,100,000, has not been regarded as a federation for the purpose of the above statistics. Particulars of the 1923 Congress, with comparative statistics for 1922 and 1923, were given on p. 317 of the September issue of this GAZETTE.

TRADES COUNCILS.

At the end of 1922, the number of Trades Councils in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, known to the Department as existing wholly or partly for industrial purposes (including industrial sections of local Labour Parties), was 496, as compared with 520 in the previous year and 326 in 1913. A few Councils, existing solely for political purposes, are excluded from these figures. The total Trade Union membership represented for industrial purposes on these Councils through payment of fees by local Trade Union branches or by local Trade Unions, as shown by returns obtained by the Department from the Councils, was approximately 2,481,000 in 1922, compared with 2,870,000 in 1921, and with 1,490,000 in 1913. These figures represent about 44 per cent. of the total membership of Trade Unions in 1922 and 43 per cent. in 1921, as compared with 36 per cent. in 1913. It should be observed that the number of members in respect of whom fees are paid is frequently considerably less than the full membership of the Trade Union or the Trade Union branch affiliated.

The following Table shows the geographical distribution of these Councils in 1913, 1921 and 1922 :-

District.	Number of Trades Councils.			Total Trade Union Membership represented for industrial purposes, by payment of fees. (00's omitted.)		
	1913.	1921.	1922.	1913.	1921.	1922.
Northern Counties and Cleveland	14	24	22	60	114	102
Yorkshire (excluding Cleveland)	35	42	41	152	267	251
Lancashire, Cheshire and Isle of Man	57	72	71	403	601	553
N. and W. Midland Counties	53	79	75	266	545	472
S. Midland and E. Counties	38	81	74	73	234	180
London	17	23	24	103	279	249
South-Eastern Counties	28	55	53	46	135	106
South-Western Counties	14	33	30	21	88	71
Wales and Monmouthshire	35	63	57	122	220	173
Scotland	35	45	46	230	360	301
Northern Ireland	2	3	3	14	27	23
Totals, Great Britain and Northern Ireland	326	520	496	1,490	2,870	2,481

It will be seen that while, since 1913, the figures show a substantial increase in each area, the growth of Trades Councils has been specially marked in the South of England. The decline in membership in 1922 was, however, least marked in the North of England.

\* See note \* in the second column on page 358.

The decrease since 1914 in the productions of the corn milling societies was due to the absorption of several of these societies by the English Wholesale Society.

Between 1913 and 1920 the total value of productions was more than trebled, so that, even allowing for the increase in prices, a considerable expansion in production is indicated. The expansion was principally in the wholesale societies, where the value of productions had risen from £11,000,000 to more than £48,000,000, and the number of persons employed in production from over 20,000 to more than 35,000. In 1921, while the value of productions was maintained in the retail societies, there was a considerable reduction both in the wholesale distributive and in the productive societies. In 1922 each group showed a very substantial decrease. In the aggregate it amounted to nearly 20 millions sterling, or about 24 per cent. of the value in 1921. The number of workpeople employed by the wholesale societies on productive work remained practically the same as in 1921, and it is probable that the fall in the value of productions does not denote any decrease in the quantity of produce.

The following Table analyses, by groups of industries, the number of persons employed, the amount of wages paid and the value of productions in 1922:—

Groups of Industries.	Associations of Consumers.			Associations of Workers.		
	No. of Em-ployees	Wages	Value of Pro- ductions.	No. of Em-p'oyees.	Wages.	Value of Pro- ductions.
Food and Tobacco†	26,228	4,107,310	45,965,871	212	25,236	159,632
Clothing .. .. .	19,653	2,180,420	5,292,163	4,401	455,664	1,502,874
Soap, Candles and Starch .. .. .	1,392	259,669	2,410,030	—	—	—
Textiles .. .. .	3,257	304,873	1,368,143	876	92,561	461,447
Mining and Quarry- ing .. .. .	488	48,577	95,343	13	1,373	2,676
Building and Wood- working .. .. .	7,074	1,192,965	2,514,865	531	64,691	129,585
Printing .. .. .	2,641	372,929	1,044,932	958	163,671	320,308
Metal, Engineer- ing and Ship- building .. .. .	1,375	208,600	570,693	367	36,378	74,035
Other Industries ..	949	101,323	575,772	178	13,563	29,788
Totals 1922 .. ..	63,557	8,776,666	59,937,812	7,536	853,137	2,671,345
Totals 1921 .. ..	64,597	10,171,656	79,061,188	8,750	1,130,512	3,435,150
Percentage decrease	2.1	13.7	24.2	13.9	24.5	22.2

In 1922 the wholesale societies returned a surplus on production of £451,000, as against a loss of £994,000 for the preceding year. In addition credit was taken in 1922 for £180,000 profit on the joint account. The 144 productive societies returned a surplus of £236,000, or 32.8 per cent. more than in 1921. For retail distributive societies the corresponding figure is not ascertainable.

**Profit-sharing with Employees.**—Of the 1,146 societies engaged in industrial production, 78 employing 9,481 persons in production, with wages amounting to £1,275,500, allotted a sum of £48,721 to these employees as a bonus on wages in 1922, this being equivalent to 3.8 per cent. These figures represent considerable decreases on those for the previous year.

**Associations of Workers: Share of Employees in Membership, Capital and Management.**—Eighty-two of the 92 associations of workers, with sales amounting to £2,893,000, or 98 per cent. of the total sales of the associations at work, made returns showing the extent to which their employees shared in the membership, capital and management of the associations. The returns showed that the total membership of the associations in 1922 was 29,774, of whom 4,934, or 17 per cent., consisted of employees; 19,934, or 67 per cent., of other individuals; and 4,906, or 16 per cent., of other societies. Of the 7,431 persons employed by the associations, 56 per cent. were members of the associations employing them.

Of the £1,480,000 share and loan capital, £269,000, or 18 per cent., belonged to employees; £624,000, or 42 per cent., to other individuals (including loans from non-members and bank overdrafts), and £587,000, or 40 per cent., to other societies. The number of committeemen of the associations was 695, of whom 298, or 43 per cent., were employees of the associations, 267, or 39 per cent., were other individual members, and 130, or 18 per cent., were representatives of other (shareholding) societies.

#### Distribution.

At the end of 1922, 1,392 retail and two wholesale societies were engaged in distribution. These societies had an aggregate membership of 4,454,000, a total share, loan and reserve capital of £123,463,000; sales amounting to £251,713,000, and a surplus (before deducting interest on share capital) of £14,929,000. The total number of persons employed in distribution was 109,146, and their wages for the year were £15,707,000. The corresponding figures for 1921 were: Membership, 4,513,000; capital,

\* Exclusive of coolie labour employed in the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies Joint Tea, etc. Departments.

† Includes Farm and Dairy produce valued at £1,512,000 in respect of which there were 3,089 employees with wages of £344,000 for 1922; also figures for English and Scottish Wholesale Societies' Joint Tea, Coffee and Cocoa Departments.

£121,101,000; sales, £321,243,000, surplus £13,698,000; employees, 112,095, and wages £18,088,000.

In the following Table the sales for each of the years 1913-1922, are shown separately for the Retail and Wholesale Societies:—

Year.	Retail Societies.		Wholesale Societies.	
	Number.	Sales.	Sales of English Society.	Sales of Scottish Society.
1913 .. .. .	1,382	83,607,043	31,371,976	8,964,034
1914 .. .. .	1,385	87,979,898	34,910,815	9,425,394
1915 .. .. .	1,374	103,073,321	43,101,747	11,383,076
1916 .. .. .	1,364	121,553,932	52,230,074	14,499,037
1917 .. .. .	1,339	142,158,236	57,710,132	17,083,275
1918 .. .. .	1,342	155,532,902	65,167,960	19,216,763
1919 .. .. .	1,356	199,139,177	89,344,318	24,773,381
1920* .. .. .	1,491	245,406,124	106,439,623	29,559,314
1921* .. .. .	1,455	218,321,770	80,884,651	22,041,138
1922* .. .. .	1,392	168,793,221	65,904,312	17,009,251

**Profit-sharing with Employees.**—Of the total of 1,392 retail societies in 1922, 63 employing 11,973 persons and paying wages amounting to £1,634,000 in their distributive departments, allotted out of the surplus a total of £51,712 to their employees as a bonus upon wages, this being equivalent to 3.2 per cent. These figures represent considerable decreases on those for the previous year.

In consequence of the decreased surplus obtained in 1922, the Retail Societies distributed an average dividend of only 1s. 3½d. in the £, or 4d. less than in the preceding year. The Scottish Wholesale Society was able to return about 2½d. in the £ on its sales, but the English Wholesale Society again made no return.

## UNEMPLOYMENT GRANTS COMMITTEE: ASSISTANCE TO COMPANIES UNDERTAKING WORKS OF PUBLIC UTILITY.

As announced in Parliament, the Government have formulated proposals designed to provide employment in depressed industries by stimulating the acceleration of work by companies operating undertakings of a public utility character.

It has accordingly been decided to extend, to such companies as are prepared to commence during the coming winter works that would not otherwise be undertaken at the present time, financial assistance in respect of revenue-producing works similar to those undertaken by local authorities. Such works would include gas, water, electricity, tramways, docks, harbours and canals.

All applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Unemployment Grants Committee, 23, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W. 1.

The terms on which Government assistance will be granted to approved works are as follows:—

(1) Works which would not be proceeded with at the present time apart from the pressing need for relieving unemployment are alone eligible.

(2) The works in respect of which assistance is desired must be of a public utility character—e.g., gas, water and electricity, tramways, docks, harbours and canals.

(3) The works must be of such a nature as will afford employment during the coming winter in industries at present affected by severe unemployment.

(4) The Committee will require to satisfy themselves as to the reasonableness of the tender accepted for the works. It will be a condition of all contracts that the material employed shall be of British manufacture.

(5) Assistance will be limited to a maximum of 50 per cent. of the interest on the expenditure, as and when incurred, out of capital raised, and will normally be given only for the period during which the expenditure is not reasonably remunerative.

(6) The undertaking will normally be required to submit to such limitations as to the distribution of profits, etc., during the period of assistance as may be necessary to secure in the opinion of the Committee that no undue advantage is taken of such assistance. Each case will in this respect be considered separately upon its merits.

(7) The approval of the Committee will be required for the terms on which the capital is raised.

(8) The Committee will require to be satisfied in such manner as may be mutually arranged without interfering with the company's responsibility for the execution of the works that the work will be or is being satisfactorily carried out, and in accordance with the foregoing conditions.

\* Up to and including the year 1920, the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of Societies registered in Ireland.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF MINES DEPARTMENT FOR 1922.

THE Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines for the year 1922 has been issued.\* It embodies the annual Report of H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines for the same period.

### PRODUCTION.

The following Table shows the quantities of the principal classes of minerals raised or quarried (exclusive of the produce of quarries less than 20 ft. deep) in Great Britain and in the Isle of Man in 1922. The figures for 1913 and for 1921 are given for purposes of comparison; but it should be noted that these figures include the production in Ireland, which is excluded in 1922.

Mineral.	1913. (Thousands of Tons.)	1921. (Thousands of Tons.)	1922† (Thousands of Tons.)
Coal .. .. .	287,430	163,251	249,607
Iron ore and ironstone .. .. .	15,997	3,478	6,868
Non-ferrous ores (lead, tin, zinc, &c.) ..	63	9	15
China clay and china stone .. .. .	995	471	706
Gypsum .. .. .	295	265	257
Oil shale .. .. .	3,280	1,867	2,604
Potter's clay .. .. .	236	158	166
Salt .. .. .	2,248	1,383	1,871
Chalk .. .. .	4,858	3,434	3,024
Chert, flint, &c. .. .. .	75	46	54
Clay and shale .. .. .	10,135	8,348	6,408
Mica clay .. .. .	3	3	13
Fireclay .. .. .	2,586	1,353	1,824
Ganister and silica rock† .. .. .	312	247	280
Gravel and sand .. .. .	2,409	2,195	2,059
Moulding and pig-bed sand .. .. .	39	239	195
Igneous rocks .. .. .	7,098	5,701	5,928
Felsite, felspar, and felstone .. .. .	39	56	56
Limestone .. .. .	12,741	7,334	9,419
Calcaspar .. .. .	2	2	6
Sandstone (other than ganister and silica rock) .. .. .	3,666	1,845	2,140
Slate .. .. .	371	237	231

The total value at the mine or quarry of all minerals produced in Great Britain and Ireland and the Isle of Man in 1913 and in 1921 was £160,113,000 and £231,681,000, respectively; and the total value for Great Britain and the Isle of Man in 1922 was £237,814,000. Coal alone accounted for more than nine-tenths of the total value of all the minerals produced in all three years, viz., for £145,536,000 in 1913; £213,746,000 in 1921; and £219,998,000 in 1922.

### CONSUMPTION OF COAL.

The following Table shows the approximate distribution of the coal consumed in Great Britain and Ireland in 1921 and in 1922, i.e., the coal raised, plus the coal (or coal equivalent of coke) imported and retained, minus the coal (or coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel) exported or shipped as bunkers on foreign-going vessels:—

	1921. Thousand Tons.	1922. Thousand Tons.
Coke ovens (metallurgical coke) .. .. .	6,440	10,934
Gas works .. .. .	15,930	15,175
Manufactured fuel .. .. .	70	62
Electricity generating stations .. .. .	6,450	6,805
Railway companies (for locomotives) ..	10,797	12,586
Vessels engaged in coastwise trade (bunkers)	1,234	1,631
Blast furnaces (pig iron manufacture), exclusive of metallurgical coke included above .. .. .	651	948
Collieries: engine fuel .. .. .	13,697	16,245
Miners' coal .. .. .	4,853	5,821
Domestic use, general manufacture, and all other purposes .. .. .	69,007	92,063
Total .. .. .	123,179	162,270

The amount of raw coal available for domestic use in 1922 is estimated to have been about 35 million tons, leaving about 57 million tons available for general manufactures and for all other purposes. The corresponding figures for 1921 cannot be given.

### NUMBERS EMPLOYED.

The total number of persons ordinarily employed at mines and quarries in Great Britain and the Isle of Man in the years 1921 and 1922 is shown in the following Table:—

\* Published by H.M. Stationery Office. Price 6s. 6d. net.

† Excluding production in Ireland.

‡ Including, in 1921 and 1922, silica stone and silica sand when used as refractory materials in furnaces.

§ Except uranium ore and natural gas.

Persons Employed.	Employed in 1922 in getting—			Employed in 1921 (all minerals)*
	Coal.	Other Minerals.	Total.	
Underground (or inside at quarries)†:				
Under 16 years of age .. .. .	41,587	849	42,436	41,968
16 years of age and over .. .. .	880,150	59,662	939,812	926,927
Total, underground (†) ..	921,737	60,511	982,248	968,895
Above ground (or outside at quarries):				
Males—				
Under 16 years of age .. .. .	17,791	1,329	19,120	19,370
16 years of age and over .. .. .	203,002	36,754	239,756	236,589
Females .. .. .	5,939	930	6,878	7,238
Total, above ground, &c. ..	226,732	39,022	265,754	263,197
Total, underground and above ground .. .. .	1,148,469	99,533	1,248,002	1,232,092

The increase in 1922 as compared with 1921 was almost entirely in workpeople engaged in getting coal. There was a small increase in workpeople getting iron ore or iron stone, but a decrease in those getting non-ferrous metalliferous ores and in those getting other minerals (taken collectively).

### ACCIDENTS.

The number of persons killed at mines and quarries in 1922 was 1,160; and the number injured and incapacitated for more than seven days was 190,249. These figures show an increase of 345 and of 100,123, respectively, over 1921, one reason for the increase being that production at coal mines (and largely at other mines) was stopped for three months in 1921.

Particulars of the accidents at mines alone (excluding quarries) in the last two years are given in the following Table. The figures for 1921 include, while those for 1922 exclude, accidents in Ireland:—

Place or Cause of Accidents.	Persons Killed.		Persons Injured.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
Underground accidents:—				
Explosions of firedamp or coal dust .. .. .	19	73	50	105
Falls of ground .. .. .	386	553	31,082	63,148
Shaft accidents .. .. .	27	40	612	994
Haulage accidents .. .. .	170	212	17,575	45,976
Miscellaneous .. .. .	83	128	29,701	59,645
Total, underground accidents ..	690	1,066	79,020	170,868
Surface accidents:—				
On railways, sidings, or tramways .. .. .	41	51	2,110	4,256
Elsewhere .. .. .	37	67	5,758	11,264
Total, surface accidents ..	78	108	7,868	15,520
Total of all accidents ..	768	1,174	86,888	186,388

In commenting upon these figures the Chief Inspector suggests that they measure rather the extent to which accidents are reported than the extent to which accidents actually occur. Only a very small proportion (about 3 per cent.) of the non-fatal accidents are classed as "serious"; and the number of "serious" non-fatal accidents was actually lower, both numerically and in proportion to numbers employed, in 1922 than in 1921. The Report adds:—"So far as the figures reflect a greater appreciation of the necessity of reporting and getting skilled attention to minor injuries it is a satisfactory sign, as valuable lives are lost by failure to deal properly with small hurts."

### OPERATION OF COAL-MINING NATIONAL WAGES AGREEMENT.

The Report contains a section analysing in detail the working of the national Wages Agreement of July, 1921, for the coal-mining industry. The whole country is divided, for the purposes of that Agreement, into thirteen "districts," which differ widely in regard to the physical condition of the coal seams, the depth of the pits, mechanical equipment, regularity in working, etc. Hence the "costs other than wages" (which have to be deducted, under the Agreement, from the gross proceeds to arrive at the net proceeds, available for distribution under the Agreement), vary widely, viz., from 5s. 1½d. per ton commercially disposable in the Eastern district (Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Cannock Chase) to 7s. 7d. in South Wales and Monmouthshire. For similar reasons, and to an even greater extent, does the output of coal per man-shift vary as between one district and another, viz., from 11.13 cwt. in the Bristol district to 20.42 cwt. in the Eastern district. It will be seen that the Eastern district (which is the largest of all the districts, employing 339,200 workpeople on the average, or 30 per cent. of the total for the whole country) had the lowest charge for "costs other than wages" and the highest rate of output per man-shift

\* The figures for 1921 include Ireland.

† Males only, except for 68 females (in both years) employed inside quarries.

of any district in the country. It was therefore able to sell its coal at a relatively low price (18s. 11d. per ton, as compared with an average of 19s. 2½d. for the country as a whole); and at the same time the value of wages under the purely profit-sharing provisions of the agreement (i.e., irrespective of the additions due to the guaranteed minimum percentage) averaged 11s. per shift, as compared with 8s. 11½d. for the next most favourably situated district. The Report sums up the effect of the Agreement in this regard by saying that "since . . . greater productivity and lower prices commonly go hand in hand, the capacity of districts to pay wages varied roughly in inverse ratio with the prices that they obtained for their coal."

The effect of the guaranteed wages clause of the Agreement, however, was to throw the operation of the Agreement—regarded as a "profit-sharing" arrangement—out of gear. All the districts were on their guaranteed minimum percentage in August, 1922, and many of them were on the minimum for many months; some, including the important district of South Wales and Monmouthshire, for the whole year. The average value of earnings at the minimum percentage varied considerably from one district to another. Hence arises the anomaly that in Kent, for example, where the employers sustained, on the average, a loss of 3s. 2½d. per ton commercially disposable, the workpeople received the highest average wages of any district, viz. 12s. 9½d. per man-shift. The Report summarises the position in this regard as follows:—

"In no district did profits receive the agreed share of the 'net proceeds' . . . and in some districts the 'net proceeds' had to be largely supplemented in order to meet the cost of wages 'alone' . . . Whereas when the main principles of the Agreement are in operation profits and wages vary in direct ratio, when the minimum wage clause is in operation they vary in inverse ratio. For whereas in the one case the governing factor is the proceeds realised, in the other it is the wages that must be paid. . . . The minimum wage in many districts, in the circumstances of 1922, constituted at the same time a lamentably inadequate remuneration of labour, and a formidable drain on the owners' resources."

#### OTHER SUBJECTS.

The Report also contains a general review of the coal mining industry in 1922, and sections dealing with colliery developments and housing; statutory drainage schemes; the Miners' Welfare Fund\*; oil borings in Great Britain; health and safety in the mining and quarrying industries†; and a large number of statistical tables and charts, etc.

### SAFETY IN MINES RESEARCH BOARD.

THE First Report of the Safety in Mines Research Board has been issued,‡ covering the period from the appointment of the Board (11th July, 1921) to the 31st December, 1922.

The Board was appointed to direct generally the work of research of the Mines Department into the causes of mining dangers and the means for preventing such dangers, and to undertake the re-organisation of the existing arrangements for carrying out such work at the Mines Department Experimental Station; and, in addition, the Miners' Welfare Committee has deputed to the Board the duty of advising on applications for grants from the Miners' Welfare Fund\* in respect of mining research work.

Part I. of the Report is chiefly concerned with the activities of the Board in regard to research work. During the period covered by this Report the principal allocations made by the Miners' Welfare Committee for the work of the Board were:—

Coal dust and safety lamp researches . . . . .	£12,000
Explosives in mines research . . . . .	10,000
Control of atmospheric conditions in deep and hot mines research . . . . .	1,000

The Board came to the conclusion that the research work to be continued, or put in hand as soon as possible, fell into the following groups:—*Safety researches*: Permitted explosives; mechanical appliances; support of underground workings; coal dust explosions, and the ignition of coal dust; firedamp explosions, and the ignition of firedamp; spontaneous combustion of coal; and flame-proof mining machinery and electrical researches. *Health researches*: Miners' nystagmus; beat hand and beat knee; enquiry in regard to morbidity statistics; effects of stone dust on mine workers; and control of atmospheric conditions in deep and hot mines.

The action taken and the conclusions arrived at in regard to these subjects are set out in the Report.

Part II. of the Report deals with the reorganisation of the Mines Department Experimental Station at Eskmeals. The Board decided that the best, and in the long run possibly the most economical, course would be, to abandon the Eskmeals Station and erect a new station elsewhere. At the date of the Report a suitable site had not been found, and it was decided that the work should be carried on partly at Eskmeals, the necessary additions to plant and buildings being made on a

\* See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for September, page 323.  
† See also First Report of Safety in Mines Research Board, reviewed in the next article on this page.  
‡ First Report of the Safety in Mines Research Board. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 9d. net.

temporary basis, and partly (in the case of a large part of the small-scale work) at some place or places in close proximity to a centre of learning, and as accessible as possible to the industry.

Part III. of the Report is concerned with the principles followed by the Board in advising the Miners' Welfare Committee in regard to applications for grants in respect of health and safety research work. It is the endeavour of the Board, in giving such advice, to co-ordinate, so far as practicable, all the research work on the health and safety problems of the coal mining industry, which is to be carried out or assisted by grants from that Committee; and to avoid duplication of such work, except in so far as duplication is clearly necessary or desirable in the interests of research, the Board have appointed a Committee, of which the assessors for the two other bodies making grants in aid of research work (the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Medical Research Council) are members, to consider all applications for assistance for health and safety research in coal mining.

A Note on mining accidents, appended to the Report, points out that, in the ten years ended 1920, the number of persons killed in mines under the Coal Mines Act was only three-sevenths of the number killed during the ten years 1873-82, when allowance is made for the difference in numbers employed.

The principal causes of mining accidents are (i.) mechanical causes, (ii.) personal or human causes, and (iii.) what may be called "natural" causes, such as pressure of overburden, the presence of poisonous or inflammable gas, and the absence of light. The following Table shows the reduction in certain classes of accidents in all classes of mines due to (a) "natural" and (b) mechanical causes:—

	Accidents per million persons employed.	
	1873-82. (average)	1922.
<i>Natural causes:</i>		
Falls of ground . . . . .	1,112	586
Explosions of fire damp or coal dust . . . . .	610	78
<i>Mechanical causes:—</i>		
Shaft accidents . . . . .	352	42
Haulage accidents below ground . . . . .	296	225
Other accidents below ground . . . . .	193	135

The note calls attention to the great disparity in the figures for explosions and for shaft accidents as compared with those for haulage accidents and for other accidents below ground, and attributes this to the much greater influence of the personal factor in the latter case. "Any large reductions in losses in the future," it is suggested, "will come mainly from the effects of such movements as the 'Safety First' movement, although research and improvements in mining practice should also contribute to this end."

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

DURING the four weeks ended 29th September, 1923, twelve meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and one meeting of an Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee were reported to the Ministry of Labour. A number of meetings of District Councils and Sub-Committees were also reported to have been held.

The Research, Inventions and Designs Committee of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Pottery Industry is considering the welfare of workpeople in pottery works, the use of low solubility glaze, the most efficient method of collecting flint dust, and factory lighting. First-aid classes in this industry have been resumed for the session in various centres.

Among other questions discussed at meetings of various Councils are: holidays with pay; grading schemes; sick leave with pay; applications for increased rates; and the Bill to make provision for the employment and maintenance of disabled ex-Service men, which was recently presented to the House of Commons.

### EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

#### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 25th September, 1923, the number of men in training was 11,344, and the number awaiting training 6,506. Since 1st August, 1919, 76,595 men have terminated training.

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

On the 29th September, 1923, the names of 27,956 employers were entered upon the King's National Roll.

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.

### SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1923.

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, 1923, amounted to 1,271,195 tons, as compared with 1,337,759 tons at the end of June, 1923, and 1,617,045 tons at the end of September, 1922. These figures include a considerable amount of tonnage (about 242,000 tons at the end of September, 1923) on which work had been suspended; and, when allowance is made for this, the tonnage actually under construction at 30th September, 1923, amounted to 1,029,000 tons, which figure is the lowest recorded in the Society's returns for a period of nearly 14 years. The average tonnage building during the 12 months immediately preceding the war was 1,890,000 tons.

The tonnage commenced during the September quarter showed a considerable decrease, amounting to 111,860 tons, as compared with 241,283 tons during the previous quarter.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels under 100 tons gross.

### PROFIT-SHARING IN FRANCE.

THE French Ministry of Labour has published\* the results of an inquiry into the extent to which profit-sharing is practised in France. The inquiry was undertaken in order to assist the Higher Council of Labour in the consideration, during its November session this year, of the question whether profit-sharing should be made compulsory, several private Bills to this effect having been laid before the French Parliament. The report is divided into two parts:

(1) dealing with profit-sharing consequent upon existing legislation; and  
(2) dealing with profit-sharing consequent upon private initiative.

(1) There is no French legislation on profit-sharing applying generally to industrial and commercial enterprises, but it is provided for in three special instances.

(a) An Act dated 18th December, 1915, made profit-sharing compulsory for workers' co-operative production societies formed under the Act, and entitled, therefore, to the State encouragement provided for therein. Information regarding 328 such societies shows that they employ 12,000 workers, about one-half of whom are members. The share in the profits varies from 25 to 75 per cent., the commonest rates being from 25 to 30 per cent. The profits distributed in 1920 by 195 societies amounted to 3,896,458 francs, divided among 9,239 manual and non-manual workers. The average shares of each worker employed the whole year ranged from 110 francs in societies engaged in the clothing industry to 1,000 francs in glass and porcelain societies.

(b) An Act of 26th April, 1917, legislated for the permissive creation of joint-stock companies with labour co-partnership in the form of labour shares. Eleven companies of the kind have been established under this Act; six of these are actually carried on as joint-stock companies with labour co-partnership, but their creation is said to be of too recent a date to permit of any judgment on the results.

(c) An Act of 9th September, 1919, made profit-sharing a condition of all mining concessions granted thereafter. There are 51 such concessions. The State and the staffs share in the profits, after interest on the capital has been paid, on a scale laid down in the concession, the staff taking 25 per cent. of the amount. (2) The inquiry covered 168 establishments notified as having introduced profit-sharing by private initiative; 93 of these were rejected as not complying even with a very broad definition of profit-sharing. The remaining 75 undertakings employed 102,000 manual and non-manual workers. In more than one-third of the cases the adoption of profit-sharing was subsequent to the year 1919. The share in the profits varies from 5 to 70 per cent. and more; rates of 6 to 20 per cent. being commonest. Information regarding 62 establishments employing 99,550 workers indicates that in 1921, nine of them, employing 63,050 workers, realised no profits, and there was consequently no distribution. Fifty-three establishments, employing 36,500 workers, distributed 25,743,000 francs among 20,415 workers, an average of 1,260 francs for each participant. The actual amounts varied between a minimum of 24 and a maximum of 4,169 francs.

On the whole, profit-sharing, it is said, would appear to be on the decline. Records show that at the exhibition of 1889 120 firms were admitted in the profit-sharing class. In 1893 there was an estimated number of 145 schemes. In 1901 this number was reduced to 88. As indicated above, the number of effective schemes in 1921 about which it was possible to obtain information was 53. But, it is added, the number of schemes held to be in operation will depend on the criterion adopted in the definition of the word "profit-sharing."†

\* *Enquête sur la Participation aux Bénéfices*. Published by the Ministère du Travail, Paris, 1923.

† According to the definition of "Profit-Sharing" formulated by the International Congress on Profit-Sharing held in Paris in 1889, and subsequently endorsed by several other International Congresses, the term should be applied only to those cases in which "an employer agrees with his employees that they shall receive, in partial remuneration of their labour, and in addition to their wages, a share, fixed beforehand, in the profits realised by the undertaking to which the scheme relates." The definition adopted by the French Ministry of Labour is not stated, however.

### GERMAN TRADE BOARDS: EXTENSION OF POWERS.\*

AN Act was passed on 27th June last to amend the Outwork Act of 20th December, 1911, which aimed at protecting outworkers by various measures, including the establishment of Trade Boards.† The functions of the original Boards were merely to investigate and report on conditions prevailing and to give advice and assistance in the preparation of new wage lists and improvements in conditions. The new Act, in addition to these functions, empowers the Boards to fix wage rates for outworkers under certain conditions. If in their trade or district obviously inadequate rates are being paid to outworkers, and if it is found impossible to conclude an agreement between employers and workers for the introduction of adequate rates, the Trade Boards may either declare the rates fixed by an existing collective agreement to be binding for the whole trade or district, or may themselves fix minimum rates. Inadequate rates are defined as rates which do not permit a worker in normal working hours, when engaged on work for which he is qualified and which is "rationally organised,"‡ to earn the wages customary in the locality, or which are lower than wages paid for the same work in other districts with similar economic conditions, or than those paid in the same district in factories and workshops for similar work. (This is an amendment of the provisions of the Bill which was noted in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1922, page 290.) Provision is also made for fixing rates common to several Trade Board districts in order to avoid unfair competition.

The Act lays down as principles (a) that the first step towards the fixing of minimum rates should always take the form of an attempt to conclude a collective agreement; (b) that as far as possible the rates fixed should be piece rates; and (c) that a reasonable time must elapse between the announcement of the fixing of minimum rates and their coming into force.

Under the original Act the Boards were set up by the Federal Council. In the new Act they are to be established by the Federal Minister of Labour, with the approval of the Reichsrat, and after consultation with the trade associations and statutory representative bodies of employers and workers. Trade associations of employers and workers may themselves demand the establishment of a Trade Board, and effect must be given to their demand. Trade associations, if their membership includes a considerable number of outworkers or of employers employing outworkers, may also demand that a Trade Board shall start procedure for the fixing of minimum rates. The Chairman of the Board is bound to include this demand in the agenda of a meeting to be called within a period of four weeks.

Employers paying less than the minimum rates render themselves liable not only to payment of the arrears of such rates to the worker, but also, in certain circumstances, to a fine. The fine may not exceed five times the deficit in the rates, unless the employer has already been fined twice, when it may amount to ten times the deficit.

A new clause makes it obligatory on all persons to accept office either as an "appointed" or an ordinary member of a Trade Board, with a few exceptions, such as (a) women whose household or maternal duties make it impossible; (b) persons over 65; (c) persons incapacitated by illness; (d) persons already filling a large number of public offices. Members who resign without good reason, or who are absent from meetings, or otherwise neglect their duties without adequate excuse, are also liable to be fined.

By another new clause the protection afforded by the Act to homeworkers is to be extended, if need exists, to small masters and middlemen, if the greater part of their earnings is derived from their own manual work. Rates fixed for these must be sufficient to enable them to pay the fixed minimum rates to the workers they employ.

The Act comes into force on 1st January, 1924.

### SUPPRESSION OF TRADE UNIONS IN GREECE.

H.M. COMMERCIAL SECRETARY at Athens transmits a translation of the text of a "Revolutionary Decision" of the Greek Government, dated 20th August, 1923, by which all legally recognised trade unions and trade union federations are declared to be non-existent on and from the date of the Decision, and are to be dissolved by Royal Decrees on the advice of the Greek Government. The public prosecuting authorities are to take over all trade union archives, books and registers, and their funds are to be deposited, under the care of the same authorities, with the National Bank of Greece, in an account in favour of the Workers' Provident Fund. Legally recognised Workers' Benefit Societies are excluded from the scope of this Decision.

### REDUCTION OF WAGES IN HOLLAND, 1921-23.

THE monthly journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office for August contains information on the reductions in wages which have been effected in collective agreements for a number of trades between July, 1921, and July, 1923. When not otherwise stated the figures relate to the whole country. It should be noted that during this period an Act of 20th May, 1922, permitted the replacing of the 45-hour week provided for under

\* Text of Act in *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 16th July, 1923.

† For a summary of the provisions of the main Act see *Board of Trade Labour Gazette*, January, 1912, page 7.

‡ Presumably, *e.g.*, work organised in such a way as to secure continuous employment throughout the day.

the 1919 Labour Act by a 48-hour week; in several trades where this was done weekly wages remained unchanged, so that, while no decrease appears in the Table below, yet, as a result of this measure, hourly rates were in effect reduced.

The figures in the second and fourth columns show the percentage reduction in the minimum weekly wages of skilled workers in July, 1923, as compared with July, 1921:—

Trade.	Percentage Reduction.	Trade.	Percentage Reduction.
Builders .. .. .	3½ to 11	Seamen (Rotterdam) ..	circa 30
Plumbers (Amsterdam, The Hague, Haarlem, Rotterdam) .. .. .	7 to 13	Dredger-men .. .. .	20
Housepainters .. .. .	11 to 18	Lithographers and photo-engravers .. .. .	5
Stonecutters .. .. .	6 to 14	Printers .. .. .	6 to 9
Plasterers .. .. .	5	Bookbinders .. .. .	6 to 8
Heating Apparatus Fitters	13	Woodworkers .. .. .	5 to 14
Coalmining (Limburg):—	8	Cabinetmakers .. .. .	12
Underground workers ..	14	Bakers .. .. .	3
Surface workers .. .. .	14	Brewers (Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam) ..	No change
Men's Clothing workers ..	5 to 6	Cigarmaking:—	15
Boot and shoe makers:—	10	Sorters .. .. .	4 to 27
Factory .. .. .	18	Makers .. .. .	7
Workshop .. .. .		Bulb Trade Workers ..	
Furriers .. .. .			
Dock and Transport Workers (Rotterdam) ..			

**CHANGES OF WAGES IN DENMARK: FIRST QUARTER OF 1923.**

THE issue for 20th September, 1923, of the journal (*Statistiske Efterretninger*) of the Danish Statistical Department, contains statistics of wages for the first quarter of 1923, compiled from returns furnished by the Danish Employers' Association. The data relate to a number of trades which, it is stated, are sufficient to be regarded as representative of manufactures and handicrafts generally. (For corresponding figures for the fourth quarter of 1922 see MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1923, p. 242.)

The number of people covered by the latest returns is approximately 97,000, and the industries most strongly represented are metal and engineering (23,600), building (11,200), food preparation (10,100), textile (8,100), pottery, glass and stone (8,000) and printing and paper (6,400).

The general result of the computation shows that, if the country be taken as a whole, the average hourly earnings in the industries covered were 1.34 kroner (as compared with 1.42 kroner in the fourth quarter of 1922), and that they were 167 per cent. above the level of 1914. For skilled workmen the average hourly earnings decreased from 1.74 kroner in the fourth quarter of 1922 to 1.66 kroner in the first quarter of 1923, and those for unskilled decreased from 1.41 kroner to 1.33 kroner. The average hourly earnings of female workers during the same period decreased from 0.90 krone to 0.85 krone.

**REGULATION OF STRIKES IN SPAIN.**

H.M. AMBASSADOR at Madrid transmits a translation of the text of a Royal Decree, published in the official Gazette of 31st August, 1923, which lays down rules for the regulation of strikes. The Decree applies to all industrial undertakings employing more than 300 persons, including public services and banks. The Institute of Social Reforms will keep a register of all such concerns, with full particulars of the managers and directors thereof and of all agreements with the staff. Changes in these particulars must be reported within fifteen days; and each January a statement of increases or decreases in the staff must be sent to the Institute.

Membership of legally constituted trade unions and collective demands regarding conditions of labour must be recognised by employers. Every demand made by the workers must be agreed upon by the workers at a formal meeting, rules for the conduct of which have been laid down. If within three days the employer has not replied to a demand, or if relations between the parties are broken off, the competent authority must be informed. If either side refuses to nominate representatives on a Joint Strike Committee their places will be filled by members from the same side of the Local Committee of Social Reforms.

The Institute of Social Reforms, which may at any moment nominate expert advisers, will investigate the dispute and report upon it to the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industry, which will take such action as is considered conducive to a settlement. If the efforts of the Authorities fail, the Joint Strike Committee will meet once a fortnight with a view to arriving at a settlement.

**DECASUALISATION OF DOCK LABOUR AT HAMBURG.\***

DURING 1922 the ports of Hamburg and Harburg employed an average of 20,721 workers a day, as compared with an average of 15,628 in 1921.

These are divided into three classes—the regular workers, the part-time workers (*Kurzarbeiter*) and the casual workers. The first two groups comprise the workers who are employed regularly, the former being engaged by a particular firm and working

\* Belgian *Revue du Travail*, 30th April and 30th June, 1923. Compare similar information for the Ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for June and July, 1923.

only for that firm, the latter being engaged by the *Hafenbetriebsverein*, an employers' association, which distributes them among the various firms as required. They are called "part-time workers," because the *Hafenbetriebsverein*, having undertaken to give them more or less steady work, divides among them the daily jobs. Thus they do not work every day, but are assured of several days' work a week. The employers complain that this assurance prevents them from working to their full capacity. These part-time workers have the further advantage of being members of the statutory sickness and invalidity funds. The casual workers, as the name implies, are unemployed who are sent to the Port by the Employment Exchanges, and who get an occasional day's work.

In 1922, 9,800 permanent, 6,400 part-time and 8,900 casual workers were employed at the Port of Hamburg.

The "part-time" system was instituted in the spring of 1920, when unemployment was very general among dock workers, on the demand of the Transport Workers' Union. Members of the Union in need of work received a yellow card from a special employment exchange administered by equal numbers of representatives of employers and workers. Employers were bound to inform this exchange of all workers required, and the exchange distributed the work among holders of yellow cards in a fixed order. These yellow card holders were not bound by any contract; they were free to accept or refuse any work offered to them. If the work did not suit them, they could give it up at any moment. On the other hand, if any yellow card holder applied for work, the exchange could insist that the employer should find work for him by dismissing any worker not holding a yellow card. The employers complained that this freedom of the worker caused insubordination and careless and irregular work, and in November, 1921, the employers obtained the right of choosing from among the workers sent to them by the special exchange those who seemed most suitable for the work. At the present time it would appear that work is distributed by the *Hafenbetriebsverein* and not by the special exchange, but the information on this point is not quite clear.

**UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND DURING RECENT MONTHS.**

FROM figures published in the August and September numbers of *Die Kurve* (a Swiss monthly economic periodical), it would appear that unemployment in Switzerland since the beginning of the current year has diminished in the proportions indicated by the following figures:—

Date	No. of totally unemployed.	Percentage of total number of workers.
31st January .. .. .	56,275	6.4
28th February .. .. .	52,754	6.0
31st March .. .. .	44,909	5.1
30th April .. .. .	35,512	4.1
31st May .. .. .	30,228	3.5
30th June .. .. .	25,583	3.0
31st July .. .. .	22,722	2.6
31st August .. .. .	22,554	2.6

The numbers of unemployed are those published by the Federal Labour Office, and the percentages are calculated on the basis of a total of 875,000 manual and non-manual workers, enumerated at the Census of 1910. It is pointed out that the numbers of unemployed published by the Federal Labour Office do not represent the total amount of unemployment in Switzerland. On the other hand, the total number of workers as recorded by the 1910 Census is less than the number now present in Switzerland. Consequently the percentages given can be accepted as affording only an approximately complete measure of the extent of unemployment at any given date, although it is probable that they reflect with some accuracy the changes in the incidence of unemployment in the Confederation since the beginning of 1923.

In elucidation of these figures, it is stated that, during the months of May, June and July, the Employment Exchanges registered on an average three applications for employment for each situation offered by employers. The corresponding average figures for 1913, 1921 and 1922 are 2.1, 6.3 and 5.8 respectively. It would appear, therefore, that in the months indicated the ratio of applications to offers was about one and a half times that for the year 1913, and about half of the average ratio for the years 1921 and 1922. In August the average number of applicants for each vacancy offered was 3.5.

Among the measures adopted by the Swiss Government to relieve unemployment and, at the same time, to restore normal economic conditions, the grant of subsidies, in the form of export credits, to the watch-making industry\* appears to have been fairly successful. According to information furnished by H.M. Commercial Secretary at Berne, 34,547 applications for subsidies, on a total export value of about 83½ million francs, had been made up to 31st July, 1923. The total number of applications in respect of which subsidies had been granted up to the same date was 27,450, representing a total export value of over 54 million francs, and a total sum, in subsidies paid out by the Swiss Confederation, of nearly 8½ million francs. There is a presumption that the reduction of the number of totally unemployed in the industry, from 20,525 in October, 1921, to 2,188 at the end of July, 1923, is largely due to these operations.

\* See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1921, page 629, and November, 1922, page 441.

**DETERMINATION OF WAGES BY STATE AUTHORITIES IN THE UNITED STATES: RECENT JUDICIAL DECISIONS.**

Two interesting decisions on the constitutionality of the regulation of wages by State Authorities have recently been given by the Supreme Court of the United States, one relating to the District of Columbia and the other to the State of Kansas. An account follows of the more interesting points in each case.

(a) *District of Columbia: Minimum Wage Law.*

In 1918 Congress passed an Act providing for the fixing of minimum wages for women and child workers in the District of Columbia. It established a Minimum Wage Board on which employers, workers and the public were represented, with power, after investigation and public hearing, to fix in certain industries minimum wages sufficient to safeguard the health and morals of the workers. On 9th April of this year the Supreme Court, by a majority of five to three, declared the Act (which affects about 12,000 women), and, indeed, the whole principle of minimum wage regulation, to be unconstitutional, mainly because it violates the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution by "depriving persons of property without due process of law," the property involved being the right to make a contract to pay whatever wage is satisfactory to both parties.

It should be noted that Congress alone has power to legislate for the District of Columbia, and that in this case Congress was in the position of a State Legislature making laws for its own territory. The Supreme Court decision has thus given rise to considerable uncertainty as to the fate of existing and future State minimum wage legislation. According to well-informed American opinion, the position is doubtful. Minimum wage laws had earlier been attacked as unconstitutional, but the principle had been upheld by the United States Supreme Court in the Oregon case in 1917. The Oregon Minimum Wage Act had been assailed as exceeding the police powers of the State and as violating the "equal protection clause, the privileges and immunities clause and the due process of law clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." In 1914 the Supreme Court of Oregon sustained the constitutionality of the Act on the grounds, *inter alia*, "that it is within the police power of the State to provide for the protection of the health, morals and welfare of women and children"; and, as regards the Fourteenth Amendment, "that the right to labour for such hours or at such wages as would reasonably seem to be detrimental to the health or welfare of the community, is not a privilege or immunity of any citizen." This decision was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in 1917 by an equal vote.

The District of Columbia decision would appear to reverse the Oregon decision, and logically should invalidate all existing State wage-regulating legislation, since, though the Fifth Amendment applies only to Congressional action, the Fourteenth Amendment contains a limitation on State action in almost exactly the same terms. But the general opinion appears to be that it is impossible at present to forecast the fate of future and existing minimum wage legislation in the light of the District of Columbia decision. The practical position is that the States do not consider that their laws have been invalidated, and will proceed to enforce them as before, until the matter has been brought to a final test. But it seems certain that the further extension of this kind of legislation will be affected, as State Legislatures are unlikely to pass new laws while the constitutional position remains so doubtful.

(b) *State of Kansas: Court of Industrial Relations.*

The second decision given by the United States Supreme Court on the 11th June declared the action of the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations\* in regulating wages and hours of labour in a certain case to be unconstitutional. The case originated in a protest made to the Court by a Meat Cutters' Union in January, 1921, against the wages paid by a certain company. The Kansas Court investigated the matter and fixed higher rates, which the company refused to pay. The State Supreme Court, to whom the matter was referred, sustained the action of the Industrial Court, but the United States Supreme Court reversed it by a unanimous decision. The decision declares against all regulation of wages by State Authorities except in certain special industries "affected with a public interest." It maintains that the preparation of food is not so affected, and that therefore the decision of the Industrial Court in this case is in conflict with the Fourteenth Amendment, and deprives the company in question of its property and liberty of contract without due process of law. The decision, though it declares that "the case involves the validity of the Court," does not apparently invalidate the

\* The Kansas Industrial Court Act was passed on 24th January, 1920, after a coal strike, in spite of the opposition of both Capital and Labour. It was an attempt to bring about agreement between these two forces, not by a joint organisation, but by a neutral authority. The Court of Industrial Relations thus established consists of three judges appointed by the State Governor on the advice of the Senate, with arbitrary powers to enforce continuation of essential industries (i.e., those connected with food, clothes, fuel and transport). Disputes in these industries must be, and others may be, referred to the Court. It has power to intervene on its own initiative in essential industries where the public welfare is endangered, and in case of cessation of operations, to assume control of the industry. The Act recognises the right of collective bargaining and the right of the worker to cease work, but does not allow picketing or incitement to strike. Union leaders who call a strike and employers who close down in an essential industry are liable to imprisonment and confiscation of property. The Court was given extensive rights of investigation and decision; it can also fix the price of farm produce and manufactured goods and can modify agreements. Its decisions are binding under penalty of fine or imprisonment. Appeal is allowed to the Supreme Court of Kansas, pending whose decision production must be continued.

Act itself; but by stating that the Act curtails the liberty of the individual protected by the guarantee of the "due process" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which liberty can only be curtailed in exceptional circumstances, and by denying that all the industries specified in the Act as essential (except transport in certain cases), are sufficiently clothed with public interest to justify public regulation, the decision limits the activities of the Court to such an extent that it will have no real effectiveness in future. This would appear to be the view of the Governor of Kansas. He had previously pronounced in favour of the abolition of the Court, and after the Supreme Court decision, according to the *American Federationist* for August, wrote to the judges of the Court suggesting that they should resign, seeing that the decision had made the Court quite ineffective. The judges are reported to have refused to resign.

**THE HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES: WAGES AND HOURS, 1911 TO 1922.**

THE United States Bureau of Labour Statistics has recently completed a survey of the wages and hours of labour in the hosiery and underwear industry of that country. The results of the enquiry are contained in Bulletin No. 328, recently published by the Bureau.

The data were obtained from establishments engaged wholly or chiefly in the manufacture of hosiery or underwear, or both, and were extracted from the pay sheets of the various establishments by officers of the Bureau. The establishments from which information was thus obtained in 1922 numbered 103, in sixteen different States. The number of employees covered by the survey comprised more than twenty per cent. of the total engaged in the industry in the States represented.

The figures for 1922 given in Table below refer to conditions prevailing in July, August, September or October of that year. The information shows the average full time hours worked per week and the average earnings per hour and per week. Index numbers are added showing the average full time earnings per week in the years 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1919 and 1922. Wages data were not collected for the years 1915 to 1918, and 1920 and 1921.

Occupation and Sex.	Average full time Hours per Week, 1922.	Average Earnings per Hour, 1922.	Average full time Earnings per Week, 1922.	Index Numbers of Average Full Time Earnings per Week. (1913 = 100.)									
				1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1919.	1922.				
<i>Males.</i>													
Boards hosiery and underwear ..	51.3	462	23.70	83	93	100	104	194	195				
Cutters, hand, underwear .. .. .	51.7	431	22.28	94	87	100	95	139	158				
Knitters, footers or toppers, hosiery ..	54.5	706	38.48	97	103	100	97	187	444				
Knitters, full-fashioned hosiery ..	52.3	832	43.51	—	—	100	104	154	272				
Knitters, "lady hose" ..	52.1	451	23.59	93	97	100	102	—	218				
Do. rib, hosiery ..	52.1	326	16.98	95	96	100	95	—	149				
Do. web or tube, underwear ..	51.8	448	23.21	89	94	100	93	157	169				
Pressers, hosiery and underwear ..	51.4	372	19.12	93	90	100	102	193	165				
<i>Females.</i>													
Buttonhole makers, underwear ..	50.4	321	16.18	87	88	100	100	150	148				
Button sewers, underwear ..	50.7	301	15.26	89	88	100	102	152	160				
Cutters, hand, underwear .. .. .	48.9	372	18.19	85	91	100	101	171	197				
Finishers, underwear ..	50.2	327	16.42	85	87	100	97	153	163				
Inspectors & folders, hosiery and underwear ..	50.5	302	15.25	90	92	100	101	174	190				
Knitters, footers or toppers, hosiery ..	50.5	283	14.89	93	93	100	99	173	178				
Do. "lady hose" ..	51.0	347	17.70	96	115	100	107	—	186				
Do. rib, hosiery ..	52.7	319	16.81	97	91	100	105	—	193				
Do. web or tube, underwear ..	49.3	346	17.06	117	95	100	102	190	217				
Loopers, hosiery and underwear ..	50.8	327	16.61	92	98	100	103	186	198				
Menders, hosiery ..	50.6	328	16.60	95	100	100	103	—	209				
Presshands, hosiery and underwear ..	50.5	281	14.19	83	82	100	100	169	174				
Seamers, full-fashioned hosiery ..	50.7	395	20.03	—	—	100	100	—	214				
Seamers, underwear ..	50.3	325	16.35	86	89	100	100	154	171				
Toppers, full-fashioned hosiery ..	51.7	450	23.27	—	—	100	99	—	277				
Welters, hosiery and underwear ..	50.9	294	14.96	90	99	100	110	186	185				
Winders, hosiery and underwear ..	49.8	347	17.28	83	92	100	98	166	203				
<i>Both Sexes.</i>													
All occupations* ..	51.2	376	19.34	87	91	100	102	196	191				

It will be seen from the above that in 1922 the full-time weekly earnings for the industry as a whole were 91 per cent. higher than in 1913, while in 1919 they were 96 per cent. higher, which indicates a decrease of approximately two and a half per cent. from 1919 to 1922. Compared with 1911, wages in 1922 were 120 per cent. higher.

\* Including occupations not shown in the Table.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	75%
Food only	72%

FOOD.

DURING September there was a rise in the retail prices of milk, butter, cheese and eggs. The price of milk showed an average increase of about 2d. per quart, that of butter about 2d. per lb. and that of cheese about 1 1/2d. per lb. Eggs were dearer, on average, by about 1/2d. each. On the other hand, potatoes were cheaper by 3d. per 7 lbs., and bacon and flour were also slightly cheaper on 1st October than a month earlier, on the average.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland rose to about 72 per cent. at 1st October, as compared with about 68 per cent. at 1st September.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, at 1st September, 1923, and at 1st October, 1923:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest 1/4d.)			Average Inc. (+ or Dec. (-) at 1st Oct., 1923, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Sept., 1923.	1st Oct., 1923.	July, 1914.	1st Sept., 1923.
Beef, British—					
Ribs .. .. .	0 10	1 5 1/2	1 5 1/2	+ 0 7 1/2	—
Thin Flank .. ..	0 6 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 10 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	—
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs .. .. .	0 7 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 10 1/2	+ 0 3	—
Thin Flank .. ..	0 4 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	—
Mutton, British—					
Legs .. .. .	0 10 1/2	1 8	1 8	+ 0 9 1/2	—
Breast .. .. .	0 6 1/2	0 11 1/2	0 11 1/2	+ 0 4 1/2	—
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs .. .. .	0 6 1/2	1 0 1/2	1 0 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2	—
Breast .. .. .	0 4	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	—
Bacon (streaky)* ..	0 11 1/2	1 7	1 6 1/2	+ 0 7 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Flour .. .. . per 7 lb.	0 10 1/2	1 3 1/2	1 3 1/2	+ 0 4 1/2	- 0 0 1/2
Bread .. .. . per 4 lb.	0 5 1/2	0 8 1/2	0 8 1/2	+ 0 3	—
Tea .. .. .	1 0 1/2	2 6 1/2	2 6 1/2	+ 1 0 1/2	—
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 2	0 6 1/2	0 6 1/2	+ 0 4 1/2	—
Milk .. .. . per quart	0 3 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 6 1/2	+ 0 3	+ 0 0 1/2
Butter—					
Fresh .. .. .	1 2 1/2	1 10 1/2	2 0 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2
Salt .. .. .	1 2 1/2	1 9	1 11 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 2 1/2
Cheese† .. .. .	0 8 1/2	1 2	1 3 1/2	+ 0 6 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2
Margarine .. .. .	0 7	0 6 1/2	0 6 1/2	- 0 0 1/2	—
Eggs (fresh) .. .. . each	0 1 1/2	0 2 1/2	0 2 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Potatoes .. .. . per 7 lb.	0 4 1/2	0 8 1/2	0 8	+ 0 3 1/2	- 0 0 1/2

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Oct., 1923, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st September, 1923.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs .. .. .	80	75	78	79
Thin Flank .. ..	52	54	53	54
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs .. .. .	42	38	40	40
Thin Flank .. ..	13	18	15	15
Mutton, British—				
Legs .. .. .	92	92	92	93
Breast .. .. .	73	69	71	73
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs .. .. .	86	71	79	79
Breast .. .. .	29	28	29	28
Bacon (streaky)* ..	71	62	67	68
Fish .. .. .	116	97	106	107
Flour .. .. .	43	46	44	46
Bread .. .. .	53	49	51	52
Tea .. .. .	66	68	67	67
Sugar (granulated) ..	223	207	218	217
Milk .. .. .	83	82	82	81
Butter—				
Fresh .. .. .	64	70	67	64
Salt .. .. .	66	64	65	62
Cheese† .. .. .	76	75	76	68
Margarine .. .. .	- 4	- 7	- 6	- 6
Eggs (fresh) .. .. .	116	118	117	98
Potatoes .. .. .	78	51	64	81
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	74	69	72	68

\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

† The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st October, 1923, was between 45 and 50 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Act falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st October the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, was about the same as a month earlier and approximately 120 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the retail prices of coal at 1st October showed little change compared with a month earlier; on the average they were approximately 85 per cent. above those of July, 1914. The prices of gas and lamp oil fell from about 60 to about 55 per cent. above the pre-war level. The prices of candles and matches showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st October, as compared with July, 1914, was about 80 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 85 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st October is approximately 75 per cent.\* over the pre-war level, as compared with 73 per cent. for 1st September.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1923 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1923.

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

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.)

Month (beginning of)	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76
April ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	100	132	133	82	74
May ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69
June ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69
July ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71
August ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	151	120	79	73
September ..	30	50-55	85-90	115-120	120	154	110	78	75
October ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	—
November ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	—

NOTE.

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

\* If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 1st October, 1923, is about 5 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change, on the whole, during September. It was good in the coal mining industry and in the tinplate and steel sheet trades; fairly good in the coachbuilding, brick-making and carpet trades, and fair in the building, printing, leather industries and in certain sections of the metal trades. In most of the other large industries it was slack or bad. As compared with the previous month there was some improvement in coal mining and in the pottery trades, but a decline in pig-iron manufacture and in some sections of the textile trades and of the woodworking trades.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.\*

Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage of unemployed was 11.3 at the end of September, compared with 11.4 at the end of August and with 14.6 at the end of September, 1922. Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,750,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 24th September was 11.4, compared with 11.5 at 27th August and 12.2 at the end of September, 1922. For males alone the percentage was 12.2 at the 24th September, as compared with 12.3 at the 27th August; for females the corresponding figures were 9.3 and 9.4. The number of workpeople on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges at 1st October was approximately 1,285,000, of whom men numbered 955,000 and women 244,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 27th August was 1,266,000, of whom 943,000 were men and 237,000 women. (It should be noted that some unemployed persons—e.g., some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and the Live Register figures, therefore, do not indicate the total number unemployed.)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—At coal mines employment showed an improvement and was good on the whole. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 22nd September was 1,168,646, an increase of 5.8 per cent. as compared with September, 1922. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 22nd September was 5.37, as compared with 5.14 in August and 5.27 in September, 1922.

At iron mines employment showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month; in the Cleveland district it continued bad. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 22.6 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with September, 1922. The average number of days worked per week by the mines in the fortnight ended 22nd September was 5.16, as compared with 5.26 in August and 5.13 in September, 1922. At shale mines employment remained fair. At limestone quarries it improved, and was good in the Buxton district and fair in the Clitheroe district; it continued slack in the Weardale district. At granite quarries employment was good; at slate quarries it continued fair; at whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland and at grindstone and building stone quarries in the Stanton-in-Peak and Rowsley districts it remained moderate. At the Cleve Hill quarries employment declined and was bad; at china clay quarries it continued good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—Employment in the pig iron industry showed a further decline during September and was bad. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of September was 190, as compared with 196 at the end of August and 139 in September, 1922. The numbers employed showed an increase of about 15 per cent. as compared with September, 1922. At iron and steel works employment continued moderate on the whole. In the Cleveland district it showed some improvement, but in most of the other districts there was a decline. In Scotland employment was bad. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade employment was good. At the end of September 513 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 514 in August and 467 in September, 1922.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment continued bad; the textile machinery and marine engineering sections remained very depressed, and the seasonal decline in the motor and cycle sections continued. At railway works, however, employment continued fairly good, and in electrical engineering an improvement was reported. Employment in the ship-building and ship-repairing industries remained very bad. The lock-out of platers, riveters, etc., at the yards of members of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation continued throughout the month, and the number of other workpeople rendered idle by the dispute further increased, some yards being entirely closed and others almost at a standstill. Employment was fair in the brasswork, fish-hook and fishing tackle, wire, stove and grate, and hollow-ware trades; and slack or bad in the bedstead, lock and latch, nut, bolt and nail, cutlery and file, needle, chain and anchor, sheet metal, jewellery and plated ware, and farriery trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton industry continued bad, except in the Egyptian spinning section, in which the operatives continued to be well employed. In the woollen and

worsted trades employment continued bad, and showed little change generally. In the hosiery trade it also showed a decline and was bad on the whole; in the lace trade it was also bad.

In the silk trade employment was moderate in the Eastern Counties, and slack in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district. In the carpet trade employment was good in the Kidderminster district, and fairly good in Scotland. In the jute trade employment continued fair on the whole. In the linen trade it continued slack; in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades it was also slack on the whole, and a slight decline was reported with hosiery dyers at Leicester and Bedford, and with lace bleachers, dressers and finishers at Nottingham.

Clothing Trades.—Employment was moderate in the ready-made branch of the tailoring trades, and slack in the bespoke branch. In the dressmaking and women's light clothing trades it was fair generally; in the corset trade it was very slack. In the felt hat trade it continued fair on the whole. In the boot and shoe trades employment remained very slack and much short time was again worked. In the leather trades it continued fair generally in the tanning and currying section, and in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section; but with saddle and harness makers it was bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades was fair on the whole. It was good with bricklayers and masons, in which classes a shortage of labour was reported in some districts; fairly good with plasterers and carpenters and joiners; fair with plumbers; moderate or bad with painters, and bad with builders' labourers and workpeople employed on public works construction. In the brick trade employment continued fairly good on the whole; it was good in the East Midlands and at Birmingham, and bad in the Coventry district.

In the furnishing trades employment showed a further slight decline, and was generally quiet or moderate. With coach-builders there was a decline, but in certain districts it was still good; with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists it continued slack; with coopers it was fair, except at Liverpool and Manchester, where it was slack; with brush, basket and packing-case makers it showed a further slight decline, and was slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade was moderate on the whole, and showed a slight decline, though some improvement was reported in the hand-made section. With letterpress printers employment also showed a slight decline in London, while it was generally fair and rather better than in August in the provinces, though a slight decline was reported at Manchester and Aberdeen. With electrotypers and stereotypers in London it continued very good. In the lithographic printing trade employment was generally moderate. In the bookbinding trade it continued slack, but showed a slight improvement in London.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade employment, though still slack generally, showed some improvement; in the tile section it was good. At Derby, Worcester and Bristol employment was reported as fair. In the glass trades employment was slack on the whole; but in the plate and sheet sections, and with flint glass makers and cutters in the Stourbridge district it was reported as good.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was ample for requirements, and the casual labour required for seasonal work was easily obtainable. In Scotland regular labour was generally adequate, but some scarcity of harvest workers and potato lifters was reported. In the fishing industry employment continued fair on the whole.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers continued moderate on the whole. With seamen employment also continued moderate, and at most of the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain berths.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed (a) among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained and (b) among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland month by month since September, 1922:—

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.
1922.		
September .. .. .	14.6	12.2
October .. .. .	14.0	12.3
November .. .. .	14.2	12.6
December .. .. .	14.0	12.4
1923.		
January .. .. .	13.7	13.0
February .. .. .	13.1	12.1
March .. .. .	12.3	11.4
April .. .. .	11.3	11.2
May .. .. .	11.3	11.0
June .. .. .	11.1	11.0
July .. .. .	11.1	11.3
August .. .. .	11.4	11.5
September .. .. .	11.3	11.4

Further details and statistics as to the state of employment in a number of the principal industries are given on pages 369 to 373.

\* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,148,750 in branches covered by the returns received, reported 129,245 (or 11.3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of September, 1923, compared with 11.4 per cent. at the end of August, 1923, and 14.6 per cent. at the end of September, 1922.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting at end of Sept., 1923.	Unemployed at end of Sept., 1923.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	118,138	5,569	4.7	- 0.4	- 2.2
Coal Mining	134,440	1,148	0.9	- 0.2	- 8.5
Engineering and Ship-building	383,554	85,923	22.4	- 0.2	- 5.4
Miscellaneous Metal	53,406	5,056	9.5	+ 0.2	- 3.0
Textiles:-					
Cotton	60,434	5,288	8.74	- 0.3	+ 4.1
Woolen and Worsted	12,223	535	4.4	- 0.3	+ 3.4
Other	58,569	2,532	4.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	98,148	4,614	4.7	- 0.3	- 1.6
Furnishing	25,208	1,765	7.0	- 0.2	+ 2.0
Woodworking	45,602	2,562	5.6	- 0.1	- 2.6
Clothing:-					
Boot and Shoe	75,538	4,402	5.8	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Other Clothing	43,551	1,027	2.4	+ 0.4	- 0.2
Leather	5,953	574	9.6	- 0.6	+ 1.2
Glass	1,213	24	2.0	- 0.4	- 3.2
Pottery	28,000	7,075	25.3	- 1.1	+ 3.9
Tobacco‡	4,773	1,151	24.1	- 2.2	- 14.0
Total	1,148,750	129,245	11.3	- 0.1	- 3.3

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11.4 per cent. (males 12.2 per cent., females 9.3 per cent.) at 24th September, as compared with 11.5 per cent. (males 12.3 per cent., females 9.4 per cent.) at 27th August. A Table showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 375.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in September, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 369 to 373.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Sept., 1923.	Sept., 1923.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	1,168,646	5.37	5.16	+ 0.23	+ 0.10
Iron "	8,561	5.16	5.88	- 0.10	+ 0.03
Shale "	4,083	5.88		- 0.09	- 0.07
Pig Iron	-				
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	-				
Iron and Steel	73,623				

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Textiles:-				
Cotton	80,862	+ 0.7	138,817	- 0.9
Woolen	16,781	+ 1.0	33,602	+ 0.6
Worsted	30,406	- 0.8	62,654	- 0.8
Boot and Shoe	51,019	+ 0.1	106,490	- 2.3
Pottery	11,300	+ 1.3	20,926	+ 6.8
Brick	7,539	+ 0.6	17,594	+ 0.6
Total	197,907	+ 0.3	370,083	- 0.7

\* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked-out are also excluded.  
 † The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership, the returns relate to the end of July.  
 ‡ 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.  
 ¶ These figures include a due proportion of claimants to benefit in respect of systematic short time.  
 ¶ Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

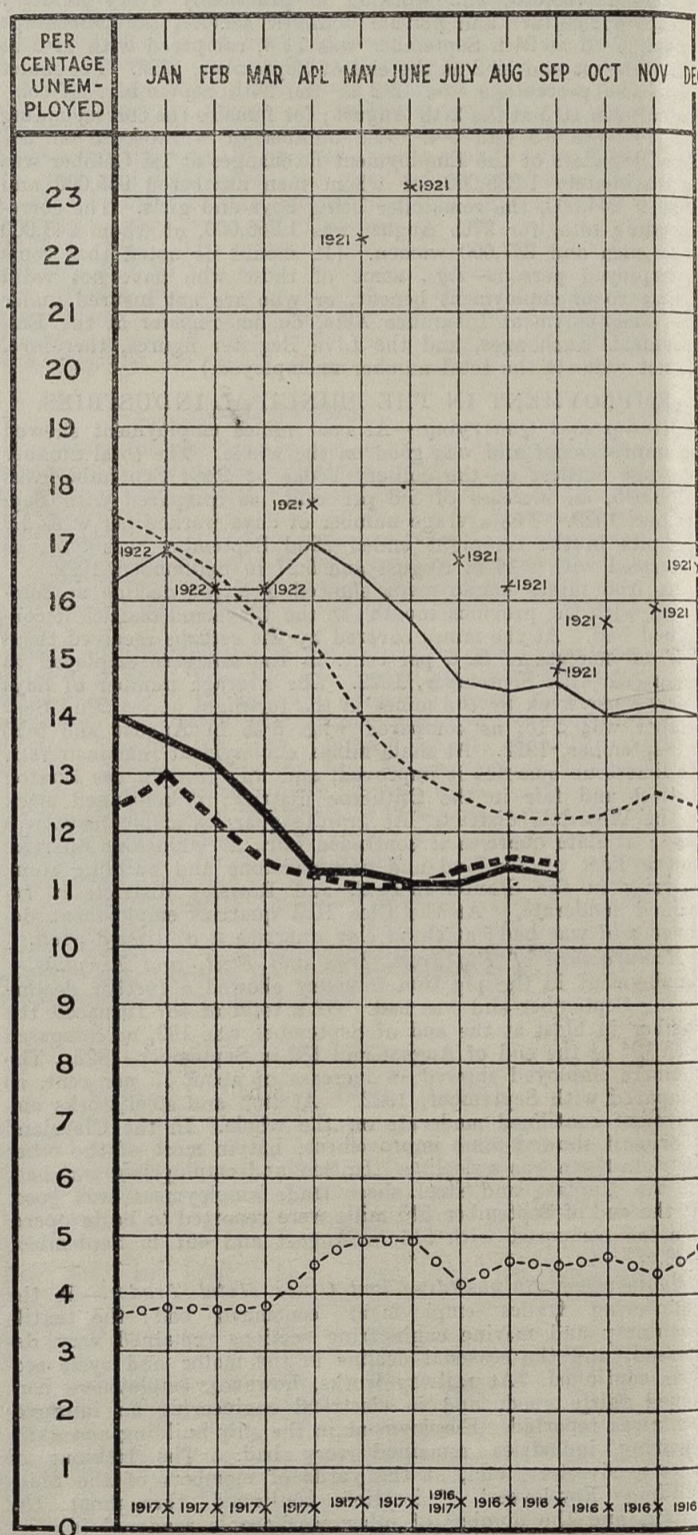
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:-

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

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1893-1922.

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

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



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trade Union returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column. The figures for insured workpeople include a due proportion of claimants to benefit in respect of short-time working. Detailed figures for August and September, 1923, are given on page 375.

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 September was good on the whole. It showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. Employment in Lancashire and Cheshire, however, was only fair, and in South Yorkshire it was affected by holidays.

The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the fortnight ended 22nd September was 5.37, as compared with 5.14 in the fortnight ended 25th August. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 22nd September showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. on the number at 25th August and of 5.8 per cent. on a year ago.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed was 38,933 at 24th September, 1923, as compared with 44,306 at 27th August, 1923.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books, and the average number of days worked per week\* during the fortnight ended 22nd September, 1923, 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.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland	63,006	+ 0.3	5.42	+ 0.44	- 0.07
Durham	171,501	+ 0.2	5.25	+ 0.28	- 0.07
Cumberland and Westmorland	11,566	- 4.5	5.66	+ 1.27	+ 0.24
South Yorkshire	111,897	- 0.0	4.80	- 0.20	- 0.18
West Yorkshire	63,152	+ 0.2	5.43	+ 0.90	+ 0.18
Lancs. and Cheshire	103,976	- 0.1	4.94	+ 0.31	+ 0.31
Derbyshire	64,852	+ 0.2	5.51	+ 0.71	+ 0.04
Notts. and Leicester	65,560	+ 0.5	5.14	+ 0.35	+ 0.19
Warwick	21,814	+ 0.7	5.94	+ 0.20	+ 0.11
North Staffordshire	34,685	+ 0.1	5.59	+ 0.37	+ 0.70
and Salop	35,100	- 0.4	5.82	+ 0.62	+ 0.37
Glouc. and Somerset	14,678	+ 1.1	5.63	+ 0.35	+ 1.16
Kent	1,838	+ 1.1	5.63	-	+ 0.03
North Wales	17,854	+ 0.2	5.28	- 0.08	- 0.46
South Wales and Mon.	242,079	+ 0.5	5.76	- 0.04	+ 0.24
England and Wales	1,023,818	+ 0.2	5.38	+ 0.24	+ 0.13
SCOTLAND:					
Mid & East Lothians	15,783	+ 0.4	5.32	+ 0.24	- 0.17
Fife and Clackmannan	30,581	+ 0.8	5.20	+ 0.27	- 0.22
Rest of Scotland	93,464	+ 0.6	5.37	+ 0.19	- 0.05
Scotland	139,828	+ 0.6	5.32	+ 0.20	- 0.11
Great Britain	1,168,646	+ 0.2	5.37	+ 0.23	+ 0.10

For the whole of Great Britain the average weekly number of days lost during the fortnight ended 22nd September was 0.39 of a day, of which 0.27 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. For the fortnight ended 25th August the corresponding figures were 0.62 of a day and 0.51 of a day respectively. For the fortnight ended 23rd September, 1922, the average weekly number of coal-winding days lost was 0.50 of a day, of which 0.38 of a day was due to want of trade and transport facilities. The average non-winding time for all three periods was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 22nd September, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 21,349,900 tons, compared with 19,107,800 tons in the four weeks ended 25th August, 1923, and with 20,503,000 tons in the four weeks ended 23rd September, 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 September to 8,555,359 tons, as compared with 8,758,217 tons in August.

\* 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 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.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight decline on the whole during September. In the Cleveland district it continued bad.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
	Fortnight ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
			Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	
Cleveland	3,678	+ 0.5	+ 42.7	4.66	- 0.35	+ 0.08
Cumberland and Lancashire	3,367	- 1.3	+ 18.0	5.52	- 0.02	+ 0.05
Other Districts	1,516	- 0.9	- 2.4	5.57	- 0.36	+ 0.16
All Districts	8,561	- 0.5	+ 22.6	5.16	- 0.10	+ 0.03

Shale Mining.

Employment was again fair. At mines employing 4,083 workpeople in the fortnight ended 22nd September no appreciable change was shown in the total number employed as compared with the previous month, but there was a decrease of 1 per cent. as compared with September, 1922. The average number of days\* worked per week by the mines was 5.88 in September, 1923, 5.97 in August, 1923, and 5.95 in September, 1922.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September was bad, and worse than in August, but was still much better than in September of last year. The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of September, as shown by returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 190, compared with 196 at the end of August and 139 at the end of September, 1922.

Returns received by the Federation from 83 firms employing 20,165 workpeople, at the end of September, showed a decrease of 1.4 per cent., compared with the number employed at the end of August, but an increase of 14.6 per cent. compared with September, 1922.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act, the number unemployed at 24th September was 4,773, compared with 3,954 at 27th August.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of September, 1923; August, 1923; and September, 1922, according to returns collected by the Federation:-

District.	Total Number of Furnaces	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept. on a	
		Sept. 1923.	Aug. 1923.	Sept. 1922.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:-						
Durham and Cleveland	115	39	42	30	- 3	+ 9
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	46	12	12	12	..	..
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield.	38	15	17	13	- 2	+ 2
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	38	38	27	..	+ 11
Lincolnshire	22	17	17	10	..	+ 7
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	58	16	16	14	..	+ 2
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	9	9	6	..	+ 3
Total (England and Wales)	385	146	151	112	- 5	+ 34
SCOTLAND	102	44	45	27	- 1	+ 17
TOTAL	487	190	196	139	- 6	+ 51

The production of pig iron in September amounted to 558,600 tons, as compared with 599,800 tons in August and 430,300 tons in September, 1922.

\* See \* footnote in previous column.



IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works during September continued moderate on the whole. In the Cleveland district some improvement was shown, though employment was still only moderate. In most of the other districts there was a decline. In Scotland employment was bad. As compared with a year ago there was a considerable improvement, except at puddling forges.

Among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act, the number employed at 24th September was 46,546, as compared with 46,471 at 27th August.

According to returns received from firms employing 73,623 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 22nd September (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each case) showed a decrease of 1.5 per cent. on the previous month, but an increase of 12.1 per cent. as compared with September, 1922. The average number of shifts during which the works were open in the week ended 22nd September was 5.2, as compared with 5.3 in the previous month, and with 5.1 a year ago.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Year ago.
	Week ended 22nd Sept. 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Week ended 22nd Sept. 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.		
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces .. ..	7,792	+ 4.3	20.2	43,790	- 4.9	+ 20.8
Crucible Furnaces ..	319	+ 1.6	32.9	1,384	- 0.8	+ 33.2
Bessemer Converters ..	698	- 0.5	7.6	3,051	+ 3.2	+ 26.7
Puddling Forges ..	2,867	- 23.0	- 23.8	12,027	- 23.9	- 22.6
Rolling Mills ..	26,744	+ 0.7	13.3	128,761	- 2.9	+ 18.0
Forging and Pressing ..	3,486	+ 9.5	26.7	18,055	+ 3.8	+ 40.8
Foundry ..	8,334	- 1.0	10.0	45,289	- 3.0	+ 11.9
Other Departments ..	5,894	+ 11.8	17.5	32,284	+ 15.5	+ 10.5
Mechanics, Labourers, etc. .. ..	17,539	- 0.6	0.9	100,113	- 0.5	+ 1.4
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>73,623</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>+ 9.6</b>	<b>384,754</b>	<b>- 1.5</b>	<b>+ 12.1</b>
<b>DISTRICTS.</b>						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ..	13,167	+ 16.3	+ 21.2	68,727	+ 13.2	+ 21.9
Sheffield and Rotherham .. ..	19,121	- 1.7	+ 11.5	98,074	- 3.7	+ 12.9
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,623	- 2.5	- 6.2	14,512	+ 5.3	+ 7.5
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire .. ..	7,174	- 9.4	+ 9.9	37,532	- 10.5	+ 14.2
Staffordshire .. ..	7,358	- 4.2	+ 3.1	38,063	- 3.9	+ 6.7
Other Midland Counties ..	4,031	- 0.5	+ 6.6	21,365	- 0.2	+ 13.2
Wales and Monmouth ..	9,264	- 3.0	+ 10.8	50,683	- 3.6	+ 10.2
<b>Total, England and Wales .. ..</b>	<b>62,738</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>+ 10.8</b>	<b>328,956</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>	<b>+ 13.4</b>
Scotland .. ..	10,885	- 2.2	+ 2.9	55,798	- 3.4	+ 5.2
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>73,623</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>+ 9.6</b>	<b>384,754</b>	<b>- 1.5</b>	<b>+ 12.1</b>

The production of steel ingots and castings in September, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 695,100 tons, compared with 567,500 tons in August, and with 555,900 tons in September, 1922.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good during September. At the end of the month 513 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 514 at the end of August and with 467 at the end of September, 1922.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed was 1,087 at September 24th, 1923, compared with 1,681 at August 27th, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received at the end of September, 1923 :-

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
	At end of Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
Tinplate ..	76	+ 1	391	+ 2	+ 28	
Steel Sheet ..	13	..	122	- 3	+ 18	
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>+ 46</b>	

The exports of tinned and galvanized plates and sheets in September, 1923, amounted to 82,781 tons, or 804 tons less than in August, 1923, but 12,482 tons more than in September, 1922.

\* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, allowances being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individual, owing to absenteeism, &c., and it is not implied that the number of shifts shown was actually worked by all the men employed.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued bad during September. The textile machinery and marine engineering sections remained very depressed and the seasonal decline in the motor and cycle sections continued. At railway works, however, employment continued fairly good on the whole, and in electrical engineering an improvement was reported.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 24th September, 1923. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures see page 375.

Divisions.	Number of Insured Contributors Unemployed at 24th September, 1923.					TOTAL.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 27th August, 1923.
	Engi- neering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Stove, Grate, Pipe, &c., and General Iron Founding.	Electri- cal Engi- neering.	Marine Engi- neering and Boiler Making.	Con- struc- tional Engi- neering.		
London .. ..	13,598	453	443	110	193	14,802	- 908
South Eastern ..	6,252	420	229	160	43	7,104	- 40
South Western ..	4,020	184	81	903	72	5,280	+ 8
Midlands .. ..	17,109	5,256	1,325	27	581	24,276	- 556
North Eastern ..	34,405	2,857	530	10,055	940	48,887	+ 1,491
North Western ..	35,716	1,444	1,303	510	142	39,115	+ 301
Scotland .. ..	22,616	3,711	212	4,766	618	31,923	+ 147
Wales .. ..	846	508	18	17	7	1,396	+ 205
Northern Ireland ..	1,958	370	5	104	9	2,446	- 33
<b>GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ..</b>	<b>136,520</b>	<b>15,183</b>	<b>4,209</b>	<b>16,692</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>175,209</b>	<b>+ 615</b>
<b>Males .. ..</b>	<b>134,181</b>	<b>14,363</b>	<b>3,652</b>	<b>16,619</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>171,286</b>	<b>+ 806</b>
<b>Females .. ..</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>3,323</b>	<b>- 191</b>

On the North-East Coast employment was again very bad and showed a further decline, the marine engineering section being increasingly affected by the shipbuilding dispute, especially on the Wear. Electrical and motor work continued fair on the Tyne, but the locomotive section again declined somewhat, and constructional engineering on the Tees showed a falling off. In Lancashire and Cheshire conditions on the whole were rather worse. There was a slight decline in general engineering, though patternmakers in the Manchester district were fairly well employed. The textile machinery section remained depressed, much short time being worked; at railway works, however, men were steadily employed. In Yorkshire employment remained bad, and was rather worse than in the previous month, except at Otley, where printing machinery makers remained well employed, and at York and Doncaster, where employment continued fair on the whole.

Conditions at Nottingham remained quiet, a falling-off being reported in the cycle and motor cycle sections and with hosiery machine builders. There was no general improvement in Lincolnshire, though at Stamford employment was fair. At Derby it was rather better on the whole; the railway works were busy, but the motor section was dull. Employment was moderate at Chesterfield and Loughborough, but slack at Leicester. In the Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton district there was much seasonal slackness in the motor and cycle industries; pattern-makers, however, were fairly well employed, and an improvement was reported in electrical engineering. At Stafford an improvement was reported and at Rugby employment remained fair.

Employment remained fair at Norwich and Chelmsford, and improved to fair at Ipswich, but at other centres in the Eastern Counties continued slackness prevailed, while at Luton a decline was reported. In the London area employment was only moderate, though an improvement was reported in some districts. In the Southern and South-Western counties there was little improvement on the whole; employment was good, however, at railway works at Swindon and motor works at Oxford. In South Wales conditions remained quiet, no further general improvement being shown.

In Scotland employment was still very depressed, especially in marine engineering, which was much affected by the dispute in the shipbuilding industry; at many works skeleton staffs only were employed. At Belfast conditions remained bad.

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries remained very bad during September. The lock-out of platers, riveters, etc., at the yards of members of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation continued throughout the month, and the number of other workpeople rendered idle by the dispute further increased (see page 376), some yards being entirely closed and others almost at a standstill.

In districts not involved in the dispute employment on repair work continued moderate on the whole. On the Mersey no improvement was reported, and at the Bristol Channel ports employment was dull, except at Swansea, where it was fairly good and better than in the previous month. At Southampton it

was slack, and at Falmouth it was interrupted by a local dispute. On the Thames there was some improvement, especially with ship-joiners, but with barge repairers employment was slack and showed no improvement.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 24th September, 1923. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures see page 375 :-

Divisions.	Total number of insured contributors unemployed 24th September, 1923.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 27th August, 1923.
London .. ..	3,342	- 139
South Eastern ..	1,454	+ 147
South Western ..	8,475	+ 692
Midlands .. ..	262	- 2
North Eastern ..	39,954	- 1,085
North Western ..	15,174	+ 332
Scotland .. ..	38,830	- 1,931
Wales .. ..	4,487	+ 251
Northern Ireland ..	5,900	+ 333
<b>GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ..</b>	<b>117,778</b>	<b>- 2,063</b>
<b>Males .. ..</b>	<b>117,434</b>	<b>- 2,072</b>
<b>Females .. ..</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>+ 4</b>

COTTON TRADE.

THERE was little change in this trade during September, and employment remained bad except in the section of the spinning department using Egyptian cotton, in which the operatives were still well employed. At a meeting of the American section of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation, held on 21st September, it was decided to recommend the continuance of organised curtailment of production to the extent of 50 per cent. during October in the spinning mills using American cotton.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 115,879 on the 24th September, compared with 123,916 on the 27th August. The reduction, however, was largely due to irregularity of working.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	Per cent.
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
Preparing .. ..	11,063	+ 2.5	17,367	+ 0.3	- 18.3	
Spinning .. ..	20,706	+ 3.1	33,300	+ 1.4	- 16.0	
Weaving .. ..	33,250	- 1.6	53,758	- 3.4	- 23.1	
Other .. ..	8,442	- 0.6	18,894	- 1.3	- 15.9	
Not specified .. ..	7,601	+ 3.1	15,498	+ 2.7	- 4.9	
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>80,862</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>138,817</b>	<b>- 0.9</b>	<b>- 18.1</b>	
<b>DISTRICTS.</b>						
Ashton .. ..	4,468	- 0.3	7,517	- 7.6	- 1.9	
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde .. ..	7,230	+ 0.3	10,912	- 8.2	- 28.5	
Oldham .. ..	8,797	+ 8.5	15,486	+ 6.4	- 21.1	
Bolton and Leigh ..	14,051	- 0.1	23,677	- 2.9	- 8.1	
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden .. ..	7,736	+ 0.9	11,530	+ 0.6	- 23.4	
Manchester .. ..	6,292	+ 7.2	9,887	+ 1.1	- 21.0	
Preston and Chorley ..	5,103	- 8.9	8,752	- 5.3	- 24.4	
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen .. ..	8,078	+ 2.6	14,942	- 0.1	- 21.3	
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson .. ..	10,367	- 0.2	21,452	+ 2.9	- 13.6	
Other Lancashire Towns .. ..	2,534	- 14.5	4,259	- 14.6	- 40.1	
Yorkshire Towns ..	3,430	+ 2.8	5,833	+ 9.8	- 11.7	
Other Districts .. ..	2,776	+ 0.7	4,470	+ 2.3	+ 0.3	
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>80,862</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>138,817</b>	<b>- 0.9</b>	<b>- 18.1</b>	

Returns from firms employing about 9,000 workpeople in the Oldham district showed that, during the four weeks ended 22nd September, about 58 per cent. of these workpeople were on full time, about 22 per cent. were working half-time, and the remainder were suffering under-employment in various other forms (including about 5 per cent. who were stopped altogether for the entire four weeks, and 2 per cent. whose production was curtailed by stoppage of machinery, in lieu of short time or suspension).

In the other districts, taken collectively, about 25 per cent. of the workpeople reported on were on short time, to the extent of about sixteen hours a week on the average, in the week ended 22nd September. The districts most affected were again Bury and Rochdale, where 71 per cent. were on short time, to the extent of seventeen hours a week on the average; and Ashton, where 58 per cent. were on short time, to the extent of 13½ hours a week on the average.

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

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts employment continued very bad in the spinning section. In the weaving section employment remained bad, but a very slight improvement was reported. At Bolton and Leigh employment with spinners continued good, but with card-room workers in the Bolton district employment was reported as poor: many card-room workers were not working more than 35 or 40 hours a week, and many were working only alternate weeks. In the Bury and Rochdale districts employment continued bad.

In all the principal weaving districts (except at Great Harwood, where it was reported as fair) employment continued very depressed, with much short time, unemployment, and under-employment in various forms. At Burnley production was estimated as less than 50 per cent. of the normal output; and the trade holidays at the beginning of the month were extended by three days or, in some cases, a whole week. In Blackburn about 23,000 looms were stated to be standing idle at the end of the month; while in Darwen and Preston many weavers were unemployed or on short time; fifteen mills at Preston were entirely closed in the middle of the month.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 56,081,200 lbs. in September, 1923, compared with 46,470,900 lbs. in the previous month and with 55,155,700 lbs. in September, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 11,987,100 lbs. in September, 1923, compared with 12,802,800 lbs. in August, 1923, and 16,794,000 lbs. in September, 1922.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 344,318,800 square yards, as compared with 329,945,600 square yards in the previous month and with 395,823,900 square yards in September, 1922.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades in September was bad; it showed little change, on the whole, as compared with a month earlier.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 30,156 on the 24th September, as compared with 30,506 on the 27th August.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

Employment was bad, and showed no general improvement. In the Huddersfield district a few firms were running their spinning sections overtime, and there was a little night work, but there was no improvement generally. There was a slight decline in the tweed trade in the Colne Valley. Employment in the heavy woollen district (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) continued bad, and an increase in unemployment was reported. At Leeds there was considerable unemployment and under-employment throughout the industry. With flannel workers at Rochdale employment showed a decline; most firms were still working fairly good time, but some of them had a proportion of their machinery stopped.

In Scotland few firms were able to keep their operatives fully employed or to run all their machinery. Some firms were working half-time, others 35 hours a week.

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

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Per cent.	Per cent.
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
Wool Sorting .. ..	403	+ 1.0	899	- 2.6	- 4.6	
Spinning .. ..	3,897	+ 0.3	7,785	- 1.0	- 6.1	
Weaving .. ..	6,653	+ 2.2	11,969	+ 1.9	- 6.2	
Other Departments ..	4,974	+ 0.2	10,940	+ 0.4	- 6.3	
Not Specified .. ..	854	- 2.5	2,009	+ 1.4	- 5.5	
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>16,781</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>33,602</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>- 6.3</b>	
<b>Districts.</b>						
Huddersfield District ..	1,310	+ 3.1	3,244	- 0.4	- 9.9	
Leeds District .. ..	1,864	+ 6.9	4,181	+ 11.3	+ 10.4	
Dewsbury and Batley District .. ..	1,613	- 2.7	3,536	- 4.3	+ 6.8	
Other Parts of West Riding .. ..	2,041	- 0.7	4,434	+ 0.0	- 1.7	
<b>Total, West Riding ..</b>	<b>6,828</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>15,395</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	
Scotland .. ..	4,919	+ 1.3	9,315	+ 2.7	- 16.9	
Other Districts .. ..	4,974	+ 0.1	8,892	- 3.4	- 5.6	
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>16,781</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>33,602</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>- 6.3</b>	

Returns from firms employing 16,629 workpeople in the week ended 22nd September showed that about 33 per cent. of these

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

workpeople were on short time, to the extent of about 12 hours a week on the average.

**WORSTED TRADE.**

Employment continued bad; it was about the same as a month earlier, but showed a considerable decline on a year ago.

With wool sorters and combers employment was bad; it was slightly worse than in August, and considerably worse than a year ago. Short time was general, and there was some reduction in the number of sorters employed. There was also a marked falling-off in the amount of work available in the worsted spinning branch and in the dress goods trade. The decline was specially marked in the merino trade; firms spinning the lower or medium grades of crossbred wool, or manufacturing cloth therefrom, were in a somewhat better position.

In the Bradford district employment on the whole showed little change, but there was a decline in the Keighley and Halifax districts, and there was much short time, especially in the Halifax and Huddersfield districts.

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

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Wool Sorting and Combing .. .. .	4,266	+ 3.5	- 9.1	9,435	+ 3.4	- 30.1
Spinning .. .. .	15,549	- 0.2	- 0.6	22,404	+ 0.2	- 13.1
Weaving .. .. .	5,171	+ 0.7	- 7.5	9,850	+ 1.3	- 13.1
Other Departments .. .. .	3,138	- 1.1	+ 3.8	7,318	- 2.0	- 4.0
Not specified .. .. .	2,236	- 2.4	- 1.4	3,667	- 3.3	- 17.6
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>30,406</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>- 2.7</b>	<b>52,654</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>- 16.9</b>

Returns from firms employing 29,417 workpeople in the week ended 22nd September showed that about 35 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time in that week to the extent of 12 hours each on an average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 1,789,700 lbs. in September, 1923, compared with 13,182,100 lbs. in August, 1923, and 30,271,000 lbs. in September, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,868,900 lbs., compared with 4,004,800 lbs. in August, 1923, and 4,158,500 lbs. in September, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 17,991,400 square yards, compared with 19,016,400 square yards in August and 13,729,500 square yards in September, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 114,843 pairs, 116,984 pairs and 58,709 pairs in September, 1923, August, 1923, and September, 1922, respectively.

**BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.**

EMPLOYMENT during September remained very slack, and much short time was again worked. Some districts showed a slight improvement; others, including several of the principal centres, a decline. On the whole, there was not much change as compared with August.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 14,785 on 24th September, as compared with 15,644 on 27th August.

In London employment continued bad, and was worse than in September of last year. In the Leicester and Northampton districts it was slack, and showed a decline; short time was general. At Kettering employment remained quiet generally, but a good number of firms were on full time at the end of the month, and employment was decidedly better than in September of last year. There was an improvement at Hinckley, at Wellingborough, and in the Rushden district; in the last-named district employment was reported as fair. Employment continued slack at Stafford, the average time worked being 32 hours a week; but it was good at Stone, where some overtime was worked. Employment was very slack at Derby. At Bristol there was general slackness; but at Kingswood there was a slight improvement, especially among women workers. At Leeds employment continued bad generally, though some firms were again well employed. At Norwich employment continued very slack on the whole; 50 per cent. of the workpeople were on half-time or less, and there was much unemployment; some firms, however, were still on full time, and there were signs of improvement at the end of the month.

Employment continued bad at Arbroath; at Edinburgh it was

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

reported as quiet, and in other centres in Scotland it was generally fair. At Maybole there was a further improvement.

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

Divisions.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
<b>England and Wales:—</b>						
London .. .. .	1,902	+ 0.4	- 9.2	4,080	+ 0.1	- 14.9
Leicester .. .. .	8,488	- 1.0	- 0.9	16,382	- 9.9	- 18.0
Leicester Country District .. .. .	2,308	+ 0.7	- 3.2	4,909	+ 2.4	- 6.2
Northampton .. .. .	6,913	+ 0.4	- 0.6	15,887	+ 1.6	+ 3.3
Northampton Country District .. .. .	7,960	+ 0.4	+ 2.0	17,651	+ 0.4	- 0.7
Kettering .. .. .	3,355	- 0.1	+ 5.8	8,239	- 3.1	+ 7.3
Stafford and District .. .. .	2,538	+ 0.9	+ 3.5	4,813	- 4.7	- 12.2
Norwich and District .. .. .	4,050	- 1.5	- 1.2	7,719	- 0.5	- 4.1
Bristol, Kingswood and District .. .. .	2,399	+ 1.9	+ 7.2	4,549	- 2.1	- 8.7
Leeds and District .. .. .	1,882	+ 1.6	- 4.0	4,163	+ 6.5	- 6.1
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) .. .. .	4,316	- 0.4	+ 5.2	8,640	- 2.6	- 7.8
Birmingham and District .. .. .	1,002	- 0.4	- 1.4	1,741	- 6.9	- 14.2
Other parts of England and Wales .. .. .	1,423	+ 1.9	+ 2.0	2,484	+ 6.3	- 6.2
<b>England and Wales .. .. .</b>	<b>48,536</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>101,257</b>	<b>- 2.4</b>	<b>- 6.1</b>
Scotland .. .. .	2,483	- 0.4	+ 1.0	5,233	- 0.4	+ 0.8
<b>United Kingdom .. .. .</b>	<b>51,019</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>106,490</b>	<b>- 2.3</b>	<b>- 5.8</b>

Returns from firms employing 42,546 workpeople in the week ended 22nd September showed that about 45 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time in that week, to the extent of about 13 hours each on an average.

The exports of boots and shoes in September, 1923, amounted to 129,727 dozen pairs, or 30,316 dozen pairs more than in August, 1923, and 59,615 dozen pairs more than in September, 1922.

**BUILDING AND PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING, &c.**

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued generally fair during September, except in the painting and decorating section of the building trade, where there was some seasonal decline. It was reported as very good in the Bournemouth, Harrogate, Leicester, West Surrey, Windsor, West Middlesex, North-West Surrey and Oxford districts and good in certain other districts, a little overtime being worked at some centres; on the other hand, it was bad or poor in some districts, including Crewe, Keighley, Grimsby, Ebbw Vale and Newmarket, and short time was reported in a few cases.

With painters employment declined, and was moderate on the whole; in some districts it was reported as bad; with other classes of skilled operatives it continued to improve in a number of districts, and was good with bricklayers and masons, fairly good with plasterers and carpenters and joiners, and fair with plumbers. A shortage of certain classes of skilled operatives, chiefly bricklayers and masons, was again reported in many districts. Employment with builders' labourers and workpeople employed on public works continued bad on the whole.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 24th September, 1923, and the increase or decrease in the numbers as compared with 27th August. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures, see page 375.

Divisions.	Number of Insured Contributors Unemployed at 24th September 1923.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 27th Aug., 1923.
	Building.	Public Works Contracting, etc.	Total.	
London .. .. .	21,641	3,335	24,976	+ 1,630
South Eastern .. .. .	9,367	2,421	11,788	+ 294
South Western .. .. .	8,552	3,050	11,602	+ 291
Midlands .. .. .	9,732	2,893	12,625	- 309
North Eastern .. .. .	10,479	3,821	14,300	+ 357
North Western .. .. .	12,415	2,681	15,096	+ 36
Scotland .. .. .	7,657	2,902	10,559	- 189
Wales .. .. .	2,557	2,152	4,709	+ 240
Northern Ireland .. .. .	2,432	491	2,923	- 154
<b>Great Britain and Northern Ireland .. .. .</b>	<b>84,892</b>	<b>23,606</b>	<b>108,498</b>	<b>+ 2,196</b>
<b>Males .. .. .</b>	<b>84,665</b>	<b>23,577</b>	<b>108,242</b>	<b>+ 2,169</b>
<b>Females .. .. .</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>+ 27</b>

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

**BRICK TRADE.**

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during September remained fairly good on the whole, and was considerably better than a year ago. It was good in the East Midlands and at Birmingham and fair or fairly good in the majority of other centres, except the Coventry district, where it was very bad, and where many works were reported entirely stopped. In parts of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and the Midland Counties work was occasionally stopped by bad weather.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, &c., trades was 4,565 at 24th September, 1923, compared with 4,517 at 27th August, 1923.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
<b>Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire</b>	1,835	Per cent. + 0.2	Per cent. + 18.2	£ 4,219	Per cent. - 1.1	Per cent. + 17.1
<b>Midlands and Eastern Counties</b>	4,353	+ 1.0	+ 38.5	10,136	+ 0.8	+ 40.3
<b>South and South-West Counties and Wales</b>	1,137	- 0.1	+ 9.5	2,757	+ 2.3	+ 18.5
<b>Other Districts .. .. .</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>+ 1.9</b>	<b>+ 4.9</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>+ 10.8</b>
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>7,539</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>+ 27.0</b>	<b>17,594</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>+ 29.5</b>

Returns from firms employing 6,896 workpeople showed that about 7 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time, to the extent of 11 hours each on the average, during the week ended 22nd September.

**POTTERY TRADES.**

EMPLOYMENT in the Staffordshire pottery trades, though still slack generally, showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. In the tile section of the trade it was good. At Derby, Worcester and Bristol employment was reported as fair, but at Glasgow it was bad.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 8,487 at 24th September, 1923, compared with 10,541 at 27th August, 1923.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
<b>China Manufacture</b>	1,421	- 0.5	- 11.6	2,831	+ 16.4	+ 11.7
<b>Earthenware Manufacture</b>	8,095	+ 1.0	+ 3.5	14,982	+ 6.4	+ 1.8
<b>Other Branches (including unspecified)</b>	1,784	+ 4.1	+ 13.5	3,113	+ 1.0	+ 5.6
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>+ 1.3</b>	<b>+ 2.7</b>	<b>20,926</b>	<b>+ 6.8</b>	<b>+ 3.6</b>
<b>DISTRICTS.</b>						
Potteries .. .. .	8,894	+ 1.9	+ 3.1	15,814	+ 7.5	+ 6.2
Other Districts .. .. .	2,406	- 0.9	+ 1.1	5,112	+ 4.6	- 3.9
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>+ 1.3</b>	<b>+ 2.7</b>	<b>20,926</b>	<b>+ 6.8</b>	<b>+ 3.6</b>

Returns from employers relating to short time working showed that of 10,260 workpeople employed, 17 per cent. were working on an average about 16 hours less than full time in the week ended 22nd September, 1923.

**SEAMEN.**

DURING September the demand for seamen was generally only moderate. At most of the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain berths.

On the Thames employment improved up to 22nd September and declined subsequently, being reported as moderate at the end of the month. On the Tyne, Wear and Tees the demand remained quiet. It was moderate at Hull, and continued fairly brisk at Southampton. Employment at Bristol and Avonmouth was again quiet. It was fair on the whole at Newport, but declined at the end of the month. The demand for men was moderate at Cardiff and fair at Swansea. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey it was moderate.

On the Clyde the demand varied from fair to moderate. At Leith and at Belfast it was very quiet at the end of the month.

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

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

Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in September.				
	Sept., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Nine months ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Sept., 1923.	Sept., 1922.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES:—</b>					
<b>East Coast—</b>					
Tyne Ports .. .. .	1,167	+ 259	- 550	10,886	15,483
Sunderland .. .. .	109	- 83	- 117	1,537	1,632
Middlesbrough .. .. .	349	- 108	- 5	3,354	3,341
Hull .. .. .	1,387	- 819	- 401	13,141	11,986
Grimsby .. .. .	35	- 22	+ 24	171	204
<b>Bristol Channel—</b>					
Bristol .. .. .	920	- 221	+ 46	9,042	9,301
Newport, Mon. .. .. .	822	+ 110	+ 222	8,565	7,907
Cardiff .. .. .	2,818	+ 691	- 321	24,924	27,903
Swansea .. .. .	729	- 44	+ 200	7,198	6,659
<b>Other Ports—</b>					
Liverpool .. .. .	14,455	- 752	+ 986	116,893	106,355
London .. .. .	8,105	+ 884	+ 523	64,328	64,394
Southampton .. .. .	11,165	- 286	+ 257	85,857	80,613
<b>SCOTLAND:—</b>					
Leith .. .. .	273	- 73	+ 32	3,262	3,093
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth .. .. .	146	+ 58	- 151	2,073	2,253
Glasgow .. .. .	3,961	+ 381	+ 882	27,066	21,479
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND:—</b>					
Belfast .. .. .	87	- 396	- 50	2,101	2,252
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>46,528</b>	<b>- 421</b>	<b>+ 1,547</b>	<b>380,398</b>	<b>363,855</b>

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during September was moderate on the whole.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.	At Wharves making Returns.
<b>Week ended—</b>				
1st Sept., 1923 .. .. .	6,108	3,519	9,627	7,798
8th " .. .. .	6,730	3,133	9,863	7,760
15th " .. .. .	6,538	2,625	9,163	7,932
22nd " .. .. .	6,141	2,379	8,520	8,040
29th " .. .. .	5,913	2,509	8,422	8,168
<b>Average for 5 weeks ended 29th Sept., 1923 .. .. .</b>	<b>6,266</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>9,119</b>	<b>7,939</b>
<b>Average for Aug., 1923 .. .. .</b>	<b>3,503</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>4,979</b>	<b>6,395</b>
<b>Average for Sept., 1923 .. .. .</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>7,322</b>	<b>7,378</b>

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in September was 1,299, as compared with 1,949 in August, and with 1,071 in September, 1922.

East Coast.—Employment was fairly good with coal trimmers on the Tyne and Wear; with other classes of workers it was generally fair and about the same as in August. There was an improvement at Middlesbrough, and employment was fairly good. It continued brisk at Hartlepool. It was fair at Hull and Grimsby, but slack at Goole. At the other East Coast ports it was moderate generally.

Western and Southern Ports.—At Liverpool employment was only moderate. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 1st October, was 14,644, compared with 15,049 in the four weeks ended 27th August, and with 13,774 in the corresponding period of last year; the average weekly amount of wages paid to these men, through the Clearing Houses, was £34,430 in the five weeks ended 1st October, compared with £37,608 in the four weeks ended 27th August.

At Manchester employment was less active than in the previous month.

At the South Wales ports employment continued slack. At Southampton it remained fairly good, and at Plymouth and other South Western Ports it was fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was fair, and slightly better than in August. At Dundee it declined and was slack. It remained fair at Aberdeen and also at Belfast.

\* 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.

§ The figures for August were affected by the strike of dock workers.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.\*

THE number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from workpeople—at 1st October, 1923, was 1,285,105†, of whom 954,855 were men, 45,010 boys, 244,139 women, and 41,101 girls. Compared with 27th August there was an increase of 18,977. In the men's and women's departments there were increases of 12,342 and 7,032 respectively, while in the case of juveniles there was a decrease of 397.

During the five weeks ended 1st October the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 75,926, of which 42,002 were for men, 19,793 for women, and 14,131 for juveniles.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the five weeks ended 1st October, 1923:—

Week ended	Applications by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople (Live Register.) †	From Employers.
27th August, 1923 ..	17,047	14,794	1,266,123	16,114
3rd September, 1923 ..	16,924	13,998	1,271,488	15,482
10th " " ..	18,535	15,657	1,261,676	15,769
17th " " ..	18,573	14,867	1,266,930	16,191
24th " " ..	17,924	15,397	1,271,157	15,908
1st October " " ..	19,253	16,007	1,285,105	16,294
Total (5 weeks) ..	91,209	75,926	—	—

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraphs is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 3rd September are dealt with below:—

**Applications from Workpeople.**—The total number of 617,721 applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 3rd September showed a daily average of 25,738—an increase of 10.2 per cent. compared with the daily average of the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 16,245, women for 6,657, and juveniles for 2,836—increases of 9.9 per cent., 9.8 per cent., and 13.0 per cent. respectively in the case of men, women, and juveniles, compared with the previous month.

**Vacancies Notified.**—During the four weeks ended 3rd September there were 69,438 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 2,893, as compared with 3,293 during the preceding period. Of this daily average 1,524 were for men, 872 for women, and 497 for juveniles. Compared with the previous month the daily average number of vacancies notified for men, women and juveniles decreased by 10.7 per cent., 15.1 per cent. and 10.9 per cent. respectively.

**Vacancies Filled.**—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 57,383—a daily average of 2,391, as compared with 2,781 during the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,319, women for 629, and juveniles for 443. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 1,533; women, 765; and juveniles, 483.

**Juveniles.**—During the period 33,345 applications were received from boys and 34,727 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 5,854, and 5,282 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 6,071 vacancies were notified and 5,360 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 22.5 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

Statistics relating to **Building Trades** (men) and to **Domestic Service occupations** (women) for the four weeks ended 3rd September have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below:—

In the building trades 9,802 vacancies were notified for men and 7,560 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were: Carpenters, 2,315 vacancies notified and 1,729 filled; bricklayers, 1,319 vacancies notified and 647 filled; painters, 2,871 vacancies notified and 2,439 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,239 vacancies and 1,144 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 70,080† at 3rd September, compared with 66,752† at 6th August.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 3rd September was 12,540. Of this number, 5,411 were for resident domestic servants, 2,739 for non-resident domestic servants, 2,644 for charwomen, and 1,163 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 583.

Of the 8,283 vacancies filled, 2,685 were placings in resident domestic service, 1,919 as non-resident, 2,286 as charwomen and 978 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 3rd September for work in domestic services was 29,187, compared with 26,783 on 6th August.

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 3rd September was 2,801.

\* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 1st October, 1923, there were on the Live Registers 929,100 men, 232,000 women, and 25,000 juveniles, compared with 1,165,000 men, 235,000 women, and 25,800 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 at 1st October, 1923. In certain cases the figures cover more than one Exchange Area:—

Area.	Number of Persons remaining on the Live Registers at 1st October, 1923.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 27th Aug., 1923.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London .. .. .	138,749	31,748	15,456	185,953	- 712
South Eastern Division..	49,129	9,140	5,438	64,067	+ 4,520
Brighton .. .. .	2,626	456	472	3,554	+ 331
Chatham .. .. .	3,386	407	604	4,397	+ 159
Ipswich .. .. .	2,994	430	290	3,714	- 92
Norwich .. .. .	4,455	907	484	5,846	+ 487
Rest of South Eastern ..	35,968	6,940	3,648	46,556	+ 3,565
South Western Division..	58,927	9,923	6,413	75,263	+ 3,029
Bristol .. .. .	11,623	2,735	1,391	15,749	- 1,347
Plymouth .. .. .	5,355	700	581	6,636	+ 166
Portsmouth .. .. .	7,113	754	768	8,675	+ 100
Reading .. .. .	1,551	103	374	2,028	+ 275
Southampton .. .. .	6,340	120	498	7,418	+ 1,202
Swindon .. .. .	2,308	86	98	2,492	+ 171
Rest of South Western ..	26,360	4,965	2,583	33,908	+ 3,377
Midlands Division .. ..	122,408	36,411	9,398	168,216	- 917
Birmingham .. .. .	30,736	9,522	1,990	42,310	+ 1,143
Coventry .. .. .	4,747	734	413	5,894	+ 195
Cradley Heath .. .. .	3,975	386	244	4,605	+ 1
Derby .. .. .	2,508	826	333	3,667	+ 1
Leicester .. .. .	3,756	1,756	200	5,712	+ 583
Northampton .. .. .	1,497	447	178	2,122	+ 184
Nottingham .. .. .	6,668	2,170	323	9,161	+ 430
Smethwick .. .. .	1,096	475	5,223	6,794	+ 140
Stoke-on-Trent .. .. .	7,057	3,675	313	11,085	+ 2,331
Walsall .. .. .	4,530	673	939	6,202	+ 200
West Bromwich .. .. .	5,170	443	173	5,786	+ 241
Wolverhampton .. .. .	6,158	1,840	394	8,392	+ 241
Rest of Midlands .. .. .	43,992	12,346	4,013	60,356	+ 221
North Eastern Division..	195,924	29,985	18,772	244,681	+ 6,438
Barnsley .. .. .	1,494	268	84	1,846	+ 41
Bradford .. .. .	4,625	4,690	370	13,195	+ 3,060
Bradlington .. .. .	181	121	2,592	2,894	+ 21
Dewsbury .. .. .	1,000	244	95	1,439	+ 21
Doncaster .. .. .	326	194	273	793	+ 61
Gateshead .. .. .	5,967	603	602	7,172	+ 238
Grimsby .. .. .	1,647	240	210	2,100	+ 304
Hull .. .. .	2,392	1,233	117	3,802	+ 40
Hartlepool .. .. .	6,794	240	264	7,298	+ 143
Huddersfield .. .. .	1,650	179	5,142	7,071	+ 104
Hull .. .. .	8,862	1,067	10,740	12,969	+ 668
Leeds .. .. .	13,616	3,519	1,188	18,323	+ 451
Lincoln .. .. .	3,200	273	217	3,790	+ 203
Middlesbrough .. .. .	9,216	330	357	9,903	+ 186
Newcastle-on-Tyne .. ..	17,616	1,193	1,417	20,226	+ 615
Rotherham .. .. .	2,484	179	286	2,958	+ 63
Sheffield .. .. .	23,059	2,190	1,623	26,872	+ 1,216
South Shields .. .. .	6,719	391	764	8,274	+ 220
Stockton-on-Tees .. .. .	7,813	210	329	8,352	+ 238
Sunderland .. .. .	15,609	592	927	17,528	+ 228
York .. .. .	1,702	292	557	2,551	+ 241
Rest of North Eastern ..	52,954	9,969	3,032	65,955	+ 106
North Western Division ..	198,086	37,659	20,733	256,478	+ 1,605
Accrington .. .. .	2,737	239	511	3,487	+ 1,024
Ashton-under-Lyne .. ..	2,722	1,464	226	4,412	+ 1,230
Barrow .. .. .	7,216	333	694	8,243	+ 394
Birkenhead .. .. .	6,278	520	1,059	7,857	+ 441
Blackburn .. .. .	4,349	3,747	493	8,589	+ 12
Blackpool .. .. .	841	501	59	1,401	+ 739
Bolton .. .. .	6,410	1,627	518	8,555	+ 422
Burnley .. .. .	5,253	6,354	631	12,238	+ 2,246
Bury .. .. .	2,056	290	487	2,833	+ 200
Chorley .. .. .	1,387	414	85	1,886	+ 551
Liverpool .. .. .	44,133	6,350	3,555	54,038	+ 1,654
Manchester .. .. .	23,711	6,905	2,395	33,011	+ 1,474
Nelson .. .. .	1,213	812	60	2,091	+ 185
Oldham .. .. .	8,976	5,968	685	15,629	+ 12,482
Preston .. .. .	5,019	6,584	740	12,443	+ 6,611
Rochdale .. .. .	5,879	926	1,236	7,041	+ 854
St. Helens .. .. .	1,966	265	387	2,638	+ 311
Salford .. .. .	8,811	4,371	1,650	14,832	+ 1,080
Stockport .. .. .	3,849	3,147	545	7,541	+ 386
Warrington .. .. .	2,481	427	215	3,123	+ 198
Wigan .. .. .	2,027	3,380	596	6,003	+ 840
Rest of North Western ..	44,682	24,768	4,685	74,135	+ 4,451
Scotland Division .. ..	110,380	24,554	10,912	145,846	+ 4,693
Aberdeen .. .. .	5,436	773	335	6,544	+ 210
Clydebank .. .. .	4,347	252	360	4,959	+ 234
Dunfermline .. .. .	6,702	2,230	334	9,266	+ 632
Edinburgh .. .. .	10,054	1,758	1,222	13,034	+ 1,122
Glasgow .. .. .	62,297	9,886	4,856	77,049	+ 1,122
Greenock .. .. .	10,711	696	399	11,806	+ 163
Motherwell .. .. .	1,960	169	152	2,281	+ 213
Paisley .. .. .	5,563	868	602	7,033	+ 61
Rest of Scotland .. ..	33,250	7,856	2,592	43,698	+ 1,758
Wales Division .. .. .	31,278	2,607	36,146	4,589	+ 1,589
Cardiff .. .. .	5,783	639	481	6,903	+ 390
Llanelli .. .. .	451	105	66	622	+ 52
Newport .. .. .	2,629	200	165	2,994	+ 311
Swansea .. .. .	2,019	176	204	2,499	+ 417
Rest of Wales .. .. .	20,306	1,487	1,345	23,138	+ 1,603
Northern Ireland .. ..	25,734	12,116	1,073	38,923	+ 965
Belfast .. .. .	15,727	7,805	631	24,163	+ 676
Londonderry .. .. .	1,370	711	65	2,146	+ 129
Lurgan .. .. .	349	107	41	497	+ 44
Lisburn .. .. .	778	737	94	1,609	+ 285
Newry .. .. .	777	295	25	1,097	+ 57
Rest of Northern .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland .. .. .	6,133	2,461	250	8,844	+ 220
Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland ..	954,855	244,139	86,111	1,285,105	+ 18,977

\* Mainly a temporary reduction due to irregular working. In the following week there was a large increase.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT 24th SEPTEMBER, 1923.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1923, 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. Employees of local authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme, may, in certain circumstances, be exempted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under 16 years of age. An applicant for unemployment benefit must, *inter alia*, prove continuous unemployment, and it is provided that for this purpose any three days 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. Persons employed in establishments where, owing to trade depression, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis in such a manner as to fall within the above provision are accordingly eligible for benefit. Payment of unemployment benefit is subject to certain statutory conditions and disqualifications. Concurrently with the exchange of Insurance Books in the middle of July opportunity has been taken to revise the classification of insured workpeople so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 Census of population. Since the composition of the several industrial groups has undergone

modification this change, which will have great permanent advantages, has the temporary disadvantage of making the returns given in this and subsequent issues of the GAZETTE not strictly comparable with those in issues prior to July, 1923. In the present issue the numbers of persons unemployed are arranged according to the industry of the employers by whom they were last employed. At the annual exchange of insurance books insured persons are being classified according to the industry of their present or last employer, under precisely the same groupings as those presented below. Some two or three months will elapse before the results of that tabulation are available, and until then it will not be possible to give the total numbers of insured persons in each industry, and consequently it will not be possible to give during that period the industrial percentages of unemployment which have been regularly given in recent years. As soon as the totals referred to are available the full table of figures will be restored and comparative statistics will be presented for each of the intervening months.

It should be noted that in arriving at the figures shown in the Table below account is taken not only of claims to benefit current at the date of the return, but also of a due proportion of claims to benefit in respect of systematic short time.\* The figures also include insured persons who, though not claiming benefit, are either maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, or are known to be unemployed.

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

INDUSTRY.	MEN.	WOMEN.	JUVE- NILES.	TOTAL.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 27th Aug., 1923.	INDUSTRY.	MEN.	WOMEN.	JUVE- NILES.	TOTAL.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 27th Aug., 1923.
Building .. .. .	83,451	197	1,244	84,892	+ 2,292	Brought forward ..	590,511	60,668	17,325	668,504	+ 981
Public Works Contracting, &c. ..	23,424	20	162	23,606	- 96	Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance .. .. .	5,389	1,275	365	7,029	- 219
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ..	1,628	38	63	1,729	+ 123	Railway Service .. .. .	10,337	241	124	10,702	- 162
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ..	115,723	338	1,717	117,778	- 2,068	Tramway and Omnibus Service ..	3,584	87	51	3,722	+ 439
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding .. .. .	132,001	2,148	2,371	136,520	+ 475	Other Road Transport .. .. .	24,123	91	365	24,579	- 1,063
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., Making ..	14,008	740	435	15,183	- 157	Fishing .. .. .	3,023	21	73	3,117	- 67
General Iron Founding .. .. .	3,517	490	202	4,209	+ 200	Shipping Service .. .. .	20,632	249	397	21,278	- 1
Electrical Engineering .. .. .	16,441	42	209	16,692	- 83						

## TRADE DISPUTES.\*

*Number, Magnitude and Duration.*—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 29, as compared with 45 in the previous month and 31 in September, 1922. In these new disputes, nearly 7,000 workpeople were directly involved, and 2,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition about 45,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 28 disputes which began before September, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 57, involving approximately 54,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during September of about 1,029,000 working days.

The principal dispute in progress was that involving members of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders in federated shipyards. This dispute began on 30th April and continued throughout September.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved (whether directly or indirectly) at the establishments concerned, and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in September.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Sept.	Aggregate Duration of all Disputes in progress in Sept.
	Started before 1st Sept.	Started in Sept.	Total.		
Mining & Quarrying	2	10	12	8,000	34,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	6	4	10	42,000	953,000
Transport .. .. .	4	5	9	2,000	19,000
Other Trades.. .. .	16	10	26	2,000	23,000
<b>Total, Sept., 1923 ..</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>1,029,000</b>
<i>Total, Aug., 1923 ..</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>63,000</i>	<i>1,300,000</i>
<i>Total, Sept., 1922 ..</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>15,000</i>	<i>114,000</i>

*Causes.*—Of the 29 disputes beginning in September, 7, directly involving 600 workpeople, arose out of proposed reduc-

tions in wages; 9, directly involving 600 workpeople, on other wages questions; 8, directly involving 2,200 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 2, directly involving 500 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; and 3, directly involving 2,700 workpeople, on questions of unionism and non-unionism.

*Results.*—Settlements were effected during September in the case of 16 new disputes, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, and 15 old disputes, directly involving 2,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 8, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 12, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 11, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 11 disputes, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

## TOTALS FOR FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1922 AND 1923.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first nine months of 1923, in comparison with the corresponding period of 1922:—

Groups of Industries.	January to Sept., 1922.			January to Sept., 1923.		
	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.
Building .. .. .	51	8,000	161,000	45	18,000	349,000
Mining and Quarrying .. .. .	131	114,000	1,282,000	137	153,000	1,055,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .. .	48	356,000	17,143,000	43	49,000	3,855,000
Other Metal .. .. .	42	10,000	269,000	34	6,000	73,000
Textile .. .. .	14	4,000	63,000	23	35,000	1,216,000
Clothing .. .. .	21	3,000	45,000	20	4,000	27,000
Transport .. .. .	35	5,000	51,000	47	57,000	992,000
Agriculture and Fishing .. .. .	3	2,000	53,000	8	9,000	263,000
Printing, Paper, &c., Trades .. .. .	11	19,000	323,000	12	6,000	169,000
Woodworking and Furniture .. .. .	20	2,000	37,000	19	2,000	43,000
Chemical, Brick, Glas., Pottery, etc. .. .. .	10	1,000	25,000	22	2,000	72,000
Food, &c., Trades .. .. .	17	5,000	64,000	18	9,000	155,000
Other Trades .. .. .	21	3,000	27,000	38	4,000	16,000
Employees of Public Authorities .. .. .	23	4,000	89,000	23	4,000	62,000
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>536,000</b>	<b>19,632,000</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>353,000</b>	<b>8,347,000</b>

## PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING SEPTEMBER, 1923.

Occupations and Locality. ‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. §	Result. ¶
	Directly.	Indirectly. §	Began.	Ended.		
<b>MINING AND QUARRYING:—</b>						
Coal miners, etc.—Whitehaven (near).	2,423		1923. 15 May	1923. 6 Sept.	Dispute as to proposed change in method of working and alterations in rates of wages of hewers.	Work resumed pending arbitration.
Coal miners, etc.—Pontypridd (near).	2,500		3 Sept.	6 Sept.	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	Non-members joined the Federation.
Coal miners, etc.—Stirling (near)..	1,315		12 Sept.	13 Sept.	For reinstatement of a workman alleged to have been unjustly dismissed.	Workman in question reinstated pending investigation.
<b>METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIPBUILDING:—</b>						
Platers, riveters, caulkers, etc. (shipbuilding and repairing) and other workpeople—Federated Districts. ¶	10,000**	30,000**	30 April	..	Lock-out to enforce acceptance of an Agreement governing overtime and night-shift working made between the Employers' Federation and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.	No settlement reported.
Shipyards plumbers, plumbers' mates, shipwrights, ironmen, joiners and labourers—Falmouth.	100	700	5 Sept.	22 Sept.	For extra payment when working in alleged unhealthy conditions.	Work resumed at old rates of wages.
<b>TRANSPORT:—</b>						
Canal boatmen, carters, warehousemen, and other workpeople—Birmingham, Midlands, London, Ellesmere Port, etc.	617	67	13 Aug.	..	Against proposed reduction in wages of canal boatmen.	No settlement reported.
Grain porters—Leith .. .. .	300	..	11 Sept.	12 Sept.	Against proposed reduction in wages	Work resumed pending arbitration.

\* 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.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the extent of such duplication is, however, very slight.

‡ Two disputes which together involved about 350,000 workpeople occurred in 1922 in the engineering and shipbuilding industries.

§ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

¶ Estimated number.

\*\* The districts involved include the Clyde, East Scotland, North-East Coast, Hull, Southampton, Birkenhead, and Barrow.

\*\*\* Estimated numbers involved by the end of September, exclusive of workpeople unemployed when the stoppage began.

## 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 September, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £46,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 550,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of over £35,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 600,000 workpeople. The groups of industries principally affected are as shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	421,000	478,000	£ 32,000	£ 21,500
Metal .. .. .	26,500	11,500	8,000	1,150
Clothing .. .. .	50,000	..	5,500	..
Public Utility Services ..	750	68,000	50	7,450
Other .. .. .	68,000	40,000	5,300	4,600
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>566,250</b>	<b>597,500</b>	<b>45,900</b>	<b>35,100</b>

In the mining group there were increases in the rates of wages of coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and the Forest of Dean, the increase on the previous rates being over 11 per cent. in the last-mentioned district, while in the other districts it varied from about 2½ to 3½ per cent. There was a slight reduction in the wages of coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, and in Scotland there was a reduction amounting to over 5½ per cent. on the rates previously in force. Reductions also occurred in the wages of iron ore miners in Cumberland and the Furness district.

In the metal industries the principal increase affected workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades at Birmingham, whose wages were increased by 5 per cent. Blast-furnace workers in Cumberland sustained a reduction of nearly 5½ per cent. on their previous rates; and there were reductions, usually of 6d. or 1s. per week, in the wages of most classes of skilled men employed in the Thames ship-repairing industry.

The principal change in the clothing trades was an increase in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade in Great Britain, the amount of increase usually ranging from 2s. to 3s. per week in the case of adult workers.

In the public utility services the principal change affected workpeople employed in the gas industry, whose wages were reduced by ¼d. per hour or 4d. per shift at most of the principal undertakings in Great Britain.

In trades other than the above, the principal bodies of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages in September were certain classes of road transport workers in London, whose wages were reduced; and workpeople employed in the textile making-up and packing industry at Manchester, whose wages were increased.

Under the Trade Boards Acts, in addition to the change mentioned above, there were increases in the minimum rates fixed for most classes of workpeople in the paper bag, paper box, and brush and broom trades in Great Britain; these increases

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1923.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
<b>BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.</b>				
Building	Brentwood .. .. .	23 Sept. †	Building trade operatives ..	Increase of ¼d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5d.) and ¼d. per hour for labourers (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0½d.). §
	St. Albans .. .. .	28 Sept.	Building trade operatives ..	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5½d.) and ¾d. per hour for labourers (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1½d.). §
	Abingdon, Didcot, Eastleigh, Eton, Oxford, Slough and Windsor	3 Sept.	Building trade operatives ..	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 3½d. to 1s. 4½d.) and ¾d. per hour for labourers (11½d. to 1s. 0½d.). §
	Dorking .. .. .	13 July	Building trade operatives ..	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen and of ¾d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d. §
	Reading .. .. .	3 Sept.	Building trade operatives ..	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d. §

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of general changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to full-time rates of wages, and do not take into account the effect of short time working.

† In addition to the numbers quoted wages stood at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of 240,000 workpeople whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ It was originally reported that the above increase took effect in July, and particulars of the change were given in the August issue of the GAZETTE. It has since been ascertained, however, that the increase generally operated from the date recorded above.

§ This increase in wages resulted from the up-grading of the districts concerned, under the Grading Scheme of the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry (see page 222 of the June GAZETTE).

took effect as the result of arrangements by which the minimum rates are regulated automatically in accordance with the cost of living.

Of the decreases taking effect in September, 10, amounting to £22,400 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or on selling prices; 12, amounting to over £6,800 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; 6, amounting to £10,750 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including £6,650 under cost of living sliding scales, incorporated above); 3, amounting to under £50 per week, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining 24 cases, amounting to £1,750 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties or by individual action on the part of employers. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for £100 per week. Of the increases in wages, 6, amounting to £32,000 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or on selling prices; 17, amounting to £11,600 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; 5, amounting to £1,950 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies; and the remaining 8 cases, amounting to £500 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation. Increases preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for less than £50 per week.

## Summary of Changes in January—September, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the nine completed months of 1923 and the net aggregate amounts of such changes:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building .. .. .	4,700	441,000	£ 900	£ 72,400
Mining and Quarrying ..	935,000	16,000	267,400	2,600
Iron and Steel .. .. .	146,000	6,000	31,600	1,200
Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .. .	5,000	155,000	550	27,700
Other Metal .. .. .	29,700	118,000	3,150	23,800
Textile .. .. .	1,550	191,000	200	17,500
Clothing .. .. .	1,000	491,000	30	80,300
Transport .. .. .	2,700	753,000	275	123,900
Paper, Printing, &c. ..	..	139,000	..	17,200
Furniture and Woodworking .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c. .. .. .	100	53,000	15	11,400
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	1,150	123,000	320	21,500
Public Utility Services ..	100	239,000	10	32,700
Other .. .. .	2,000	325,000	300	58,000
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,129,000</b>	<b>3,160,000</b>	<b>304,750</b>	<b>504,300</b>

In the corresponding nine months of 1922 there was a net reduction of over £3,300,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 7,500,000 workpeople, and a net increase of about £11,500 in the wages of 75,000 workpeople.

## Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in September.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES—continued.</b>				
Building	Weybridge and Cobham	6 July	Building trade operatives ...	Increase to rates of 1s. 5½d. per hour for craftsmen and 1s. 1½d. per hour for labourers.*
	Various Other Districts in the Southern Counties†	3 Sept.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 3½d. to 1s. 4d.) and ¼d. per hour for labourers (1½d. to 1s.).*
	Lisburn ...	1 Sept.	Labourers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: hodmen, 1s. 1d.; groundmen, 1s.
<b>MINING AND QUARRYING.</b>				
Coal Mining	Northumberland...	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 6.51 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 145.06 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower-paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 9½d. per day (as previously fixed).
	Durham ...		Adult underground pieceworkers	Minimum wage for adult underground pieceworkers to be calculated by adding 3ths (instead of 2ths as previously) of the amount by which the county percentage exceeds 50 per cent. to the legal minimum rates.
	Yorkshire and East Midland Area‡	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 8.48 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 131.28 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower-paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day (as previously fixed).
	Forest of Dean ...			Decrease of 0.19 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 58.37½ per cent. above the standard of 1911.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire			Increase of 18.07 per cent. on standard base rates of 1919, making wages 80.07 per cent. above the standard of 1919.
Coke and By-products Manufacture	Scotland ...			Increase of 3.85 per cent. on standard base rates of 1915, subject to subsistence allowances previously paid. (See p. 415 of October, 1922, GAZETTE, and p. 295 of August, 1923, GAZETTE.)
	Durham ...	1 Sept.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Decrease of 15.47 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, leaving wages 162.94 per cent. above the standard of 1888, subject to a subsistence allowance for surface workers, operative from 1 January, 1922. (See p. 80 of February, 1922, GAZETTE.)
	South Yorkshire...		Iron ore miners ...	Increase of 8.48 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 131.88 per cent. above the standard, subject to lower-paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day (as previously fixed).
	Cumberland ...	17 Sept.	Winding enginemmen ... Other underground and surface workers	Decrease of 0.19 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 58.37 per cent. above the standard.
	Furness District ...	9 Sept.	Iron ore miners and surface-men (except blacksmiths and fitters, whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements)	Decrease of 4d. per shift in the bargain price (10s. 11d. to 10s. 7d.), and of 4d. per shift in the minimum wage (8s. 3d. to 7s. 11d.).
Iron Mining	West Cumberland	10 Sept.	Limestone quarrymen ...	Decrease of 3d. per shift (9s. 5d. to 9s. 2d.).
	Thames and Medway District	1st pay in Sept.	Chalk quarry workers ...	Decrease of 2d. per shift for men and of 1d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 8d. per shift; joiners, 9s. 5d. per shift plus 6d. per shift tool money; blacksmiths, 9s. 5d. per shift.
	Aberdeen District	27 June 17 Sept.	Granite quarry workers ...	Decrease of 6d. per shift in the bargain price for miners (10s. 1d. to 9s. 7d.); of 4d. per shift in the minimum wage (9s. 0½d. to 8s. 8½d.); of 5½d. per shift for surfacemen; and of 2½d. per shift for boys under 16 years.
<b>IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.</b>				
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay in Sept.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces	Decrease of 8½ per cent. on standard rates of 1919, leaving wages 49 per cent. above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus.††
	Barrow-in-Furness	5 Aug.	Enginemmen, cranemen, etc. ...	Increase of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 30 per cent. above the standard.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Sheffield District‡‡	10 Sept.	Building trade operatives employed in steel and engineering, etc., works	Increase of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard.
	Shotton ...	9 Sept.	Loco drivers and shunters employed in steel works	Decrease of 5s. 7½d. per week for plumbers, 3s. 8d. per week for other craftsmen, and 3s. 4½d. per week for bricklayers' labourers.†††

\* This increase in wages resulted from the up-grading of the districts concerned, under the Grading Scheme of the National Wages and Conditions Council for the building industry (see page 222 of the June GAZETTE).  
 † Various districts covered by the Southern Counties Regional Joint Council, viz., Amersham, Ascot, Bracknell, Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester, and Strood.  
 ‡ Chesham, Egham, Henley, Littlehampton, Maidenhead, Marlow, Staines, Wallingford, Winchester, Wokingham, and Worthing.  
 ‡‡ 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 September was 56.71 for the Eastern Area and 53.37 for the Western Area.  
 †† This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.  
 ††† The above reduction is the second instalment of a total reduction of 1d. per hour arranged in June.  
 †††† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.  
 ††††† The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slagers, fillers, enginemmen, etc., is 3½ in the Workington Area, and 8½ in the Furness Area.  
 †††††† This change took effect under an arrangement between the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives. A further reduction of similar amounts has been arranged to take effect on 1st October. The rates payable after the second reduction will be 71s. per week for craftsmen and 52s. per week for bricklayers' labourers. Men working on chimney and stack work over 40 feet high are to be paid 4s. per week extra, and over 90 feet high, 8s. per week.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, ETC.</b>				
Engineering, etc.	Sheffield District...	10 Sept.	Building trade operatives employed in engineering, etc., works	[See entry under Iron and Steel Manufacture.]
	Thames District ...	5 Sept.	Sheet metal workers, joiners, painters, french polishers, drillers, electricians' assistants, galley-men, tilers, and rivet heaters under 18 years of age	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: joiners, painters and sheet metal workers, 64s.; french polishers, 63s. 6d.; drillers, 55s.; electricians' assistants, 49s.; galley-men and tilers, 57s. 6d.; rivet heaters under 18 years, 26s. 9d.
Ship Repairing, etc.	London District ...	1st full pay day in Sept.	Shipwrights and blacksmiths ... Riggers ...	Decrease of 6d. per week (63s. 6d. to 63s.). Decrease of 7d. for Saturday. Rate after change: Saturdays, 7s. 2d.; other week-days, 11s. 2d.
	London District ...	1st full pay day in Sept.	Hammermen ... Platers, riveters, burners, welders and holders-up	Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week (53s. 4d. to 52s. 2d.). Decrease of 1s. per week for platers, riveters, burners and holders-up. Rates after change: platers, 81s. 10d.*; riveters, 74s. 7d.*; burners, 88s. 6d.; welders, 93s.; holders-up, 68s. 3d.*
Light Castings, etc., Manufacture	Falkirk and Luton	3 Sept.	Patternmakers† ...	Decrease of 2s. per week‡ (67s. 6d. to 65s. 6d.).
	Lancashire and Yorkshire	1st pay day in Sept.	Adult male pieceworkers ...	Addition of 57½ per cent. previously paid on base piece rate earnings, reduced to 55 per cent.
Spring Manufacture	Birmingham ...	1st pay day in Sept.	Workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades	Increase of 5 per cent. (calculated on total wages). Rates after change: men—skilled, 64s. 4d. or 60s. 2d.; semi-skilled, 49s. 5d. or 47s. 3d.; unskilled, 46s. 5d. or 42s. 1d.; women—skilled, 29s. 3d. or 27s. 6d.; semi-skilled, 25s. 9d. or 22s.; unskilled, 21s. 6d. or 18s.
	Sheffield ...	1st full pay after 18 Sept. 5 Sept.	Laminated spring fitters and vicemen, smiths and strikers	Increase of 1s. per week in flat-rate bonus.
Frost Cog Manufacture	Lye, Stourbridge and Old Hill	1st full pay after 18 Sept. 5 Sept.	Frost cog makers ...	New list of piece prices adopted, resulting in an increase of from 12½ per cent. to 15 per cent.
	<b>OTHER METAL TRADES.</b>			
Cotton	Blackburn and surrounding districts§	Week ending 8 Sept. 3 Sept.	Drawers-in ...	Extra payment of ¼d. per 1,000 ends to be made where crumming occurs in stave work.
	Carnoustie ...	3 Sept.	Female weavers employed on piecework	Minimum piecework basis time rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 7½d. per hour. (See Order on p. 350 of September GAZETTE.)
Jute	Liverpool ...	Pay beginning week ending 29 Sept. 24 Sept.	Ropeworkers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for men and of 1s. 6d. per week for women; juveniles to remain on their old basis of 1s. to 1s. 6d. above the existing Trade Board rates.
	Great Britain ...	24 Sept.	Male workers employed in the net trade as charge hands or as net riggers	Increase of ¼d. per hour (1s. to 1s. 0½d.) in the minimum piecework basis time rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. (See also p. 399.)
Rope, Twine and Net Manufacture	Nottingham ...	21 Sept.	Lace dippers and stainers ...	Increase of 3d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3d.).
	Manchester ...	Pay pre coding 1st pay day in Oct.	Workpeople employed in the lace dressing and finishing trade	Increase of 2s. per week (60s. to 62s.).
Textile Dyeing, Finishing, etc.	Manchester ...	Pay pre coding 1st pay day in Oct.	Workpeople employed in the making-up and packing industry	Increase of 1s. 1d. per week for men 21 and over, and of 7d. per week for women 18 and over. Rates after change: men—hydraulic packers and makers-up (prints), 67s. 6d.; makers-up (greys), 61s. 11d.; cloth lookers, 57s. 9d.; markers-off, stampers, and pressers-off, 57s.; hoistmen, platers, cutters and lappers, 52s. 10d.; general warehousemen, 51s. 5d.; porters, 47s. 7d.; women—markers-off, 35s. 5d.; cutters, 32s. 8d.; stitchers, parcelers, sorters, tapers, etc., 31s. 3d.; general hookers, 29s. 10d.; d'hoote hooks, 27s. 1d.
	<b>CLOTHING TRADES.</b>			
Boot and Shoe Repairing	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade:—	Increase in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See also p. 350 of September GAZETTE.):—
	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Timeworkers—male workers, 21 years of age and over employed in operating power sole-stitchers and Blake or Richardson machines	Increase for those employed during the whole of their time, and with not less than three months' experience, of 2s. per week (72s. to 74s.) for those operating power sole-stitchers and/or Blake or Richardson machines, and of 3s. per week (67s. to 70s.) for those operating Blake or Richardson machines, and for other workers of ¼d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 6½d.) when employed in operating power sole-stitchers, and of ¼d. per hour (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5½d.) when operating Blake or Richardson machines.
Foremen and managers	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Foremen and managers ...	Increase of 2s. per week in the general minimum time rate and guaranteed time rate (72s. to 74s.).
	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Pressmen (responsible for cutting and costing)	Increase of 3s. per week (67s. to 70s.).
Other male workers (except learners and surgical bootmakers)	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Other male workers (except learners and surgical bootmakers)	Increase of 3s. per week (57s. to 60s.).
	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Male learners ...	Increase of 1s. or 2s. per week.
Female workers employed as foremen and managers	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Female workers employed as foremen and managers	Increase of 2s. per week in the general minimum time rate (72s. to 74s.) and of 3s. per week in the guaranteed time rate (67s. to 70s.).
	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Female workers employed on benching and/or finishing	Increase of 1s. or 2s. per week for learners, and of 3s. per week for other workers (57s. to 60s.).
Surgical bootmakers (male and female)	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Other female workers (except surgical bootmakers)	Increase of 1s. or 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 and over, 42s.
	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Surgical bootmakers (male and female)	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.).
Male indentured apprentices...	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Male indentured apprentices...	New scales of minimum rates fixed, resulting in increases of from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week.
	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Pieceworkers ...	Increase of 5 per cent. on piece prices previously fixed.

\* The rates for platers, riveters and holders-up include a speed allowance of 20 per cent. on basis rates.  
 † Members of the United Patternmakers' Association.  
 ‡ A further reduction of 2s. per week has been arranged to take effect on 3rd December.  
 § This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.  
 ¶ Including Preston, Darwen, Chorley, Padiham, Accrington, Haslingden, Ramsbottom, Clitheroe, etc.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>TRANSPORT TRADES.</b>				
Road Transport	London	Pay day in week ending 8 Sept.	Workpeople employed by certain firms*— Permanent men ... ..	New schedule of minimum weekly rates adopted as follows:—one-horse carters (light), 53s.; one-horse carters (heavy), assistant horsekeepers and stablemen, 54s.; two-horse carters (light), 57s.; two-horse carters (heavy), 58s.; three-horse carters, 61s.; four-horse carters, 65s.; drivers of mechanical vehicles (up to and including 15 cwt.), 52s.; (over 15 cwt. up to and including 2 tons), 62s.; (over 2 tons), 68s.; drivers of 6-wheeled mechanical vehicles, 72s.; mates on steam wagons, 57s.; other mates, 55s.
			Men engaged on a daily basis	Minimum daily rates adopted as follows:—one-horse carters (light), 9s. 6d. and 5s. 6d.; one-horse carters (heavy), 9s. 10d. and 5s.; two-horse carters (light), 10s. 4d. and 5s. 4d.; two-horse carters (heavy), 10s. 6d. and 5s. 6d.; three-horse carters, 11s. and 6s.; four-horse carters, 11s. 8d. and 6s. 8d.; drivers of 6-wheeled mechanical vehicles, 13s. and 7s.; drivers of mechanical vehicles (over 2 tons), 12s. 4d. and 6s. 4d.; (over 15 cwt. up to and including 2 tons), 11s. 2d. and 6s. 2d.; (up to and including 15 cwt.), 9s. 6d. and 5s.; mates on steam wagons, 10s. 4d. and 5s. 4d.; other mates, 10s. and 5s.
			Road transport workers ... ..	Decrease of 1s. per week for adults and of 6d. per week for youths. Rates after change: one-horse drivers, 51s.; two-horse drivers, 56s.; petrol wagon drivers—2 tons and over, 61s.; 15 cwt. to 2 tons, 56s.; under 15 cwt., 51s.; electric vehicle drivers—1 ton and over, 58s.; under 1 ton, 51s.; loaders and garage hands, 51s.
	Belfast	1st full pay day in Sept.	Road transport workers ... ..	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: one-horse carters, 53s.; two-horse carters (light), 58s.; (heavy), 61s.
<b>AGRICULTURE AND FISHING.</b>				
Fish Curing	Stornoway	1 Sept.	Female workers employed in the fish curing industry	Rates adopted of 1s. per barrel for gutting and packing, and of 6d. per hour for timework.
<b>PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.</b>				
Paper Bag Making	Great Britain	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the paper bag making trade:—	Increase§ in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See Order on pp. 350-351 of September GAZETTE):—
			Male workers:— Machine tacklers ... ..	Increase§ of from 1s. to 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 23 years and over, 69s.
			Paper bag cutters ... ..	Increase§ of from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 23 years and over, 62s. 6d.
Paper Box Making	Great Britain	1 Sept.	Hydraulic pressers, slitters, stock-keepers, packers, and despatchers, 21 and over	Increase§ of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 1st year, 55s., increasing to 59s. 6d. after 3 years.
			Other workers (except learners) ... ..	Increase§ of 2s. 6d. per week (52s. 6d. to 55s.).
			Learners ... ..	Increase§ of from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week.
Printing	Manchester	1st pay day in Sept.	Female timeworkers:— Other than learners ... ..	Increase§ of 1s. 6d. per week (29s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.).
			Learners ... ..	Increase§ of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week (except for those commencing at 14 and under 15, for whom there was no change during the first six months' employment).
			Female pieceworkers ... ..	Increase§ in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 1s. per week (31s. to 32s.).
Paper Box Making	Great Britain	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the paper box making trade:—	Increase§ in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See Order on p. 351 of September GAZETTE):—
			Male time workers:— Die makers, forme setters, cutters (including shears and guillotine), machine minders, and head stock-keepers, 18 years and over	Increase§ of from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 18 and under 19, 32s., increasing to 49s. 6d. at 21 to 22, and to 68s. 6d. at 23 and over.
			Other workers (except learners) ... ..	Increase§ of 2s. per week (49s. to 51s.).
Printing	Manchester	1st pay day in Sept.	Learners ... ..	Increase§ of from 6d. to 2s. per week.
			Male pieceworkers ... ..	Increase§ in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 3s. per week (54s. 6d. to 57s. 6d.).
			Female timeworkers:— Other than learners ... ..	Increase§ of 1s. per week (29s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.).
Furniture Manufacture	High Wycombe	Pay day in week ending 29 Sept.	Learners ... ..	New scale of minimum weekly rates fixed, resulting in increase§ of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week (except during 1st 6 months' employment for those commencing at 14 and under 15, for whom there was no change).
			Male pieceworkers ... ..	Increase§ in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 1s. per week (31s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.).
			Female pieceworkers ... ..	Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rates after change: Day work—electricians (mechanics) and engineers, 105s.; electricians' assistants, 90s.; Night work—electricians (mechanics) and engineers, 155s.; electricians' assistants, 100s.
Mill Sawing	Belfast	4 June	Engineers, fitters and turners, electrical fitters, and electrical assistants, employed in certain morning and evening newspaper offices	Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rates after change: Day work—electricians (mechanics) and engineers, 105s.; electricians' assistants, 90s.; Night work—electricians (mechanics) and engineers, 155s.; electricians' assistants, 100s.
			Women timeworkers ... ..	Increase§ of 1d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.).
			Cabinet makers, carvers, french polishers, and upholsterers	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: carvers, 1s. 7½d.; others, 1s. 4½d.
Furniture Manufacture	Reading	3 Sept.	Labourers ... ..	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 3d. to 1s. 2d.).
			Sawyers and machinists ... ..	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.).
			Sawyers and machinists ... ..	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: sawyers, 62s. 4½d. to 62s. 6½d.; machinists, 65s. 0½d. or 65s. 1½d.
Furniture Manufacture	Tyne District	1 Sept.	Yardmen and labourers ... ..	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rate after change, 43s. or 42s. 1½d.
			Yardmen and labourers ... ..	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rate after change, 43s. or 42s. 1½d.
			Yardmen and labourers ... ..	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rate after change, 43s. or 42s. 1½d.

\* The new rates took effect under an agreement made between the London Cartage and Haulage Contractors' Association, the Motor Transport Employers' Federation and the Transport and General Workers' Union. In the case of permanent men the rates resulted in a decrease in the wages of some classes, and in no change in those of other classes.  
† The higher rate is paid from Monday to Friday and the lower rate on Saturday.  
‡ This reduction was made from the wages paid on the 1st pay day in October in respect of the previous week's work.  
§ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.  
¶ Including Blyth, Dunston, Jarrow, Newcastle, North and South Shields, and Tyne Dock.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES—(continued).</b>				
Picture Frame Making	Glasgow	Week beginning 1 Sept.*	Picture frame makers ... ..	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6½d.).
<b>GLASS, BRICK, CHEMICAL, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES.</b>				
Cement	Great Britain	1st pay day in Sept.	Workpeople employed in the cement trade (except bricklayers, joiners, and other skilled tradesmen)	Decreases for dayworkers of 1d. per hour for men 18 and over, and 1d. per hour for youths under 18 and for women, and proportionate decreases for piece and shift workers.
			Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades.	Decrease of 2s. per week. Rate after change for table-hands, 66s.
Baking and Confectionery	Bolton	10 Sept.	Bakers and confectioners ... ..	Increase of 2s. per week for adult workers and of 1s. per week for juniors. Rates after change for day-work: forehands and ovenmen, 72s.; tablehands, 66s.
	Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey	Pay day in week ending 29 Sept.	Bakers and confectioners ... ..	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers, 1s. for women 18 and over and youths over 16 years, and 6d. for female workers under 18 years. Minimum rates after change: adult male workers—forehands, 71s. or 74s.; singlehands, machinemen, etc., 69s.; secondhands, 67s.; tablehands, 65s.; youths, 27s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 36s. at 18 years, and to 46s. at 20 years; female workers 21 years, 35s.
Wholesale Grocery and Provision	Lancashire and parts of Cheshire and Yorkshire†	2nd pay week in Sept.	Warehousemen and porters employed in the wholesale grocery and provision trade	Decrease of 5 per cent. on existing rates for those aged 20, 21 and 22 years, and of 7½ per cent. for those under 20 years; the rates for those aged 23, 24 and 25 years remained unchanged. Rates after change for male workers: warehousemen—16 years, 17s. 6d., increasing to 26s. at 18, 48s. at 21, and to 58s. at 25 years; porters—16 years, 17s., increasing to 25s. 6d. at 18, 44s. at 21, and to 52s. 6d. at 24 years.
			Miscellaneous Trade S.	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: 1s. 3½d. per hour or 64s. 7d. per week.
Saddlery	Belfast	27 Aug.	Saddlers and harness makers ... ..	Increase in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See Order on p. 350 of September LABOUR GAZETTE):—
			Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:—	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 1¾d.).
			Male timeworkers 21 years and over with 3 years' experience in certain operations, and those of all ages who have served at least 5 years' apprenticeship in one or more of these operations	Increase of 1d. per hour for those of 14½ and under 15, 15½ and under 16, 18 and under 19, and 21 and over, the rates for other ages remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change: under 14½ years, 24d., increasing to 6½d. at 18 and under 19, and to 11d. at 21 years and over.
Brush and Broom	Great Britain	1 Sept.	Female pan hands ... ..	Increase in the minimum piece rates of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 2½ per cent. below the list.
			Female workers (other than pan hands and learners)	Increase of 1d. per hour for certain classes.† Minimum time rates after change, 63d., 10d. or 1s. 13d. (according to occupation); piecework basis time rates, 74d. or 11d.
			Female learners (other than pan setting learners)	Increase of 1d. per hour for those of 14½ and under 15, 15½ and under 16, and 18 and over, the rates for other timeworkers remaining unchanged; also increase of 1d. per hour in piecework basis time rate. Minimum time rates after change: at 18 and under 21 years, 61d.; at 21 and over, 64d.; piecework basis time rate, 74d.
Retail Distribution	London**	1st pay after 8 Sept.	Apprentices and female pan setting learners	Increase of 1d. per hour during first six months for those starting at 16 and under 21 years, and during third three months for those starting at 21 and over, the rates for other periods remaining unchanged. Increase proportionate to the above.
			Transport workers employed by certain large retail firms*— Horse-drawn vehicles ... ..	Decrease in the minimum rate of 2s. per week for drivers of 50 cwt. (light pairs) and of 4s. per week for other drivers, assistant horsekeepers and stablemen, except drivers of cob and pony vehicles (15 cwt.) and vanguards, for whom there was no change. Rates after change: drivers—25 cwt. (light singles), 54s.; 50 cwt. (light pairs), 58s.; cob and pony vehicles (15 cwt.), 26s. to 31s.; one-horse (heavy singles), 55s.; two-horse (heavy pairs), 59s.; three-horse, 62s.; four-horse, 66s.; assistant horsekeepers and stablemen, 55s.; vanguards—1st year, 18s.; 2nd year, 19s.; 3rd year, 21s.
			Petrol vehicles ... ..	Decreases in the minimum rates of 1s. per week for drivers of vehicles over 15 cwt. to 30 cwt., 2s. over 30 cwt. to 40 cwt., and 4s. over 40 cwt., the rate for drivers of vehicles up to 15 cwt. remaining unchanged. Rates after change: up to 15-cwt. cars, 53s.; over 15-cwt. to 30-cwt. cars, 59s.; over 30-cwt. to 40-cwt., 63s.; over 40-cwt., 69s.

\* Or whatever later date it is the workshop custom for the pay-week to begin.  
† The reductions took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Cement Manufacturing Industry. Reductions of similar amounts previously took effect from 1st pay day in May. 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 change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.  
§ Macclesfield, Leek, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Congleton, Crewe, Winnington, Winsford, Sandbach, Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem, Fenton, Hanley, Longton, and Tunstall.  
¶ The change took effect under an agreement made between the North of England Wholesale Grocers' Association and the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks.  
\*\* The rates previously fixed remained unchanged for those employed on broom heads up to 11½ in. stock and banisters up to 8½ in. blade, middles made of all fibre or fibre and drafts mixed up to 8½ in., and outside of any material up to and including 3½ in.; banisters (which) up to 7½ in. blade made with common Venetian tops (imported as drafts); sweeps' brushes up to and including 5 in. head and Toy Hearth brushes up to and including 3½ ins. Both made with fibre, fibre and drafts, drafts only or china below 3 in.  
\*\*\* The change took effect under an agreement made between the London Employers' Association, Ltd., and the Transport and General Workers' Union

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.</b>				
Gas Undertakings	Great Britain* ...	1 Sept.†	Men, 18 years of age and over; Adult male workers employed by Corporation	Decrease of 3d. per hour or 4d. per shift. Increase of 6s. 2d. per week. Rates after change: gas fitters, 1s. 7½d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d. per hour.
	Dundee ...	5 July	Adult male workers employed by Corporation	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rate after change for labourers, 11½d. per hour.
Waterworks Undertakings	Certain districts in the Home Counties‡	1st pay day after 1 Sept.†	Able-bodied male manual workers	Decrease of 2s. per week. Scheduled minimum rates after change for labourers: Grade D areas, 53s. 6d.; C, 50s. 3d.; A, 41s. 9d. per week.†
	Worthing ...	6 Sept.	Able-bodied male manual workers	[See entry under Non-Trading Departments.]
Electricity Supply Undertakings	Swansea ...	13 Sept.	Adult male workers ...	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change for labourers and pipe layers, 1s. 2½d. per hour.
	Aberdeen ...	1 Sept.	Adult male workers ...	[See entry under Non-Trading Departments.]
Tramways Undertakings	Swansea ...	13 Sept.	Adult male workers ...	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change for labourers, 1s. 2½d.; stokers, 1s. 6d. per hour.
	London ...	9 Aug.	Bodymakers, coach painters, inside painters, and wheelwrights employed by County Council	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: body makers, coach painters, wheelwrights, 1s. 9½d.; inside painters, 1s. 7d. per hour.
Port Harbour and River Authorities	Clyde ...	5 Sept.	Employees of Clyde Navigation Trustees (excluding those whose wages are regulated by trade awards)	Decrease of 2s. per week for those who are at present in receipt of advances at full time of from 22s. to 32s. per week above pre-war rates. Rate after change for general labourers, 4s. per week.
	Londonderry ...	6 Sept.	Labourers employed by Harbour Commissioners	Decrease of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 43s. per week.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Carlisle ...	1 Sept.	General labourers and scavengers, etc.	Decrease of 1s. 9d. per week for scavengers and of 2s. 2d. for labourers. Rates after change: labourers, 48s. 4d.; scavengers, 34s. 1d. per week.
	Gateshead ...	8 Aug.	Manual workers ...	Decrease of 3d. per hour for men, of 1d. to 3d. for youths, and of 1d. for women. Rates after change: motor drivers, 1s. 3½d.; motor loaders, 1s. 1½d.; carbers and roadmen, 1s. 2½d.; sweepers and general labourers, 1s. 0½d. per hour.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Scarborough ...	1 Sept.	Adult male workers ...	Increase of 1s. 3d. per week. Rates after change: general and road labourers, scavengers and refuse collectors, 48s. 9d.; road paviers, 50s. 9d. per week.
	Sheffield ...	13 Sept.	Manual workers ...	Decrease in bonus or allowances of 2s. per week or 1d. per hour for men and women, and of 2s. per week or 1d. per hour, or such less sum as will reduce special allowances to scale for youths under 21 years receiving special allowances higher than scale. Rates after change for labourers, 1s. 1½d. per hour; scavengers, 7s. 9d. per day.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Southern Home Counties**	17 July	Youths of 21 years and under ...	Scale of rates, varying in accordance with age, adopted as follows: at 14 years 25 per cent. of adult rate; 15 years, 30 per cent.; 16 years, 40 per cent.; 17 years, 50 per cent.; 18 years, 70 per cent.; 19 years, 80 per cent.; 20 years, 90 per cent.; 21 years, 100 per cent. Youths of 18 years and over to receive a man's pay if carrying out a man's work.*
	Hampstead††	1st pay in Aug.	Manual workers ...	Basic rates and bonuses revised in accordance with Agreement made by the London Joint Industrial Council in 1922 (see p. 347 of GAZETTE for August, 1922), half the bonus existing at May, 1922, being incorporated in wages, and the other half being subject to a deduction of 1/6ths, leaving the total rates unchanged.†† Rates after change: labourers, 50s. 3d.; scavengers, 57s. 5d. per week.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Leyton ...	1 Aug.	Permanent men ...	Standard minimum basic rate increased to 32s. per week. Rate after change, including bonus, for road and general labourers and scavengers, 56s. 9d. per week.
	Worthing ...	6 Sept.	Able-bodied male manual workers in Non-Trading and Water Departments	Decrease of 9d. per week for scavengers, and of 1s. per week for other classes. Rates after change for labourers: Non-Trading, 45s. 8d.; Waterworks, 44s. 8d.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Cornwall, Devon and Dorset††	1st pay week in Sept.	Able-bodied male manual workers	Decrease of 1s. per week. Minimum weekly rates after change: Grade A, 52s.; B, 44s.; C, 37s.; D, 32s.††
	Swansea ...	13 Sept.	Adult male workers ...	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rate after change for labourers, 1s. 2½d.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Aberdeen ...	1 Sept.	Adult male workers in Non-Trading and Water Departments	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: general labourers, 49s.; scavengers and refuse collectors, 52s. per week.
	Glasgow ...	2 Aug. and 3 Sept.	Carbers ... Paviers and settmakers ...	Decrease of 2s. per week (58s. to 56s.). Decrease of 3d. per hour for paviers (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.) and of 1d. per 110 stones for settmakers (4s. 10d. to 4s. 9d. per 110 stones).

\* The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Gas Industry. Such undertakings include the great majority of the larger undertakings in England and Wales; in Scotland separate arrangements are made by the Glasgow and Dundee Corporation undertakings. In the case of Leeds the decrease did not apply to labourers, for whom a uniform rate has been adopted in all departments of the Corporation. (See p. 221 of June GAZETTE.)

† This decrease was due under the cost of living sliding scale to take effect in July, but it was postponed until September.

‡ Excluding engineering and other craftsmen whose wages are regulated by movements in their own trades.

§ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour Index number of retail prices.

¶ The amounts quoted are subject to the addition of a bonus of 12½ or 7½ per cent. in the case of timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively, 21 years of age and over, where such bonuses are in force.

¶ The Undertakings affected are those which follow the Schedule D, C and A rates of the Home Counties Joint Industrial Council for Waterworks Undertakings and include the following which are shown in their respective areas: Area D: Richmond. Area C: Brighton, Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester Water Works Co.; Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (partly); Folkestone Waterworks Co. Area A: Coine Valley Water Co.; Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (partly); East Kent Water Co.; Faversham Water Co.; Mid-Kent Water Co.; Southend Waterworks Co.; South Kent Water Co. [The scheduled minimum rate for Grade B areas remains unaltered at 47s. per week.]

\*\* These rates were recommended by the Provincial Council for Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex.

†† The Council rescinded the reduction reported on p. 343 of the September GAZETTE, in favour of the scheme recorded above.

‡‡ The authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Council for Cornwall, Devon and Dorset and include:—Grade B: Bideford, Exeter, Newton Abbot, Poole, Torquay; Grade C: Fowey, Launceston. The decrease is the final instalment of 3s. per week due under the sliding scale in July, when it was agreed to defer 1s. per week until September.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes already reported as having been arranged to take effect in October:—Increases.—Iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland; iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire; certain classes of ship repairers on the Thames; chain makers (under Trade Board Order); workpeople employed in paper manufacture; and workpeople employed in the perambulator and invalid carriage trade (under Trade Board Order). Decreases.—Blastfurnace workers and ironstone miners in the Cleveland district; and iron ore miners in Cumberland. Further particulars of these changes will be given in the November issue of this GAZETTE.

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS.

[NOTE.—The figures given for 1922 are provisional and subject to slight revision when certain information, at present outstanding, has been received. Some Unions are unable to state exactly the number of males and females, respectively, comprised within their total membership, and in these cases estimates have been furnished. The totals shown for males and females, therefore, are only approximate. For the purpose of the analysis by groups of Unions, the total membership of each Union has been included in the group with which the majority of the members are believed to be connected, a separate group being made for Unions of general workers. A review of the figures appears on page 358.]

I.—NUMBER OF UNIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE END OF 1922, WITH MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE AND TOTAL) AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP COMPARED WITH 1921.

Groups of Unions.	No. of Trade Unions at end of 1922.	Membership at end of						Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Membership at end of 1922 compared with end of 1921.		
		1922.			1921.			Males.	Females.	Total.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
Agriculture*	5	91,428	1,506	92,934	147,053	2,221	149,274	- 37.8	- 32.2	- 37.7
Mining and Quarrying:										
Coal Mining	105	805,494	4,690	810,174	907,504	5,187	912,691	- 11.2	- 9.6	- 11.2
Other Mining and Quarrying	10	33,472		33,472	36,723		36,723	- 8.9		- 8.9
Pottery and Glass	20	22,487	17,514	40,001	25,361	21,453	46,814	- 11.3	- 18.4	- 14.6
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding†:										
Iron and Steel Manufacture	8	118,881	1,104	119,985	128,351	1,334	129,685	- 7.4	- 17.2	- 7.5
Ironfoundry, Engineering and Shipbuilding†	66	656,070	635	656,705	799,445	747	800,192	- 17.9	- 15.0	- 17.9
Other	47	56,399	5,927	62,326	66,024	8,249	74,273	- 14.6	- 28.1	- 16.1
Textile:										
Cotton	168	143,532	254,368	397,900	158,910	269,887	428,797	- 9.7	- 5.8	- 7.2
Woolen and Worsted††	28	52,405	34,499	86,904	40,007	53,348	93,355	+ 31.0	- 35.3	- 6.9
Linen and Jute	24	10,864	26,433	37,297	11,666	34,880	46,146	- 6.9	- 23.3	- 19.2
Hosiery	10	7,169	22,360	29,529	6,496	21,554	28,050	+ 10.4	+ 3.7	+ 5.5
Other Textile	26	11,214	18,833	30,047	11,576	20,301	31,877	- 3.1	- 7.2	- 5.7
Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc.††	29	55,275	16,348	71,623	70,429	23,320	93,749	- 21.5	- 29.9	- 23.6
Leather (other than Boot and Shoe)	23	10,747	1,628	12,375	12,774	2,222	14,996	- 15.9	- 26.7	- 17.5
Leather (other than Boot and Shoe)										
Boot and Shoe	9	60,023	24,175	84,198	59,365	27,008	86,373	+ 1.1	- 10.5	- 2.5
Tailoring and other Clothing	18	34,533	45,603	80,136	37,205	56,982	93,187	- 7.2	- 18.5	- 14.0
Food, Drink and Tobacco	13	25,398	4,176	29,574	28,710	5,711	34,421	- 11.5	- 26.9	- 14.1
Woodworking and Furnishing:										
Furnishing	9	17,794	3,902	21,696	30,975	3,819	34,794	- 42.5	+ 2.2	- 37.6
Coach Building	2	31,647		31,647	34,707		34,707	- 8.8		- 8.8
Other	20	29,230	520	29,750	33,336	581	33,917	- 12.2	- 10.5	- 12.2
Paper, Printing, etc.	25	131,287	48,591	179,878	137,002	57,389	194,391	- 4.2	- 15.3	- 7.5
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc.:										
Bricklayers and Masons	2	69,247		69,247	81,352		81,352	- 14.9		- 14.9
Carpenters and Joiners†	1	150,738		150,738	160,678		160,678	- 6.2		- 6.2
Painters and Decorators	6	61,696		61,696	72,853		72,853	- 15.3		- 15.3
Builders' Labourers*	7	47,408		47,408	100,252		100,252	- 52.7		- 52.7
Others	31	49,242		49,242	54,855		54,855	- 12.1		- 12.1
Transport:										
Railways	8	438,383	4,981	443,364	501,000	5,875	506,875	- 12.5	- 15.2	- 12.5
Shipping	12	99,951	188	100,139	130,310	284	130,594	- 23.3	- 33.8	- 23.3
Other	23	341,542	4,069	345,611	354,992	7,686	362,678	- 3.8	- 47.1	- 4.7
Commerce and Finance:										
Shop Assistants, Clerks, Warehouse Workers, etc.†	19	111,234	44,240	155,474	133,183	61,483	194,676	- 16.5	- 28.0	- 20.1
Banking and Insurance	17	65,579	6,081	71,660	81,107	7,538	88,645	- 6.8	- 19.3	- 7.9
Public Administration Services§	294	298,213	67,921	366,134	319,950	76,870	396,820	- 7.4	- 11.6	- 8.2
Teaching	15	62,321	143,460	205,781	60,619	139,144	199,763	+ 2.8	+ 3.1	+ 3.0
Entertainments and Sports	10	28,504	7,343	35,847	35,288	9,381	44,669	- 19.2	- 21.7	- 19.7
Miscellaneous	68	40,935	8,060	48,995	51,262	8,166	59,428	- 20.1	- 1.3	- 17.6
General Labour¶	22	434,330	48,922	483,252	638,294	72,033	710,327	- 36.9	- 32.1	- 36.4
TOTALS†	1,190	4,711,662	888,077	5,579,739	5,609,593	1,003,253	6,612,846	- 16.0	- 13.5	- 15.6

II.—MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE AND TOTAL) AT THE END OF 1913 AND OF EACH OF THE YEARS 1919 TO 1922.

Group of Unions.	Males.					Females.					Total.				
	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.
Agriculture*	20	190	208	147	91	1	4	3	2	2	21	194	211	149	93
Mining and Quarrying	920	1,087	1,148	945	839		6	7	5	5	920	1,093	1,155	950	844
Metal, Engineering & Shipbuilding†	545	1,076	1,125	994	832	1	17	17	10	7	546	1,093	1,142	1,004	839
Textile:															
Cotton	158	161	166	159	144	214	283	293	270	254	372	444	459	429	398
Other Textile	49	75	81	70	82	36	189	172	130	102	85	264	253	200	184
Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc.††	56	79	83	70	55	10	27	30	24	17	66	106	113	94	72
Clothing	82	118	109	97	94	25	145	127	83	70	107	265	236	160	164
Woodworking and Furnishing	60	105	115	99	79		6	6	4	4	84	192	220	194	180
Paper, Printing, &c.	78	151	148	137	131	6	61	72	57	49	84	428	570	470	377
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc.††	245	428	570	470	377						245	428	570	470	377
Transport:															
Railways	326	612	605	501	438		12	13	6	5	326	624	612	507	443
Other	367	617	651	485	442	1	13	12	8	4	368	630	643	495	446
Commerce and Finance†	111	277	311	214	187	21	127	131	69	50	132	404	442	283	237
Public Administration Services§	212	326	363	320	286	23	89	94	77	68	235	415	451	397	354
Teaching	48	56	63	61	63	63	124	134	139	143	113	180	197	200	206
Miscellaneous¶	9														





RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1920 to July 1923. Includes columns for Country, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, July 1923, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

\* 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, 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 Sept., the increase for all working-class families ranged from 40 to 408 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. ¶ Figure for August. ¶¶ 67,948,400.

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 1920 to July 1923. Includes columns for Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, July 1923, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

\* A=Food; B=House-Rent; C=Clothing; D=Fuel and Light; E=Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Rome, Milan, and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Hungary, Germany, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, July, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May. ¶¶ 4,039,939,900.

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. 367-368 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.\*

Unemployment in September.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 29th September, 1923, was 9,079 (6,164 men and 2,915 women). In the preceding week the corresponding figure was 8,986, and in the last week of September, 1922, 10,235. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 11,164 (5,536 for men and 5,628 for women), as against 10,693 in the preceding week, and 11,360 in September, 1922. During the week under review the exchanges succeeded in placing 31,746 persons (23,787 men and 7,959 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 3,297 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns six departmental and thirty-seven municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 4th October, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 1,324 (1,240 men and 80 women). This shows a decrease of 39 when compared with the figure for the preceding week, and of 1,485 when compared with the figure for 5th October, 1922. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully represent the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

GERMANY.

Employment in August.—The issue of the Reichs-Arbeitsblatt for 1st October reports that during August a marked decline in the state of employment became apparent. This was particularly true of the metal, clothing, building and transport industries; and, as usual in such critical times, the general body of unskilled workers was particularly affected.

Unemployment among organised workers had been slowly decreasing since May last, but returns from trade unions show a considerable upward movement during August. Thirty-eight unions, with an aggregate of 5,005,373 members covered by the returns, reported that 315,891 of these, or 6.3 per cent. of the total, were unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 3.5 per cent. in the preceding month, and 0.7 in August, 1922. The following Table gives particulars for the leading unions:—

Table showing membership and percentage unemployed for various unions in Germany as of August 1923. Includes columns for Unions, Membership reported at end of Aug., 1923, and Percentage Unemployed at end of month (August 1923, July 1923, August 1922).

The above figures relate to persons totally unemployed. In addition, thirty-five unions, with a total of 4,930,000 members, reported that 1,283,835, or 26.0 per cent. of the total, worked short time in August, as against 14.5 per cent. in July.

An increase took place in the number of unemployed in receipt of assistance from public funds. The total rose from 138,030 on 1st August to 147,028 on 15th August, 243,864 on 1st September, and 355,713 on 15th September. Those in receipt of allowances in respect of short time increased from 189,736 on 1st August, to 844,141 on 15th September. These figures (it is stated) relate only to a small proportion of the total of unemployed workers.

Returns from public Employment Exchanges show that in the

\* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 5th October, 1923. Paris.

month under review the number of applicants for employment increased, while the number of situations offered by employers decreased. The Exchanges reporting registered 1,142,313 applicants (compared with 934,309 in July), and 426,506 vacancies (as against 519,512 in July). On the average there were thus 340 applicants for each 100 situations for men, and 173 for each 100 for women. In July the corresponding figures were 212 (men) and 131 (women).

Sickness insurance statistics show a decrease in the number of members under obligation to insure (and therefore assumed to be in work). Returns from 4,334 societies reported a total of 10,734,804 members on 1st September, as against 11,026,584 on 1st August, a decrease of 2.6 per cent.

BELGIUM.\*

Unemployment in July and August.—The most recent figures available relate to August, but are provisional in character. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,633 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 648,487, show that 12,368 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of that month. The aggregate days of unemployment in August were 141,593, or 0.91 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; for July the corresponding percentage was 1.02, and for August, 1922, 2.45.

Revised and final figures are given for July, in which month 1,632 funds, with an aggregate membership of 646,885, reported 4,238 (or 0.7 per cent.) wholly unemployed, and 9,781 partially so, on the last working day of the month. The percentage of members totally unemployed in June was 0.8, and in July, 1922, 1.9.

During August 13,090 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 12,656 in July. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 13,079 (13,299 in July). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus about 100 applications, as compared with 95 in July.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in September.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 8th September, out of 269,625 members of unemployment funds making returns, 28,115 (10.4 per cent.) were unemployed for six days in the week, and 8,010 (or 3.0 per cent.) were unemployed for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 11th August) the percentages were 9.8 and 3.0, and in the week ended 9th September, 1922, 7.2 and 1.9.

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in August.—According to figures compiled by the Federal Labour Office of Switzerland, the number of applicants for work remaining on the "live register" of the Employment Exchanges on 31st August was 22,554 (as compared with 22,722 at the end of the preceding month and 51,789 at the end of August, 1922). Of these 8,277 were employed on relief works, leaving 14,277 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 3,568 normally engaged in the building trades, 2,641 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 2,071 in the textile trades, and 2,063 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work, 13,507 were reported as only partially employed, including 6,379 in the textile trades and 3,997 in the metal, etc., trades. The vacancies reported by employers remaining unfilled at the end of August numbered 2,420, as against 2,579 at the end of July and 1,585 at the end of August, 1922.

During the month of August on an average 326 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men and 89 for each 100 for women. In July the figures were 291 and 90 respectively. [See also article on p. 364.]

NORWAY.

Unemployment in July.—According to information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, the percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of July in certain trade unions making returns to the Bureau was as shown below, where comparative figures are also given for the preceding month and for July, 1922.

Table showing membership and percentage unemployed for various unions in Norway as of July 1923. Includes columns for Unions, Membership (July 31, 1923, June 30, 1923, July 31, 1922), and Percentage Unemployed (July 31, 1923, June 30, 1923, July 31, 1922).

\* Revue du Travail, 30th September, 1923. Brussels.

† Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, 15th September, 1923. Berne.

SWEDEN.\*

Unemployment in July.—Trade unions with a total membership of 126,422 reported 12,283, or 9.7 per cent., as unemployed on 31st July, 1923. The percentage unemployed at the end of the preceding month was 9.8, and on 31st July, 1922, 20.0.

The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns:—

Table showing membership and percentage unemployed for various unions in Sweden as of July 1923. Includes columns for Unions, Membership reporting on 31st July, 1923, and Percentage Unemployed (31st July, 1923, 30th June, 1923, 31st July, 1922).

ITALY.

Unemployment in July.—According to a report received from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Rome, 183,144 persons were reported to be totally unemployed on 31st July, as compared with 216,287 at the end of June and 304,242 on 31st July, 1922. In addition, 65,374 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 39,288 on 30th June and 88,668 on 31st July, 1922. On 31st July, 1923, the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit was 49,133, as compared with 61,547 on 30th June and 82,692 on 31st July, 1922.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in August.—According to Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th September, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in the principal industrial districts was 83,893 at the end of August, as compared with 87,155 at the end of the preceding month, and 31,247 at the end of August, 1922. In Vienna alone there were 56,603 unemployed in August, and 59,086 in July.

UNITED STATES.‡

Employment in August.—The Federal Department of Labour presents figures relating to the volume of employment in August, 1923, from 6,589 representative establishments in fifty-one manufacturing industries, covering 2,279,659 workpeople. These establishments in July reported 2,284,642 persons employed, and the August figures consequently indicate a net decrease amounting to 0.2 per cent. This very slight decrease in employment reflects the end of the holiday season. The aggregate wages paid show an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the same period. Twenty-two of the fifty-one industries show increases in the number of workpeople employed in August, the greatest being 11.6 per cent. in the flour industry, followed in a less degree by fertilisers, pottery, structural ironwork, confectionery and ice cream, and boots and shoes. The greatest decrease in employment—23.1 per cent.—is shown in machine tools, due entirely to annual vacations; automobile tyres reports a decline of 13.7 per cent.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of last year, it is reported that in 2,593 establishments in forty-two industries there was an increase of 15.2 per cent. in employment in the year and an increase of 27.8 per cent. in the aggregate wages paid. Thirty-three of the forty-two industries show increases in employment between August, 1922, and August, 1923; the largest—59.2 per cent.—appears in steam railway car building and repairing.

CANADA.‡

Employment in September.—For 1st September, 1923, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa from 5,794 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 821,471. On 1st August the same firms reported 824,398 employed. There was thus a decrease of 2,927 at the later date. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st September is 100, as compared with 100.2 for the 1st August and 93.7 for 1st September, 1922. Trade Union Unemployment at End of August.—At the end of August, 2.2 per cent. of membership of trade unions were reported to be unemployed, as compared with 2.9 at the end of July and 3.6 per cent. on 31st August, 1922.

\* Societa Meddelanden, No. 9, 1923. Stockholm.

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of the Canadian Labour Department, Ottawa.

## OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

## DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 5159, SECTION 8 (1).—TRADE DISPUTE—DRESSING COMMONLY A SEPARATE BUSINESS IN SEPARATE PREMISES FROM MADRAS WEAVING—EVIDENCE AS TO "COMMONLY" TAKEN FROM MAIN CENTRE OF INDUSTRY.

The applicant, who had last been employed as a dresser by a firm of madras lace curtain manufacturers in Scotland, lost his employment on 23rd March, 1923, owing to a stoppage of work caused by a strike in the weaving department. The employers stated that the trade dispute commenced on 2nd March, but it was not until three weeks afterwards that the dressing department became affected. None of the employees in this department was concerned in the dispute.

The applicant stated that his work consisted of dressing webs for the weavers, and it was carried on in a room separate from, but in the same building as, the weaving. Some firms in the locality did weaving only, the dressing being done by other firms. His firm did dressing for other factories as well as their own. He contended, therefore, that the dressing was commonly carried on as a separate business from weaving.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court did not consider that dressing was covered by the second paragraph of Section 8 (1), and they were of opinion that the applicant had lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises at which he was employed. Leave to appeal to the Umpire was granted.

At the instance of the Umpire further inquiry was instituted as to the practice in Nottingham, as the centre of the lace making industry, in order to ascertain whether dressing was commonly carried on as a separate business in separate premises from madras weaving. It was ascertained that lace, after being manufactured, had to go through various processes, such as bleaching, dressing and finishing, before it became a saleable article. The latter processes were generally carried out by firms other than the manufacturers, although a number of curtain makers finished their own work.

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

"The applicant is a dresser, and lost employment in consequence of a trade dispute which affected only the madras weavers. He was employed in a department separate from that in which the dispute occurred, and on the information as to facts at present available it appears to me that the industry in which the applicant was employed is part of the lace-making industry, the main centre of which is Nottingham. In that area it appears that dressing is commonly carried on as a separate business from 'weaving' or 'twisting,' whatever may be the case in Scotland. As the Nottingham district is the principal centre for lace-making, the practice of that district sufficiently establishes that dressing is commonly carried on as a separate business."

CASE No. 5210, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—BRICKLAYER, AGE 71 YEARS, REFUSED WORK AT A DISTANCE—ALLEGED INSUFFICIENT PARTICULARS GIVEN.

The applicant, a married man, 71 years of age, had been unemployed for 9 weeks when, on 24th April, 1923, he was offered employment in his usual occupation as a bricklayer with a firm situated 9½ miles from his home. The standard rate for the class of work in the district would have been paid, this rate being 3d. per hour higher than that for his own district. The applicant refused the job. He contended that he was too old to go away from home, and that the conditions under which he would have had to work were unsuitable for an elderly man. It was reported that there was very little prospect of his obtaining work locally.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed under Section 7 (1) (iii) on the ground that the applicant had refused an offer of suitable employment.

The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire, contending that insufficient particulars of the job had been given; it was not conceivable that the applicant would have refused the offer if he had known that the rate offered was higher than the standard rate for his own district.

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

"I see no sufficient reason for differing from the Court of Referees. It has been held in some cases that it is unreasonable to expect a man 70 years of age to leave home. But from the nature of their employment bricklayers are expected to work away from home more readily than men in some other trades, and it is admitted that the applicant would have accepted the job if he had known that the wages offered were (as in fact they were) 3d. an hour more than the rate prevailing in his own district."

CASE No. 5215, SECTION 8 (1).—TRADE DISPUTE—TWO JOURNEMEN EMPLOYED—ONE DISCHARGED ON REFUSAL TO OBEY ORDERS—BREACH OF TRADE AGREEMENT INVOLVED—AN APPRECIABLE STOPPAGE OF WORK.

The employers reported that the applicant, a wood turner, was discharged on 8th May, 1923, for refusing to show an improver how to work a certain machine.

A representative of the applicant's Association stated that the firm did not conform to trade conditions regarding the proportion of improvers to the numbers of journeymen employed. The firm was a non-union shop, and the applicant was allowed to work there on condition that he should not be required to teach youths, except under certain restrictions. When the applicant was told to teach a youth he informed his employer that the rules of his union forbade him to do so, and he was then discharged.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed on the ground that there was no misconduct within the meaning of Section 8 (2).

The Insurance officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. He did not think the applicant had shown good cause for refusing to obey the employer's instructions, and in the circumstances his refusal amounted to misconduct.

The applicant's Association attended a hearing of the case before the Umpire. Their evidence and the result of further enquiries which were made, are embodied in the Umpire's decision.

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

"There is in force in the Cabinet Trade in the London District an agreement between a Federation of Employers and the Trade Union to which the applicant belonged, which recognised a rule of the Union that there shall not be more than one apprentice or improver to every three journeymen in any shop.

"The employer is not a member of the Employers' Federation, and he employed a number of improvers considerably in excess of the number he would have employed if he had recognised the rule of the Union. The applicant refused to instruct an improver and was discharged.

"I am of opinion that he lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a dispute at the premises at which he was employed. As there were only two journeymen employed it cannot be presumed that the stoppage of work was not of appreciable duration, but benefit will be payable from the time when the vacancy caused by the applicant's discharge is shown to have been filled."

## RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

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

PLUMBERS: ABERDEEN.—United Operative Plumbers' and Domestic Engineers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland v. Aberdeen Master Plumbers' Association. Difference: Proposal to reduce wages by 1d. per hour to 1s. 7d. per hour. Agreement: A rate of 1s. 7d. per hour should be paid, to operate until 26th November, 1923, either party desiring alteration thereafter to give one month's notice in writing. Signed 20th August, 1923. (I.R. 1209/1923.)

FITTERS AND GRINDERS: FALKIRK.—The Ironfitters' Association v. Messrs. R. & A. Main, Ltd., Camelon, Falkirk. Difference: As to the overtime rates of piece-workers. Agreement: Without prejudice to the rights of the Trade Union under any existing agreement, the overtime allowance should be paid on the full existing bonus of 18s. 6d. per week where systematic overtime is worked, but not where overtime is only occasional. Occasional overtime should be one hour per night up to a maximum of four hours per week, and overtime above these limits to be regarded as systematic overtime for the purposes of the agreement. The Union undertook that in the event of similar cases arising appropriate action would be taken to ensure uniformity of conditions as between all firms in the Falkirk district. The agreement should remain in operation only until any new agreement between the Union and the National Light Castings Ironfounders' Federation comes into operation.—Signed 26th September, 1923. (I.R. 1455, 1923.)

METAL BEDSTEAD INDUSTRY: SOUTH TOTTENHAM.—Messrs. A. Beswick and Co., North Grove, South Tottenham v. Employees in the Foundry section of the firm. Difference: Refusal to entertain a reduction in wages. Agreement: The piecework prices of June, 1923, should continue to operate. As from and for 10th September, 1923, a reduction of 2½ per cent., deducted from earnings, should take place and a further reduction of 2½ per cent. as from and for 1st January, 1924. The agreement should continue to operate until 1st March, 1924. Should either the firm or the men desire to alter, revise or add to the agreement, one month's notice should be given. In the event of no notice being given prior to 1st March, 1924, it will be deemed that the terms of the agreement continue to operate after that date, and until such time as the specified notice is given. Signed 27th August, 1923. (I.R. 1376, 1923.)

APPRENTICE DRAUGHTSMEN: BARNSELY.—Messrs. Wilson & Longbottom, Ltd., Barnsley v. the Association of Engineering & Shipbuilding Draughtsmen. Difference: As to whether the above Association should have jurisdiction over apprentice draughtsmen. Agreement: The Association agreed that it is not competent to negotiate with the firm on behalf of the apprentices. Neither parties would raise any objection to apprentices being members of the union or otherwise. In the event of a question arising there should be no stoppage of work, and if by the expiry of one month no agreement has been reached, the matters at issue should be referred to the Industrial Court. Agreed September, 1923. (I.R. 606/1923.)

## TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

## ORDERS.

AN Order confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the undermentioned Trade Board has been made under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918:—

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

Order R. (40), dated 17th September, 1923, confirming a piecework basis time-rate (as varied) of 1s. 0½d. per hour, and overtime rates (as varied) for male workers employed in the Net Section of the trade as Charge Hands or as Net Riggers and overtime rates (as varied) for female workers employed in the net section of the trade on piecework in hand-machine braiding, and specifying 24th September, 1923, as the date from which the rates become effective.

Copies of the above mentioned Order may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3d. each.

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

The "Cost of Living" Index Figure having risen to 73, as recorded in the September issue of this GAZETTE, the minimum rates of wages effective from 1st October, 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.

## Chain Trade Board (Great Britain).

The rates applicable for making hand-hammered chain (from iron supplied by employers) are those actually set out in the Board's Notice C. (15) during the period when the "Cost of Living" Figure is less than 90, but more than 72.

## 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 81 and not less than 72, 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 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 5½d. for male workers, and from 7½d. to 9½d. for female workers, according to operation and grade of worker. (ii.) Other workers of 21 and over, 1s. for male workers and 6½d. 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).

## NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

## Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposals D. (22) and (23), dated 10th October, 1923, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for periods dependent upon the "Cost of Living" Index Figure.

## Button-Making Trade Board (Great Britain).

The period during which objections may be lodged to the Board's proposal to vary minimum rates of wages for female workers (V. (11), dated 7th June, 1923), has been extended to 30th November, 1923.

Particulars of the above proposals may be obtained by reference to the LONDON and EDINBURGH GAZETTES.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO LABOUR.

BLIND WORKERS.—Fourth Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on the welfare of the blind, 1922-1923. (S.O. publication: price 6d.)

CENSUS.—Census of England and Wales, 1921: (a) County of Durham; (b) County of Gloucester; (c) County of Northumberland; (d) County of London, Tables, Part 111. (supplementary)—Workplaces in London and five Home Counties. (S.O. publications: price 12s. 6d., 9s., 9s. and 3s. respectively.)

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—(1) Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1921. Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1921. (a) Part C. Trade Unions. (b) Part D. Building Societies. (S.O. publications: price 5s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. each.) (2) Statistical summaries showing the operations of Friendly Societies in the years 1913-1921, and of orders and branches in the years 1910, 1916-18, and 1920. Registry of Friendly Societies. (S.O. publication: price 6d.)

MINING.—(1) First Report of the Safety in Mines Research Board, 1921-1922. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication: price 9d.) (See page 362.) (2) The application of stone dust in coal mines. Safety in Mines Research Board, Paper No. 2. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication: price 1s.) (3) (a) Second Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines for 1922, and the Annual Report of H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines for the same period, with a statistical appendix to both reports. (See page 361.) (b) Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the year 1922. 4. Lancashire and North Wales division. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publications: price 6s. 6d. and 4s. each.)

POLICE.—Sixty-fifth Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland. (Cmd. 1957: price 3d.)

POOR LAW.—Persons in receipt of Poor Law relief in England and Wales. Statement for the quarter ending June, 1923. Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication: price 4d.)

SAVINGS BANKS.—An account of the gross amount of all sums received and paid by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt on account of Banks for Savings and Friendly Societies to the 20th November, 1920, etc. National Debt Office. (H.C. 225: price 3d.)

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.—Report of the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for the year 1922-3. (Cmd. 1937: price 4s.)

STATISTICS.—Guide to current official statistics. First issue (1922). Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics. (S.O. publication: price 1s.) (See page 357.)

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

## LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, SEPTEMBER, 1923.

## ADMIRALTY.

## CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.

American Cloth: The Leather Cloth Co., London, E.—Biscuit, Cabin: P. Brown & Co., North Shields.—Boards, Charging, Circuit Breakers: General Electric Co., Ltd., Manchester and Birmingham.—Bow Cap Gear: MacTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—Brassfoundry: Evered & Co., Ltd., Smethwick; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; Harcourts, Ltd., Birmingham; J. P. Marrain & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Walter Rowley, Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Tonks (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham.

ham.—Buffalo Hides, etc.: Bryant & Co., London, S.E.; Thos. Cundall, London, S.E.; S. E. Norris & Co., London, E.—Carbon Tetrachloride: The Pyrene Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Cells: Premier Accumulator Co. (1921), Ltd., Northampton.—Compasses, Aircraft: Dent & Co. & Johnson, Ltd., Linwood, near Paisley; Kelvin, Bottomley & Baird, Ltd., London, S.E.—Covers, Pneumatic: Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—Crane, Electrically-driven: British Dyestuffs Corporation, Ltd., Manchester.—Doors, Watertight: Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow.—Electric Heating Elements: Credenda Conduits Co., Ltd., Aston, Birmingham.—Electrodes: The Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Fearnought and Kersey: L. Harwood & Co., Ltd., Ludden-

denfoot.—**Firehearth Gear:** Carron Co., Carron, Falkirk; Darwin, Yearley & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Flour:** J. Wilson & Co., Ltd., Leith; North Shore Mill Co., Ltd., Liverpool; W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London.—**Glass Shades, Chimneys, etc.:** Ackroyd & Best, Ltd., Morley, near Leeds; Molineaux, Webb & Co., Ltd., Manchester; New English Glass Manufacturers, Ltd., Dudley Port; Burtles, Tate, Ltd., Manchester; Wm. Pearce & E. Cutler, Ltd., Birmingham; John Walsh Walsh, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Gloves, Leather:** J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; E. & W. C. French, Ltd., Taunton.—**Helmets, Sun:** Charles Owen & Co. (Bow), Ltd., London, E.; Everitt W. Vero & Co., London, S.E.—**Insulating Fittings:** Micanite & Insulators Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Kit Bags, Seamen's Painted:** Prison Commissioners, London, S.W.; Gowen & Co., West Mersea; J. T. Inglis & Co., Ltd., Dundee.—**Lathe, Relieving:** A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Locks, etc.:** Walsall Locks & Cart Gear, Ltd., Walsall; E. Tonks & Sons, Ltd., Wilenhall; J. Mattox & Sons, Wednesfield; Lowe & Fletcher, Wilenhall; J. Parkes & Sons, Ltd., Wilenhall; J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Machine, Gear Cutting:** J. Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Milnrow, near Rochdale.—**Machine, Plate Edge Planing:** Craig & Donald, Ltd., Johnstone, near Glasgow.—**Machine, Punching:** Craig & Donald, Ltd., Johnstone, near Glasgow.—**Mill, Dry Grinding and Screening Ball:** The Wilfley Co., Ltd., Croydon.—**Motor Boats:** Frank Bevis, Ltd., Portsmouth; Vosper & Co., Ltd., Portsmouth; A. M. Dickie & Sons, Tarbert, Lochfyne; A. Rutherford & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead.—**Motor Generators and Switchgear:** Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Oil, Linseed:** Dixon & Cardus, Ltd., Southampton; Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; J. L. Leaton & Co., Ltd., Hull; Smith Bros. & Co., London, E.—**Oil, Refined Rapeseed:** British Extracting Co., Ltd., Hull; Hull Oil Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Peas, Marrowfat:** Willer & Riley (1910), Ltd., Lincoln; Wherry & Sons, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Pipes, Air Main, Bends, Valves, etc.:** Newton Chambers & Co., Ltd., near Sheffield.—**Polish, Liquid Metal:** Household Specialties Co., Ltd., Rotherham.—**Pumps, Hydraulic:** Douglas & Grant, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Shorts, Cellular and Cotton Fabric:** Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Soap, Hard:** W. Gossage & Sons, Ltd., Widnes; J. Knight, Ltd., London.—**Steam Heating Equipment:** Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel Blooms:** The Steel Co. of Scotland, Glasgow; Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Steel Peck & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield; Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Trucks and Cars, Electric:** British Electric Vehicles, Ltd., Southampton.—**Twines:** Pymore Mill Co., Ltd., Bridport; John Holmes & Son, Wakefield; Boase Spinning Co., Ltd., Dundee.—**Tyres, Solid:** Harboro' Rubber Co., Market Harboro'—**Voice Piping and Gear:** United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Ponders End; Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Winches, Electrically-driven:** Brown Bros. & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.

## ADMIRALTY.

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

H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: 1,000 Ton Steel Water Tank: The Furness Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Haverton Hill-on-Tees, Durham.—**Boring Tools, etc.:** A. C. Potter & Co., Grant-ham.—**Steel Oil Tanks:** Messrs. Clayton, Son & Co., Ltd., Hunslet, Leeds.—**Dalnotter: Steel Oil Tanks:** The Motherwell Bridge Co., Ltd., Motherwell, near Glasgow.—**Govan: Hot Water Heating:** Messrs. J. Combe & Son, Glasgow.—**Greenock: Heating Installation:** Messrs. J. Combe & Son, Glasgow.

## AIR MINISTRY.

**Accumulators:** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester.—**Aircraft:** Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—**Aircraft, Alterations to:** H. G. Hawker Eng. Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft Spares:** Bristol Aero. Co., Bristol; Hawker Engineering Co., Kingston-on-Thames; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Cheltenham; Rubery Owen & Co., Darlaston; A. V. Roe & Co., Manchester; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Airscrews:** D. M. Davies, London, N.; Metal Airscrew Co., London, W.C.—**Airscrew Blades, Metal:** Metal Airscrew Co., London, W.C.—**Airscrews and Cases:** D. M. Davies, London, N.—**Austin Engine Spares:** Austin Motor Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Building Works Services:** Barrack Blocks (Worthy Down); Wilson, Lovatt & Sons, Wolverhampton; Roofing Guard House, etc. (Manston); Grumman & Bros., Ramsgate.—**Cable, Steel Wire:** Bullivant & Co., London, E.—**Clips, P.R. Tubing:** Hunt & Turner, Birmingham.—**Coal (Milton):** W. Cory & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Delco Ignition System Spares:** Delco Remy, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Disinfectant, Fluid:** J. & E. Morton, Huddersfield, Yorks.—**Engine (Development Work on):** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engine Packing Cases:** D. M. Davies, London, N.; Crosby & Co., Farnham.—**Engines (Aircraft):** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Ford Chassis and Touring Cars:** Wallace Harmer Motors, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Ford Vanetes:** A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—**Inner Tubes:** Capon, Heaton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Internal Wiring:** Simplex Conduits, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Jackets, Blue:** Jas. Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Life Saving Belts:** Siebe, Gorman, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Pantaloon (Making Up):** J. Compton & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Plywood:** Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Pumps, Petrolate:** De Havilland Aircraft Co., Edgware.—**Radiators:** J. Marston, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Radiators, Vickers-Vimy:** Excelsior Radiator Co., Leeds.—**Rotary Transformers:**

Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham, Kent.—**Spares for Rolls Royce Chassis:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Thermometers, Radiator:** Negretti & Zambra, London, E.C.—**Timber:** Denny, Mott & Dickson, Ltd., London, E.C.; Howard Bros., London, E.—**Tyres, Outer (Cord):** Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham, Wilts.—**Undercarriages (Split Axle):** Hawker Engineering Co., Kingston-on-Thames.

## WAR OFFICE.

**Ablution Ranges:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Aluminium Ingot:** British Aluminium Co., Ltd., Argyleshire.—**Barrows, Stable:** East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamstead.—**Bicycles and Spares:** Birmingham Small Arms, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brushes, Flue:** W. Francis & Sons, London, S.E.—**Brushes, Horse:** Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; S. D. Warren & Co., London, N.W.—**Brushes, Paint:** C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brushes, Scrubbing:** W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse.—**Brushes, Sweeping:** Vale & Bradnack, Walsall.—**Builders' Ironmongery, etc.:** Comyn, Ching & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Canvas, Packing:** Jute Industries, Ltd., Lochee.—**Cases, Packing:** Lawson & Co., Glasgow.—**Copper, Ingot:** Brandeis Goldschmidt, London, E.C.—**Cordage:** Frost Bros., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Drill, Brown:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Drill, Khaki:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Drums, Oil:** F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Generating Set, Spares for:** A.B.C. Motors, Ltd., Walton-on-Thames.—**Grinding Machine:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Kogs, Paint:** W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—**Kettles, Tea:** Thos. Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Leather Cloth:** Lederine, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Linseed Oil, Boiled and Raw:** Younghusband, Barnes & Co., London, S.E.—**Manhole Covers:** Firth & Clyde & Sunnyside Co., Ltd., Falkirk.—**Medal Ribbon:** T. Stevens, Ltd., Coventry.—**Metal Rod:** King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Mops:** T. W. Clewes & Son, Cradley.—**Paint, Dry:** Alexander Fergusson & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plates, Dinner:** Macfarlane & Robinson, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Plates, Dinner, Basins, etc.:** A. J. Wilkinson, Ltd., Burslem.—**Plates, Dishes, Ewers, etc.:** Minton's, Ltd., Stoke.—**Road Roller:** Robey & Co., Ltd., Lincoln.—**Serge, S.D.:** R. Gaunt & Sons, Ltd., Farsley, Leeds; J. Harper & Sons & Co., Leeds.—**Shoes, Canvas:** Adams Bros., Raunds; The Mansfield Shoe Co., Ltd., Mansfield.—**Soap, Soft:** P. Lumt & Co., Liverpool.—**Soda Crystals:** East Lancashire Chemical Co., Manchester.—**Steel, Round:** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Trailers (Motor):** Wm. Foster & Co., Ltd., Lincoln.—**Trousers, Service Dress:** St. Alban Mfg. Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** Bury: Fearnley & Sons, Ltd., Salford. Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow: T. Lawrie & Co., Glasgow. Chil-perks & Son, Ltd., Long Eaton. Newtownards: R. D. Pollock & Co., Bangor, Co. Down. Redford Barracks, Edinburgh: W. C. Robertson, Edinburgh. Lincoln: Thornhill Bros., Lincoln.—**Building Works and Services:** Steelwork to Tank Repair Shop, South Aldershot: Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge. Dover (West): R. J. Barwick, Dover. Feltham Aerodrome: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E. Erecting of Bathrooms, Crownhill Hutments, Plymouth: F. R. Hipperson, Trowse, Norwich. South Aldershot: A. H. J. Stroud, S. Aldershot. Alterations and Additions to "H" Block, Bodmin Barracks: J. & H. Webster, Bodmin.—**Installations:** Water Supply at Redesdale Camp: T. Dunn, Sunderland. Windsor, Victoria Barracks, Electric Light Installation: Electrical Installations, Ltd., London, E.C.

## POST OFFICE.

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**Ducts:** Hepworth Iron Co., Ltd., Hazlehead, Sheffield; J. Oakes and Co., Jacksdale, Notts; Standard Brick & Terra Cotta Co., Ltd., Buckley, near Chester.—**Ducts, Fibre:** Key Engineering Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester.—**Handcarts and Polecarts:** Bradford Patent Truck & Trolley Co., Bradford; W. E. Eaton, Clayton, Manchester; Ross, Ellis and Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; H. C. Slingsby, Bradford.—**Jelly, Petroleum:** Kingfisher (24881), Leeds; Lancashire Tallow and Fat Co., Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.—**Lamps, Electric:** British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Huyton Quarry; British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; Siemens and English Electric Lamp Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Pipe, Steel:** Scottish Tube Co., Ltd., Coatbridge; Stewarts and Lloyds, Ltd., Halesowen.—**Pipes, Cast Iron:** Cochran and Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees; Macfarlane, Strang and Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Staveley Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., Staveley, near Chesterfield.—**Plates, Earth:** T. & W. Farmiloe, Ltd., London, E.—**Plugs, Cable Distribution:** British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott.—**Poles, Telegraph:** A. Bruce and Co., Glasgow.—**Reinforcing Material:** Barb Engineering Co., Chester; Indented Bar and Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd., Hanley, Staffs.—**Spindles:** T. W. Lench, Ltd., Blackheath, near Birmingham.—**Stamps, India Rubber, and Repairs:** R. E. Stromer, London, E.C.—**Tape, Linen:** Bole Hall Mill Co., Tamworth; G. Hattersley and Sons, Ltd., Keighley, Yorks.—**Tubes, Air:** North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Wire, Bronze:** T. Bolton and Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor; British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; R. Johnson and Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; F. Smith and Co. (incorporated in The London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd.), Salford, Manchester.—**Wire, Copper:** T. Bolton and Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor; British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Electro Metals Co., Lydbrook, Glos; Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; Johnson, Clapham and Morris, Ltd., Manchester; R. Johnson and Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; F. Smith and Co. (incorporated in The London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd.), Salford, Manchester; Wilkes, Son and Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wire, Flameproof:** Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby.

**Cable, Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing:** Wakefield-Barnsley-Sheffield: W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Conduits, Laying:** Gerrards Cross (Bucks); Godstone-East Grinstead: Hardy & Co., Woking. Great West Road: J. Moffat, Isleworth, Middlesex. Mill Hill: H. Farrow, London, N.W. Birmingham (Inner); Coventry-Rugby (Sections I. and II.); Northwich-Crewe (Sections I., II. and III.); Nottingham-Mansfield (Sections I. and III.); E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Hoylake; Ormskirk-Wigan (Sections I. and II.); Heaton Moor and Trafford Park (Manchester); Didsbury (Manchester): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. Whichham (Durham): A. Duncan, Glasgow. Bournemouth: O. C. Summers, London, N. Westbury-on-Trym (Bristol); Bulwell (Nottingham); Whittaker-Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Streatham Hill (E), S.W.: H. Collingridge, Romford, Essex. Clapham Road, S.E.: Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Inverkeithing-Stirling (Sections II., III. and IV.); Casey & Darragh, Stirling. Denmark Street, W.C.: Thornton Heath-Purley and Waddon Bridge; Sunbury: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Victoria (South), S.W.: Muirhead, Macdonald, Wilson & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Inverkeithing-Stirling (Section I.); Stockton-West Hartlepool (Section I.); W. Dobson, Edinburgh. Oxted-Westerham; Northampton-Wellingborough-Kettering (Sections I. and II.); J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W. Nottingham-(Junction for Bingham)-Grantham (Sections I., II. and III.); Colne and Cotton Tree (Lancs); Bargoed; Nottingham-Mansfield (Section II.); J. F. Hodge & Co., Rednal, near Birmingham. Swansea-Port Talbot: Barnes, Chaplin & Co., Ltd., Cardiff. Welwyn-Stevenage-Hitchin: C. Ball, Letchworth, Herts. Manchester-Gatley-Alderley; Manchester-Altrincham-Knutsford (Section I.); W. Turner (Ardwick), Ltd., Manchester. Stockton-West Hartlepool (Section II.); W. Irwin & Co., Ltd., Leeds. Pontypridd-Merthyr Tydvil (Sections I. and II.); J. Joiner & Sons, Ltd., Soudley, Newnham, Glos. Doncaster-Goole (Sections II. and III.); A. Monk & Co., Irlam, Lancs. London-Cambridge (Sections I., II., III., IV. and V.); W. & C. French, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. Doncaster-Goole (Section I.); London-High Wycombe-Oxford (Section II.); Falkirk-Grangemouth: A. Blair, Lyell & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Darlington-Stockton-Middlesbrough (Sections I. and II.); F. Mitchell & Son, Ltd., Manchester. Manchester-Altrincham-Knutsford (Section II.); W. P. and P. G. Hayes, Grappenhall, Warrington. Robertsbridge: Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. London-Stanmore-St. Albans (Section I.); G. J. Anderson, London, E. Northampton-Wellingborough-Kettering (Section III.); C. S. Tomlinson, South Normanton, near Alfreton. Bournemouth-Wareham (Sections I. and II.); Southampton-Bournemouth (Sections I., II. and III.); H. Osman & Co., Shirley, Southampton. London-Stanmore-St. Albans (Section II.); J. Parkinson & Sons (Blackpool), Ltd., Blackpool. Wishaw-Carlisle: R. & C. Murray, Paisley. Birtley and Chester-le-Street: W. Ayton & Sons, Blackhill. Blairgowrie: J. McAdam & Sons, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Submarine Cable:** Anglo-Dutch: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** Maidenhead: Automatic Telephone Manfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester.

for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing and Charging Machines. Paignton, Torquay: Automatic Telephone Manfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester, for Batteries; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., for Charging Machines; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machine. Messrs. Harvey, Nicholls & Co., Ltd., S.W.; Weston-super-Mare: Automatic Telephone Manfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Batteries. Messrs. G. H. Lee & Co., Liverpool: The Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Enfield: The General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester, for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Motor Generator. Mill Hill: Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester, for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Charging Machine. Woolwich: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester, for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines; English Electric Co., Ltd., W.C., for Charging Machines.

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