

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXI.—No. 2.]

FEBRUARY, 1923.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during January showed little general change as compared with previous months, but was better, on the whole, at the end of the month than at the end of December. It continued good in the coal mining industry, in steel sheet manufacture and in the worsted industry, fairly good in the tinplate trade, and fair in the hosiery, woollen, jute, carpet, ready-made clothing, and paper trades. In most of the other principal industries it was still very slack; but a further improvement was reported at iron and steel works, and slight improvements were also reported in some centres in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, and in certain other sections of the metal trades.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions from which returns are received was 13·7 at the end of January, as compared with 14·0 at the end of December, and 16·8 at the end of January, 1922. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 12·7 at 22nd January, as compared with 12·2 at 18th December* and 16·0 at the end of January, 1922. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 29th January in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 1,460,000, of whom 1,138,000 were men and 226,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 1st January the corresponding total was 1,542,000, of whom 1,199,000 were men and 255,000 were women.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are compiled by the Department the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in January resulted in an aggregate reduction of nearly £56,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 500,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £42,000 in the wages of 650,000 workpeople. The net weekly reduction of £14,000 is less than that recorded for any previous month since the beginning of 1921.

The principal groups of workpeople affected were coal miners and men employed in the shipbuilding industry. In the coal mining industry there was a slight reduction in wages (equivalent to less than 0·05 per cent. on current rates) in Northumberland, but there were increases equivalent to about 2 per cent. on current rates in the Yorkshire and East Midland area, 2½ per cent. in Durham, and nearly 7 per cent. in Scotland. In the shipbuilding industry all classes of men except the lowest paid time workers sustained reductions varying, according to earnings, from 2d. to 2s. 6d. per week.

Among other large bodies of workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in January were men employed by electrical contractors, house painters in Scotland, iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, lead smelters, bobbin makers, road transport workers in Lancashire and Yorkshire, soap and candle workers,

* The corresponding figure for the end of December is not available, but the total number unemployed at the latter date is known to have been greater than at 18th December.

brewery workers at Burton, and men employed by water-works undertakings in various districts.

As a result of Orders made under the Trade Boards Acts there were also reductions in the minimum rates of wages fixed for workpeople in the following trades in Great Britain:—stamped or pressed metal wares; wrought hollow-ware; linen and cotton handkerchief, household goods and linen piece goods; ostrich, fancy feather and artificial flower; and toy trades; and in the aerated waters trade in England and Wales, and the milk distributive trade in Scotland.

Apart from coal miners, the principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased in January were ironstone miners in Cleveland, blastfurnace workers in Cleveland, Cumberland, Northamptonshire and the West of Scotland, workpeople in the making-up and packing trade at Manchester, woollen and worsted workers at Leicester, and felt hat makers in Lancashire and Cheshire.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st February 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 77 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st January was 78 per cent., and that for 1st February, 1922, was 88 per cent. The highest point reached was 176 per cent. above the pre-war level, in November, 1920, and the present figure is the lowest recorded since October, 1917. For food alone the increase at 1st February, as compared with July, 1914, was 73 per cent.

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

For further particulars and details of the statistics reference should be made to the article on page 50.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in January, was 54. In addition, 17 disputes which began before January were still in progress at the beginning of the month.

The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in January (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 19,000, as compared with 7,400 in the previous month and 15,400 in January, 1922. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during January was 117,000 working days, as compared with 72,000 days in December, 1922, and 162,000 days in January, 1922.

The principal new dispute was that which began on 20th January in the bookbinding industry in the London district, and continued until 13th February.

RENT RESTRICTIONS ACT: COMMITTEE'S REPORTS.*

THE Departmental Committee on the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920,† have presented their Final Reports. The Committee as reappointed on the 4th December, 1922, were not bound by the Interim Report presented on the 19th October, 1922, by the original Committee, and accordingly the whole question was gone into afresh. The Reports take the form of a Majority Report, signed by all but two of the members (with reservations on the part of some of them), and a Minority Report signed by the remaining two members. A summary of the more important recommendations in these Reports is given below:—

MAJORITY REPORT.

The majority are strongly of opinion that all restrictions should be removed at the earliest possible date, as they conclude that the Acts have had an adverse effect upon the provision of new houses. The restrictions should, however, be removed gradually. The first Rent Restriction Act (passed in 1915) applied only to houses whose "standard" rent (or, in certain cases, rateable value) was not more than £35 (in London), £30 (in Scotland), or £26 (elsewhere); these limits were doubled in 1919, and trebled in 1920, by the present Act, which remains in force until 24th June, 1923 (in Scotland until 28th May, 1923). They recommend that the houses which were first brought under the Act of 1920 should not be included under the provisions of any new Act; and that in the case of the other two classes restrictions should be withdrawn from houses first included in the 1919 Act at Midsummer, 1924, and from the rest at Midsummer, 1925 (or, in Scotland, at 28th May, 1924 and 1925 respectively). As further means of withdrawing protection gradually from houses coming within the provisions of the Act, it is suggested that any house which is, or becomes, wholly vacant after the date of publication of the Report should be automatically withdrawn from the scope of the Act, and that tenants should be at liberty, under certain conditions, to contract out of the Act.

No alteration is recommended in the permitted increases of rent, except in the case, referred to below, of a tenant who sub-lets part of a house. Special consideration is, however, suggested for house-owners in Scotland, who are placed at a disadvantage as compared with English owners on account of the Scottish rating system.

With regard to the landlord's power to recover possession, the conclusion is reached that provisions analogous to those in the present Act should be re-enacted, with certain modifications. Alternative accommodation should be defined as accommodation "reasonably suitable to the residential and other needs of the tenant and his family," instead of, as at present, "reasonably equivalent as regards rent and suitability in all respects," a requirement which is stated to be so stringent that, in practice, "alternative accommodation" is almost impossible to obtain. Certain relaxations are recommended in the rule as to providing alternative accommodation in the case of an owner requiring possession of his house for his own occupation or for the occupation of his children. Modifications are also recommended in the cases of (i.) possession required for an employee *about to be* employed (and not only, as now, for an employee already employed); (ii.) possession required by a private person or company (in addition, as now, to public authorities and statutory companies), carrying out improvement works. In all these cases, however, an order for possession from the Court should be required.

Among the recommendations on the subject of sub-tenants, it is suggested that, while sub-tenants should be protected just as tenants are, tenants should be allowed to charge some strictly limited addition to the permitted rent of the part of the house occupied by the sub-tenant, and the landlord should be allowed to charge the tenant some strictly limited addition to the permitted rent. As a check on excessive charges to sub-tenants, the landlord as well as the sub-tenant should be allowed to apply to the Court for determination of the permissible charges. It is also recommended (i.) that no tenant shall have the power to sub-let or assign the whole of his premises to the same person for any period extending beyond the term of his contractual tenancy; (ii.) that a tenant ceasing to reside on the premises shall retain no rights under the Act after the termination of his contractual tenancy; and (iii.) that where a tenant gives his landlord notice to quit, the position of the sub-tenant shall not be affected.

The Report recommends the continuance of the provisions of the present Act (with certain minor amendments) as regards (a) the tenant's right to apply to the Court for a suspension of the increase of rent allowed, on the ground that the premises are not in a reasonable state of repair; (b) furnished lettings, or lettings "with attendance" (subject to a clearer definition of "attendance"); (c) "key-money" and "premiums" (excessive charges for furniture to be reckoned as a premium); (d)

restriction upon the levying of distress for recovery of rent. It suggests that the benefit to the landlord of the system of "compounding" rates, which was taken away by the decision of the House of Lords in the case of *Nicholson v. Jackson*, should be restored. It also recommends that notices of increase of rent should be simplified, and, in order that landlords shall not be penalised for a bona-fide mistake, that any increase of rent in excess of the legal increase should be invalid only in respect of the excess. Further, where a tenancy is determinable by notice, the notice of increase should be deemed to constitute a notice to determine the tenancy at the earliest date at which it could be determined.

The Report also recommends that an attempt should be made to provide machinery whereby cases may be heard and decided, or a settlement arrived at, before the cost of litigation is incurred.

There are five separate reservations to the Majority Report. The principal reservation, signed by the Chairman and three other members of the Committee, recommends that all restrictions on dealings with mortgages should be allowed to lapse with the present Act. (The Report itself recommends the maintenance of the present restrictions, subject to relaxation by leave of the Court in certain cases.) The other reservations, signed by the individual members of the Committee, deal with the dates at which, and methods by which, restrictions should be withdrawn; with a reduction in the 25 per cent. increase for repairs; and with the rate of mortgage interest.

MINORITY REPORT.

The Minority Report, signed by Mr. Duncan M. Graham, M.P., and Lieut.-Col. D. Watts Morgan, M.P., recommends that the present restrictions should be maintained until 1930 for all classes of houses. As regards the classes of houses whose rents were first restricted by the Acts of 1919 and 1920, however, it should be permissible to withdraw the restrictions before that date by Order in Council submitted to and approved by Parliament. An immediate reduction is recommended of 25 per cent. in all rentals, irrespective of the category in which the house is placed, and at Martinmas, 1923, a further reduction of 15 per cent. Compulsory letting of vacant houses and restrictions upon the sale of houses within the provisions of the Act are recommended.

The signatories of this Report disagree with most of the proposals in the Majority Report for the alteration of the present Act in other respects; and conclude with the following general observation:—

"In our opinion, the whole crux of the question is the "deplorable shortage of housing accommodation for the "working-classes throughout the country, especially in "the industrial centres. It is imperative that the State- "aided Housing Schemes of Local Authorities should be at "once revived, particularly when it is the case that well "over 100,000 building operatives are unemployed at the "present time and drawing unemployment benefits."

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

THE Prime Minister has appointed a committee to examine the existing arrangements for the grant of assistance on account of sickness, unemployment, and destitution from public funds and from the contributory schemes of Health and Unemployment Insurance, with a view to securing the fullest co-ordination of administrative and executive action. Major A. B. Boyd-Carpenter, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour), is chairman of the committee, and the other members are Sir David Shackleton, K.C.B., Mr. T. W. Phillips, C.B., C.B.E., and Mr. C. W. G. Eady (Ministry of Labour); Sir Walter S. Kinnear, K.B.E., and Mr. H. W. S. Francis (Ministry of Health); and Mr. J. Jeffrey (Scottish Board of Health) and Mr. C. F. Adair Hore, C.B. (Ministry of Pensions). The secretary of the committee is Mr. H. D. Hancock, of the Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (SILICOSIS) COMMITTEE.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a committee (i.) to inquire into the working of the scheme for the refractory industries under the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Act, 1918; and (ii.) to advise on any proposals for applying the Act to other industries which may be referred to it by the Secretary of State.

The members of the committee are:—

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. G. F. Stanley, C.M.G. (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office), *Chairman*.

Mr. R. R. Bannatyne, C.B. (Home Office).

Dr. A. J. Hall, M.D., F.R.C.P. (University of Sheffield).

Sir Walter S. Kinnear, K.B.E. (Ministry of Health).

The secretary is Mr. E. Field, of the Home Office, to whom all communications should be addressed.

* Cmd. 1803. H.M. Stationery Office, price 9d. net.

† See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1922, page 358, and December, 1922, page 473. A summary of the provisions of the Act, written from the point of view of the ordinary working class tenant, appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1920, page 354.

MEMBERSHIP, INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND FUNDS OF REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS.

STATISTICS FOR 1921.

IN the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1922, detailed statistics were given of the total membership of Trade Unions in the United Kingdom at the end of 1921 and in previous years, including, in addition to Trade Unions of employees registered under the Trade Union Acts, other associations of employees which, though not so registered, include among their objects the regulation of the conditions of employment of their members. The total number of all such societies, registered and unregistered, known to the Department at the end of 1921 was 1,296, and their total membership was approximately 6,800,000.

The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has now issued a statistical summary* of the membership, income, expenditure, and funds in 1921 and previous years of those Trade Unions in Great Britain which were registered under the Trade Union Acts.

Comparative figures for the years 1913, 1919, 1920 and 1921, extracted from this summary, and adjusted to date, are given below, the membership being shown to the nearest thousand and the income, expenditure and funds to the nearest £1,000. It should be observed that the figures relate only to Great Britain, and that registered Trade Unions of employers, as well as Unions of workpeople and other employees, are included in the figures. The employers' Unions included, however, form only a small proportion of the total, e.g., in 1921 they numbered 97, with a total membership of less than 53,000, an aggregate income of £143,000, expenditure of £123,000, and funds of £135,000.

	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Unions on Register at end of Year †	616	644	656	621
Membership at end of Year	3,220	6,559	6,982	5,506
Income :—		Thousands.		
From Members	4,107	8,566	11,332	11,740
From Ministry of Labour (Unemployment Insurance). ‡	102	33	316	7,832
From other sources	330	1,058	1,237	1,636
Expenditure :—		Thousands of £.		
Unemployment, Travelling and Emigration Benefit. ‡	507‡	967‡	1,603‡	15,150‡
Dispute Benefit	447	2,132	3,219	3,427
Sick and Accident Benefit	704	689	748	980
Funeral Benefit	150	306	297	323
Superannuation and Other Benefits	522	655	723	861
Payments from Political Fund ..	7	113	185	160
Grants to Federations, Other Societies, &c.	207	665	1,687§	721
Management and Other Expenses	1,136	3,101	4,363	4,504
Total Funds :—				
At beginning of Year	5,648	15,018	15,917	15,869
At end of Year	6,507	16,048	15,975 ||	10,950

In the following Table details are given of the aggregate membership, income, expenditure and funds in 1921 in each of a number of different groups of Trade Unions for which separate figures are published in the return. The membership figures are given to the nearest 1,000 and the income, expenditure and funds to the nearest £1,000.

Group.	Unions on the Register. †	Membership at end of 1921.	Income.	Expenditure.	Funds at end of 1921.
		Thousands.	£1,000's.	£1,000's.	£1,000's.
Mining and Quarrying ..	96	841	2,319	872	2,770¶
Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances ..	78	1,011	7,813	7,304	4,179
Textiles	71	271	1,155	1,155	524
Paper-making, Printing, &c. ..	22	145	545	379	188
Building, Decorating, &c. ..	31	456	1,593	394	1,279
Transport	33	869	2,106	1,159	1,290
Commerce and Finance ..	31	258	464	147	378
Other and General	162	1,603	5,070	3,740	1,987
Total	524	5,454	21,065	15,150	10,854
Registered Employers' Associations	97	52	142	—	123
Grand Total	621	5,506	21,207	15,150	10,977

* "Statistical Summary, Showing the Operations of Registered Trade Unions for the Years 1912-21." H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1s. net. The figures for 1921 are subject to revision in the Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, Part C, Trade Unions, for the year 1921.

† In some instances Returns were received from Unions removed from the Register during the year. The total number of Returns received for 1921 was 631.

‡ The expenditure on Unemployment Benefit shown in this Table (e.g., £15,150,000 in 1921) represents the total amount paid by the Unions, including, in addition to the benefit chargeable to the funds of the Unions, the amounts disbursed by the Unions and recoverable from the Ministry of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. The total amount receivable each year from the Ministry of Labour on this account and in respect of administration expenses (e.g., £7,832,000 in 1921) is shown under "Income."

§ This sum includes £817,000, Funds transferred to the Amalgamated Engineering Union, but not brought into account in the Return of that Union for 1920.

|| See preceding Note §.

¶ Including £1,982,000 dispute benefit.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

DURING the four weeks ended the 27th January, nineteen meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and four meetings of Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees, as well as a number of meetings of Sub-Committees and District Councils, were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

WAGES, HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

A reduction of wages was agreed upon by the *Cooperage* Industrial Council, which met on the 23rd January. In the issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE for January of this year reference was made to the decision of the *Electricity Supply* Industrial Council that the District Councils should consider the question of revising the rates of pay and that points remaining undecided after consideration, both by the District Councils and the National Council, should be referred to the Industrial Court for arbitration. The No. 2 (Yorks.) Area District Council was not able to agree on this question, and the matter has been referred to the Industrial Court in accordance with the resolution of the National Council. At a meeting of the Joint Industrial (District) Council for the *Export Packing and Cloth Working* Industries, it was pointed out that there was a considerable number of separate agreements in operation in these trades, and it was suggested that the agreements should be consolidated into one scheme. After discussion, the question was deferred for further consideration. At a meeting of the *Flour Milling* Industrial Council, on 24th January, a new agreement was reached regulating wages for the next nine months. Reductions were agreed upon for the various grades of workpeople. The question of the co-ordination of the rates of wages of labourers employed in different Public Utility Services was discussed at a meeting of the Industrial Council for *Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers)*. It is understood that reductions in wages have been agreed upon by a number of District Councils for these services. A reduction of wages has also been agreed upon by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Council for the *Waterworks* Industry.

ORGANISATION.

In connection with a discussion on the subject of hours, overtime and holidays, the question of the precise functions of the National Council and of the Provincial Councils for the *Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers)* was examined. Further consideration was deferred until the next meeting, but it is believed that a Committee may be appointed to consider the question of revision of the constitution of the National Council. Considerable interest is being taken by the *Printing* Industrial Council in the possibility of developing the organisation of District Councils. The Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the *Sugar Refining* Industry was wound up at a meeting held on the 12th January, as a result of the withdrawal of the employers' side from the Committee. At a meeting of the *Tramways* Joint Industrial Council, held on 25th January, the employers drew attention to the grave position arising as the result of the secession of certain large undertakings from the Council, and it was decided to appoint a Committee to consider the position.

OTHER TOPICS.

The Departmental Committee on Lighting in Factories and Workshops has issued its Third Report, and the Home Office has taken this opportunity to draw attention to the conclusions reached by the Committee. Details of the Committee's work have been furnished to a number of Joint Industrial Councils in those industries which were likely to be interested in the subject, and it is understood that these Councils are giving consideration to the questions raised. A meeting of the depleted *Building* Industrial Council was held on the 22nd January, and further consideration was given to the position which had arisen through the refusal of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers to take any further part in the work of the Education Committee and the Safety and Welfare Committee. The Council passed a resolution regretting that the Federation should not at the moment consider it desirable to continue to participate in this work and suggesting that the Federation should again consider the matter with a view to securing attention to the question of apprenticeship. The *Cooperage* Industrial Council at its quarterly meeting, on the 23rd January, discussed the danger arising from men being employed to work on casks which had been used for packing white lead, and it was decided ultimately that, with a view to securing adequate precautions, letters should be sent from the Council to the Employers' Associations, drawing attention to the appropriate section of the Factory and Workshops Act, and to the penalty imposed for failure to comply with the conditions laid down. The letters were also to request the employers to see that necessary facilities were provided. At a meeting of the *Heating and Domestic Engineers'* Industrial Council, a representative of the employers, during the discussion on the Council's education scheme, drew attention to the difficulty that arose when apprentices were sent to work away from home and were thereby prevented from attending classes regularly. It was pointed out that the technical schools throughout the country have no pro-

vision for correspondence tuition. It was felt impossible for the Council to set up a correspondence school on its own initiative. At a meeting of the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the *Optical Instrument Trade*, held on 3rd January, it was decided that at the next meeting suggestions should be brought forward with a view to drawing up a schedule showing the points on which the Overseas Trade Department could provide useful information for the trade. The *Printing Industrial Council*, on the 10th January, gave its approval to a leaflet on Ventilation and Health for distribution throughout the industry.

In connection with their recent efforts to lessen the danger to health in bronzing, the Council examined specimens of printing with bronze ink in place of bronze powder, and it was suggested that it might be possible to do away with bronzing so far as letterpress printing was concerned. Members of the Council were invited to go further into the matter and to make experiments, and a suggestion was made to the Health Committee of the Council that they should endeavour to meet the Society of British Printing Ink Makers with reference to the production of bronze ink both for letterpress printing and lithography. The Council also decided to co-operate with the Home Office in the matter of certain recommendations with regard to the lighting of factories and workshops.

In addition, the Council discussed the subject of pressing for a reduction in certain postal rates and a number of other topics of interest to the industry, including unemployment insurance by industry.

The Papermaking Industrial Council met on 11th January and appointed conciliators in connection with a dispute at a large paper mill. The Council also discussed "Safety First" proposals and the education of workpeople.

OUTPUT, COSTS OF PRODUCTION, AND PROCEEDS OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

A STATISTICAL Summary* of output, and of the costs of production, proceeds, and profits of the coal-mining industry for the quarter ended 30th September, 1922, has recently been prepared by the Mines Department in continuation of similar quarterly statements previously published for earlier dates.

The Summary shows that at undertakings which produced about 94 per cent. of the total quantity of saleable coal raised during the quarter, 58,717,767 tons of coal were raised, and that, after deducting 3,730,283 tons used at the mines, and 1,293,191 tons supplied to the miners, the quantity disposable commercially was 53,694,293 tons. According to the Monthly Trade and Navigation Accounts the total quantity of coal shipped for export and foreign bunkers during the quarter was 23,028,179 tons.

The costs of production at the undertakings covered by the Summary were as shown below :—

	Amount	Per ton disposable commercially.	
	£	s.	d.
Wages	30,533,993	11	4 48
Stores and Timber	5,755,347	2	1 72
Other Costs (management, salaries, insurances, repairs, office and general expenses, depreciation, &c.)	8,380,010	3	1 46
Miners' Welfare Fund contributions	243,742	0	1 09
Royalties (including the rental value of freehold minerals where worked by the proprietor)	1,438,261	0	6 43
Total Costs	46,351,353	17	3 18
Deduct proceeds of miners' coal	245,126	0	1 10
Net Costs	46,106,227	17	2 08

The proceeds of commercial disposals were £49,013,908, equivalent to 18s. 3 08d. per ton, leaving a credit balance of £2,907,681, or 1s. 1 00d. per ton. In the quarter ended 30th June, there was a debit balance of 0 17d. per ton.

An analysis by 13 districts shows that in Scotland, Northumberland, Durham, South Wales, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, and Somerset, there were credit balances ranging from 7 25d. to 2s. 3 13d. per ton, and in the other districts debit balances ranging from 3 11d. to 3s. 9 88d. per ton.

The number of workpeople employed was 1,027,853, the number of man-shifts worked was 65,446,658, and the number of man-shifts lost that could have been worked was 5,476,180. The average output per man-shift worked, based on the tonnage of saleable coal raised, was 17 94 cwts. This figure compares with 17 8 cwts. in the quarter ended 30th June. The average earnings per man-shift worked was 9s. 3 97d., this figure being calculated on the number of man-shifts worked by workers of all ages employed both above and below ground. In the June quarter the corresponding average was 10s. 2 51d.

In the following Table the net costs, proceeds, and wages per ton disposable commercially, and the output and earnings per man-shift worked, are shown for the various districts :—

District.	Per ton disposable commercially.			Per man-shift worked.	
	Net Costs.*	Proceeds	Wages.†	Output.	Earnings.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Cwts	s. d.
Scotland	15 10 05	16 10 15	10 8 05	19 52	9 3 81
Northumberland	16 1 02	18 4 15	10 7 79	17 13	8 4 28
Durham	16 8 99	18 4 04	10 9 54	17 74	8 11 40
S. Wales and Mon.	19 8 56	20 3 81	12 5 67	16 74	9 7 22
Yorks and E. Mids. ‡	15 5 01	17 2 57	10 6 71	20 50	9 11 36
Lancs., N. Staffs. & Cheshire	20 1 76	19 4 80	13 5 02	14 43	8 8 33
N. Wales	19 8 12	18 4 74	14 1 99	12 91	7 11 56
S. Staffs. and Salop.	17 1 24	15 1 87	10 7 07	17 43	8 0 29
Cumberland	22 7 50	19 0 46	15 10 62	13 64	9 7 90
Bristol	21 9 14	20 2 79	15 6 24	11 08	7 10 02
Forest of Dean	19 7 26	19 4 15	13 1 52	13 65	7 9 22
Somerset	19 0 33	19 10 11	12 2 33	13 45	7 2 79
Kent	22 3 11	18 5 23	15 2 44	19 82	12 10 42
Great Britain	17 2 08	18 3 08	11 4 48	17 94	9 3 97

FATAL ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1922.

THE Mines Department have issued a preliminary statement of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1922.§ The principal statistics are given in the following Table (in which the figures for 1922 are subject to minor corrections on receipt of the final returns for the annual Report) :—

	Number of separate fatal accidents in		Number of deaths caused by fatal accidents in	
	1922.	1921.	1922.	1921.
Mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911	1,020	741	1,100	755
Mines under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872	9	12	9	12
Quarries under the Quarries Act, 1894	44	46	44	46
Total	1,073	799	1,153	813

There were three serious explosions of fire-damp or coal dust in 1922, causing 57 deaths in all. The preliminary statement observes that "apart from such accidents, the sporadic incidence of which tends to obscure the normal trend of mining accidents, the death-rate at coal mines appears to have been approximately the same in the years 1921 and 1922, when allowance is made for the fact that almost all the mines were idle for about three months in 1921."

In spite of the occurrence of the three serious explosions above mentioned, the deaths from this cause, in mines under the Coal Mines Act, were far outnumbered by those from falls of ground (546) and from haulage accidents (211), which together accounted for nearly 70 per cent. of all the deaths from accidents in such mines. Of the deaths from falls of ground, 359 occurred from falls of ground at the working face, 185 from falls of ground in underground roads, and 2 from falls of ground in shafts. Of the haulage accidents, nearly 90 per cent. were cases of persons run over or crushed by trams or tubs while working underground. Other underground accidents in mines under the Coal Mines Act accounted for 180 deaths (including 16 deaths from explosions other than the three great explosions mentioned above), and 106 deaths occurred from accidents at the surface.

SHIPBUILDING IN 1922.

ACCORDING to Lloyd's Register Annual Summary of Mercantile Shipbuilding for the year 1922, the total output of mercantile shipbuilding (exclusive of warships and of vessels of less than 100 tons gross) in the world during 1922 was 2,467,084 tons (gross). This total included 1,031,081 tons in Great Britain and Ireland, 575,264 tons in Germany, 184,509 tons in France, 163,132 tons in Holland, 119,138 tons in the United States, 101,177 tons in Italy, 83,419 tons in Japan, and 209,364 tons in all other countries.

* Net costs represent total costs less proceeds of coal supplied to miners.
† The amounts shown in this column are included in those shown as net costs.
‡ Including Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.
§ Stationery Office publication; price 4d. net.

The total output showed a reduction, as compared with 1921, of about 1,874,000 tons. In Great Britain and Ireland the tonnage launched in 1922 was about 507,000 tons less than in 1921; in the United States the decrease amounted to no less than 887,000 tons.

On the Clyde, the tonnage launched was 392,000 tons, compared with 505,000 tons in 1921; on the North-East Coast it was 432,000 tons, compared with 663,000 tons in 1921; and at other ports in Great Britain and Ireland it was 207,000 tons, compared with 370,000 tons in 1921.

The following Table compares the output of Great Britain and Ireland with that for all other countries in the years 1907-13 and 1919-1922 :—

Year.	Great Britain and Ireland.		Other Countries.	
	No.	Tons (Gross).	No.	Tons (Gross).
1907	841	1,607,890	947	1,170,198
1908	523	929,669	882	903,617
1909	526	991,066	537	610,991
1910	500	1,143,169	777	814,684
1911	772	1,803,844	827	846,296
1912	712	1,738,514	1,007	1,163,255
1913	688	1,932,153	1,062	1,400,729
1919	612	1,620,442	1,871	5,524,107*
1920	618	2,055,624	1,141	3,806,042*
1921	426	1,538,052	951	2,803,627
1922	235	1,031,081	617	1,436,003

The figures relate to vessels launched in 1922, whether completed or not during the year.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 30th January, 1923, the number of men in training was 17,748, and the number awaiting training 12,860. Since 1st August, 1919, 66,441 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICES.

Up to the 7th February, 1923, 44,696 apprentices have been accepted for training with 17,844 employers, as compared with 44,695 apprentices, with 17,841 employers, on 3rd January, 1923.

The apprentices rejected up to the 7th February, 1923, numbered 2,178, this being the same as on the 3rd January, 1923. Of those accepted 42,328 terminated training and 2,368 were still in training. The corresponding numbers on 3rd January, 1923, were 42,101 and 2,651.

The number of men who have received institutional training has increased during the five weeks from 2,291 to 2,301.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

On the 31st January, 1923, the number of employers on the King's National Roll was 30,742.

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.

RETAIL PRICES OF CLOTHING, 1914-23.

IN connection with the statistics which are published each month in this GAZETTE dealing with the increase since 1914 in the retail prices of the principal items of working-class expenditure, particulars are regularly collected from a large number of shopkeepers showing the changes in the prices of various articles of clothing of kinds most generally purchased by working-class families. On the basis of these particulars a calculation is made each month (see page 50 of this issue) of the average percentage increase in the prices of such articles since July, 1914. The method by which the calculation is made was explained fully on pages 178-179 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1921.

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 the wide variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price-changes, it is impossible to make exact calculations of the average percentage increase in clothing prices generally, and any single percentage arrived at by the ordinary methods of averaging can only, at best, be regarded as affording an approximate indication of the general change in prices since 1914. The number of returns obtained, however, is very considerable, precautions are taken with a view to ensuring, as far as possible, the comparability of the prices quoted for different dates, and, subject to the general qualification referred to above, the Department has no reason to think that the results of the investigations are unrepresentative of the general course of prices of the cheaper grades of clothing.

* Figures are not available for Germany for these years.

The statistics show that there was a steady rise in the retail prices of clothing from the beginning of the war until the summer of 1917, followed by a more rapid rise until about the date of the Armistice. Thereafter prices remained stationary, on the whole, until the autumn of 1919, but subsequently rose again until the summer of 1920, when the maximum increase of about 330 per cent. above the pre-war level was recorded. In October, 1920, a decline set in, and during the twelve months, 1st October, 1920, to 1st October, 1921, the increase was reduced by one-half, the average percentage increase over the pre-war level at 1st October, 1921, being about 165 per cent. Since that date reductions in prices have continued, but at a slower rate, and recently prices have shown relatively little movement, though their tendency is still downward. At 1st February, 1923, the average increase, as compared with July, 1914, was about 125 per cent.

For the six groups in which the articles taken for comparison are classified the average percentage increases at 1st February, 1923, as compared with July, 1914, were as under :—

GROUP.	Percentage Increase
(1) Men's Suits and Overcoats	90
(2) Woollen Material for Women's Outer Garments	160
(3) Woollen Underclothing and Hosiery	140
(4) Cotton Material for Women's Outer Garments	210
(5) Cotton Underclothing Material and Hosiery	140
(6) Boots	110

The materials for garments, of course, are in some cases made up at home, in which cases the increase in the cost of the material closely represents the increase in the cost of the garment, whilst in other cases they are given out to be made up by dressmakers, etc. Recent enquiries by the Department indicate that the charges for making up garments for working-class customers average about one-and-a-half times the corresponding pre-war charges, and account has been taken of this in arriving at the final percentage.

Although, as was explained in the article in the LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1921, to which reference has already been made, the method of calculation is that of combining the percentage changes in the prices quoted by retailers from month to month, and not that of averaging the prices quoted (the range of prices being so wide that the utilisation of average prices in this connection would be unsuitable for the purpose), it may be of interest to give an indication of the general ranges of prices which are shown by the returns on which the percentages are based.

Accordingly, the following Table has been prepared to show the general range of the price-quotations used for the purpose of the index number. The quotations for materials are "per yard," for footwear "per pair," and for other articles "each."

Article.	Predominant Ranges of Retail Prices of Grades Purchased by Working-class Families.	
	July, 1914.	1st February, 1923.
Men's Suits and Overcoats :		
Ready-made Suits	21s.—30s.	35s.—55s.
Overcoats	21s.—30s.	35s.—55s.
Bespoke Suits	30s.—42s.	50s.—84s.
Overcoats	30s.—35s.	50s.—84s.
Woollen Material for Women's Outer Garments :		
Costume Cloth	1s. 6d.—3s.	3s. 11d.—6s. 11d.
Tweed	1s.—2s.	1s. 11d.—3s. 11d.
Serge	1s.—2s.	1s. 11d.—3s. 11d.
Frieze	1s. 6d.—3s.	3s. 11d.—5s. 11d.
Cashmere	1s. 6d.—2s.	3s. 6d.—4s. 11d.
Woollen Underclothing and Hosiery :		
Men's Vests and Pants	2s. 6d.—2s. 11d.	4s. 6d.—7s. 11d.
Merino Socks	6d.—1s.	1s.—1s. 6d.
Women's Vests	1s.—1s. 6d.	1s. 11d.—3s. 11d.
Woollen Stockings	9d.—1s. 0d.	1s. 6d.—2s. 6d.
Flannel	8d.—1s. 0d.	1s. 6d.—2s. 6d.
Cotton Material for Women's Outer Garments :		
Print	3d.—4d.	10d.—1s. 4d.
Zephyr	3d.—4d.	10d.—1s. 4d.
Sateen	3d.—4d.	1s.—1s. 4d.
Drill	4d.—6d.	1s.—1s. 9d.
Galatea	4d.—6d.	1s.—1s. 6d.
Cotton Underclothing and Hosiery :		
Men's Cotton Socks	4d. 7d.	Mainly 1s.
Women's Cotton Stockings	4d.—1s. 0d.	8d.—1s. 6d.
Calico, white	2d.—4d.	6d.—1s. 0d.
Longcloth	3d.—4d.	6d.—1s. 0d.
Shirting	3d.—4d.	10d.—1s. 4d.
Flannelette	3d.—4d.	6d.—1s. 0d.
Boots :		
Men's Heavy Boots	5s. 11d.—8s. 11d.	12s. 6d.—18s. 6d.
Light Boots	6s. 11d.—10s. 6d.	12s. 6d.—18s. 6d.
Women's Boots	4s. 11d.—8s. 11d.	10s. 6d.—16s. 11d.
Boys' Boots	3s. 11d.—5s. 11d.	7s. 11d.—12s. 11d.
Girls' Boots	3s. 6d.—5s. 11d.	7s. 6d.—12s. 6d.

It should be observed that while the figures given include the majority of the quotations, other quotations were also important in particular cases. For example, costume cloth was very frequently purchased by working-class families at 1s. 0d. to 1s. 4d. in 1914, and at 1s. 11d. to 2s. 11d. in February, 1923.

CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE IN 1921.

THE following particulars have been prepared by the Registrar of Friendly Societies (in continuation of a series of articles* on the same subject formerly prepared by the Board of Trade and the Ministry of Labour), from the statutory Returns furnished annually to his Department under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. The particulars for years previous to 1921 relate to the United Kingdom, but for that year they relate to Great Britain only, as the Irish Societies no longer fall under the Registrar's supervision. A comparison of the figures tabulated below for the years 1913-15, with those previously published* for those years will reveal some variation of detail. Such variation is attributable partly to differences of data (e.g., in some instances returns are now available which had not been received when the statistics were last compiled), and partly to differences in the classification of particular Societies as "distributive" or "productive."

Some difficulties occur in determining whether Agricultural Societies are "distributive" or "productive," which do not arise in the case of other classes of Co-operative Societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. The members of the former are generally themselves producers, and their Societies are formed to supply them with the seeds, implements, and other requirements of their industry, or to aid them in the marketing of produce. Often the Societies have both objects. In some instances they may convert a part of the produce of their members into a more marketable form (e.g., a Dairy Society converting milk into butter and cheese), and so may be considered as engaged in production, but of Societies engaged in those forms of production which are essentially agricultural (the growing of crops and raising of live-stock), there are comparatively few examples, and for the most part these are departments of non-agricultural co-operative societies.

In the Annual Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, Agricultural Co-operative Societies engaged in trading are separated into the following groups:—(1) Supply Societies; (2) Dairy Societies; (3) Egg and Poultry Societies; (4) Fruit and Market Garden Produce Societies; (5) Farmers' and Growers' Societies; (6) Miscellaneous Produce Societies; (7) Agricultural Wholesale Societies. In addition are included the following groups of Societies which are primarily established to render certain services to their members on payment of a fee, and are engaged in trading to a minor extent only:—(1) Flax Societies; (2) Breeding Societies; (3) Threshing Societies; (4) Auction Marts; (5) Credit Societies.

For the purposes of the statistics which follow, Dairy, Farmers' and Growers', Breeding, Flax, Threshing, and Miscellaneous Produce Societies, have been taken as "Productive," and the remaining Societies, with the exception of Credit Societies (which will be dealt with in a separate article), as "Distributive." In the "Productive" section the sales include not only sales of requirements, but also produce sold on behalf of members without undergoing any productive process at the hands of the Society. In the "Service" Societies, service fees are not included as sales.

DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION.

Returns for Great Britain for the year 1921 were furnished to the Registrar by 1,201 registered Co-operative Societies engaged in Agricultural Distribution and Production. Of these Societies 1,029 were engaged almost wholly in Agricultural operations, 829 being engaged mainly in the distribution of Seeds, Implements, Manures, etc., and 200 in the preparation and disposal of Agricultural products, chiefly Butter and other Dairy Produce.

The 1,029 Societies had an aggregate membership of 162,374, a decrease of 3,010, or 1·8 per cent. on that of the preceding year. The total share, loan, and reserve capital amounted to £3,820,000, an increase of £323,000, or 9·2 per cent. on the amount in 1920. The aggregate sales amounted to £16,632,000 during the year, or nearly £5,000,000 (22·5 per cent.) less than in the preceding year. In the aggregate the year's trading resulted in a loss of £153,000 as compared with £210,000 in the preceding year. In both years the loss was to some extent attributable to the heavy losses on trading incurred by the Agricultural Wholesale Society, Ltd.

The number of persons employed by these Societies in connection with agriculture was 4,427, and the amount paid to them in wages £661,000. These figures represented increases over the previous year of 323 and £52,000 respectively.

In addition to the 1,029 Societies mentioned above, there were 172 Co-operative Societies having farming and dairying departments in 1921. They employed 2,623 persons, to whom £362,662 was paid in wages, and the value of their productions in these departments amounted to £1,394,000.

The following Table shows for England and Wales, and Scotland, respectively, the sales in 1921 of all the 1,201 Distributive and Productive Societies and Departments:—

	Sales and Transfers.		
	Agricultural Distributive Societies.	Agricultural Productive Societies and Departments.	Total.
England and Wales ..	£ 11,127,160	£ 5,171,540	£ 16,298,700
Scotland	507,116	1,217,233	1,724,349
Ireland	(Figures not available.)		
Great Britain	£11,634,276	£6,388,773	£18,023,049

In 1920 the sales of Distributive Societies in Great Britain were more than four times the sales of the Irish Societies, but in the Productive Societies and Departments the sales of the Irish Societies exceeded those of Societies in Great Britain by more than £1,000,000, or 14·5 per cent.

Distribution.—The Table given below shows for the years 1913-1921 the sales of Agricultural "Distributive" Societies in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively:—

Year.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	No. of Societies.	Sales.	No. of Societies.	Sales.	No. of Societies.	Sales.
1913 ..	251	£ 1,439,559	85	£ 280,022	133	£ 438,945
1914 ..	276	1,658,280	69	298,525	121	482,869
1915 ..	280	2,517,215	104	338,851	181	720,762
1916 ..	308	3,593,925	122	326,516	202	1,017,420
1917 ..	414	4,554,292	152	417,626	227	1,383,325
1918 ..	508	5,194,566	182	482,447	231	1,940,437
1919 ..	570	9,506,189	195	566,693	276	2,627,430
1920 ..	659	13,884,844	195	628,874	279	3,407,921
1921 ..	621	11,127,160	208	507,116	—	—

As compared with the preceding year the sales in England and Wales in 1921 decreased by 20 per cent., and in Scotland by 19 per cent. The figure for England and Wales, however, was nearly eight times as great as in 1913, and that for Ireland in 1920 nearly eight times as great as in 1913; but comparisons are affected, of course, by the marked changes in prices during the period covered by the Table.

Production.—The following Table gives the number of "Productive" Societies, with the amount of sales and transfers for the years 1913-1921:—

Year.	Special Farming and Dairying Societies.		Farming and Dairying Departments of Wholesale and Retail Industrial Distributive Societies.		Totals—All Classes.	
	No. of Societies.	Sales.	No. of Societies.	Sales and Transfers.	No. of Societies.	Sales and Transfers.
UNITED KINGDOM.						
1913 ..	375	£ 3,562,202	73	£ 307,015	448	£ 3,869,217
1914 ..	391	3,952,780	80	336,443	471	4,289,223
1915 ..	434	5,173,596	83	432,549	517	5,606,145
1916 ..	443	6,528,693	67	411,217	510	6,939,910
1917 ..	474	8,619,107	81	549,083	555	9,168,190
1918 ..	533	10,654,844	90	662,510	623	11,317,354
1919 ..	562	14,242,059	134	1,040,867	696	15,282,926
1920* ..	572	16,470,059	150	1,373,344	722	17,843,403
GREAT BRITAIN.						
1920* ..	207	6,949,227	149	1,368,719	356	8,317,946
1921 ..	200	4,997,818	172	1,390,955	372	6,388,773

Compared with 1920 there was a decrease in Great Britain of 28 per cent. in 1921 in the sales of the Special Farming and Dairying Societies, but an increase of 1·6 per cent. in the sales of the Agricultural departments of non-agricultural Co-operative Societies. The increase in the latter was due to 23 additional Societies having engaged in farming. The extent of the development is made the more apparent on a comparison of the figures for Farming and Dairying Departments with earlier years.

Profit-Sharing.—The Returns furnished to the Registrar show that of the 829 Agricultural "Distributive" Societies, 62, employing 660 persons and paying £98,343 in wages, allotted bonuses to their employees amounting to £3,371, or 7d. in the £ on wages. Of the 200 Agricultural "Productive" Societies, 11, employing 115 persons, and paying £16,159 in wages, allotted bonuses amounting to £1,303, or 1s. 7d. in the £ on wages. Of the 172 departments of Industrial Societies, 14, employing 291 persons and paying wages amounting to £46,310, allotted bonuses amounting to £952, or 1d. in the £ on wages.

* The last published article of the series related to the year 1915. See the November, 1917, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 397-8.

* To facilitate comparison, 1920 figures are given inclusive and exclusive of Ireland.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, 1921.

THE Home Office have issued Statistics of Compensation and of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1921.*

The Statistics relate to seven great groups of industries—mines, quarries, railways, factories, docks, constructional work, and shipping—in which an aggregate number of 7,315,866 persons were employed, on the average, during 1921. Comparative figures of cases, and of compensation paid, for 1920 and 1921, are given in the following statement, together with the corresponding figures for 1911:—

—	1911.	1920.	1921.
Average aggregate number of workpeople coming within the provisions of the Act employed in industries covered by returns	7,305,997	8,348,150	7,315,866
Number of cases:—			
Fatal	4,021†	3,531	2,385
Non-Fatal	419,031	381,986	283,361
TOTAL	423,052	385,517	285,746
Payments for compensation:—			
Fatal cases	£ 620,155†	£ 755,657	£ 518,064
Non-Fatal cases	2,436,249	5,222,352	4,991,331
TOTAL	3,056,404	5,978,009	5,509,395

The average amount of compensation paid in fatal cases in 1921 was £217, as compared with £214 in 1920, and £154 in 1911. The average amount paid in 1921 in non-fatal cases was £73 (for lump-sum payments) and £13 (for weekly payment cases), as against £62, and £11, respectively, in 1920; the average for all non-fatal cases being £17 12s. in 1921, as against £13 13s. in 1920, and £5 16s. in 1911. The increase in 1920 and 1921 as compared with 1911 is largely attributable to the operation of the Workmen's Compensation (War Addition) Act, 1919. The prevalent unemployment in 1921 is reflected in a great reduction in the number of cases, both fatal and non-fatal, as compared with 1920, but in an increase in the average amount of compensation, due, no doubt, to the fact that the depression in trade, and consequent lack of employment, tended to delay the return to work of the disabled workmen.

The following Table shows the number of persons employed, and the amount of compensation paid, in each group of industries:—

Industry.	Persons employed in 1921.	Total Compensation paid in 1921.	Charge per person employed.	
			1921.	1920.
		£	s. d.	s. d.
Shipping	201,464	156,525	15 6	16 6
Factories	5,218,311	2,463,782	9 5	9 3
Docks	127,844	211,385	33 1	29 5
Mines	1,109,023	2,257,511	40 9	37 3
Quarries	62,722	65,171	20 9	19
Constructional Work	86,444	66,889	15 6	13
Railways	510,058	288,132	11 4	11 8
TOTAL	7,315,866	5,509,395	15 1	14 4

It is estimated that the charge arising under the Act in the coal mining industry in 1921 amounted to about 3·2d. per ton of coal raised, or to 3·3d. in the pound on the wages paid. The amount of compensation on railways, according to information obtained from one large railway company, was estimated at about a penny in the pound on wages.

Of the total number of cases, as shown above, compensation in cases of industrial disease was paid in 14 fatal and in 9,276 non-fatal cases in 1921. Of the non-fatal cases, no fewer than 8,711 (or 94 per cent.) were in the mining industry. The mining cases were principally due to miner's nystagmus, "beat hand," and "beat knee." There has been a very remarkable increase in cases of nystagmus since 1908, the first full year after the disease was scheduled under the Act, the total number rising from 460 in that year to 7,028 in 1920, and 6,717 in 1921.

Statistics are also given as to the administration of the Acts, showing that the number of applications for arbitration taken into Court in 1921 under the Workmen's Compensation Acts was 5,232. The number of memoranda of agreements and informal arbitrations registered in the Courts was 24,311; and the number of actions under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, was 27. The remedy provided by the Employers' Liability Act has been steadily falling into disuse since the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906 came into operation.

COST OF LIVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

In September, 1922, the Minister of Labour for Northern Ireland appointed a Departmental Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Robb, K.C., M.P., "to consider the Cost of Living in Northern Ireland as compared with that in Great Britain, and the causes of differences, and to make such recommendations as they think proper, and to report on the advisability of publishing a separate Cost of Living Index Number for Northern Ireland."

The Committee have now issued an Interim Report, in which they deal with the cost of living in Northern Ireland as compared with that in Great Britain, and in particular with the cost of food, as their enquiries regarding other items of expenditure, such as rent and clothing, are not yet complete.

The Committee were advised that an exhaustive comparison of the present cost of living in the North of Ireland and Great Britain would involve the collection of detailed accounts of expenditure in a large number of households in each area. They point out that such an undertaking would involve a great deal of time and money, that employment is at present scarce, and many families are either without wages or living on very much-diminished wages. All authorities predict that this is not a permanent state of affairs, and any series of budgets collected now might not be a reliable basis for calculations of the cost of living in two or three years time; while budgets collected at the end of the next two or three years would, in all probability, represent a mode of living to which people would have settled down, and which might, therefore, be expected to continue suitable for cost of living calculations for a reasonably long series of years.

For these reasons the Committee have not obtained any new collection of family budgets, but they have made calculations of the cost of food, using for the purpose average prices of the principal articles of food based on statistics collected by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland and by the British Ministry of Labour, "weighted" by quantities derived from the Board of Trade collection of working-class family budgets of 1904, slightly modified. These calculations indicate that the average increase in the cost of food in Northern Ireland, between July, 1914, and 2nd October, 1922, was 80·3 per cent., as compared with an increase of 76·7 per cent. between July, 1914, and 30th September, 1922, for the United Kingdom as a whole. The Committee point out, however, that the seasonal increase in the price of milk, which occurred mainly at the beginning of October in Great Britain, had occurred almost a fortnight earlier in Northern Ireland, and that if allowance be made for this difference the increase of 76·7 per cent. stated for the United Kingdom would be raised to approximately 79 per cent., as compared with 80·3 per cent. in Northern Ireland.

There is, however, a further consideration to be borne in mind. In order to render possible a comparison of like with like, the Committee decided, for the purpose of the calculations resulting in the foregoing figures, to take account of the prices of home-killed meat only, as the proportion of imported meat eaten in Northern Ireland is small. If, however, imported meat be included in the calculation of the increase for the United Kingdom, but excluded in the calculation of the increase for Northern Ireland, the increase of 79 per cent. given above for the United Kingdom is reduced to 74 per cent. The former figure, 79 per cent., may be regarded as being practically identical with the figure 80·3 per cent. arrived at for Northern Ireland. While, therefore, the Committee have come to the conclusion that the relative increase in the cost of food over the 1914 level is higher in Northern Ireland than in the United Kingdom taken as a whole, it should be borne in mind that "the greater increase in the cost of food in Northern Ireland is principally due to the local preference for home-killed meat."

As regards the relative levels of the cost of food in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain, the absence of imported meat from the Ulster dietary results in the same quantity of meat costing more in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain, on the average, and the Committee remark that consideration of this point suggests that the cost of food actually consumed is probably slightly higher in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain. They observe, however, that "there may be counterbalancing considerations of a similar nature in the case of other commodities. Particularly in the case of tea there is a widespread impression that the higher price in Northern Ireland partly represents a preference for better quality. Butter is probably not only cheaper, but better; and bacon, though slightly dearer, is probably of better quality in Northern Ireland."

The general conclusion of the Committee on this point is, however, that there is at present no large difference in the cost of food between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION: REPORT BY INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

FOLLOWING its study of the methods of compiling emigration and immigration statistics, of which an account was given in THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1922, page 402, and in continuation of the task of giving effect to the resolutions adopted by the International Emigration Commission, which met at Geneva in August, 1921, the International Labour Office has now issued, in a volume of over 450 pages, a survey* of legislation and international treaties affecting emigration.

The Governing Body of the International Labour Office was requested by the International Emigration Commission:—

" . . . to take all measures necessary to ensure that the Technical Emigration Section (of the International Labour

* Emigration and Immigration: Legislation and Treaties. International Labour Office, Geneva, 1922. Price 6s.

* Cmd. 1793, H.M. Stationery Office: price 6d. net.
† There was a great colliery explosion in this year.

Office) . . . shall investigate the question of international co-ordination of legislation affecting emigration."

The present volume has been compiled principally in order to provide a basis of discussion and to prepare the way for the elaboration of uniform legislation; but it is also offered as a guide to persons interested in the question of migration. The book has been divided into three principal parts:

- (1) Legislation concerning emigration.
- (2) Legislation concerning immigration.
- (3) International agreements concerning emigration and immigration.

In each part the laws, regulations or treaties in force have been analysed and classified according to subject-matter, and, under each heading, the countries have been arranged alphabetically, so that, on a given subject, such as Passports, it may be possible not only to refer immediately to the laws and regulations in force in a particular country, but also to compare all such laws and regulations. In all, the laws, regulations and treaties of 76 countries have been consulted. The work deals only with measures adopted before January, 1922; but a supplement, at the end of the book, gives an analysis of the principal legislative and diplomatic measures adopted between 1st January and the end of August, 1922.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN NEW ZEALAND: AMENDMENT OF LAW.

THE machinery for dealing with labour disputes in New Zealand is governed by two Acts, passed in 1908 and 1913 respectively. The earlier Act, entitled the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1908, which has been frequently amended, provides for the optional registration of "industrial unions," whether trade unions or employers' associations, the effect of registration being to render the organisations subject to the provisions of the Act for the settlement of disputes by Councils of Conciliation or by the Court of Arbitration. For the purposes of the Act, the Dominion of New Zealand is divided into eight industrial districts, and Industrial Commissioners (not exceeding four in number) are appointed to exercise powers with regard to the settlement of disputes. A dispute may be referred to a Commissioner by a trade union, an employers' association, or an employer. The Commissioner thereupon sets up a Council before which the parties are heard. The Council consists of the Commissioner and assessors nominated by the parties. Should a settlement be arrived at, the terms are embodied in an industrial agreement. If, on the other hand, no agreement is reached, the Council may make a recommendation for settlement of the dispute. Should none of the parties disagree with such recommendation within a month, it becomes binding upon the parties as an industrial agreement. In the event of no settlement being arrived at or the recommendation being rejected, the matter is referred to the Court of Arbitration, which consists of a judge of the Supreme Court and two assessors, one representing the employers, the other the workers. The awards of the Court are enforceable upon all employers and industrial unions in the industry and in the particular district to which the award relates.

The Act of 1913, termed the Labour Disputes Investigation Act, applies only to societies of workers and their employers who are not bound by any award or industrial agreement under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and provides machinery for the settlement of disputes by a Labour Disputes Committee. The Committee is composed of representatives of employers and workers, with a chairman elected from among such representatives. It endeavours to effect a settlement, and in case of failure it submits recommendations for settlement. If no agreement is come to, the Registrar of Industrial Unions carries out a secret ballot among the workers on the question whether a strike shall take place. Where recommendations have been made, their adoption is submitted to ballot. A similar ballot is carried out among employers with regard to accepting the recommendations or the declaring of a lock-out. Where an agreement is arrived at it has the same binding force as an industrial agreement under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Strikes or lock-outs are unlawful (1) unless notice has been given of the existence of a dispute, (2) before the expiration of seven days after publication of the results of the secret ballot, and (3) during the currency of an agreement.

An Act dated 31st October, 1922,* which came into operation on 1st January, 1923, makes certain amendments and additions in the legislation above described. The chief features of the new Act are as follows:—

Whereas the Act of 1908 provided that awards were to apply only to the workers employed for the pecuniary gain of the employer, the amending Act states that any award may be applied to a County Council or Road Board, on application by such authority or by any union of workers on behalf of the employees of such body.

A new provision requires industrial organisations of employers and workers to keep proper accounts, and empowers the Registrar of Industrial Unions to require any association to submit its accounts to audit, if he has reason to believe that accounts have not been properly kept or that money has been misappropriated.

It is also prescribed that no person shall be required to pay an entrance fee exceeding five shillings on his admission as a

member of any workers' organisation. Moreover, no subscription is to exceed one shilling a week, and no levy is to become payable until at least one month after a person has become a member.

WAGE REDUCTION BY NEW ZEALAND ARBITRATION COURT.*

ON 22nd November, 1922, the New Zealand Arbitration Court announced its decision in regard to wages of workpeople, based on the movements in the cost of living index for the half-year ended 30th September. The Order embodying this decision provides that all time rates of remuneration provided for in awards and agreements now in force shall be reduced by 13s. a month, 3s. a week, 6d. a day or 3d. an hour for adult male workers; by half these amounts respectively for adult females and by one-third respectively for juniors. Piecework earnings are to be reduced by 3s. a week and 1s. 6d. a week for male and female workers respectively.

The awards and agreements not governed by the new Order, and the exemptions from the Order are also specified.

SPARE-TIME WORK AND THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY IN GERMANY.†

SPARE-TIME work has become very widespread in Germany since the introduction of the eight-hour day. Trade unions and other public bodies have made various efforts to prevent it,‡ and recently, by provisions in collective agreements, employers' and workers' associations have endeavoured to restrict it or abolish it altogether, the former because of the unfair competition of the worker, who frequently works at lower rates than those at which the manufacturer can work with profit, the latter because the practice is held to threaten the maintenance of the eight-hour day. The employer also suffers from the fact, particularly in trades where the work is of an arduous character, that some workers expend so much energy in their spare time that they are unfit to do a good day's work at their regular employment. Even in such trades as mining, iron and steel, quarrying, pottery, etc., it has been found necessary to prohibit work outside the undertaking in which the worker is regularly employed.

Rules prohibiting spare-time work are more commonly to be met with in agreements concluded in the small handicraft trades in which few tools are required, such as installation work, plumbing, watch and instrument making, saddlery, printing, roofing and chimney sweeping.

Generally the agreements prescribe that if an employer demands that a worker should work exclusively for him, he should be able to provide full-time work. Thus several agreements prohibit spare-time work only for "fully employed" workers, the prohibition ceasing to apply in the case of workers on short-time. In trades in which spare-time work is not absolutely forbidden in collective agreements, the prohibition may be said to take one of two forms. It may forbid—

(1) Spare-time work in the workers' own trade (e.g., in the watchmakers' agreement such work is prohibited, whether it is done on the worker's own account or for another employer); or

(2) spare-time work done for profit (whether in the worker's own trade or not), elsewhere defined as "done for another employer," "wage-work done elsewhere," or "regular wage-work." Sometimes work done for the worker's own family is expressly excluded from the prohibition, and the Hanover agreement for communal workers allows "work in the worker's own garden and urgent harvest work on his own account in the months of July and October."

In some agreements spare-time work is declared to be permissible with the approval of the employer, who in these cases is generally a municipal or other public body. In some cases the approval of the works council is also necessary. The rule is less strict for spare-time work done by salaried employees, for which in general only the employer's consent is required.

Penalties are provided in order to make these prohibitions effective, e.g., dismissal without notice, with the addition in one case of loss of annual leave or compensation for annual leave. Generally, however, dismissal is possible only after repeated offences preceded by warning. In one case (the Federal Agreement for saddlers) a fine may be imposed by the tribunal established by the agreement, dismissal following a repetition of the offence.

In a number of agreements both parties expressly state their determination to abolish spare-time work in some such terms as the following: "The competent workers' organisations pledge themselves to use drastic measures against offenders," or "Both parties pledge themselves to oppose the mischievous practice of spare-time work done for profit and to support their opposition by all the means at their disposal, including the publication of individual cases. . . ."

* *Auckland Star*, November 18th to 29th, 1922.

† *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 15th December, 1922.

‡ See *Labour Overseas* (published in 1920 and 1921 by the Ministry of Labour), No. 1, page 42, and No. 2, page 48.

EXTENSION OF WORKING HOURS.

(a) BELGIUM.*

SECTION 6 of the Belgian Eight-Hour Day Act of 1921 provides that the eight-hour day or 48-hour week may, by Royal Order, be exceeded: (1) in industries or branches of industry in which the time necessary for the completion of the processes cannot, by reason of their nature, be precisely determined, and (2) in industries in which the materials in course of treatment are subject to rapid deterioration. In conformity with this section of the Act, a Royal Order, dated 4th January, 1923, has been issued, authorising, as an experimental measure, for a period of one year, an extension of the working hours by 100 over the twelve-monthly period (subject to the condition that not more than two hours, in addition to the normal number, shall be worked on any one day) in the following industries, branches of industry or processes: (1) *ice-making*; (2) *manufacture of artificial slates*; (3) *manufacture of varnish*:—workmen employed on gum-running and the finishing of the varnish; (4) *manufacture of glues and gelatines*:—workmen employed on taking out of the mould, cutting, stretching on nets and on gelatine drying; (5) *vulcanisation of indiarubber articles*:—workmen employed on vulcanising; (6) *electro-plating*:—workmen employed at the electrolytic baths; (7) *transport operations*:—loading and unloading of goods, shunting, weighing of railway trucks and other vehicles, in so far as these operations are subsidiary to an industrial enterprise.

(b) SWITZERLAND.†

H.M. Minister at Berne has forwarded a copy of an Order, issued by the Swiss Federal Department of Public Economy, and dated 27th December, 1922, which authorises an extension of the normal working hours to 52 a week in certain branches of the embroidery industry, the cotton industry, the flax industry, hat and cap making, and soap and candle making. The Order is valid during the whole of the year 1923, except for hat and cap making, where the extension of working hours is authorised until the end of June next.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AGRICULTURE) IN DENMARK.‡

RATIFICATION OF GENEVA CONVENTION.

By an Act of 23rd December, 1922, the Danish Government have been authorised to ratify the International Draft Convention on Workmen's Compensation adopted at the Conference at Geneva in 1921. This Draft Convention prescribes the extension to agricultural wage earners of the laws and regulations in force in the various countries ratifying the Convention, for the compensation of workers for personal injury by accident arising out of or in the course of their employment. The Danish accident insurance legislation (Act of 6th July, 1916, which came into force on 1st January, 1917)§ already covers agricultural workers.

ABOLITION OF OFFICIAL CONCILIATION BOARDS IN HOLLAND.

THE Dutch official conciliation boards, known under the title of Chambers of Labour, were abolished by an Act of 14th December, 1922.¶ In the preamble to the Bill which thus became law it was stated that, although the Chambers had been useful in individual labour disputes, their intervention had rarely been called for in larger disputes. In the existing circumstances their work did not justify an annual expenditure of 40,000 florins. Their functions could be discharged by other public bodies, while the passing of the Bill for the Peaceful Settlement of Labour Disputes¶ (which was anticipated) would render them quite unnecessary.

The Chambers of Labour were established by Royal Decree in accordance with a law of 2nd May, 1897, either for separate communes or jointly for several communes, for single industries or jointly for several industries. They were composed of an equal number of employers and workers elected for five years, both employers and workers electing presidents who held office for six months in turn. The Chambers had to meet at least four times a year and also when convened by the President, either on his own initiative or acting on request. Whenever a dispute occurred or was threatened, a Chamber might intervene on the request of either party or on that of the local mayor or provincial commissioner. The Chamber could appoint a conciliation board, consisting of a chairman (not necessarily a member of the Chamber) and of an equal number of employer and worker mem-

bers of the Chamber. The means of settlement recommended had to be notified in writing to both parties, and might, at the discretion of the board, be published. No specific provision was made for enforcing arbitration.

RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION IN BARCELONA : NEW ROYAL DECREE.*

A ROYAL Decree, dated 3rd November, 1922, regulates the exercise of the right of association of workmen and employers in the province of Barcelona. Its main provisions are in substance as follows:—

Unions of employers and workpeople, respectively, may acquire State recognition and registration in the province of Barcelona, subject to conditions the fulfilment of which is to be controlled by a special branch of the Ministry of Labour established in that province in October, 1921, for the purpose (among others) of making a complete register of all employers and workers in the province with a view to a natural vocational grouping on which it would be possible to set up machinery for the prevention and settlement of labour disputes.

In order to obtain Government recognition a union of workpeople must number not less than 100, and a union of employers not less than 20 members, who must, moreover, constitute the majority of the employers and workers, respectively, belonging to the particular trade in the locality or district. A second vital condition for recognition is that the rules of the union shall have been examined and approved by the Barcelona Branch of the Ministry of Labour.

Membership of a recognised workers' union is limited (a) to Spaniards by birth, and (b) to persons belonging to the trade or calling for which the union is formed. Candidates for membership who satisfy the conditions laid down in the decree may not be refused admission.

Membership of a recognised employers' union is limited to persons registered as belonging to the industry or trade which the union represents, and they must be legally qualified to engage in commerce. Neither employers nor workpeople may belong to more than one union within the same locality. The entrance fee in the case of a workmen's union may not exceed the amount of three days' wages, salary or income. The Ministry of Labour may reduce the statutory subscription on passing the rules, and may refuse to allow any increase considered unjustified.

Amongst the legitimate rights of a registered union are specified the following:—

To exercise the constitutional right of petitioning the Government and other Public Authorities; to organise technical instruction, exhibitions, competitions, museums, etc., for the benefit of its members; to found benevolent institutions; to encourage thrift and mutual help (including co-operative credit, production, consumption and insurance) and to set up Labour Exchanges; to appoint representatives to statutory joint bodies for dealing with labour disputes; to exercise the rights pertaining to Civil Societies, as regards the acquisition and ownership of private property of all kinds, the contracting of obligations, and pleading in the Law Courts; to propose modifications and improvements in Labour Laws, and to take part in the supervision of collective agreements.

Under certain conditions to be developed in detail in an Order yet to be issued, recognised workers' unions may be entrusted with contracts for public works.

Conditions are also laid down for the recognition and registration of federations and confederations of Unions. These are invested with civil personality similar to, but independent of, that of the constituent organisations. The ownership of real estate by federations and confederations of Unions is, however, restricted to such property as they may require for their offices, meetings, libraries, courses of study, museums, laboratories, employment exchanges, apprentices' workshops, asylums and hospitals. Their right to receive donations is similarly restricted; nor may they engage in commercial pursuits not actually co-operative or intended for the exclusive benefit of their associates. Federations and confederations may not exist for political purposes.

WORKERS' HOLIDAYS IN FINLAND.†

THE Act relating to collective Labour Agreements which came into force in Finland on 1st July, 1922, contains a clause providing that every worker shall be entitled to an annual holiday of 7 working days with full pay after one year's continuous employment with the same employer, and of 4 days after six months' continuous employment.

* Based on a despatch from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid.
† *Industrial and Labour Information*, 8th December, 1922.

* Based on a despatch from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Brussels.

† *Vide* MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1922, page 326.

‡ Based on a report from H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, dated 12th January, 1923.

§ See LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1917, page 98.

¶ *Staatsblad*, No. 676. A translation was forwarded by H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague in a despatch dated January 3rd, 1923.

¶ For an account of the provisions of this Bill see *Labour Overseas* (published in 1920 and 1921 by the Ministry of Labour), No. 3, page 92, and No. 5, page 11.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st FEBRUARY, 1923.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	77%
Food only	...	...	...	73%

FOOD.

DURING January there was a further slight decline in the average cost of the pre-war working-class dietary, mainly due to considerable reductions in the prices of eggs and bacon. Fish was also slightly cheaper, but cheese, tea, butter, and meat (especially mutton) were dearer, while the prices of the other articles of food included in the statistics showed very few changes, though on balance their tendency was downward. As a net result of these changes the average increase in the retail prices of food over the level of July, 1914, fell to about 73 per cent. at 1st February, as compared with about 75 per cent. at 1st January. The corresponding figure for 1st February, 1922, was 79 per cent.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, at 1st January, 1923, and at 1st February, 1923:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated).			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 1st Feb., 1923, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Jan., 1923.	1st Feb., 1923.	July, 1914.	1st Jan., 1923.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	0 10	1 6	1 6	+ 0 8	—
Thin Flank	0 6½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 4	—
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 3½	+ 0 0½
Thin Flank	0 4½	0 6	0 6	+ 0 1½	—
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 10	+ 0 0½
Breast	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 5½	+ 0 0½
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6½	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 6	+ 0 0½
Breast	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	+ 0 0½
Bacon (streaky)* ..	0 11½	1 8½	1 7½	+ 0 8½	— 0 1
Flour .. per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 4½	1 4	+ 0 5½	— 0 0½
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 9	0 9	+ 0 3½	—
Tea ..	1 6½	2 5½	2 6	+ 0 11½	+ 0 0½
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 2	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 3½	—
Milk .. per quart	0 3½	0 7	0 7	+ 0 3½	—
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	2 1½	2 2	+ 0 11½	+ 0 0½
Salt	1 2½	1 11½	2 0	+ 0 9½	+ 0 0½
Cheese†	0 8½	1 3½	1 4½	+ 0 7½	+ 0 0½
Margarine	0 7	0 6½	0 6½	— 0 0½	—
Eggs (fresh) .. each	0 1½	0 3½	0 3	+ 0 1½	— 0 0½
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 5	0 5	+ 0 0½	—

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st February, 1923, in relation to the prices of July, 1914, and 1st January, 1923:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Feb., 1923, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st Jan., 1923.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—				
Ribs	82	79	80	80
Thin Flank	59	62	60	59
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	46	41	44	42
Thin Flank	20	29	25	23
Mutton, British				
Legs	98	97	98	95
Breast	84	77	81	77
Mutton, Frozen				
Legs	90	79	84	82
Breast	38	36	37	32
Bacon (streaky)* ..	79	69	74	83
Fish	128	109	118	121
Flour	50	53	52	53
Bread	58	55	56	57
Tea	62	64	63	59
Sugar (granulated) ..	193	176	185	186
Milk	100	103	101	101
Butter—				
Fresh	74	83	79	77
Salt	68	71	69	68
Cheese†	88	87	87	79
Margarine	— 4	— 7	— 6	— 5
Eggs (fresh)	146	134	140	165
Potatoes	9	— 6	2	2
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	75	72	73	75

* 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*, special inquiries have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, and the result of these inquiries is to indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st February, 1923, was about 50 per cent. Of the total increase somewhat less than one-half is accounted for by increases in rates and water charges, and about one-third 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 remainder.

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 of 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 February the level of retail prices of articles in this group, quality for quality, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes, was about the same as a month earlier, and about 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. For further particulars in regard to the increase in the cost of clothing, reference may be made to the article on page 45.

In the *fuel and light* group the average increase in the retail prices of coal at 1st February, as compared with July, 1914, was about 90 per cent., or slightly higher than a month earlier. For gas the average percentage increase was between 70 and 75 per cent. above the pre-war level. For lamp oil and for candles the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, declined during January to 70 per cent. and 35 per cent. respectively, while for matches there was no appreciable change during the month. Taking the group as a whole, the average increase, as compared with July, 1914, was between 85 and 90 per cent., or about the same as a month earlier.

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 figure for 1st February, 1923, is approximately 77 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 78 per cent. at 1st January and 88 per cent. at 1st February, 1922.

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	—
April ..	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82	—
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	—
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	—
July ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	—
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	—
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	—
October ..	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	—
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	—

NOTE.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, contained a full account of the scope and method of compilation of the above statistics.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during January showed little general change as compared with previous months, but was better, on the whole, at the end of the month than at the end of December. It continued good in the coal mining industry, in steel sheet manufacture and in the worsted industry, fairly good in the tinplate trade, and fair in the hosiery, woollen, jute, carpet, ready-made clothing and paper trades. In most of the other principal industries it was still very slack; but a further improvement was reported at iron and steel works, and slight improvements were also reported in some centres in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, and in certain other sections of the metal trades.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.*

Among 1,205,143 members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 13·7 at the end of January, as compared with 14·0 at the end of December and 16·8 per cent. at the end of January, 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 22nd January was 12·7, as compared with 12·2 at 18th December† and 16·0 per cent. at the end of January, 1922. For males alone the percentage was 14·4 at 22nd January, as compared with 14·0 at 18th December; for females, the corresponding figures were 8·2 and 7·3. The number of workpeople on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges at 29th January was approximately 1,460,000, of whom men numbered 1,138,000 and women 226,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 1st January was 1,542,000, of whom 1,199,000 were men and 255,000 women. It should also 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 Act, 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.—Employment in the coal mining industry continued good, and showed a further improvement. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 27th January was 1,134,476, an increase of 0·5 per cent., as compared with a month ago, and of 6·6 per cent., as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 27th January was 5·56, the same as in December, and 0·4 days more than in January, 1922.

At iron mines employment showed some improvement, but was still bad in the Cleveland district and moderate in other districts. At the mines covered by the returns received, the numbers employed during the fortnight ended 27th January showed an increase of 5·4 per cent., as compared with December and of over 70 per cent., as compared with January, 1922. The average number of days worked per week by these mines was 5·53, as compared with 4·66 in January, 1922. At shale mines employment continued fair; at limestone quarries it was fairly good in the Clitheroe and Buxton districts, but bad in the Weardale area. At whinstone quarries in East Scotland employment was moderate; it was bad at quarries producing building stone and road material in the Clee Hill, Stanton-in-Peak and Rowsley districts. With slate quarrymen in North Wales and with granite quarrymen employment continued fair; with china clay workers it continued fairly good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig iron industry employment was still bad, but showed a further improvement. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of January was 183, as compared with 169 at the end of December and 90 at the end of January, 1922. In the iron and steel trades employment showed a further improvement, but was still moderate on the whole. A further improvement was also reported in the tinplate trade, where employment was fairly good; in the steel sheet trade it continued good. At the end of January, 500 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 501 at the end of December and 436 at the end of January, 1922.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades, though still bad, was better than in the previous month; in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades a slight improvement was also reported, but employment still continued very bad. In the other metal trades employment continued slack generally. Improvement was reported, however, in the sheet metal, wire, brass and bedstead trades, in the Landore and Newport tube trade, and with makers of ranges and stoves. In the gold, silver and jewellery trades there was a decline.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment continued bad, except in the Egyptian spinning section, which worked

practically full time; in the section spinning American cotton there was a slight improvement, but the organised short time working, which had been in operation since the end of September, continued until the end of the month. In the weaving department employment showed a decline. In the woollen trade employment continued fair on the whole, and was much better than a year ago. In the worsted trade employment continued good with wool sorters and wool combers; in the spinning branch there was little change, but in the weaving branch an improvement was reported at some centres. In the hosiery trade employment showed a slight decline and was fair; in the silk trade it continued fair in the Eastern Counties, but was bad and worse than a month ago in the Macclesfield district. Employment in the lace trade continued bad generally, except in the curtain section, where it was reported as fair. In the carpet trade there was a slight improvement, and employment was fair; it also continued fair in the jute industry; in the linen trade it continued bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment continued slack on the whole.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was slack on the whole; in the ready-made branch it was generally fair; in both branches short-time working was reported from some districts. In the felt-hat trade employment was quiet, but slightly better than in the previous month; with shirt makers at Manchester it was bad. In the boot and shoe trades employment continued slack, and short time was still very prevalent in nearly all the principal centres. In the leather trades employment continued moderate in the tanning and currying section, and fair in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections; with saddle and harness makers it continued bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades employment continued very slack and showed a further decline, especially with painters, plasterers and slaters. It was very bad generally with painters, builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works. In the brick trade employment continued moderate on the whole.

Employment was quiet in the furnishing trades. With coach-builders it was moderate on the whole, though fair in London; with mill sawyers it was also moderate, but showed some improvement; with coopers and packing-case makers it was slack; with brushmakers it showed a decline, but was fair.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade was fair on the whole, and showed a further slight improvement as compared with the previous month. In the printing trade employment was generally slack and worse than a month ago; it was still reported as good, however, with electrotypes and stereotypers in London, and letterpress printers at Leicester and Nottingham reported a slight improvement. Employment showed a decline in the bookbinding trade and was bad generally, with much short time; in London it was affected by a dispute in the latter part of the month.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trades employment continued bad on the whole; in china manufacture, however, a slight improvement was reported. In the glass trades employment also continued bad.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture the supply of labour was ample for all requirements and there was increased unemployment amongst the less skilled men. Employment in the fishing industry was fair on the whole with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and continued moderate generally with fish curers.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers was quiet and showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. With seamen it was moderate on the whole, and at most of the ports large numbers of men failed to get engagements.

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 during the present year:—

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.
1922.		
January	16·8	16·0
February	16·3	15·5
March	16·3	14·4
April	17·0	14·4
May	16·4	13·5
June	15·7	12·7
July	14·6	12·3
August	14·4	12·0
September	14·6	12·0
October	14·0	12·0
November	14·2	12·4
December		12·2
1923.		
January	13·7	12·7

Further details and statistics as to the state of employment in a number of the principal industries are given on pages 53-57.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

† The corresponding figure for the end of December is not available, but the total number unemployed at the latter date is known to have been greater than at 18th December.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 1,205,143 in the branches covered by the returns received reported 165,342 (or 13.7 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of January, 1923, compared with 14.0 per cent. at the end of December, 1922, and 16.8 per cent. at the end of January, 1922.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of January, 1923.	Unemployed at end of January, 1923.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent- age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	125,227	11,258	9.0	+ 1.5	+ 2.4
Coal Mining	134,396	8,140	6.1	- 0.7	- 8.7
Engineering and Ship- building	426,751	106,629	25.0	- 1.9	- 3.2
Miscellaneous Metal ..	56,673	6,186	10.9	- 0.2	- 5.2
Textiles:—					
Cotton	61,138	4,629	7.6†	+ 0.6	- 3.0
Woollen and Worsted	12,214	135	1.1	- 0.1	- 2.2
Other	56,905	2,436	4.3	+ 0.4	- 0.7
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	95,193	6,042	6.3	+ 0.2	- 1.7
Furnishing	25,492	2,298	9.0	+ 1.8§	+ 1.8
Woodworking	48,978	3,425	7.0	..	- 3.5
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe.. ..	74,812	4,350	5.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.3
Other Clothing	43,383	1,639	3.8	..	- 2.0
Leather	6,885	618	9.0	+ 0.6	- 1.9
Glass	1,230	33	2.7	..	- 1.7
Pottery	31,000	6,000	19.4	- 1.6	- 10.1
Tobacco|| .. ..	4,866	1,524	31.3	..	+ 3.4
Total	1,205,143	165,342	13.7	- 0.3	- 3.1

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 12.7 per cent. at 22nd January, as compared with 12.2 at 18th December. A Table showing the estimated number insured and the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 59.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in January, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 53 to 57.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Jan., 1923.	January, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days	Days.
Coal Mining	1,134,476	5.56	..	+ 0.40
Iron "	8,205	5.53	- 0.08	+ 0.87
Shale "	4,196	5.90	+ 0.11	- 0.08
		Furnaces in Blast.	Number.	Number.
Pig Iron .. ..	..	183	+ 14	+ 93
		Mills Working	..	..
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	..	500	- 1	+ 64
		Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel	75,674	403,003	+ 6.0	+ 34.0

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago.	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.¶ Year ago.¶
Textiles:—		Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Cotton	92,134	- 2.0	156,132	- 3.4
Woollen	16,780	+ 0.8	34,903	- 1.9
Worsted	32,415	+ 0.6	63,809	- 1.0
Boot and Shoe ..	49,685	+ 0.2	112,589	+ 2.6
Pottery	11,274	- 0.1	20,734	- 2.7
Brick	5,754	+ 0.1	13,662	- 2.1
Total	208,042	- 0.7	401,229	- 1.2

* 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. ‡ 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 figure for December has been revised.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

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

Thick Curve ————— = 1923.

Thin Curve ————— = 1922.

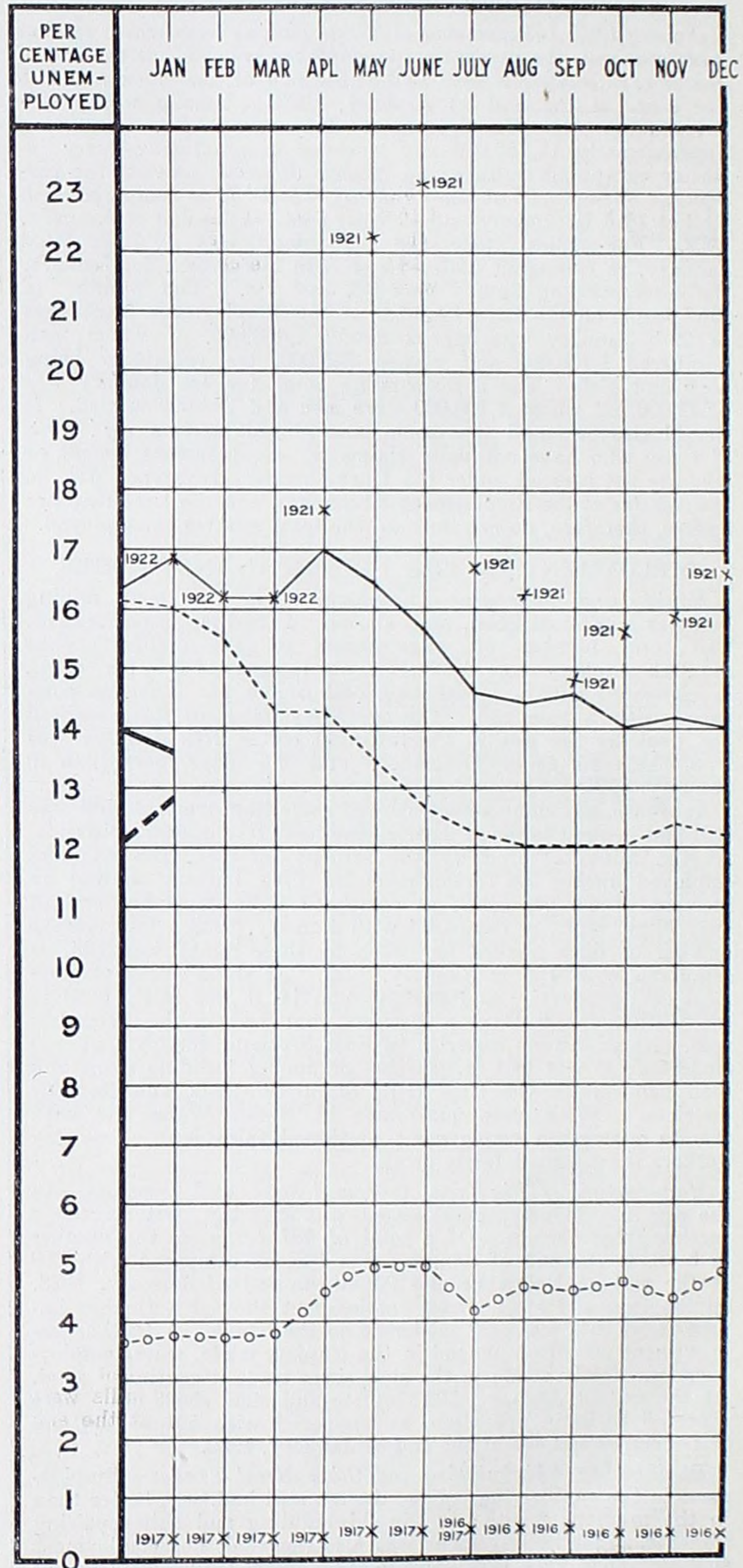
Chain Curve -o-o-o-o-o- = Mean of 1913-22.

× 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 WORK-PEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT:—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - 1923.

Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - 1922.



NOTE.

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

The figures for insured workpeople relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and exclude the Irish Free State. Detailed figures are given on page 59.

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 January continued good generally; it showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, and was better than a year ago. Employment in the Lancashire and Cheshire district, however, was still only fair. The average weekly number of days (5.56) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 27th January showed no change as compared with the fortnight ended 16th December, 1922, but an increase of 0.40 of a day on a year ago. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 27th January showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. on the number at 16th December, and of 6.6 per cent. on a year ago.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4.5 per cent. at 22nd January, 1923, as compared with 4.6 per cent. at 18th December, 1922.

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

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*			
	27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Month ago.	Year ago.			
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ..	60,816	+ 0.7	+ 7.2	5.49	+ 0.02	+ 0.11
Durham ..	165,020	+ 1.3	+ 13.7	5.38	+ 0.02	+ 0.32
Cumberland and Westmorland ..	11,605	+ 0.8	+ 6.5	5.73	+ 0.14	+ 0.48
South Yorkshire ..	106,462	+ 0.6	+ 3.5	5.63	+ 0.04	+ 0.25
West Yorkshire ..	66,698	+ 0.1	+ 2.5	5.69	+ 0.03	+ 0.68
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	104,617	— 0.1	+ 1.0	5.20	+ 0.05	+ 0.64
Derbyshire ..	63,364	+ 0.5	+ 2.1	5.74	—	+ 0.67
Notts. and Leicester ..	63,270	+ 0.2	+ 2.3	5.53	+ 0.01	+ 0.60
Warwick ..	21,603	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	5.96	+ 0.09	+ 0.26
North Staffordshire ..	34,464	+ 1.0	+ 1.7	5.66	+ 0.14	+ 0.89
South Staffs.,† Worc. and Salop ..	34,533	+ 1.0	+ 2.9	5.94	+ 0.22	+ 0.55
Glouc. and Somerset ..	14,249	+ 0.1	+ 4.4	5.56	+ 0.12	+ 0.64
Kent ..	1,757	— 0.8	+ 45.0	5.37	— 0.32	+ 0.96
North Wales ..	17,266	— 1.3	+ 10.1	5.69	+ 0.26	+ 0.56
South Wales and Mon.	234,130	—	+ 9.9	5.70	— 0.08	+ 0.19
England and Wales	999,854	+ 0.4	+ 6.3	5.58	+ 0.02	+ 0.41
SCOTLAND.						
Mid & East Lothians ..	15,273	+ 0.2	+ 9.5	5.37	— 0.14	+ 0.11
Fife and Clackmannan ..	29,659	+ 1.0	+ 11.2	5.39	— 0.14	+ 0.02
Rest of Scotland ..	89,690	+ 0.8	+ 8.6	5.49	— 0.09	+ 0.46
Scotland ..	134,622	+ 0.8	+ 9.2	5.46	— 0.10	+ 0.33
Great Britain ..	1,134,476	+ 0.5	+ 6.6	5.56	—	+ 0.40

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 27th January was 0.21 of a day, of which 0.17 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade, and showed little change from the time lost in the fortnight ended 16th December, 1922. In the fortnight ended 28th January, 1922, the average time lost was 0.60 of a day, of which over half a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The non-winding time was about one-quarter of a day in each period.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 27th January, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 21,219,200 tons, compared with 22,413,100 tons in the four weeks ended 23rd December, 1922, and with 17,692,300 tons in the four weeks ended 28th January, 1922. Particulars of the output, costs of production and proceeds of the industry in the quarter ended 30th September, 1922, are given on page 44.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers in the foreign trade and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted in January to 7,890,143 tons, or 312,203 tons more than in December, 1922.

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

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron.—Employment was bad in the Cleveland district, and moderate in other districts. On the whole, however, it was somewhat better than in December, and much better than in January, 1922.

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

Districts.	Number of Work-people employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines.		
	Fort-night ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec.(-) as compared with a		Fort-night ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec.(-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Yea ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland	2,441	+ 12.9	+ 57.7	4.56	- 0.33	+ 0.77
Cumberland and Lancashire.. .. .	4,079	+ 2.7	+ 111.5	6.00	-	+ 0.47
Other Districts	1,685	+ 2.1	+ 26.5	5.80	+ 0.18	+ 1.39
All Districts	8,205	+ 5.4	+ 70.6	5.53	- 0.08	+ 0.87

Shale.—Employment continued fair. Returns received from firms employing 4,196 workpeople in the fortnight ended 27th January, 1923, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the total number employed as compared with the previous month, and an increase of 25.5 per cent. compared with January, 1922. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.90 in January, 1923, 5.79 in December, 1922, and 5.98 in January, 1922.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during January was still bad, but showed a further improvement.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of January, as shown by the returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 183, compared with 169 at the end of December.

Returns received by the Federation from 86 firms employing 21,788 workpeople at the end of January showed an increase of 8.7 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of December, 1922, when the number of workpeople employed was 20,050. At the end of January, 1922, 15,033 workpeople were employed by these firms.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of January, 1923, December, 1922, and January, 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 Jan., on a	
		Jan., 1923.	Dec., 1922.	Jan., 1922.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Durham and Cleveland	115	39	37	27	+ 2	+ 12
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	46	17	17	6	—	+ 11
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield.	38	15	13	7	+ 2	+ 8
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	34	30	17	+ 4	+ 17
Lincolnshire ..	22	15	11	6	+ 4	+ 9
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	58	19	17	11	+ 2	+ 8
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	8	8	7	—	+ 1
Total (England and Wales)	385	147	133	81	+ 14	+ 66
SCOTLAND ..	102	36	36	9	—	+ 27
TOTAL ..	487	183	169	90	+ 14	+ 93

The production of pig iron in January amounted to 567,900 tons, as compared with 533,700 tons in December and 288,000 tons in January, 1922.

* See * footnote in previous column.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good in the tinplate trade; it showed a further improvement as compared with the previous month, and was much better than a year ago. At the end of January 385 mills, about four-fifths of the total number in existence, were reported to be in operation, as compared with 383 at the end of December, 1922, and with 334 a year ago. Employment in the steel sheet trade continued good. At the end of January the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns was 115, as compared with 118 at the end of December, 1922, and with 102 a year ago.

The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 2,623 at 22nd January, 1923, as compared with 2,569 at 18th December, 1922.

The following Table shows the number of works reported to be open and the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received at the end of January, 1923:—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		At end of Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ..	74	—	+ 6	385	+ 2	+ 51
Steel Sheet ..	13	— 1	+ 2	115	— 3	+ 13
TOTAL ..	87	— 1	+ 8	500	— 1	+ 64

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in January, 1923, amounted to 94,413 tons, or 3,484 tons more than in December, 1922, and 4,578 tons more than in January, 1922.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works, though it showed a further improvement, continued moderate on the whole. As compared with a year ago there was a marked general improvement.

According to Returns received from firms employing 75,674 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 27th January (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 an increase of 6.0 per cent. on the previous month, and of 34.0 per cent., as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open in the week was 5.3, as compared with 5.2 in December, 1922, and 4.9 in January, 1922.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate number of Shifts.*		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ..	7,954	+ 8.9	+ 32.5	45,740	+ 10.9	+ 39.8
Crucible Furnaces ..	274	— 13.6	+ 20.7	1,116	— 21.8	+ 23.7
Bessemer Converters ..	756	+ 186.4	+ 337.0	3,808	+ 180.8	+ 306.4
Puddling Forges ..	4,478	— 3.7	+ 42.7	20,588	+ 1.9	+ 77.1
Rolling Mills ..	27,889	+ 7.6	+ 30.6	140,375	+ 10.0	+ 47.9
Forging and Pressing ..	2,662	— 8.1	+ 13.1	13,014	— 8.6	+ 18.4
Founding ..	7,527	+ 3.6	— 4.5	40,958	+ 4.5	+ 4.7
Other Departments ..	5,897	— 0.6	+ 11.1	32,400	— 0.1	+ 16.2
Mechanics, Labourers..	18,237	+ 2.0	+ 17.4	105,004	+ 2.4	+ 28.4
Total ..	75,674	+ 4.5	+ 22.1	403,003	+ 6.0	+ 34.0
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland and Durham ..	6,696	+ 0.5	+ 3.2	36,315	+ 6.5	+ 13.7
Cleveland ..	8,059	+ 5.4	+ 18.0	44,745	+ 4.5	+ 25.6
Sheffield and Rotherham ..	18,083	— 0.2	+ 14.5	94,234	+ 0.5	+ 34.0
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,399	+ 1.1	+ 19.2	13,062	+ 1.9	+ 24.4
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire..	7,977	+ 29.4	+ 43.0	41,399	+ 33.3	+ 56.4
Staffordshire ..	8,452	+ 1.9	+ 45.2	44,375	+ 0.9	+ 48.2
Other Midland Counties	3,936	+ 2.7	+ 31.6	20,584	+ 3.6	+ 44.8
Wales and Monmouth..	7,832	+ 1.0	+ 7.0	43,605	+ 0.1	+ 9.0
Total, England and Wales ..	63,440	+ 4.3	+ 20.1	338,319	+ 5.1	+ 30.6
Scotland ..	12,234	+ 5.5	+ 34.1	64,684	+ 11.0	+ 54.7
Total ..	75,674	+ 4.5	+ 22.1	403,003	+ 6.0	+ 34.0

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown was actually worked by all the men employed.

The production of steel ingots and castings as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers amounted to 624,300 tons, compared with 546,100 in December, 1922, and 327,500 tons in January, 1922.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during January continued bad, but showed a further improvement in some districts.

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad, but was rather better than in December. In Yorkshire a further slow improvement was reported. In Lancashire and Cheshire there was an improvement at several centres, but a decline was reported at Bolton and Accrington. At Oldham employment was fair on the whole, some overtime being worked on export orders in the textile section; with foundry workers, however, it was bad. At Barrow, though an improvement was shown, employment remained very bad.

There was a noticeable improvement at Derby, and some improvement at Leicester and Nottingham; in the hosiery section at Nottingham employment was fairly good. At Norwich an improvement was reported. In the Birmingham and Coventry district the improvement in the motor industry was maintained; at Birmingham a shortage of pattern-makers was reported, while at Coventry a good deal of overtime was worked, though many workpeople were still unemployed. In the London district, the Southern Counties and South Wales a further slight improvement was reported.

In Glasgow and on the East Coast of Scotland employment was still bad, but showed a slight improvement. In Belfast it continued bad.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople registered as unemployed, according to the Unemployment Insurance records, at 22nd January, as compared with 18th December:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 22nd January, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 22nd January, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in percentage as compared with 18th Dec., 1922.
London ..	23,922	16.6	+ 0.9
South-Eastern ..	12,757	16.8	— 0.3
South-Western ..	8,926	14.7	+ 0.4
Midlands ..	42,143	19.2	— 0.1
North-Eastern ..	54,871	23.8	— 1.1
North-Western ..	45,187	20.5	+ 0.2
Scotland ..	43,693	24.7	+ 0.2
Wales ..	1,891	14.1	— 0.8
Northern Ireland ..	3,222	27.1	+ 0.6
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND }	236,612	20.5	— 0.1
<i>Males ..</i>	<i>230,868</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>—</i>
<i>Females ..</i>	<i>5,744</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>— 0.4</i>

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades during January continued very bad, but showed a further slight improvement in some districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople whose Unemployment Insurance Books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd January:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 22nd January, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 22nd January, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in percentages as compared with 18th December, 1922.
London ..	4,573	26.1	+ 0.7
South-Eastern ..	2,058	18.5	— 2.5
South-Western ..	7,660	17.2	+ 0.2
Midlands ..	201	21.4	— 9.6
North-Eastern ..	38,928	41.9	— 1.4
North-Western ..	16,320	35.5	— 3.7
Scotland ..	39,384	41.4	— 0.2
Wales ..	5,058	29.0	— 3.6
Northern Ireland ..	8,842	26.6	— 1.9
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND }	123,024	34.3	— 1.3
<i>Males ..</i>	<i>122,557</i>	<i>34.7</i>	<i>— 1.3</i>
<i>Females ..</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>— 0.9</i>

On the North-east Coast employment continued very bad generally, though compared with December some improvement was shown. On the East and South Coasts it was still bad. At the Bristol Channel Ports there was a considerable improvement on repair work. An improvement was reported on the Mersey, and a slight improvement at Barrow, where, however, employment remained very bad. In Scotland employment continued very bad, though there was an improvement with ship joiners on the Clyde. At Belfast and Londonderry employment was bad, but improving.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING January employment continued bad, except in the section spinning Egyptian cotton, which worked practically full time. In the section spinning American cotton there was a slight improvement. The question of continuing, during February, the organised short time (to the extent of 13 hours a week) which had been in operation in this section was submitted to a ballot of the employers concerned, in January, and as the proportion of employers in favour fell short of that (80 per cent.) required for its continuance on an organised basis, the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations notified their members that they would be at liberty to take what action they might individually think proper, after 31st January, with regard to the continuance of short-time working. The Federation, however, recommended all firms who could continue the short-time movement to do so.

In the weaving department about 30 per cent. of the looms were reported to be stopped, and employment was worse than in December. It was, however, appreciably better than in January of last year.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11·7 on the 22nd January, as compared with 9·1 on the 18th December, 1922.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stockport, and Rochdale districts employment in the spinning department continued bad. In the weaving department also it continued very slack, and short time was prevalent.

At Bolton employment was reported as fair with spinners; with card-room workers it showed little change. In the weaving department there was also little change: a large number of operatives were unemployed; and of the remainder, more than half were on short time, or were minding less than their usual complement of looms or other machines. At Leigh and at Chorley employment with spinners was good; in the Bury district it was bad.

In the Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, and Darwen districts employment with weavers continued slack: there was much short time; many looms and other machines were stopped; and there was much under-employment in other forms. Conditions were, however, appreciably better than in January of last year.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing.. ..	11,894	– 1·8	+ 6·3	18,776	– 0·5	– 14·4
Spinning	22,373	– 1·0	+ 4·4	37,019	+ 0·1	– 11·6
Weaving	39,177	– 2·9	+ 14·3	61,403	– 7·0	– 3·0
Other	8,984	– 1·9	+ 4·0	20,640	– 3·6	– 9·0
Not specified ..	9,706	– 0·4	+ 6·5	18,294	– 0·1	+ 1·8
Total	92,134	– 2·0	+ 8·8	156,132	– 3·4	– 7·0

DISTRICTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ashton	3,393	– 6·7	+ 5·1	5,695	– 8·3	– 5·3
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	7,008	+ 0·1	– 1·4	10,432	– 1·7	– 22·2
Oldham	10,775	+ 2·1	+ 2·8	19,227	+ 6·4	– 21·3
Bolton and Leigh ..	16,292	– 2·8	+ 1·5	27,930	– 2·4	– 11·1
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden ..	8,544	– 0·7	+ 0·1	13,193	– 4·6	– 2·2
Manchester	6,039	– 2·9	+ 27·4	10,021	– 0·3	+ 9·2
Preston and Chorley..	6,653	– 4·5	+ 7·3	11,237	– 3·5	– 0·5
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ..	9,255	– 3·7	+ 19·2	16,230	– 8·1	– 4·4
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ..	11,739	– 1·3	+ 20·1	22,685	– 4·9	– 0·0
Other Lancashire Towns	4,365	– 5·3	+ 13·5	6,656	– 10·3	+ 2·9
Yorkshire Towns ..	4,003	– 1·3	+ 1·8	6,958	– 3·2	+ 0·4
Other Districts ..	4,068	– 0·1	+ 34·7	5,868	– 9·1	+ 6·2
Total	92,134	– 2·0	+ 8·8	156,132	– 3·4	– 7·0

In the week ended the 27th January about 26 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, to the extent of about 13 hours a week on the average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 119,909,300 lbs. in January, 1923, compared with 195,833,100 lbs. in the previous month, and with 128,943,600 lbs. in January, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 12,814,700 lbs. in January, 1923, compared with 11,711,600 lbs. in December, 1922, and 14,806,200 lbs. in January, 1922.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 399,988,200 square yards, as compared with 360,517,300 square yards in the previous month, and with 339,117,400 square yards in January, 1922.

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

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the wool textile industry in January showed little change on the whole as compared with a month earlier, but was decidedly better than a year ago.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4·4 per cent. on the 22nd January, as compared with 4·1 on the 18th December, 1922.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

During January there was a further improvement in the Huddersfield district. In the Dewsbury and Batley district employment in the low woollen trade was bad, and in the fine woollen trade moderate. In the Morley district, and in the low woollen manufacturing branch of the Leeds trade, there was an improvement; the numbers employed in these two sections have been increasing during the last few months, and during January the change was marked. Employment continued fairly good in the blanket and fancy rug trade; in the rag and shoddy trade it showed little change. In the tweed trade there was much variation as between one firm and another, but on the whole there was an improvement in January; many firms were working full time, and some, overtime. In the flannel trade employment continued fairly good in the Rochdale and Stockport districts, though not all firms were able to maintain full time. In Scotland employment on the whole continued fairly good, though many firms were unable to keep all their looms employed.

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

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	397	+ 4·2	+ 13·1	941	+ 0·5	+ 19·3
Spinning	4,140	– 0·1	+ 23·4	8,444	– 2·2	+ 28·4
Weaving	6,655	+ 1·2	+ 13·6	12,438	– 3·8	+ 22·7
Other Departments ..	5,017	+ 0·8	+ 9·4	11,583	– 0·7	+ 18·1
Not Specified	571	– 1·0	+ 7·7	1,497	+ 4·7	+ 3·6
TOTAL	16,780	+ 0·8	+ 14·3	34,903	– 1·9	+ 21·4
<i>Districts.</i>						
Huddersfield District ..	1,327	+ 0·2	+ 10·9	3,446	+ 3·9	+ 12·4
Leeds District	1,730	+ 1·6	+ 34·4	3,620	– 2·2	+ 18·9
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,952	+ 5·5	+ 6·5	4,230	+ 4·7	+ 27·3
Other Parts of West Riding	2,102	+ 0·6	+ 6·1	4,636	– 3·2	+ 8·6
Total, West Riding ..	7,111	+ 2·1	+ 12·9	15,932	+ 0·5	+ 16·3
Scotland	4,928	+ 0·5	+ 21·8	9,722	– 5·9	+ 50·8
Other Districts	4,741	– 0·8	+ 9·4	9,249	– 1·7	+ 7·5
TOTAL	16,780	+ 0·8	+ 14·3	34,903	– 1·9	+ 21·4

In the week ended 27th January about 20 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received from employers were working short time, to the extent of 9 hours a week on the average.

WORSTED TRADE.

With wool sorters and wool combers employment continued good, and overtime was reported with sorters. In the worsted spinning trade there was no appreciable change during the month, and in the manufacturing trade there was also little general change, though there was a slight improvement in the Huddersfield and Halifax fine cloth trade.

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

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,281	– 0·3	+ 9·2	11,609	– 3·5	– 3·5
Spinning	16,285	+ 0·8	+ 10·5	26,231	– 0·8	– 3·2
Weaving	5,939	+ 0·5	+ 15·2	12,501	– 0·0	+ 18·2
Other Departments ..	3,582	– 0·2	+ 10·8	8,860	+ 0·4	+ 1·3
Not specified	2,328	+ 2·5	+ 8·6	4,608	– 0·0	– 3·5
TOTAL	32,415	+ 0·6	+ 11·1	63,809	– 1·0	+ 0·9

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

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
<i>Districts.</i>						
Bradford District.. ..	16,001	+ 0.4	+ 12.7	32,697	— 2.1	+ 2.2
Keighley District.. ..	5,593	— 0.4	+ 6.3	10,746	— 0.7	— 1.7
Halifax District	2,828	+ 0.6	+ 2.9	5,006	— 5.3	— 12.7
Huddersfield District ..	3,462	+ 3.3	+ 27.3	7,051	+ 4.1	+ 21.3
Other Parts of West Riding	2,193	+ 1.1	+ 4.9	3,826	+ 1.8	— 11.0
Total, West Riding ..	30,077	+ 0.6	+ 11.3	59,326	— 1.2	+ 1.0
Other Districts	2,338	— 0.1	+ 7.5	4,483	+ 2.3	+ 0.7
TOTAL	32,415	+ 0.6	+ 11.1	63,809	— 1.0	+ 0.9

In the week ended 27th January about 3 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, to the extent of about 10 hours a week on the average. In the previous month approximately the same proportion of workpeople were working a similar amount of short time.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 54,705,800 lbs. in January, 1923, compared with 33,329,100 lbs. in December, 1922, and 62,259,700 lbs. in January, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,878,500 lbs., compared with 3,657,300 lbs. in December, 1922, and 3,809,600 lbs. in January, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 22,063,500 square yards, compared with 17,428,900 in December, 1922, and 15,669,300 square yards in January, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 160,307 pairs, 74,048 pairs, and 52,079 pairs in January, 1923, December, 1922, and January, 1922, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

DURING January employment in this trade continued slack. In some districts it was slightly better on the whole than in December, but in others it was worse. Short time was still very prevalent at nearly all the principal centres.

There was a marked improvement at Stafford, and some improvement at Leicester and Northampton, as well as at one or two other towns. On the other hand, there was a decline in a number of districts, including the Leicestershire country district, Wellingborough, the Bristol and Kingswood district, the Leeds district, and Scotland.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the boot, shoe and slipper making and repairing trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.8 on the 22nd January, 1923, as compared with 8.3 on the 18th December.

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

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
England and Wales :—						
London	2,072	+ 0.8	+ 1.8	4,788	— 1.4	— 5.0
Leicester	8,219	+ 3.0	+ 7.1	21,369	+ 7.7	+ 8.0
Leicester Country District	2,740	— 0.7	— 2.7	5,907	— 4.2	— 8.5
Northampton	6,304	+ 0.8	— 2.9	14,675	+ 5.6	+ 4.9
Northampton Country District	7,711	— 0.4	+ 9.6	17,113	+ 1.0	+ 11.0
Kettering	3,193	+ 0.5	+ 2.9	7,908	+ 3.5	— 0.7
Stafford and District ..	2,508	+ 2.1	+ 7.2	5,907	+ 21.6	+ 34.2
Norwich and District ..	3,963	+ 2.1	+ 12.9	7,677	+ 1.3	+ 2.7
Bristol, Kingswood and District	2,277	— 5.3	+ 17.4	4,447	— 11.1	+ 27.0
Leeds and District ..	1,946	— 1.2	+ 4.6	4,209	— 4.8	+ 3.1
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ..	4,073	— 1.8	+ 18.6	9,210	+ 0.0	+ 29.7
Birmingham and District	934	— 0.7	+ 5.2	1,826	+ 13.1	+ 4.6
Other parts of England and Wales	1,345	— 0.5	+ 3.5	2,596	— 3.5	+ 6.4
England and Wales ..	47,285	+ 0.3	+ 6.4	107,632	+ 2.8	+ 8.3
Scotland	2,400	— 2.8	— 0.9	4,957	— 2.2	— 3.0
Great Britain	49,685	+ 0.2	+ 6.1	112,589	+ 2.6	+ 7.7

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

Returns received from firms employing 31,500 workpeople showed about 34 per cent. on short time at the end of the month, to the extent of about 10½ hours a week on the average. At the end of the previous month, about 38 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns then received were on short time, to the extent of about 13 hours a week, on the average.

The exports of boots and shoes in January, 1923, amounted to 73,211 dozen pairs, or 6,609 dozen pairs more than in December, 1922, and 29,182 dozen pairs more than in January, 1922.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued to show a decline during January, and was very slack at the majority of centres. Short time working, partly due to bad weather, was reported from a number of districts. In all the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below there was an increase in the percentage unemployed as indicated by the unemployment books remaining lodged at Employment Exchanges, and for the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the percentage unemployed was 20.7 at 22nd January, as compared with 19.0 at 18th December.

Employment declined, on the whole, with all classes of skilled operatives in these trades, the decline being most marked with painters, plasterers and slaters. It was very bad generally with painters, builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works and bad or slack with all other classes.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 22nd January and the increase or decrease in the percentage, as compared with 18th December :—

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 22nd Jan., 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 22nd Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in percentage as compared with 18th Dec., 1922.
<i>Building Trade.</i>			
Carpenters	15,730	11.6	+ 1.4
Bricklayers	7,852	12.8	+ 1.7
Masons	2,436	10.2	+ 0.6
Slaters	889	15.8	+ 2.8
Plasterers	2,889	16.7	+ 3.9
Painters	35,201	30.6	+ 5.1
Plumbers	4,657	12.4	+ 1.7
Labourers of above ..	66,660	24.4	+ 0.9
All other occupations ..	19,843	19.9	+ 1.0
Total	156,157	20.3	+ 1.8
<i>Construction of Works.</i>			
Navvies	9,386	26.6	— 0.5
All other occupations ..	16,580	21.5	+ 0.9
Total	25,966	23.1	+ 0.5
Grand Total	182,123	20.7	+ 1.7
<i>Divisions.</i>			
London	40,663	21.9	+ 1.9
South-Eastern	19,154	15.2	+ 0.9
South-Western	18,164	16.8	+ 1.6
Midlands	21,771	22.3	+ 1.8
North-Eastern	25,266	22.8	+ 1.9
North-Western	26,276	22.7	+ 1.8
Scotland	18,448	21.3	+ 1.1
Wales	7,894	20.9	+ 2.1
Northern Ireland	4,487	34.1	+ 1.5
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	182,123	20.7	+ 1.7
Males	181,828	20.8	+ 1.7
Females	295	4.5	+ 0.3

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade in January was again only moderate on the whole. In the Birmingham and Nottingham districts it was bad. As compared with a year ago there was a decline in employment.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd January, 1923, was 15.1 per cent., as compared with 14.0 per cent. at 18th December, 1922.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,589	Per cent. + 2·3	Per cent. - 1·1	£ 3,612	Per cent. - 3·2	Per cent. - 14·1
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,401	- 0·6	- 11·2	7,688	- 1·2	- 12·0
South and South-West Counties and Wales	608	- 2·4	- 11·6	1,397	- 4·7	- 20·7
Other Districts	156	+ 4·0	- 12·4	365	+ 1·1	- 17·8
TOTAL	5,754	+ 0·1	- 8·7	13,062	- 2·1	- 13·8

Returns from firms employing 4,668 workpeople show that 24 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 7½ hours on the average, during the week ended 27th January.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades during January continued bad on the whole, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. In china manufacture, however, a slight improvement was reported in the Potteries district.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15·5 at 22nd January, 1923, as compared with 16·3 at 18th December, 1922.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
China Manufacture ..	1,429	+ 2·9	- 12·5	£ 2,596	+ 2·1	- 29·4
Earthenware Manufacture ..	8,210	- 0·1	+ 6·2	14,974	- 3·8	- 8·5
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,635	- 2·5	- 3·4	3,164	- 1·4	+ 6·3
TOTAL	11,274	- 0·1	+ 2·0	20,734	- 2·7	- 9·9
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	9,020	+ 0·0	+ 1·2	16,052	- 1·5	- 11·7
Other Districts	2,254	- 0·4	+ 5·2	4,682	- 6·6	- 3·2
TOTAL	11,274	- 0·1	+ 2·0	20,734	- 2·7	- 9·9

Returns from employers relating to short-time working showed that of 8,681 workpeople covered, 45 per cent. were working, on an average, about 18 hours less than full-time in the week ended 27th January.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during January was quiet, and showed a small decline as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the canal, river, harbour, dock and wharf service, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd January, 1923, was 19·1, as compared with 18·4 at 18th December, 1922.

London.—Employment was not so good as in December. 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.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
6th Jan., 1923 ..	5,201	2,948	8,149	8,180	16,329
13th " ..	5,070	3,351	8,421	8,010	16,431
20th " ..	5,197	2,579	7,776	8,494	16,270
27th " ..	5,426	2,210	7,636	8,194	15,830
Average for 4 weeks ended 27th Jan., 1923	5,224	2,772	7,996	8,219	16,215
Average for Dec., 1922	5,789	2,820	8,609	8,314	16,923
Average for Jan., 1922	5,822	2,862	8,684	8,553	17,237

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

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in January was 978, as compared with 1,041 in the previous month, and with 1,279 in January, 1922.

East Coast.—On the Tyne and Wear employment with coal trimmers and teemers was reported as good; with other classes it was generally moderate, and worse than in the previous month. At Blyth it was still slack, but a little better than in December. Employment was fair at Middlesbrough and Hull, at the latter port an improvement being reported. At other East Coast ports it was fair to slack.

Southern and Western Ports.—At the South Wales ports employment was reported as better than a month ago, the movement of ships being greater. The average weekly number of dock labourers employed at Liverpool during the five weeks ended 29th January was 14,958, compared with 15,796 in the four weeks ended 25th December, 1922, and 14,006 in the corresponding period of last year.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was moderate, and good at Dundee and Leith. At Belfast it showed a further improvement and was good.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during January was moderate on the whole. Generally speaking, the demand improved in the first two weeks and then declined, except for a temporary revival in the week ended 27th January. At most of the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain engagements.

The percentage of seamen unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 22·3 at 22nd January, 1923, as compared with 21·6 at 18th December, 1922.

On the Thames employment was moderate, and showed an improvement in comparison with December. On the Tyne the demand for men was quiet in the first half of the month and fair afterwards. Employment was dull on the Wear and quiet on the Tees. The demand at Hull was good in the first fortnight of January and declined subsequently. At Southampton there was a slight improvement up to the middle of the month, and employment was very quiet afterwards. The demand at Bristol improved in the first half of the month and was quiet subsequently. At Avonmouth the demand was moderate on the whole. Employment at Cardiff was moderate in the first half of January, declining in the third week and becoming fairly good after. A fair demand at Swansea declined towards the close of January. Employment at Newport was good. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey employment improved and was reported as moderate at the end of the month.

The demand on the Clyde and at Belfast was quiet, and at Leith it was moderate.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in		
	Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.			
<i>East Coast—</i>			
Tyne Ports	1,575	- 91	- 448
Sunderland	298	+ 132	+ 116
Middlesbrough	541	+ 224	+ 213
Hull	1,725	+ 600	+ 629
Grimsby	21	- 7	-
<i>Bristol Channel—</i>			
Bristol†	932	- 111	+ 35
Newport, Mon.	1,367	+ 409	+ 645
Cardiff†	3,127	+ 160	- 428
Swansea	1,014	+ 376	+ 500
<i>Other Ports—</i>			
Liverpool	13,134	+ 4,229	+ 3,273
London	8,276	+ 1,923	+ 556
Southampton	8,634	+ 2,875	+ 3,561
SCOTLAND:			
Leith	575	+ 398	+ 269
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	428	+ 165	+ 243
Glasgow	1,512	- 572	+ 54
NORTHERN IRELAND:			
Belfast	224	- 146	- 114
TOTAL	43,383	+ 10,564	+ 9,094

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from workpeople—at 29th January, 1923, was 1,460,418, of whom 1,137,847 were men, 52,451 boys, 226,265 women, and 43,855 girls. Compared with 1st January there was a decrease of 81,117. The men's and women's "live registers" decreased by 61,163 and 28,567 respectively, but in the case of juveniles there was an increase of 8,613.

During the four weeks ended 29th January the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 64,474, of which 38,275 were for men, 15,905 for women, and 10,294 for juveniles.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 29th January, 1923:—

Week ended	Applications by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople (Live Register.)	From Employers.
1st January	22,438†	18,923‡	1,541,535	14,669
8th January, 1923 ..	18,918	16,612	1,526,879	13,942
15th " " " " ..	19,199	15,706	1,509,889	14,865
22nd " " " " ..	18,682	16,229	1,489,434	14,459
29th " " " " ..	20,214	15,927	1,460,418	15,690
Total (4 weeks) ..	77,013	64,474	—	—

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraphs is not yet available, but statistics for the five weeks ended 8th January are dealt with below:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of applications (722,860) from workpeople during the five weeks ended 8th January showed a daily average of 26,773—an increase of 2,175, or 8·8 per cent., compared with the daily average of the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 17,519, women for 6,713, and juveniles for 2,541—increases of 3·1 per cent., 21·8 per cent., and 21·3 per cent., respectively, in the case of men, women and juveniles.

Vacancies Notified.—During the five weeks ended 8th January there were 74,873 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 2,773, as compared with 2,790 during the preceding period. Of this daily average, 1,564 were for men, 826 for women, and 383 for juveniles.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 63,578—a daily average of 2,355, as compared with 2,338 during the previous statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,449, women for 568, and juveniles for 338.

Juveniles.—During the period, 33,929 applications were received from boys and 34,667 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 4,600, and 4,189 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls 5,742 vacancies were notified, and 4,944 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 20·6 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 five weeks ended 8th January have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below:—

In the building trades 7,316 vacancies were notified for men and 6,636 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were:—Carpenters, 1,564 vacancies notified and 1,415 filled; bricklayers, 904 vacancies notified and 810 filled; painters, 1,948 vacancies notified, and 1,767 filled; and builder's labourers, 1,447 vacancies and 1,366 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 151,764† at 8th January, compared with 132,392† at 4th December.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the five weeks ended 8th January was 14,637. Of this number, 5,830 were for resident domestic servants, 3,260 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,884 for charwomen, and 881 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 782.

Of the 9,394 vacancies filled, 2,537 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,245 as non-resident, 3,320 as charwomen, and 731 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 8th January for work in domestic services was 32,205, compared with 34,996 on 4th December.

The figures above, except those in the first three paragraphs, are exclusive of dock labourers and coal labourers. The number of casual jobs found for workpeople in these occupations during the period of five weeks ended 8th January was 2,028.

Post Office Christmas Work.—The Department, as usual, recruited temporary labour for the General Post Office to cope with the Christmas pressure. The number of applicants registering solely for this class of work was 3,973, while the number found work, including applicants registered for work in their normal occupations, was 28,096—men 28,059, boys 26, women 11—compared with 25,088 in the previous year. These figures are not included in the statistics given above.

* The figures in the first column relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 29th January, 1923, there were on the Live Registers 1,165,000 men, 209,000 women, and 96,000 juveniles, compared with 1,165,000 men, 235,000 women, and 85,800 juveniles at 1st January, 1923.

† Workmen on short time are not included.

‡ These figures relate to the fortnight ended 1st January, 1923.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas and for the principal towns therein the number of persons remaining on the "live registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 29th January, 1923. In certain cases, e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc., the figures cover more than one Exchange Area:—

Area.	Number of Persons remaining on the Live Registers at 29th January, 1923.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 1st January, 1923.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London	174,670	38,434	20,811	233,915	+ 10,846
South Eastern Division..	78,305	9,956	7,343	90,604	— 994
Brighton	3,489	774	682	4,945	+ 384
Chatham	3,468	430	700	4,598	— 733
Ipswich	3,790	356	427	4,573	— 52
Norwich	4,610	353	212	5,175	— 350
Rest of South Eastern	57,948	8,043	5,322	71,313	— 243
South Western Division..	78,128	11,026	7,507	96,661	— 869
Bristol	13,474	3,456	1,724	18,654	+ 820
Plymouth	6,100	1,017	685	7,802	— 352
Portsmouth	5,938	577	849	7,364	— 449
Reading	2,105	219	471	2,795	+ 112
Southampton	6,985	545	520	8,050	+ 425
Swindon	1,409	162	318	1,889	+ 14
Rest of South Western	42,117	5,050	2,940	50,107	— 1,439
Midlands Division ..	150,125	36,917	12,956	199,998	— 15,901
Birmingham	39,664	11,338	2,601	53,603	— 1,679
Coventry	4,463	700	368	5,536	— 671
Cradley Heath	5,379	1,100	250	6,729	— 1,697
Derby	3,686	366	403	4,455	— 218
Leicester	2,648	291	86	3,025	— 265
Northampton	2,019	616	237	2,872	— 176
Nottingham	7,846	1,425	565	9,836	— 284
Smethwick	4,798	1,372	695	6,865	— 149
Stoke-on-Trent	7,851	5,209	844	13,904	— 4,616
Walsall	4,900	953	1,388	7,241	— 275
West Bromwich	2,971	641	335	3,947	— 711
Wolverhampton	7,391	2,118	509	10,018	— 628
Rest of Midlands	56,504	10,788	4,675	71,967	— 4,532
North-Eastern Division..	215,890	19,758	13,555	249,203	— 13,001
Barnsley	2,566	243	162	2,971	— 6
Bradford	4,859	607	111	5,577	+ 82
Darlington	2,440	184	146	2,770	— 682
Dewsbury	1,395	316	62	1,773	— 302
Doncaster	511	182	142	835	+ 112
Gateshead	6,776	597	639	8,012	+ 12
Grimsby	2,685	200	244	3,129	+ 323
Halifax	1,751	178	21	1,950	— 372
Hartlepool	7,439	345	402	8,186	— 430
Huddersfield	2,895	312	141	3,348	+ 178
Hull	10,676	737	1,335	12,748	+ 370
Leeds	16,449	2,301	798	19,548	+ 496
Lincoln	3,876	451	173	4,500	— 408
Middlesbrough	9,488	371	336	10,195	— 1,767
Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	18,807	1,354	1,387	21,548	+ 101
Rotherham	1,951	188	310	2,449	— 179
Sheffield	27,417	2,657	1,626	31,700	— 1,207
South Shields	6,067	384	313	6,764	— 589
Stockton-on-Tees ..	8,042	222	411	8,675	— 1,304
Sunderland	16,505	905	1,036	18,446	— 736
York	2,009	228	744	2,981	— 73
Rest of North-Eastern	60,786	6,796	2,816	70,398	— 6,620
North Western Division	198,921	68,081	19,167	286,169	— 54,005
Accrington	2,123	918	131	3,172	— 548
Ashton-under-Lyne ..	3,589	1,756	344	5,689	— 1,384
Barrow	8,784	590	634	10,008	— 535
Birkenhead	7,914	572	875	9,361	— 676
Blackburn	4,704	2,516	381	7,601	— 6,520
Blackpool	1,211	792	118	2,121	+ 174
Bolton	5,351	1,178	223	6,752	— 1,478
Burnley	4,677	4,762	650	10,089	— 2,063
Bury	1,856	1,083	152	3,091	— 1,891
Chorley	1,181	394	66	1,641	— 679
Liverpool	42,681	7,449	4,161	54,291	+ 1,277
Manchester	6,154	2,650	374	9,178	— 260
Nelson	954	551	36	1,541	— 1,500
Oldham	5,430	3,646	314	9,390	— 4,637
Preston	4,167	1,593	609	6,369	— 8,980
Rochdale	3,017	2,102	245	5,364	— 2,815
St. Helens	3,321	375	350	4,046	— 115
Salford	9,470	3,593	2,039	15,102	— 1,142
Stockport	3,830	2,213	431	6,474	— 59
Warrington	2,816	280	168	3,264	— 378
Wigan	2,628	3,378	585	6,591	— 943
Rest of North Western	50,568	17,136	4,005	71,709	— 18,853
Scotland Division ..	168,901	27,226	10,937	207,064	+ 653
Aberdeen	6,701	848	445	7,994	+ 598
Clydebank	4,608	223	230	5,061	— 171
Dundee	7,312	2,979	342	10,633	+ 4
Edinburgh	11,574	1,799	891	14,264	+ 347
Glasgow	71,907	11,175	4,597	87,679	+ 2,426
Greenock	8,991	814	343	10,148	— 1,334
Motherwell	3,482	315	221	4,018	— 359
Paisley	6,957	721	612	8,290	+ 102
Rest of Scotland	47,369	8,352	3,256	58,977	— 960
Wales Division ..	45,936	8,217	2,973	57,126	— 2,617
Cardiff	5,654	627	778	7,059	— 981
Llanelli	915	157	104	1,176	+ 63
Newport	2,810	200	233	3,243	— 448
Swansea	3,090	274	291	3,655	— 319
Rest of Wales ..	33,467	1,959	1,567	36,993	— 952
Total Gt. Britain ..	1,105,376	209,565	95,049	1,409,990	— 75,888

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, substantially all persons for whom Health Insurance contributions have been paid, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. 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 excepted. 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 two periods of unemployment of not less than two days each, separated by a period of not

more than two days, during which the insured contributor has not been employed for more than 24 hours, or two periods of unemployment of not less than six days each, separated by an interval of not more than six weeks, shall be treated as continuous unemployment for this purpose. 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. The procedure requires the "lodging" of an unemployed person's unemployment book, and the record of books "lodged" thus affords a measure of the extent to which unemployment is prevalent in the insured industries.

Industry.	Estimated number of Insured Workpeople.			TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.*								
				Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 22nd Jan., 1923.			Percentage Unemployed.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 18th Dec., 1922.		
	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.
Building and Construction of Works :-												
Building	763,000	5,790	768,790	155,893	264	156,157	20.4	4.6	20.3	+ 1.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.8
Construction of Works other than Building.	111,590	830	112,420	25,935	31	25,966	23.2	3.7	23.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.9	+ 0.5
Shipbuilding	353,020	5,620	358,640	122,557	467	123,024	34.7	8.3	34.3	- 1.3	- 0.9	- 1.3
Engineering and Ironfounding	1,077,840	74,890	1,152,730	230,868	5,744	236,612	21.4	7.7	20.5	-	- 0.4	- 0.1
Construction and Repair of Vehicles	185,380	30,410	216,790	25,605	2,988	28,593	13.7	9.8	13.2	- 1.0	- 0.9	- 0.9
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork	182,410	39,270	221,680	22,592	3,248	25,840	12.4	8.3	11.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.7	+ 1.0
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.	175,500	65,410	240,910	22,715	4,893	27,608	12.9	7.5	11.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.2
Metal Trades :-												
Iron, Steel, Tinplate, and Galvanized Sheet Manufacture.	293,880	14,270	308,150	61,280	1,114	62,394	20.9	7.8	20.2	- 1.9	- 0.2	- 1.9
Brass, Copper, Zinc, etc., Manufacture	51,770	13,230	65,000	9,382	1,661	11,043	18.1	12.6	17.0	- 0.4	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Electrical and Surgical Instruments, etc.	66,560	38,260	104,820	8,785	2,773	11,558	13.2	7.2	11.0	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.5
Hand Tools, Cutlery, etc.	20,640	8,360	29,000	4,060	1,225	5,285	19.7	14.7	18.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.5
Needles, Pins, Steel Pens, Dies, Seals, etc.	5,440	9,750	15,190	594	1,234	1,828	10.9	12.7	12.0	-	+ 1.0	+ 0.6
Wire and Wire Goods	21,650	6,230	27,880	2,914	574	3,488	13.5	9.2	12.5	- 0.4	-	- 0.3
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Chains, Anchors, etc.	20,060	15,320	35,380	5,254	2,722	7,976	26.2	17.8	22.5	+ 1.1	- 0.6	+ 0.3
Hardware and Hollow-ware	58,100	49,230	107,330	7,852	7,721	15,573	13.5	15.7	14.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	+ 0.9
Watches, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	30,630	20,570	51,200	4,671	2,030	6,701	15.2	9.9	13.1	+ 2.2	+ 1.5	+ 2.0
Miscellaneous Metal Goods (including Musical Instruments).	36,100	16,620	52,720	3,790	1,889	5,679	10.5	11.4	10.8	- 0.1	+ 2.1	+ 0.6
Rubber and Leather Trades :-												
Rubber & Rubber & Waterproof Goods	34,890	30,120	65,010	5,708	3,061	8,769	16.4	10.2	13.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
Leather and Leather Goods	48,040	21,250	69,290	5,930	2,237	8,167	12.3	10.5	11.8	+ 1.0	+ 1.4	+ 1.2
Brick, Tile, etc.	68,470	8,910	77,380	10,415	1,234	11,649	15.2	13.8	15.1	+ 1.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	36,930	34,650	71,580	5,170	5,892	11,062	14.0	17.0	15.5	- 0.5	- 1.1	- 0.8
Glass Trades (excluding Optical, Scientific, etc.)	37,900	7,730	45,630	8,328	792	9,120	22.0	10.2	20.0	+ 1.1	+ 0.6	+ 1.0
Hotel, College, Club, etc., Services	86,470	190,560	277,030	13,233	16,832	30,065	15.3	8.8	10.9	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Laundry Service	15,980	87,730	103,710	1,423	4,513	5,936	8.9	5.1	5.7	+ 0.7	-	+ 0.1
Commercial, Clerical, Insurance and Banking	120,610	21,640	142,250	9,540	2,680	12,220	7.9	3.3	6.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
Transport Services :-												
Railway Service	241,530	12,670	254,200	21,638	642	22,280	9.0	5.1	8.8	+ 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.3
Tramway and Omnibus Service	98,900	5,190	104,090	4,213	161	4,374	4.3	3.1	4.2	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Other Road Transport	158,410	4,080	162,490	29,819	169	29,988	18.8	4.1	18.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.8
Seamen	110,810	1,490	112,300	24,811	198	25,009	22.4	13.3	22.3	+ 0.6	+ 3.6	+ 0.7
Canal, River, Harbour, etc., Service	190,040	2,940	192,980	36,548	353	36,901	19.2	12.0	19.1	+ 0.7	-	+ 0.7
Warehousemen, Packers, Porters, etc.	32,780	5,560	38,340	7,040	626	7,666	21.5	11.3	20.0	+ 0.7	+ 1.6	+ 0.8
Mining Industry :-												
Coal Mining	1,214,990	9,670	1,224,660	55,237	480	55,717	4.5	5.0	4.5	- 0.1	-	- 0.1
Iron Mining and Ironstone Quarrying	22,920	60	22,980	5,055	1	5,056	22.1	1.7	22.0	- 0.5	+ 1.7	- 0.5
Other Mining	9,810	230	10,040	2,616	12	2,628	26.7	5.2	26.2	+ 0.9	- 2.6	+ 0.8
Quarrying (other than Ironstone), Clay, Sand, etc., Digging.	59,330	770	60,100	4,907	64	4,971	8.3	8.3	8.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.2
Printing and Paper Trades :-												
Paper Making and Staining	43,340	17,660	61,000	3,542	1,037	4,579	8.2	5.9	7.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.9	+ 0.5
Manufactured Stationery	22,220	47,980	70,200	1,794	3,079	4,873	8.1	6.4	6.9	+ 0.9	+ 1.3	+ 1.2
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	131,330	81,820	213,150	10,367	4,437	14,804	7.9	5.4	6.9	+ 0.7	+ 1.5	+ 1.0
Textile Trades :-												
Cotton Trade	220,320	381,150	601,470	23,207	47,174	70,381	10.5	12.4	11.7	+ 2.3	+ 2.8	+ 2.6
Woollen and Worsted Trades	111,820	156,570	268,390	7,245	4,550	11,795	6.5	2.9	4.4	+ 0.8	-	+ 0.3
Silk Trade	11,460	22,050	33,510	816	1,128	1,944	7.1	5.1	5.8	+ 1.2	+ 1.4	+ 1.4
Flax, Linen and Hemp Trades	28,270	62,480	90,750	5,063	13,045	18,108	17.9	20.9	20.0	+ 1.1	+ 1.6	+ 1.5
Jute Trade	11,930	30,180	42,110	1,720	3,893	5,613	14.4	12.9	13.3	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1
Rope, Twine, Cord and Net Manufacture.	7,250	14,870	22,120	1,015	1,573	2,588	14.0	10.6	11.7	+ 1.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Hosiery Trade	19,080	65,560	84,640	706	1,570	2,276	3.7	2.4	2.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
Lace Trade	10,860	16,960	27,820	2,622	1,457	4,079	24.1	8.6	14.7	+ 1.0	+ 0.9	+ 1.0
Carpet and Rug Manufacture	9,990	14,050	24,040	417	368	785	4.2	2.6	3.3	- 0.3	+ 0.3	-
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing, etc.	78,600	26,620	105,220	5,987	1,486	7,473	7.6	5.6	7.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.6
Other Textiles	13,200	31,340	44,540	1,280	2,562	3,842	9.7	8.2	8.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
Clothing Trades :-												
Tailoring Trades	65,810	132,680	198,490	8,804	14,127	22,931	13.4	10.6	11.6	+ 2.8	+ 1.9	+ 2.3
Dress, etc., Making, Millinery, Furriers, etc.	22,450	214,750	237,200	2,005	18,228	20,233	8.9	8.5	8.5	+ 1.5	+ 1.5	+ 1.5
Hats, Caps and Bonnets	13,190	20,880	34,070	1,571	1,399	2,970	11.9	6.7	8.7	- 0.1	- 1.0	- 0.7
Corset Trades	2,160	12,180	14,340	196	557	753	9.1	4.6	5.3	+ 2.5	+ 0.9	+ 1.2
Boot, Shoe, etc., Trades	97,300	53,080	150,380	10,865	2,296	13,161	11.2	4.3	8.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Other Clothing	18,790	23,000	41,790	2,186	1,406	3,592	11.6	6.1	8.6	+ 1.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.9
Food, Drink and Tobacco :-												
Manufacture of Food and Drink	270,310	174,790	445,100	26,614	20,381	46,995	9.8	11.7	10.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.7	+ 1.0
Tobacco, Cigar and Cigarette Manufacture.	13,990	32,970	46,960	1,182	2,647	3,829	8.4	8.0	8.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.6	+ 1.3
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :-												
Public Utility Services	216,270	12,580	228,850	17,902	578	18,480	8.3	4.6	8.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Oilcloth, Linoleum and Cork Carpets	9,800	3,370	13,170	660	102	762	6.7	3.0	5.8	+ 0.3	- 1.1	-
Distributive Trades	573,720	437,800	1,011,520	46,683	22,901	69,584	8.1	5.2	6.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	+ 0.6
National and Local Government Service.	250,240	73,780	324,020	29,518	4,088	33,606	11.8	5.5	10.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
Professional Services	63,160	69,550	132,710	4,149	1,865	6,014	6.6	2.7	4.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Other Industries and Services	160,790	59,410	220,200	43,840	6,243	50,083	27.3	10.5	22.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
TOTAL	3,541,030	3,209,420	11,750,450	1,228,334	264,702	1,493,036	14.4	8.2	12.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.9	+ 0.5

* In addition to the figures given for total unemployment there were 60,147 persons, or 0.5 per cent., working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to Unemployment Insurance benefit.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in January, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 54, as compared with 21 in the previous month and 47 in January, 1922. In these new disputes 14,700 workpeople were directly involved and 2,400 indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, 1,900 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 17 disputes which began before January, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 71, involving 19,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during January of 117,000 working days.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in January, 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 the disputes in progress:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in January.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Jan.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Jan.
	Started before 1st Jan.	Started in Jan.	Total.		
Mining & Quarrying	4	12	16	10,100	44,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	6	11	17	1,400	11,000
Textile and Clothing	..	3	3	1,000	6,000
Printing, Paper, etc., Trades	1	3	4	3,300	26,000
Other trades..	6	25	31	3,200	30,000
Total, Jan., 1923	17	54	71	19,000	117,000
Total, Dec., 1922	28	21	49	7,400	72,000
Total, Jan., 1922	36	47	83	15,400	162,000

The principal new dispute was that which began on 20th January in the bookbinding industry in the London district. This dispute arose out of the refusal of bookbinding employers to adopt the rates of wages for warehousemen, packers, porters, etc., agreed upon by the London Master Printers' Association. It is estimated that at the end of January approximately 2,500 workpeople were involved in the dispute, but the number was considerably increased in February. On 13th February it was agreed to refer the dispute to arbitration. The dispute involving over 500 teachers in elementary schools at Gateshead, which arose out of a proposed reduction of salaries from Burnham Scale No. III. to Scale No. II., was settled on 9th January, after lasting over two months; the Scale No. III. is to be retained until 31st March, 1924, subject to a reduction of 5 per cent. accepted nationally as from 1st April, 1923.

Causes.—Of the 54 disputes beginning in January, 22, directly involving 4,600 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 12, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, on other wages questions; 6, directly involving 1,500 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 6, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; 5, directly involving 4,300 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and 3, directly involving 500 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 28 new disputes, directly involving 7,100 workpeople, and 5 old disputes, directly involving 600 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 10, directly involving 5,400 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 11, directly involving 1,500 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 12, directly involving 800 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 8 disputes, directly involving 1,500 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING JANUARY, 1923.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.†	Result.†
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:—						
Coal miners, etc.—Pontypool (near).	2,000	..	1923 17 Jan.	1923 22 Jan.	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Non-unionists joined the Trade Union.
Coal miners, etc.—South Shields (near).	3,099	..	{ 25 Jan. 31 Jan.	{ 26 Jan. 1 Feb.†	Dispute as to minimum wage.	Work resumed.
METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIP-BUILDING TRADES:—						
Ship joiners—Thames.	500	..	25 Jan.	29 Jan.	Against employment of electricians on certain work claimed by joiners.	Employers agreed that the work belonged to joiners, subject to negotiations between representatives of joiners and electricians with the view to arriving at a permanent settlement.
TEXTILE AND CLOTHING TRADES:—						
Mohair and worsted weavers, combers, etc.—Bradford.	300	..	5 Jan.	16 Jan.	Against change from two-break to one-break system, without submission to a ballot of the workpeople as agreed by Joint Industrial Council.	Two-break system restored as result of a ballot of the workpeople.
Tailors, etc.—London.	557	..	25 Jan.	7 Feb.	For the re-employment of a workman who was alleged to have been victimised.	Workman in question to be re-employed at the earliest opportunity.
PRINTING, PAPER, ETC., TRADES:—						
Gummed paper workers—London	253	..	8 Jan.	..	Against introduction of a non-unionist.	No settlement reported.
Paper workers—Edinburgh (near)	487	36	18 Jan.	..	Refusal to work with a non-unionist.	No settlement reported.
Bookbinders, warehousemen, packers, porters, etc.—London district.	2,500‡	..	20 Jan.	13 Feb.	Dispute arising out of refusal of bookbinding employers to adopt rates of wages for warehousemen, packers, porters, etc. agreed upon by the London Master Printers' Association.	Work resumed pending arbitration.
OTHER TRADES:—						
Furnishing trades workpeople—London (near).	500	..	5 Jan.	..	Against proposed introduction in certain departments of system of piece-work or payment by results.	No settlement reported.
Slaughtermen, etc. { Liverpool .. { Birkenhead	175 175	..	{ 20 Jan. {	27 Jan. {	Against proposed reductions in rates of wages. In sympathy with workpeople involved in the dispute.	{ Some of the proposed new rates withdrawn, others modified, and outstanding points to be discussed.
Teachers (elementary schools)—Gateshead.	534	19	1922 1 Nov.	9 Jan. ||	Dispute arising out of proposed reduction of salaries from Burnham Scale No. III. to Scale No. II.	Burnham Scale No. III. to be retained until 31st March, 1924, subject to a reduction of 5 per cent. accepted nationally as from 1st April, 1923.

* 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.
† *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.
‡ A further stoppage of work occurred in February.
§ Estimated number involved by the end of January, subsequently increased.
|| The schools re-opened on 15th January.

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 January, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, resulted in an aggregate reduction of nearly £56,000 in the weekly full time wages of about 500,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £42,000 in the wages of 650,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected are shown in the Table given below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	615,000	56,000	£ 40,300	£ 450
Metal, Shipbuilding, etc...	20,000	245,000	750	23,550
Transport	3,000	44,000	500	7,000
Other	16,000	153,000	650	24,800
Total	654,000	498,000	42,200	55,800

In the mining and quarrying group there were increases in the wages of coal miners of about 2 per cent. on current rates in the Yorkshire and East Midland area, 2½ per cent. in Durham and nearly 7 per cent. in Scotland. There was also an increase of rather over 1 per cent. in the wages of ironstone miners in Cleveland. Coal miners in Northumberland, with the exception of the lowest paid men, sustained a slight decrease (equivalent to less than 0.05 per cent. on current rates).

Amongst the workpeople in the metal trades affected by reductions in rates of wages were men employed in federated shipyards, of whom all but the lower-paid grades of timeworkers sustained decreases ranging, according to the amount of their wages, from 2d. to 2s. 6d. per week, this being the last of four equal instalments by which their wages have recently been reduced. Men in non-federated shipyards at Belfast and on the Mersey also sustained reductions. Iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland sustained decreases of nearly 4 and 2 per cent. respectively on current rates, while there was a small reduction in the wages of iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. Men employed in lead

smelting, rolling, etc., had their wages reduced by ½d. per hour, and those in the bobbin making industry by 6s. per week. There were decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts in the case of workpeople employed in the wrought hollow-ware and the stamped or pressed metal ware trades. The increases in wages in the metal industries mainly affected blast-furnace workers in Cleveland, Cumberland, Northamptonshire and the West of Scotland, whose wages were increased by amounts varying from under ¼ to over 3 per cent. on current rates.

In the transport group the reductions mainly affected road vehicle drivers, etc., at various towns in Yorkshire and Lancashire, the amount of decrease varying from 2s. to 4s. per week.

In trades other than the above there were reductions in the wages of house painters in Scotland, men employed by electrical contractors, soap and candle makers, and brewery workers at Burton. There were also decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade; the perambulator and invalid carriage trade; the ostrich and fancy feather and artificial flower trade; the aerated waters trade (England and Wales only); the milk distributive trade (Scotland only); and the toy trade.

Of the increases taking effect in January, twenty, amounting to £40,000 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or on selling prices; three, amounting to nearly £600 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; one, amounting to over £500 per week, was arranged by arbitration; and the remaining increases were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. Of the decreases, seventy-eight, amounting to £34,000 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties; thirty, amounting to £17,000 per week, were arranged by Standing Joint Bodies, including Trade Boards (£1,500 taking effect under cost of living sliding scales arranged by such bodies); twenty-seven, amounting to £2,300, took effect under sliding scales based on proceeds or selling prices; fifteen, amounting to £2,200, under cost of living sliding scales; and six, amounting to £1,700, were arranged by arbitration. Reductions in wages preceded by disputes involving stoppages of work accounted for only £100.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in January.

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

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Building	Keynsham	4 Jan.	Building trade operatives ...	Rates adopted of 1s. 7d. per hour for tradesmen and 1s. 2d. per hour for labourers.
	Certain districts in Scotland†	1 Jan.	Painters	Decrease of 2½d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade A towns, 1s. 6½d.; Grade B, 1s. 5½d.; Grade C, 1s. 4½d.†
	Brechin, Forfar, and Montrose	1 Jan.	Painters	Decrease of 2½d. per hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 4d.).
	Elgin, Forres and Nairn	8 Jan.	Painters,	Decrease of 2½d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 3½d.).
	Sutherland ...	1 Jan.	Masons, joiners, plumbers and painters	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: masons and plumbers, 1s. 4d.; joiners and painters, 1s. 3d.
Electrical Installation	England and Wales (except Sussex district—see below); also Belfast and Londonderry†	Pay preceding 1st day after 7 Jan.	Slaters and plasterers	Decrease of 4d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 4d.).
	Sussex district ...		Labourers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (10d. to 9d.).
	Scotland§	1 Jan.	Men employed by electrical contractors	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates of April, 1921, leaving wages 32 per cent. below standard rates. Net hourly rates after change for qualified men: Grade A towns, 1s. 8½d.; Grade B, 1s. 6½d.; Grade C, 1s. 5d.; Grade D, 1s. 3½d.†
			Qualified men employed by electrical contractors	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5d.). Decrease of 2½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 5d.).

* 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. Details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, however, so far as reported to the Department, are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to weekly full-time rates of wages, on the basis of employment of the full numbers of persons in the respective industries.

† Grade A.—Airdrie, Alexandria, Alloa, Alva, Ardrossan, Ayr, Barrhead, Bellshill, Beith, Bridge of Allan, Broxburn, Broughty Ferry, Buckhaven, Burntisland, Carnoustie, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Cowdenbeath, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunfermline, Dunoon, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourock, Grangemouth, Greenock, Gullane, Haddington, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Irvine, Johnstone, Kennoway, Kilmacoll, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Larbert, Largs, Larkhall, Leith, Leslie, Leven, Markinch, Methil, Motherwell, Neilston, North Berwick, Paisley, Perth, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Rothesay, Saltcoats, Stenhousemuir, Stirling, Uddingston, Vale of Leven, Wemyss, and Windygates. Grade B.—Arbroath, Biggar, Cullender, Carlisle, Castle Douglas, Cupar, Galashiels, Girvan, Hawick, Kelso, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Peebles, Selkirk and St. Andrews. Grade C.—Aberdeen and Campbeltown.

‡ The change took effect under an arrangement made between the National Federated Electrical Association and the Electrical Trades Union. The various districts are graded as follows:—Grade A.—London district (within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross) and Watford. Grade B.—Mersey district (including Liverpool, Birkenhead, and Wallasey), Chester, Shotton, and Wrexham, Southport, Manchester district (including Ashton, Atherton, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Dukinfield, Hyde, Leigh, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport, Warrington, and Wigan), South Wales and Monmouthshire (including Bargoed, Barry, Cardiff, Chepstow, Llanelli, Newport, Penarth and Swansea), Tyneside, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Stockton, Darlington, Middlesbrough, West Riding of Yorkshire districts (including Barnsley, Batley, Bradford, Castleford, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Ilkley, Keighley, Leeds, Morley, Normanton, Pontefract, Selby, Shipley, Wakefield, and York), Sheffield district, Hull, Grimsby, Birmingham district (including Coventry, Dudley, Leamington, Oldbury, Smethwick, Sutton Coldfield, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, and Wolverhampton), and Bristol. Grade C.—Bath, Belfast, Bournemouth, Cambridge, Chatham, Crayford, Devonport, Faversham, Gravesend, Londonderry, Luton, Maidstone, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester, Sheerness, Sittingbourne, Southampton, towns and districts (other than those already specified) in the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Hertfordshire (outside London Area), Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Surrey and Middlesex (outside London Area), Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Grade D.—Other towns and counties in England and Wales.

§ The change took effect under an arrangement made between the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland and the Electrical Trades Union.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Northumberland			
	Durham	1 Jan.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 0.09 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 98.72 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 9d. per day.
	Yorkshire and East Midland Area*			Increase of 4.75 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 97.02 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8d. per day.
	Cannock Chase ...	4 Jan.	Underground deputies, firemen, examiners, and shot lighters	Increase of 2.92 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, making wages 49.61 per cent.† above the standard of 1911.
	Radstock	28 Dec., 1922	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increases to basis rates of 8s. 4d. per day for underground deputies and firemen, of 7s. 9d. per day for examiners, and of 7s. 4d. per day for shot lighters.‡
Iron Mining, etc.	Scotland	1 Jan.		Increase of 10.75 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 32.75 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
	Cleveland	22 Jan.	Ironstone miners, etc.	Increase of 14.29 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, making wages 125.4 per cent. above the standard of 1888, subject to subsistence allowance for surface workers.
	South and West Durham	7 Jan.	Limestone quarrymen	Increase of 2 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 84 per cent. above the standard.
	Furness	17 Jan.	Surfacemen employed at iron ore mines§	Increase, under sliding scale,|| of 1d. per shift for surfacemen and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16.
	Northamptonshire	24 Jan.	Ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen	Increase, under sliding scale,|| of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 40½ per cent. above the standard of 1920.
Quarrying	Banbury and District	8 Jan.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase, under sliding scale,|| of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 40½ per cent. above the standard.
	West Cumberland	1 Jan.	Limestone quarrymen	Increase in basis rates of 9d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, and an increase, under sliding scale,|| of ½d. per shift for men and ¼d. per shift for boys under 16. Total rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 1½d.; haulage enginemmen, 7s. 9½d.; blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 3½d.; day borers, first class, 7s. 7½d.; day labourers, first class, 6s. 11½d.; and ruddmen, 6s. 5½d.
	Leicestershire and Warwickshire	1 Jan.	Granite quarrymen	Decrease of ½d. per hour on time rates. Minimum rate after change, 1s. per hour.
	North Wales ...	1st pay in Jan.	Granite quarryworkers	Decrease of 2½ per cent.
	Thames and Medway district		Chalk quarryworkers¶	Decrease of ½d. per hour for day workers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers.¶ Rates after change: Grays Area and Kent Area, loco drivers, 1s. 2d.; labourers, 1s. per hour; Little and West Thurrock Area, loco drivers, 1s. 2½d. and 1s. 3½d.; and labourers, 1s. 0½d. per hour.
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	Cleveland and Tees-side	7 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	Increase, under sliding scale,|| of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1919, making wages 26½ per cent. above the standard (plus, in some cases, an output or input bonus).
	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay in Jan.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase, under sliding scale,|| of ½ per cent. on the standard of 1919, making wages 31½ per cent. above the standard plus, in some cases, an output bonus.**
	South Staffordshire	Beginning of 1st pay after 15 Jan.	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces (excluding skilled craftsmen) on maintenance work	Increase, under sliding scale,|| of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 19 per cent. above the standard of July, 1922. Minimum rate after change for general labourers, 5s. 1d. per shift plus 19 per cent.
	Northamptonshire	20 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	Increase, under sliding scale,|| of 1½ per cent. on standard of 1920, making wages 40½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 4s. 3d. per shift, plus 40½ per cent.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	Decrease, under sliding scale,|| of ¼ per cent., leaving wages 50½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 4s. 5½d. per shift plus 50½ per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	West of Scotland	28 Jan.††	Blastfurnacemen	Increase, under sliding scale,|| of 4 per cent., making wages 30 per cent. above the standard.
	Various districts in England and Scotland††	7 Jan.	Semi-skilled workers, labourers and certain other classes in steel works††	Decrease, under sliding scale,|| of 2½ per cent. on basis rates or ⅓ of total war advances.††
	North of England	29 Jan.	Iron puddlers	Decrease, under sliding scale,|| of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the standard.
	South-West Wales	1 Jan.	Iron and steel millmen	Decrease, under sliding scale,|| of 5 per cent.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 Jan.	Maintenance men (fitters, electricians, blacksmiths, etc.) employed in Siemens' Steel works	Decrease of 6s. per week (73s. 6d. to 67s. 6d.).
	South Wales and Monmouthshire		Iron and steel workers	Decrease, under sliding scale,|| of ¼ per cent., leaving wages 50½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 4s. 5½d. per shift, plus 50½ per cent.
	West of Scotland	29 Jan.	Iron puddlers	Decrease, under sliding scale,|| of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 42½ per cent. above the standard.
			Iron millmen	Decrease, under sliding scale,|| of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 42½ per cent. above the standard.

* 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 January was 47.95 for the Eastern Area and 44.61 for the Western Area.

‡ The basis rates quoted are subject to the current percentage addition of 49.61.

§ Except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated under sliding scale arrangements.

|| The sliding scale referred to in this case is based on selling prices.

¶ The reduction did not apply in the following cases:—Grays Area: loading whiting loose into wagons or trucks or chalk tipping into whiting washmills; loading or unloading craft at wharf. East and West Thurrock: filling chalk or flints into trucks and filling overburden. Little Thurrock: no reduction beyond ½d. per ton in piecework rates on chalk allowing to the flint level (making rate 6½d. per ton).

** The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slagers, fillers, etc., is 65½ per cent. in the Workington area, and 60½ per cent. in the Furness area.

†† This reduction took effect from the pay period beginning nearest 1 February; in most cases this was 28 January.

‡‡ For particulars of the districts and classes of workpeople affected and the amounts of the decreases see Table and footnotes † and || on page 491 of the December GAZETTE. The decrease applied only to those workpeople for whom it was arranged that the full decrease due under the sliding scale in November should operate in three instalments, and formed the third of such instalments.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.				
Engineering, Founding, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc.	North-East Coast, Hull, Southampton, Cowes, Birkenhead, Barrow, Clyde and East of Scotland*	3 Jan.	Men employed in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry)	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages previous to 1 Nov., 1922, were 52s. 6d. per week or over (including 10s. war bonus), and for pieceworkers; with smaller amounts for timeworkers whose wages previous to 1 Nov., 1922, were more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per week (including 10s. war bonus); and no reduction for those whose wages previous to 1 Nov., 1922, were 37s. 6d. per week or under (including 10s. war bonus).*
	Various Districts in England and Wales	1 Jan.†	Fitters, turners, smiths, copper-smiths, patternmakers, etc. (members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union), employed in the workshops and running sheds of the Great Western Railway	Basis rates defined for various occupations in each of the localities in which the works, etc., are situated, such rates to be subject to a war wage of 16s. 6d. per week, and in the case of fitters in running sheds a further addition of 6s. per week, with varying additions for certain other classes employed in running sheds.† (See Decision No. 746 on p. 74.)
	Tyne, Wear and Blyth District (certain firms)	3 Jan.	Boiler scalers and coverers, chippers and painters	Decrease of 1s. 9d. or 1s. 10d. per week.
	Tyne, Wear and Tees District	1st week in Jan.	Sailmakers	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change: 1s. 0½d. per hour.
	Hull	3 Jan.	Sailmakers	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: machine men, 52s. 1d.; bench hands, 50s. 1d.
	Mersey District ...	1 Jan.	Men employed in the ship-repairing trade (including engineers)	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) before the reduction were 52s. 6d. per week or over; and of smaller amounts for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) were more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) were 37s. 6d. per week or under.‡
		22 Jan.		Further reductions of amounts similar to those stated above.‡
	London	1 Jan.	Barge builders and repairers ...	Decrease of 8s. per week or 2d. per hour. Rate after change: 1s. 6d. per hour.
	Portsmouth ...	1 Jan.	Men employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry and those employed in H.M. Dockyards)	Decrease, in war bonus, of 1s. per week.§
	Swansea, Llanelly, Neath and Mid-Glamorgan	1 Jan.	Men, 21 years of age and over, employed in engineering and foundry shops	Decrease of 6s. per week (73s. 6d. to 67s. 6d.) for skilled men||; of 5s. per week (55s. to 50s.) for unskilled men, and of proportionate amounts for intermediate grades.
	Milford Haven ...	1 Jan.	Joiners and shipwrights employed in the ship-repairing trade	Decrease of 5s. per week (65s. to 60s.).
	Clyde District ...	3 Jan.	Sailmakers	Decrease of 2s. per week (51s. 6d. to 49s. 6d.).
Dundee	1st week in Jan.	Sailmakers	Decrease of 2s. per week. Rate after change, 1s. 1d. per hour.	
Belfast (non-federated firms)	1 Jan.	Men employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers, whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) before the reduction were 52s. 6d. per week or over, and for pieceworkers; with smaller amounts for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) were more than 37s. 6d. but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) were 37s. 6d. per week or under.¶	
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Tinplate Manufacture	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 Jan.	Maintenance men (fitters, turners, smiths and electricians)	Decrease of 6s. per week (73s. 6d. to 67s. 6d.).
	United Kingdom**	1st full pay in Jan.	Men and boys employed in lead smelting, rolling, etc. (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry)	Decrease of ½d. per hour for adult timeworkers, and corresponding reductions for pieceworkers and workers under 18 years of age. Minimum time rates (adults) after change: Group 1 districts,** 1s. 0½d.; Group 2,** 11½d.; Group 3,** 10½d.
Smelting, Rolling, etc., of Metals other than Iron.	Scuth Wales ...	2 Jan.	Male workers employed in the copper trade:— Skilled process workers and boys	Decrease of 5 per cent.
	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Lye and Stourbridge Districts	††	Process labourers	Decrease of 2½ per cent.
Ordinary labourers			Decrease of 1s. 3d. per week (48s. 9d. to 47s. 6d.).	
Hollow-ware Manufacture	Great Britain ...	1 Jan.	Skilled and semi-skilled men (galvanisers, iron-plate workers and blacksmiths) employed in the wrought hollow-ware trade (galvanised section)	Decrease of 5 per cent. for timeworkers and pieceworkers, leaving piecework prices 10 per cent. below the list of 1919.
			Workpeople employed in the wrought hollow-ware trade:—	Decreases in the general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates, fixed under Trade Boards Acts, as follows:—
			Male workers (other than learners) employed at minimum rates	Decrease in minimum time rate of 1½d. per hour (1s. 0¾d. to 11½d.).
			Male learners	Decreases in minimum time rates of ½d. per hour for those 18 years but under 19 years, and of ¼d. per hour for those 19 years but under 21 years.
			Female workers (other than learners)	Decrease in minimum time rate of ½d. per hour (7½d. to 6¾d.); and of ¼d. per hour (8d. to 7¾d.) in the piecework basis time rate for those 18 years or over.
			Female learners	Decreases in minimum time rates of ¼d. per hour for those 15 years but under 18 years.

* The above reduction took effect under an arrangement made by the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation, whereby reductions, each of amounts similar to that stated above were to take effect as from 1 November, 22 November, 13 December, 1922, and 3 January, 1923, making a total reduction after 3 January of 10s. per week in the case of workers whose wages previous to 1 November, 1922, were 52s. 6d. per week or more (including 10s. war bonus).

† The new rates did not generally involve an alteration in wages, being similar to those embodied in Decision 728 of the Industrial Court, which took effect in October, 1922 (see p. 454 of November, 1922, GAZETTE). The Amalgamated Engineering Union was not a party to that Decision, but the rates which it determined were applied by the Great Western Railway Company to all its employees, irrespective of the trade union to which they belonged. As regards the differentials paid to fitters and certain other classes employed in running sheds, which had been withdrawn by the Company when Decision 728 was put into operation, the Court decided that such differentials should be restored as from the date of withdrawal and should be continued until otherwise determined by discussion between the parties, or failing a settlement, by a further Decision of the Court.

‡ Further reductions of amounts similar to those stated above are also to take effect from 12 February and 5 March, making a total reduction after 5 March of 10s. per week in the case of workers whose wages previous to 1 January were 52s. 6d. per week or more (including 10s. war bonus).

§ It was arranged that reductions, each of 1s. per week, were to be made on 1 December, 1922, 1 January, 1 February, 1 March and 1 April, 1923.

|| Including fitters, turners, smiths, ironmoulders, brassmoulders and machinists. Patternmakers receive a slightly higher rate.

¶ Further reductions of amounts similar to those stated above are to take effect from 1 February, 1 March and 1 April, making a total reduction after 1 April of 10s. per week in the case of workers whose wages previous to 1 January were 52s. 6d. per week or over (including 10s. war bonus).

** Group 1.—London, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow, Liverpool, Huddersfield, Warrington, Bolton, St. Helens, Swansea and Edinburgh.

Group 2.—Plymouth, Chester and Bradwell. Group 3.—Aberdeen, Exeter, Skipton, Ireland and remote country districts.

†† The reduction took effect from the beginning of the 1st working week falling wholly in January.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Cable Making	Greater London Area	1st pay day after 7 Jan.	OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued). Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electric cable making industry	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32 per cent. below standard rates. Rates after change: plumber-jointers, 1s. 8.5d.; jointers, 1s. 4.15d.; jointers' mates, 1s. 2.77d. per hour.
Bobbin and Shuttle Making	England and Wales	1st pay day in Jan.	Workpeople employed in the bobbin making industry; also shuttlemakers employed by certain firms at Garston and Blackburn	Decrease of 6s. per week for men, of 2s. per week for women, and of 10 per cent. off present rates for juveniles. Rates after change: higher skilled men, 65s. 6d.; lesser skilled men, 56s.; labourers, 46s.; women, 26s. 6d.
	Yorkshire ...	1st pay day in Jan.	Shuttlemakers	Addition of 59 per cent., previously paid, increased to 60 per cent. Minimum time rate after change: 10½d. per hour plus 60 per cent. (or 1s. 4.8d. per hour).
	Lancashire ...	1st pay day in Jan.	Shuttlemakers (excluding certain workpeople employed at Garston and Blackburn)	Addition of 59 per cent., previously paid, increased to 60 per cent. Minimum time rate after change: 1s. per hour plus 60 per cent. (or 1s. 7.2d. per hour).
Optical Instrument Making	London*	1st pay in Jan.	Men employed in the optical instrument making trade	Decrease of 1½d. per hour for men in receipt of the "standard rate" or over, and proportionate reductions for lower paid men; current piecework prices to be reduced by 5 per cent. Standard rate after change (for skilled men in metal section): 1s. 4½d.
			Pieceworkers ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on present list prices for grinders, and of 5 per cent. on piece price list of 1919 for other classes.
File Manufacture	South Staffordshire and Birmingham	1 Jan.	Dayworkers ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on daywork rates. Rates after change: male workers—hardeners, 1s. 5d. per hour less 15 per cent.; hand workers, 1s. 7d. per hour less 15 per cent.; female workers, 4d. per hour at 14 years up to 8d. per hour at 18 years less 15 per cent. in each case.
Tool Manufacture	Glasgow and Falkirk Districts†	23 Dec., 1922	File workers (except grinders) ...	Decrease, in bonus, of 12½ per cent. for men and of 10 per cent. for women.
	Sheffield ...	Week ending 19 Jan.	Workpeople employed on the manufacture of engineers' tools (spanners, lifting jacks, wrenches, taps, dies, etc.)	Decrease of 20 per cent. on bonus previously in operation, reducing the latter from approximately 19s. 7d. to 15s. 8d. per week.
	Birmingham and District	1st pay after 27 Jan.	Women and girls employed in the screw-making trade	Revised scale of weekly basis rates adopted, varying according to age from 8s. at 14 years to 12s. at 18 years, and to 16s. at 21 years and over, subject to bonuses of from 2s. to 8s. per week; such bonus to fluctuate with the "cost of living" index number, etc.; piecework prices adjusted to yield at least 29s. 4d. per week for workers 18 years and over of average ability, and proportionately less for those under 18 years.
Nail and Screw Manufacture			Workpeople employed in the nail making trade:— Timeworkers ...	Decrease of 7s. 6d. per week for men and of 3s. 9d. per week for women (with a proviso that in no case shall the reduction operate to bring wages of men below 45s. per week).
	Scotland ...	1st full pay in Jan.	Pieceworkers (feeders) ...	War bonuses previously paid to men cancelled, and an addition to basis rates of 100 per cent. substituted therefor; also decreases of 3s. per week for women and of 2s. 6d. per week for boys.
Farriery	Mid-Derbyshire‡	1 Jan.	Farriers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 4½d.; doormen, 1s. 4d.
Needle and Fishing Tackle Making	Redditch and District	Pay week ending 20 Jan.	Men and youths employed in the needle and fishing tackle making trade	Decrease of 2s. per week for men 21 years and over, and of amounts varying from 10d. to 2s. 2d. per week for youths 16 years but under 21 years of age. Rates after change for men 21 years and over: Grade A, 1s. 1d.; Grade B, 11d.; Grade C, 9d. per hour; plus in each case bonus of 16s. per week.
			Workpeople employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade	Decreases in the general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates, fixed under Trade Boards Acts,§ as follows:—
			Male workers other than workers employed as braziers, burnishers, drop stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, or as annealers or polishers	Decreases in the minimum time rates of ½d. per hour (1s. to 11½d.) for those 21 years of age and over, and of ½d. or ¾d. per hour in certain minimum time rates for those under 21 years (piecework basis time rates being correspondingly reduced to 15 per cent. in excess of the minimum time rates.)
Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Manufacture	Great Britain ...	1 Jan.	Female workers employed as polishers or as drop stampers	Decreases in minimum time rates of ½d. per hour for those 17 years of age and over, and of ½d. per hour for those under 17 years; also a decrease of ½d. per hour (11d. to 10½d.) in the piecework basis time rate.
			Female workers employed as hand brush japanners or as hand brush lacquerers who are capable of finishing all classes of work, blow-pipe braziers or solderers using ordinary hand iron or blow pipe with bar solder	Decreases in minimum time rates of ½d. per hour for those 17 years of age and over, and of ½d. per hour for those under 17 years; also a decrease of ½d. per hour (10d. to 9½d.) in the piecework basis time rate.
Spring Manufacture	Sheffield ...	29 Jan.	Coil spring workers ...	Flat rate bonus of 12s. per week, previously paid to pieceworkers, withdrawn, and the addition of 15 per cent. on base earnings increased to 25 per cent.
			TEXTILE TRADES.	
	Leicester ...	1 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the lamb's wool and worsted yarn spinning industry (excluding workpeople such as engineers belonging to unions other than the Workers' Union)	Bonus increased|| from 3½d. to 4d. in the shilling on earnings. Minimum rates after change: time-workers—men, 42s. 6d. per week plus 4d. in the shilling; women, 25s. 6d. per week plus 4d. in the shilling.
			Workpeople employed in the woollen industry:— Timeworkers ...	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week for men 21 years and over and 2s. 6d. per week for women 18 years and over, leaving advances over pre-war rates of 23s. 6d. per week for men and of 18s. per week for women.
Woollen and Worsted Industry	Certain districts in Scotland¶	1st pay after 1 Jan.	Pieceworkers ...	Advance of 80 per cent. over flat statements previously paid to tuners, assistant tuners, weavers and drawers reduced to 67½, and advance of 100 per cent. over general district average pre-war earnings previously paid to other workers reduced to 87½.
			Apprentices and young persons	Decrease of 7½ per cent. on existing rates.

* The reductions took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Optical Instrument Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee.

† Including Coatbridge, Cardonald, Falkirk, Larbert and Camelon.

‡ Including Belper, Alfreton, Normanton, Ripley, Heanor and Duffield.

§ See also p. 35 of January GAZETTE.

|| The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.

¶ Viz.: Peebles, Galashiels, Earlston, Selkirk, Dumfries, Lingham, Dalry, Hawick, Jedburgh, Innerleithen, Walkerburn, Newton St. Boswells and Duns.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople,	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE TRADES—(continued).				
Jute Industry	Great Britain ...	8 Jan.	Male loom tenters 21 years and over with recognised full charge	General minimum time rate fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, at 58s. 6d. per week of 48 hours. (See also p. 35 of January GAZETTE.)
Silk Industry	Brighouse ...	Pay day in week ending 19 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the silk spinning industry	"Cost of living" wage reduced from 75 per cent. to 72½ per cent. on base rates.* Inclusive rates after change: males, 1st framers, 62s. 5d.; warehousemen, 53s. 11d.; boilermen and machinemen, 55s. 11d. Females—gassers, 35s. 8d.; warpers, 32s. 8d.; reelers, 28s.; winders, 27s. 4d.
Coir Mat and Matting Industry	England ...	1st full pay in Jan.	Workpeople employed in the coir mat and matting industry	Decrease, for timeworkers, of 1½d. per hour for men, of ¾d. per hour for women, and new scale of minimum rates adopted for male juniors, resulting in decreases of ¼d. to 1d. per hour; also a proportionate decrease in piecework prices. Minimum rates after change: men—piecework basis time rate, 1s. 0½d.; odd men (timework), 10½d.; women—piecework basis time rate, 6½d.
Elastic Web Weaving	Leicester ...	1st pay after 17 Jan.	Elastic web weavers...	Bonus reduced† from 16s. to 15s. per week.
Making-up and Packing	Manchester ...	5 or 6 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the making-up and packing trade	Increase‡ of 3d. per week for men 21 years and over and of 1½d. per week for women 18 years and over. Rates after change: men—hydraulic packers and makers-up (prints), 69s. 5d.; general warehousemen, 53s. 4d.; porters, 49s. 6d.; women, 28s. 0½d. to 36s. 4½d.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Felt Hat Manufacture	Denton, Stockport, Hyde, Bury, Failsworth and Romiley districts; also Carlisle	1st pay day in Jan.	Timeworkers ...	Bonus increased† from 50 per cent. to 55 per cent. Rate after change for men: 10½d. per hour plus 55 per cent.
			Pieceworkers ...	Bonus increased† from 55 per cent. to 60 per cent.
			Male workers ...	New scale of minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from ¼d. to ½d. per hour (except for those of 14 and under 15, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: 14 and under 15, 3½d., increasing to 8d. at 18 and under 19, and to 1s. at 21 and over. (See also p. 392 of September GAZETTE.)
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade	Great Britain ...	1 Jan.	Female workers ...	New scale of minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from ¼d. to ½d. per hour (except for those of 14 and under 15, for whom there was no change), and decrease of ½d. per hour in the minimum piecework basis time rate (7½d. to 7½d.). Minimum time rates after change: 14 and under 15, 2½d., increasing to 6½d. at 18 and over. (See also p. 392 of September GAZETTE.)
Ostrich and Fancy Feather and Artificial Flower Trade	Great Britain ...	1 Jan.	Female workers other than learners	Decrease of 1d. per hour in the minimum time rate (8d. to 7d.), and piecework basis time rate (9d. to 8d.), fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. (See also p. 503 of December GAZETTE.)
			Learners ...	New scale of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, starting at 1½d. per hour (or 6s. per week), and increasing to 6½d. per hour (or 26s. per week.) (See also p. 503 of December GAZETTE.)
TRANSPORT TRADES				
Railway Service	Great Britain ...	1 Jan.	Railway police:— Uniform constables, detectives and sergeants	New scales of rates adopted, resulting in increases varying from 2s. to 6s. per week. Rates after change for constables: 63s. per week in 1st year, increasing yearly to 73s. after 10 years' service.†
			Uniform and detective inspectors	New scale of salaries adopted varying according to class, from £250 to £330 per annum in 1st and 2nd year to £270 to £360 per annum after 4 years' service.§
	Tyne ...	31 Dec., 1922	Masters, engineers and firemen employed on tug boats	Decrease of 1s. 3d. per day or 7s. 6d. per week, and new scale of rates adopted for towing hoppers and for trip money. Weekly rates after change: masters, 75s. 9d.; engineers, 64s. 6d.; firemen, 53s. 3d.
	Tees ...	5 Jan.	Masters, engineers, firemen and mates and boys employed on tug boats	Decrease of 4s. 9d. per week for masters (90s. 3d. to 85s. 6d.), of 4s. for engineers (76s. to 72s.), of 3s. 6d. for firemen and mates (65s. to 61s. 6d.), and of 1s. 3d. per week for boys (24s. 9d. to 23s. 6d.).
Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour		8 Jan.	Dock labourers, etc., employed on cross-Channel boats	Decrease of 1s. per day or 1½d. per hour for men on time rates, and of a proportionate amount for men on piecework. Rates after change: permanent dock labourers, 70s. per week; casual labourers, 1s. 7½d. per hour.
	Belfast ...	22 Jan.	Dock labourers, etc., employed on foreign going boats	Decrease of 1s. per day (17s. 6d. to 16s. 6d.) for men on time rates, and of a proportionate amount for men on piecework.
	Coleraine ...	1 Jan.	Dock labourers, etc....	Decrease of 2s. per day for men on time rates, and of a proportionate amount for men on piecework.
	Newry and Londonderry	8 Jan.	Dock labourers, etc....	Decrease of 1s. per day for men on time rates, and of a proportionate amount for men on piecework. Rates after change: Newry—permanent dock labourers, 70s. 6d. per week; casual labourers, 14s. per day.
	Sheffield (certain firms)|| Bradford ...	1st pay in Jan. 2nd pay in Jan.		Decrease of 3s. per week.
Road Transport				Decrease of 2s. per week. Rates after change: horse drivers, 50s. 6d. and 55s. 6d.¶; motor drivers (2 tons and over), 60s. 6d.; (under 2 tons), 53s. 6d.; steam wagon drivers, 63s. 6d.; steerers, 52s. 6d.; mates and trailermen, 50s. 6d. per week.
	Leeds ...	1 Jan.	Road transport workers ...	Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change: horse drivers, 50s. and 55s.¶
	Huddersfield ...	1 Jan.		Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change: horse drivers, 50s. and 55s.¶; petrol wagon drivers (under 1 ton), 50s.; (over 1 ton), 61s.; steam wagon drivers, 61s.; mates and trailermen, 50s. per week.
	Todmorden ...	1 Jan.		Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change for horse drivers, 51s. and 56s.¶

* The maximum amount on which full "cost of living" wage is payable is 33s.

† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.

‡ These rates are subject to an addition of 3s. per week for men working in London.

§ The rates are subject to an addition of £10 8s. per annum for men working in London.

¶ This decrease was arranged by the Sheffield Horse and Motor Owners' Association and by the Sheffield and District Coal Merchants' Association. It is not known how far a similar reduction was made by firms at Sheffield who are not members of those Associations.

¶ The lower rates apply to one horse drivers and the higher to two horse drivers.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TRANSPORT TRADES—(continued).				
Road Transport (contd.)	Keighley	6 Jan.	Road transport workers ...	Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change for horse drivers, 50s. and 55s.*
	Halifax	1 Jan.		Decrease of 4s. per week. Rate after change for one-horse drivers, 49s.
	Manchester and certain other towns†	1st pay in Jan.		Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change: horse drivers, 53s. and 58s.*; petrol wagon drivers (over 2 ton), 63s.; steam wagon drivers, 66s.; steerers, 55s.; wagon assistants and loaders and stable or garage hands, 53s. per week.†
	Rochdale and certain other towns‡	1st pay in Jan.		Decrease of 2s. per week for two-horse drivers and for motor drivers (1 to 2 ton), of 4s. per week for motor drivers (2 ton and over), and of 3s. per week for other classes. Rates after change: horse drivers, 53s. 6d. and 57s.*; petrol wagon drivers (1 to 2 ton), 57s.; (2 ton and over), 65s.; steam wagon drivers, 66s.; steerers, 56s.; wagon assistants and loaders, 53s. per week.
	Blackburn and certain other towns§	1st pay in Jan.		Decreases to rates of 53s. and 57s.* for horse drivers, and of 3s. per week for men on mechanical vehicles. Rates after change: motor drivers (1 to 2 ton), 58s.; (2 ton and over), 63s.; steam wagon drivers, 66s.; steerers, 55s.; wagon assistants and loaders, 53s. per week.
	Bolton	1st pay in Jan.		Decrease of 2s. 6d. for two-horse carters, and of 3s. per week for other classes. Rates after change for horse drivers, 54s. 6d. and 57s.* (For rates after change for mechanical vehicle drivers, see entry under Blackburn, etc., above.)
	Darwen	1st pay in Jan.		Decrease of 2s. per week for two-horse drivers and wagon assistants and loaders, and of 3s. per week for other classes. Rates after change: horse drivers, 54s. and 57s.*; motor drivers (2 ton and over), 64s.
	Newry	1st pay in Jan.	Coal carters and yardmen ...	Decrease of 3s. per week (46s. to 43s.).
AGRICULTURE.				
Agriculture	Gloucestershire ...	1 Jan.	Adult male labourers ...	Rate of 25s. per week adopted.¶
	Leicester District	1 Jan.	Adult male labourers ...	Rate of 7d. per hour adopted with a guaranteed week of 54 hours.¶
	Worthing District	1 Jan.	Adult male labourers ...	Rate of 27s. adopted for a week of 54 hours.¶
	Glamorganshire ...	1 Jan.	Adult male labourers ...	Rate of 30s. adopted for a week of 54 hours.¶
	Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire	15 Jan.	Adult male labourers ...	Rates adopted up to 30th April of 31s. for a week of 58 hours or of 28s. for a week of 50 hours.¶
PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Process Engraving	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1 Jan.	Workpeople employed in process engraving	Decrease of 7s. 6d. per week for journeymen and proportionate decreases for apprentices. Minimum rates after change for journeymen: London, 97s.; Provinces, 92s. 6d.
Printing and Bookbinding	Londonderry ...	1 Jan.	Compositors, machinemen, linotype operators, and bookbinders and machine rulers	Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change for jobbing compositors and bookbinders, 76s. 6d.
	Newry	1 Jan.	Compositors, machinemen, linotype operators, bookbinders and machine rulers	Decrease of 5s. per week. Rates after change for jobbing compositors and bookbinders, 71s.; linotype operators, 78s. 6d.
FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES.				
Furniture Manufacture	North East Coast**	1 Jan.	Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists and chairmakers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rate after change: 1s. 7½d., plus ½d. "tool" money.
	Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, and Brighouse	1st full pay in Jan.	French polishers and upholsterers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 7½d.).
			Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers, and french polishers	Decrease†† of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d.; others, 1s. 8d.
			Upholstresses	Decrease†† of ½d. per hour (10½d. to 10¼d.).
			Workpeople employed in the wholesale furniture trade:—	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.).
Furniture Manufacture	Sheffield	12 Jan.	Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, upholsterers, wood-cutting machinists and french polishers	Decrease of ½d. per hour (10¼d. to 10d.).
	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 27 Jan.	Skilled female workers	Decrease†† of ½d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2d.).
			Unskilled labourers employed in the furniture trade	
Furniture Manufacture	Beith, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, Kirkcaldy, Lochwinnoch and Renfrew	1 Jan.	Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, upholstery sewers and sand paperers	Decrease of ½d. per hour for men, of ½d. per hour for women, and of 2½ per cent. for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change: Beith and Lochwinnoch—men, 1s. 5d.; women, 8½d.; Dundee and Kirkcaldy—men, 1s. 5½d.; women, 8½d.; Glasgow—men, 1s. 6½d.; women, 9½d.
	Bo'ness	6 Jan.	Men 20 years and over employed in sawmills	Decreases of 6d. per week for single and double bench sawyers and saw sharpeners, and of 1s. per week for foremen, drawers-off, mill loaders, mill and motor cross cutters, tallymen and labourers. Rates after change: drawers-off, 53s.; mill loaders, mill and motor cross cutters, 52s.; labourers, 51s.; single bench sawyers, 60s. 6d.; double bench sawyers and saw sharpeners, 57s. 6d.
Coopering	North Staffordshire††	29 Jan.	Dry coopers employed in the manufacture of hogsheads for pottery manufacturers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6d.).

* The lower rates apply to one-horse drivers and the higher to two-horse drivers.

† Including Ashton-under-Lyne, Droylesden, Audenshaw, Salford, Hyde, Glossop, Stockport, Dukinfield, Mossley, Oldham, Middleton, Saddleworth, Stalybridge Littleborough and Warrington. At certain of the towns the rates paid to light motor drivers are as follows:—Ford drivers (up to 1 ton), youths, 43s.; adults, 53s.; 1 to 2-ton drivers, 57s. per week.

‡ Including Heywood, Bury, Radcliffe, Whitefield, Prestwich, Farnworth, Kearsley, Walkden, Little Hulton, Leigh, Atherton, Tyldesley and St. Helens.

§ Including Accrington, Great Harwood, Rishton, Church, Clayton-le-Moors, Leyland, Bamber Bridge, Burnley, Nelson, Colne, Haslingden, Rossendale Valley, Padiham, and Preston.

¶ The rates were not agreed to by the workers' side of the local Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the Employers' Executive.

¶ The rates were agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.

** Including Newcastle, North and South Shields, Sunderland, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, Stockton, West Hartlepool and Darlington.

†† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.

‡‡ The change took effect under an agreement made between the North Staffordshire Master Coopers' Association and the National Union of General Workers.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Manufacture	Great Britain	1 Jan.	FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES—(continued). Workpeople employed in the perambulator and invalid carriage trade:— Timeworkers 21 years and over: Male workers Female workers Timeworkers under 21 years: Male workers (except porters and labourers) Female workers Male porters and labourers Pieceworkers Certain classes of male and female indentured apprentices and male and female workers under 21 years who have completed an indentured apprenticeship	Decrease* in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, as follows†:— ... Varying generally from 2d. to 1½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: woodworking machinists, 1s. 0½d., 1s. 3½d., and 1s. 5½d.; wood bodymakers, 1s. 3½d. and 1s. 5½d.; other woodworkers, 1s. 2d.; perambulator smiths, 1s. 0½d., 1s. 3½d. and 1s. 5½d.; nickel platers, 1s. 5½d.; cane and wicker bodymakers, 1s. 3½d. and 1s. 5½d.; painters, 1s. 0½d., 1s. 3½d. and 1s. 5½d.; wheelworkers, 1s. 1d., 1s. 1½d. and 1s. 3d.; upholsterers and hood coverers, 1s. 5½d.; cutters, 1s. 3½d.; other workers, 1s. to 1s. 2½d. ... Varying generally from 1d. to 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: wood-working machinists, 7½d.; wood bodymakers, 8½d.; other woodworkers, 7½d.; cane and wicker bodymakers, 7½d. and 8½d.; painters, 7½d., 8d. and 9½d.; wheel workers, 7½d., 7½d. and 8d.; upholsterers and hood coverers, 8½d.; cutters, 8d.; sewing machinists, 7½d. and 8d.; other workers, 7d. to 8d. ... From 1s. to 3s. per week (except for those 15 and under 16 years, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: 15 years, 12s. 6d., increasing to 28s. at 18 to 19, and to 39s. at 20 to 21 years. ... From 6d. to 4s. per week (except for those 15 and under 16 years, for whom there was no change). Minimum rates after change: 15 years, 11s., increasing to 22s. at 18 to 19, and to 28s. at 20 to 21 years. ... 1½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 18 to 19 years, 8½d.; 19 to 20, 9½d.; 20 to 21, 10½d. ... Piecework basis time rates fixed at 10 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time rate. General minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, proportionate to the rates fixed for workers of corresponding ages other than apprentices.†
			CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES. London 1 Jan. Plumbers employed in chemical and fertiliser works Male workers employed in drug and fine chemical manufacture:— Employees at present in the trade over 21 and under 24 years of age All employees under 21 years and "new" employees 21 and under 24 years of age Great Britain§ ... 1st pay day in Dec. 1922. Soap and Candle Manufacture Great Britain ... 1st pay day in Jan. Glass Bottle Manufacture London 1 Jan. Glass bottle makers and blowers Barnsley 27 Jan. Workpeople employed in the glass bottle trade Brick and Cement Manufacture Bridgwater 4 Jan. Brick, tile and cement workers	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 11d. to 1s. 10½d.†). Decrease of 5s. per week. New scale of minimum rates adopted, resulting in decreases (in the case of employees under 21 years at present in the trade) of from 1s. to 4s. per week, except for those 14 and 15 years, for whom there was no change. Minimum rates after change: Class I. workers—21 years, 50s.; 22 years, 54s.; 23 years, 58s.; Class II. workers—21 years, 45s.; 22 years, 49s.; 23 years, 53s.; Class III. workers—21 years, 40s.; 22 years, 44s.; 23 years, 48s.; Juniors—14 years, 12s., increasing to 28s. at 18 years and to 36s. at 20 years. Decreases for timeworkers of 4s. per week for male workers 21 years and over, and of 2s. per week for female workers 18 years and over, and proportionate decreases for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change: male workers 21 years and over—large industrial centres (including Port Sunlight and Bromborough Pool), 52s.; other centres, 50s.; female workers 18 years and over, 28s.** Decrease of 2½ per cent. on earnings. Decrease for timeworkers of 1d. per hour for men 21 years and over (provided no able-bodied man is reduced below the agreed rate for labourers), and of ½d. per hour for youths 18 and under 21, and proportionate decreases for pieceworkers. Decrease of 1s. per week for dayworkers (40s. to 39s.) and percentage advances over pre-war rates for pieceworkers reduced by 5, leaving wages 115 per cent. and 95 per cent. above pre-war rates for brick and tile makers and for cement workers respectively.
Baking and Confectionery Trades	London (Metropolitan and City Police Area).	27 Jan.	FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES. Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trade by members of the Incorporated Society of Principal Wholesale and Retail Bakers Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male bakers and confectioners, 2s. per week for allied workers, 1s. 3d. per week for adult female workers, 9d. per week for juniors, and 5d. per day for jobbers. Minimum rates after change for adult male workers: forehands, 65s. 6d., 69s. 6d. or 73s. 6d.; singlehands, 61s. 6d.; secondhands and doughmakers, 59s. 6d., 63s. 6d. or 65s. 6d.; ovenmen, machine minders, stokers, etc., 60s. 6d.; tablehands, 67s. 6d. Decrease of 3s. per week for tablehands, doughmakers and secondhands, and equivalent percentage decreases for females and allied workers. Rates after change: private traders—secondhands, 66s.; doughmakers, 65s.; tablehands, 64s.; co-operative societies, 2s. per week higher.
	Northumberland, Durham, Middlesbrough and Carlisle	1st pay day in Jan.		

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence to the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.
† See also p. 35 of January GAZETTE.

‡ Plumbers employed in fertiliser works receive an additional ½d. per hour, but are not paid for Bank Holidays.

§ The reduced rates referred to are in accordance with recommendations made by the Drug and Fine Chemical Manufacturers' Association, which were, however, not accepted by the Trade Unions concerned. It is understood that higher rates are paid by certain firms in the industry.

|| These rates apply only to "new" employees.

¶ These rates apply both to present and "new" employees.

** At Port Sunlight a rate of 30s. 6d. is paid to those with more than one year's service.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES—(continued).					
Baking and Confectionery Trades (cont.)	Dowlais	22 Jan.	Bakers and confectioners... ..	Decrease of 5s. per week. Rates after change: first hands, 75s.; second hands, 70s.; tablehands, 65s.	
Brewing	Burton-on-Trent ...	1st full pay after 1 Jan.	Men 21 years and over	Decrease of 4s. per week. Standard rates after change: labourers, 53s.; loaders and stowers, 56s.; shiftmen, 57s.; loco. drivers, 74s. 6d.; firemen, 56s.; head shunters, 64s.; under-shunters, 56s.; enginemen, (48 hours), 65s.; stokers (48 hours), 62s. 6d.; lorry drivers,* 63s.; lorry steersmen, 58s.; carters,* one-horse, 53s.; two-horse 55s.	
			Youths	Decrease of 3s., 3s. 6d. or 4s. per week. Standard rates after change: 14 years, 15s., increasing to 34s. 6d. at 18, and to 46s. 8d. at 20 years.	
			Women and girls	Decrease of 2s. or 3s. per week. Standard rates after change: 14 years, 15s. 2d., increasing to 24s. 6d. at 18, and to 32s. at 21 and over.	
			Male workers	New scale of minimum time rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases of 2s. per week for those under 20 years, and of 4s. per week for those 20 years and over, and decrease of 1d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers, 12s. at 14 and under 15, increasing to 26s. at 18 and under 19, and to 50s. at 21 and over; piecework basis time rate, 1s. 4½d.†	
Aerated Water Manufacture	England and Wales	1 Jan.	Female workers	New scale of minimum time rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from 6d. to 3s. per week, and decrease of ½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers, 12s. at 14 and under 15, increasing to 26s. at 18 and over; piecework basis time rate, 8½d.†	
Milk Distribu- tive Trade	Scotland	1 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the milk distributive trade:— Foremen	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, as follows:— ... 5s. per week (65s. 6d. to 60s. 6d.).	
			Male clerks and male shop assistants	... 1s. to 4s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 12s. 6d., increasing to 30s. at 18 and under 19, and to 48s. at 21 and over.	
			All other male workers; also roundswomen	... 1s. to 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 12s. 6d., increasing to 30s. at 18 and under 19, and to 46s. 6d. at 21 and over.	
			Female clerks ... ..	... 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 11s. 6d., increasing to 21s. at 18 and under 19, and to 30s. at 21 and over.
			Female shop assistants ...	... 6d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 9s., increasing to 18s. 6d. at 18 and under 19, and to 27s. at 21 and over.
			All other female workers (except roundswomen)	... 1s. to 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 11s. 6d., increasing to 20s. at 18 and under 19, and to 25s. at 21 and over.	
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS.					
Boiler and Pipe Covering Exhibition Stand Fitting, etc.	London	1st pay in Jan.	Boiler and pipe coverers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for qualified men 21 years and over (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.). (See Decision No. 742 on p. 502 of December GAZETTE.)	
	London	†	Workpeople employed in the exhibition stand fitting, etc., trade	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled men, 1s. 5½d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 3½d.; unskilled, 1s. 1½d.	
Toy Manufacture	Great Britain ...	1 Jan.	Male workers	New scale of minimum rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from 2s. to 6s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 12s. per week (or 3d. per hour), increasing to 50s. per week (or 1s. 0½d. per hour) at 21 and over.†	
			Female workers	New scale of minimum rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 8s. 6d. per week (or 2½d. per hour), increasing to 27s. per week (or 6½d. per hour) at 21 and over.†	
Other Miscellaneous Trades and Occupations	Certain towns in Yorkshire||	1st pay day in Jan.	Cinema operators and apprentices	Decrease of 10 per cent. in existing rates. Rates after change: operators—Class A halls (continuous performances from 1.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.): chief operators, 81s.; second operators, 54s.; Class B halls (evening performances only): seating over 650, chief operators, 72s.; seating under 650, 54s.	
	Various towns in the Birmingham, Coventry, Stafford, Derby, Nottingham, Northampton, Earls Barton, Lincoln, Leicester, Kettering, Wellingborough, Shropshire and Mid-Wales District	1st pay day in Jan.	Employees of co-operative societies	Decreases of 5s. per week for branch managers, of 4s. per week for other adult males, of 3s. per week for branch manageresses, of 2s. 6d. per week for other adult females and clerks, and of amounts varying from 1s. to 2s. per week for juniors. Minimum rates after change in Group I. towns: male shop assistants, 21 and 22 years, 60s.; 23 years, 64s.; other adult males, 60s.; females, 37s. 6d.; clerks, males, 48s. at 20, increasing to 64s. at 23 and to 76s. at 26 years; females, 37s. 6d. at 20, increasing to 42s. 6d. at 23 years; motor mechanics, 74s. 6d.; motor drivers, 65s.; horse drivers, 60s.; juniors—males, 12s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 45s. at 20 years; females, 11s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 34s. at 20 years.	
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	8 Jan.	Employees of co-operative societies	Decrease of 5 per cent. for those 21 years and over, and of 7½ per cent. for those under 21 years.	
				Workpeople employed by retail butchers:— Managers	Decrease of 7s. 6d. per week.
	Derby	6 Jan.	Journeymen	New scale of minimum rates adopted resulting in decreases of from 3s. to 5s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 16 years, 18s., increasing to 65s. at 21 and over (skilled); second hands, 70s.; first hands, 75s.	
			Slaughtermen	Decrease of 5s. per week (80s. to 75s.).	

* The allowance for spending money, previously paid when working away from home, was withdrawn, but increased rates were adopted for the return of empties.

† See also p. 35 of January GAZETTE.

‡ Under the terms of the sliding scale arrangement the reduction should have been put into operation as from the first pay day after 19th October, but the majority of firms did not enforce the reduction until 1st January, 1923.

§ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in accordance with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.

|| Viz.: Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Barnsley, Pontefract, Normanton, Pudsey, Harrogate, Ripon, Penistone, Rothwell, Sea borough, Whitby, Malton, Pickering, Selby, Castleford, Mirfield, Yeadon, Garforth, Featherstone, Wombwell, Ilkley, Slaithwaite, Guisley, Doncaster, Ossett, Milsbridge, Knottingley, South Elmsall, York and Holmfirth.

¶ The rates for Group II. towns are 7½ per cent. less than these rates and for Group III. towns 10 per cent. less.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Waterworks Undertakings	Various districts in England* London	1st pay in Jan. 6 Jan.	Workpeople employed at water-works undertakings Metropolitan Water Board employees:— Men 18 years of age and over (excluding those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades)	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Decrease† of 1s. 11½d. per week, leaving the "cost of living" bonus at 25s. 5½d. per week for men over 21 years, at 19s. 5½d. for youths 18 to 21 doing full men's work, and at 13s. 8½d. for other youths 18 to 21 years of age.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire†	11 Jan.	Workpeople employed at water-works undertakings (excluding those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades)	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change for labourers: Class I. undertakings, 1s. 2½d. per hour; Class II., 1s. 1½d.; Class III., 1s. 0½d.†
	Sunderland	3 Jan.	Motormen, conductors, etc., employed by Corporation Tramways	Decrease of 1s. per week for men. Rates after change: motormen, 58s. to 61s. 6d.; conductors, 49s. 9d. to 55s. 9d.; cleaners, 53s. to 54s. 3d.; labourers, 58s. 6d.
Tramways Undertakings	York	17 Jan.		Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change: motormen, 60s. to 62s.; conductors, 56s. to 58s. 6d.; car cleaners and labourers, 56s. 10d.
Port, Harbour and River Authorities	Manchester	11 Dec. 1922	Handy men employed by Corporation Tramways	Increase of 2d. per hour for night workers and of 2·04d. per hour for day workers. Rates after change: Grade I., 59s. 9d.; Grade II., 58s. 7½d.
	Clyde	3 Jan.	Employees of Clyde Navigation Trustees (excluding those whose wages are regulated by Trade Awards)	Decrease of 8s. per week for those who are at present in receipt of advances at full time of from 25s. to 40s. per week, with proportionate decreases for those on short time. Rate after change for general labourers, 46s. per week.
	Northumberland and Durham§	1st pay day in Jan.	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in non-trading departments	Decrease of 1d. per hour for Grade A and B areas, and of ½d. per hour for Grade C areas. Minimum standard rates after change: Grade A areas—road repairers and day carters, 1s. 2½d.; road sweepers and general labourers, 1s. 0½d.; paviors and flaggers' labourers, concreters and men laying tramways, 1s. 3½d.; sewer cleaners and drainers, 1s. 2½d. and 1s. 3½d.; men tarring and asphaltting roads, 1s. 3½d.; dustmen, day scavengers and gardeners, 1s. 1½d.; Grade B areas, 1d. per hour less, and Grade C areas 2½d. per hour less than Grade A areas.
Local Authority Services	West Midlands (Shropshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Herefordshire)¶	1st pay day in Jan.	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in non-trading departments	Decrease† in minimum rates of 1s. 3½d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 2d., 1s. 1d., 1s., 11d. and 10d. per week for Zones A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, C1 and C2 authorities respectively, leaving the minimum standard weekly rates of wages 52s. 11d., 51s. 6d., 48s. 8d., 45s. 10d., 43s., 39s. 2d., 35s. 4d.¶
	South Midlands (Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight)¶	1st pay day after 1 Jan.	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in non-trading departments	Decrease† of ½th of original minimum basic rates, leaving rates ½th less than the rates fixed in November, 1921. Minimum standard rates after change: Grade A1 districts, 47s. 2½d.; A2, 45s. 7½d.; B1 44s.; B2, 40s.; C1, 38s. 4½d.; C2, 36s. 9½d.¶
	Various districts in East Midlands**	1st pay day in Dec.	Able-bodied manual workers employed in non-trading departments	Decrease† of 1d. per hour. Minimum standard rates after change for road and general labourers: Grade A areas, 1s. 2d.; Grade B, 1s.; Grade C, 11d.; Grade D—industrial areas, 11d.; agricultural areas, 10d.
	Certain towns in Monmouthshire††	... ..	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in non-trading departments	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Minimum rate after change, 1s. 2d.
	York	2nd pay period in Jan.	Manual workers employed by Corporation	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, day carters and refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d.; day scavengers, 1s. 1½d.
	Sunderland	1st week in Jan.	Manual workers employed by Corporation	Decrease of 9s. 6d. per week for road labourers, pitchmen, depot men, steam lorry attendants and steam roller drivers, and of 4s. 6d. per week for general labourers, steam and motor lorry drivers, sweepers, cartmen, park gardeners and labourers, etc. Rate after change for road and general labourers and sweepers, 48s. 6d. per week.
	Great Yarmouth	1 Jan.	Manual workers employed by Corporation	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rate after change for road and general labourers, 1s. per hour.

* Including Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and the Midlands.

† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.

‡ The decrease took effect under an arrangement made by the South Wales and Monmouthshire Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry. The undertakings affected include the following:—Aberdare, Cardiff, Newport, Rhymney and Aber Valley (Class I.); Breconshire (Class III.).

§ The decrease took effect under an arrangement made by the Joint Industrial Provincial Council for Local Authorities Non-trading Services in Northumberland and Durham. The authorities affected include the following:—Grade A:—Darlington, Middlesbrough, Walsend, Ashington, Blaydon, Blyth, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Felling, Leadgate, Longbenton, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Newburn-on-Tyne, Prudhoe, Ryton, Seaton Delaval, Stanley, Whitley and Monkseaton, Durham C.C. (partly) and Rural District Councils of Durham, Easington, South Shields (partly). Grade B:—Benfieldside, Brandon and Byshottles, Shildon, Stanhope, Tanfield, Willington, Durham C.C. (partly) and Rural District Councils of Sedgfield, South Shields (partly) and Weardale. Grade C:—Durham C.C. (partly), Amble, and Rural District Councils of Bellingham and South Shields (partly).

¶ The decrease took effect under an arrangement made by the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities Non-trading Services for the West Midlands Area. The authorities affected include the following: Zone A1: Birmingham; Zone A2: Burton-on-Trent, Coventry (certain classes), Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton; Zone B1: Coseley, Kenilworth (Graded B3 but pay B1 rates), Leamington, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Rugby, Stafford; Zone B2: Brierley Hill, Brownhills, Kidsgrove, Lichfield, Leek (Graded B2 but pay 5s. 2d. per week more than zone rate, except to new employees), Lye and Wollescote, Shrewsbury, Warwick and Sedgley; Zone B3: Ambecote and Tettenhall; Zone C1: Cannock and Cheadle R.D.C.'s.

¶ The decrease took effect under an arrangement made by the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities Non-trading Services in the South Midlands Area. The authorities affected include the following: Grade A1: Bournemouth, Oxford, Southampton; Grade B1: Basingstoke, Farnborough (where the decrease is to take effect on 31st March), Slough, Winchester; Grade B2: Christchurch, Marlow; Grade C1: Southampton C.C.; Grade C2: Easthampstead R.D.C.

** Particulars of the above decrease were given on page 30 of the January GAZETTE, where, however, the rate for road and general labourers in Grade A was given as 1s. 1d. instead of 1s. 2d. The rate of 1s. 1d. applies only to gardeners and gardeners' labourers.

†† The decrease took effect under an arrangement made by the Joint Wages Board for Monmouthshire. The authorities affected include the following: Abercarn, Abertillery, Bedwellty, Mynyddislwyn, Nantyglo and Blaina, Risca, Tredegar and Newport. At Newport the decrease took effect from 19th January.

WAGES OF BOYS AND YOUTHS IN THE ENGINEERING, FOUNDRY, Etc., TRADES AT BIRMINGHAM AND WOLVERHAMPTON.

Erratum.—Particulars were given on pages 492 and 493 of the December GAZETTE relating to a revised scale of wages for boys and youths in the engineering, foundry, etc., and various other metal trades in the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Districts, with a note to the effect that the scale had been agreed to by the Engineering and National Employers' Federations. It has since been ascertained that the Federations were not a party to the Agreement, which was made by the Engineering and Allied Trades Employers' Association of the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Districts.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN FEBRUARY, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by reductions already reported as having been arranged to take effect in February:—Iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands; steel smelters and millmen in various districts; metallic bedstead workers; silversmiths, etc., at Sheffield; workpeople in the jute, ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, and wholesale mantle and costume trades (under Trade Board Orders); coopers; flint glass cutters; and flour millers.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons relieved on one day in January, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 560 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase of 6 per 10,000 on the previous month, and an increase of 31 per 10,000 on a year ago.

As compared with December, 1922, the total number relieved showed an increase of 10,403 (or 1.1 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief was higher by 1,223 (or 1.0 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients increased by 9,180 (or 1.1 per cent.). One district showed no change, thirteen districts showed decreases, and every other district showed an increase. The most marked changes were increases in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (54 per 10,000), in the East Metropolitan district (53 per 10,000), and in the Glasgow district (48 per 10,000); and a decrease in the Liverpool district (46 per 10,000).

As compared with January, 1922, the total number relieved showed an increase of 53,734 (or 5.8 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients decreased by 650 (or 0.5 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 54,384 (or 6.9 per cent.). Fourteen districts showed decreases, and every other district showed an increase. The greatest increases were in the Paisley and Greenock district (463 per 10,000), in the Glasgow district (362 per 10,000), and in the West Ham district (271 per 10,000).

Five districts showed increases ranging from 68 to 178, and nine districts showed increases ranging from 3 to 39 per 10,000 of population.

Selected Urban Areas.*	Number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief on one day in January, 1923.				Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District	9,458	12,865	22,323	275	+ 6	— 40
North District	10,343	29,763	40,106	399	+ 27	+ 13
Central District	2,653	3,392	6,045	455	+ 18	— 14
East District	10,016	56,007	66,023	1,042	+ 53	+ 164
South District	19,925	95,696	115,621	609	+ 11	+ 39
TOTAL, Metropolis ..	52,395	197,723	250,118	558	+ 20	+ 35
West Ham	4,193	71,443	75,636	1,027	+ 16	+ 271
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ..	2,707	33,589	36,296	747	— 8	+ 178
Stockton and Tees District†	1,215	28,443	29,658	1,128	— 35	— 44
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	4,016	6,883	10,899	140	..	+ 13
Wigan District	1,819	12,681	14,500	334	+ 7	— 155
Manchester District ..	8,834	34,020	42,854	424	+ 42	— 27
Liverpool District ..	10,333	61,422	71,755	607	— 46	— 74
Bradford District ..	1,773	5,346	7,119	194	— 1	— 81
Halifax and Huddersfield ..	1,220	3,451	4,671	124	— 2	— 47
Leeds District	2,547	11,074	13,621	284	— 9	+ 68
Barnsley District ..	923	8,922	9,845	315	— 3	— 45
Sheffield District ..	2,606	53,157	55,763	1,108	— 26	+ 85
Hull District	1,853	14,647	16,500	532	+ 41	+ 22
North Staffordshire ..	2,098	6,761	8,859	219	— 20	+ 3
Nottingham District ..	2,111	10,022	12,133	266	— 26	+ 38
Leicester District ..	1,212	3,469	4,681	200	— 12	— 2
Wolverhampton District ..	3,321	31,107	34,428	491	+ 10	— 152
Birmingham District ..	7,254	62,928	70,182	763	— 19	— 123
Bristol District	2,678	13,921	16,599	410	+ 18	+ 19
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,420	14,369	16,789	363	— 12	— 60
TOTAL "Other Districts"	60,940	416,212	477,152	473	— 6	— 30
SCOTLAND.†						
Glasgow District	4,899	105,843	110,742	1,144	+ 48	+ 362
Paisley & Greenock Dist.	802	19,090	19,892	1,029	+ 42	+ 463
Edinburgh & Leith Dist.	1,607	15,895	17,502	416	+ 10	+ 90
Dundee and Dunfermline	699	3,446	4,145	201	+ 4	+ 24
Aberdeen	514	5,954	6,468	467	+ 4	+ 27
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	405	10,413	10,818	1,065	+ 54	— 43
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts }	8,926	160,641	169,567	829	+ 32	+ 236
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Jan., 1923 }	126,454	846,019	972,473	560	+ 6	+ 31

* These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district.

† Exclusive of Casuals; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only. The figures for Scotland include destitute able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor-law relief.

‡ The numbers included for the Middlesbrough Union do not cover changes which have taken place since the 13th January, 1923.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during January, 1923, was 41. Two deaths due to lead poisoning were reported during the month, one in the pottery industry and one in electric accumulator works.

Six cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during January, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—

Smelting of Metals .. ..	...
Plumbing and Soldering ..	4
Printing .. ..	...
File Cutting and Hardening ..	...
Tinning of Metals .. ..	...
Other Contact with Molten Lead ..	2
White and Red Lead Works ..	2
‡ Pottery	1
Vitreous Enamelling ..	2
Electric Accumulator Works ..	1
Paint and Colour Works ..	1
Indiarubber Works ..	1
Coach and Car Painting ..	1
Shipbuilding	1
Paint used in other Industries ..	4
Other Industries ..	3
TOTAL OF ABOVE...	23

HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING 6

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Mercury Poisoning ..	1
Phosphorus Poisoning ..	—
Arsenic Poisoning ..	—
Toxic Jaundice—	
Arseniuretted Hydrogen Gas ..	...
Other ..	...
Epitheliomatous Ulceration—	
Paraffin ..	...
Pitch ..	4
Tar ..	1
Chrome Ulceration—	
Manufacture of Bichromates ..	...
Dyeing and Finishing ..	6
Chrome Tanning ..	2

TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF POISONING 14

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—

Wool	1
Handling of Horsehair ..	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ..	2
Other Industries ..	—

TOTAL ANTHRAX 4

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.‡

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during January, 1923, was 196, as compared with 208 in the previous month and 186 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

RAILWAY SERVICE.		Factories and Workshops—	
<i>(continued):</i>		<i>(continued):</i>	
Brakemen and Gooes	1	Engineering and Machine Making ..	3
Guards	1	Boiler Making & Constructional Engineering	3
Engine Drivers .. ..	...	Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ..	3
Firemen	1	Other Metal Trades ..	1
Guards (Passenger) ..	...	Shipbuilding ..	6
Permanent Way Men ..	4	Wood	4
Porters	1	Gas	3
Shunters	1	Electric Generating Stations ..	1
Mechanics	1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ..	8
Labourers	9	Chemicals, etc. ..	6
Miscellaneous .. ..	...	Food and Drink ..	2
Contractors' Servants ..	...	Paper, Printing, etc. ..	1
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	18	Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	...
		Rubber Trades ..	1
MINES.		Other Non-Textile Industries ..	4
Underground	87	TOTAL FOR FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	64
Surface	6	Docks, Wharves, Warehouses, etc., s. 104 ..	6
TOTAL, MINES	93	Buildings, s. 105 ..	8
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep	7	TOTAL	78
Factories and Workshops.		Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	—
Cotton	2	Total (excluding Seamen)	196
Wool, Worsted, & Shoddy	2		
Other Textiles	1		
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ..	1		
Metal Extracting and Refining ..	2		
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ..	8		
Metal Founding	2		

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

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

‡ The person affected in the pottery industry was a male.

§ Based on Returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

THE results of recent ascertainsments of the selling prices of iron are given below :—

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit* on	
		Average Selling Price Per Ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	
Pig Iron :		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Cleveland (No. 3) ..	Oct.-Dec.	88 4½	+ 2 9½	- 22 9½	
Cumberland ..	Nov.	91 9	+ 1 5	†	
Northamptonshire ..	Dec.	92 3	+ 0 6	- 22 8	
Nottinghamshire ..	Oct.-Dec.	72 9½	+ 1 3	- 23 5½	
West of Scotland ..	Oct.-Dec.	80 4	- 0 1½	- 27 8½	
		97 9	+ 3 6	- 33 10	
Manufactured Iron :					
North of England (Bars and angles.) ..	Nov.-Dec.	199 9½	- 8 10½	- 73 0½	
West of Scotland (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.) ..	Nov.-Dec.	216 5½	- 4 5½	- 68 7½	

Pig Iron.—The rise in the ascertained selling price of Cleveland pig iron for the quarter ended December, 1922, resulted in an increase of 2½ per cent. on standard wages of blastfurnacemen (with effect from 7th January, 1923). The rise in the ascertained price of Cumberland pig iron for November resulted in an increase of 2d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage of iron ore miners; the wages of limestone quarrymen were also increased by 1d. per shift, while blastfurnacemen had their wages increased by 1 per cent. on standard rates. The ascertainment for Cumberland pig iron in December resulted in an increase of ½d. per shift for limestone quarrymen, and of ¼ per cent. on standard rates for blastfurnacemen, no alteration being made in the wages of iron ore miners. The Northamptonshire ascertainment resulted in an increase, from 17th January, of 1½ per cent. for blastfurnacemen and ironstone and limestone quarrymen in that county. In Nottinghamshire the wages of blastfurnacemen, and in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, the wages of ironstone miners were not subject to any alteration as a result of the above ascertainment. The West of Scotland ascertainment for the same quarter resulted in an increase, generally from 28th January, of 4 per cent. on standard rates.

Manufactured Iron.—In consequence of the fall in the selling price of manufactured iron for November and December in the North of England, the wages of puddlers and millmen were reduced by 5 per cent. on standard rates from 29th January, while in the West of Scotland, the ascertainment for the same two months resulted in a decrease of 2½ per cent. on standard rates as from 29th January.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

QUARTERLY RETURNS OF SALES.

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales† in the Third Quarter of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
	1922.	1921.	1917.	Year ago.	Five Years ago.
	£	£	£		
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY :—					
Distributive Departments ..	15,538,846	18,933,860	12,939,438	- 17.9	+ 20.1
Productive ..	5,176,001	6,372,646	3,924,085	- 18.8	+ 31.9
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY :—					
Distributive Departments ..	3,882,744	4,798,750	3,997,566	- 19.1	- 2.9
Productive ..	1,291,919	1,586,296	1,536,682	- 18.6	- 15.9
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE :—					
Productive Departments ..	105,465	76,415	84,682	+ 38.0	+ 24.5
Total Distributive Departments ..	19,421,590	23,732,610	16,937,004	- 18.2	+ 14.7
Total Productive Departments ..	6,573,385	8,035,357	5,545,449	- 18.2	+ 18.5
Grand Total GREAT BRITAIN	25,994,975	31,767,967	22,482,453	- 18.2	+ 15.6

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

† No ascertainment was made for this period.

‡ The figures given for Productive Departments represent Sales and Transfers to the Distributive Departments

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.		Rise.	Date.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
UNITED KINGDOM ..	109	158	120	80	73		Feb. '23
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna)	9,320†	323,100	111,920		Nov. '22
Belgium†	359	310	281	326		Jan. '23
Czechoslovakia‡	112	1,246	1,330	862		Dec. '22
Denmark	112	136	84	84		July '22
Finland	882	1,178	1,005		Nov. '22
France (Paris) §	161	273	206	197		Jan. '23
„ (other towns) §	188||	288||	250||	217||		Nov. '22
Germany	1,391	6,736	136,500		Jan. '23
Holland (The Hague)	143	113	80		Nov. '22
„ (Amsterdam)	110	117	85	44		Nov. '22
Italy (Rome)	106	218	302	359		Dec. '22
„ (Milan)	210	345	406	392		Jan. '23
Norway	189	219	195	133		Jan. '23
Poland (Warsaw)	45,555	129,711	227,128		Nov. '22
Sweden §	210	197	132	79		Jan. '23
Switzerland	110	57	55		Dec. '22
United States	86	115	45	39		Dec. '22
OVERSEAS DOMINIONS.							
Australia	47	94	61	48		Dec. '22
Canada	86	127	48	38		Jan. '23
India (Bombay)	88	74	60		Jan. '23
New Zealand	44	67	64	44		Jan. '23
South Africa	39	97	39	16		Dec. '22

* Exceptions to this are : Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914 ; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914 ; Germany, average, 1913-14 ; The Hague, January to July, 1914 ; Rome, Milan, Florence, January to June, 1914 ; Switzerland, June, 1914 ; Poland, January, 1914 ; Amsterdam, average, 1913 ; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class ; in January the increase for all working-class families ranged from 324 to 327 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. || Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.*	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†					Latest figures available.	
		July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.		Rise.	Date.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
UNITED KINGDOM ..	A, B, C, D, E	105-110	152	119	84	77		Feb. '23
FOREIGN COUNTRIES								
Austria (Vienna) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	9,700§	264,400	572,900		Nov. '22
Belgium ..	A, C, D, E	..	353	279	266	283		Jan. '23
Bulgaria ..	A, D	..	..	1,512	2,331	2,398		Oct. '22
Denmark ..	A, B, C, D, E	111	162	137	99	99		July '22
Finland ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	811	1,039	1,018	1,050		Nov. '22
France (Paris) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	263†	195†	189†	200		4th Qtr. 1922
Germany ..	A, B, D	..	..	1,024	4,890	103,300		Jan. '23
Italy (Rome) ..	A, B, C, D	..	..	5,282	111,927			Jan. '23
„ (Milan) ..	A, B, C, D, E	105	213	287	329	339		Dec. '22
Luxembourg ..	A, B, C, D, E	180	341	394	388	405		Jan. '23
Norway ..	A, C, D	..	..	284	259	287		Nov. '22
Poland ..	A, B, C, D, E	180	202§	202§	155§	142		Dec. '22
Spain (Madrid) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	25,609	78,698	170,887		Nov. '22
„ (Barcelona) ..	A, D	74†	90†	84	79	77		Dec. '22
Sweden ..	A, D	81†	91†	78	71	71		Dec. '22
Switzerland ..	A, B, C, D, E	157	170	136	90	83		Jan. '23
United States ..	A, D	..	..	59	58	58		Dec. '22
OVERSEAS DOMINIONS	A, B, C, D, E	77§	117§	80||	67§	70		Dec. '22
Australia ..	A, B	33†	67†	46†	43	43		3rd Qtr. 1922
Canada ..	A, B, C, E	..	..	..	..	42		Aug. '22
Egypt (Cairo) ..	A, B, D	56	90	52	46	50		Jan. '23
India (Bombay) ..	A, D	..	..	93	72	75		Nov. '22
New Zealand ..	A, B, C, D	..	89	77	65	56		Jan. '23
South Africa ..	A, B, D	32	49	57	44	44		Oct. '22
		25	62	30†	20	21		Dec. '22

* 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, Luxembourg and New Zealand, January to June, 1914 ; Egypt and Germany, average, 1913-1914 ; Poland, January, 1914 ; Switzerland, June, 1914 ; United States, 1913 ; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. || Figure for May.

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. 51-52 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 January.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 27th January was 13,235 (9,330 men and 3,905 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 7,275 (3,690 for men and 3,585 for women). During the week under review the exchanges succeeded in placing 26,019 persons (20,989 men and 5,030 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 2,251 foreign immigrants.

Out-of-Work Benefit in January.—According to the latest returns, 6 departmental and 35 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 1st February, the total number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 2,674 (2,378 men and 296 women). This total shows an increase of 199 when compared with the corresponding figure (2,475) for the preceding week. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully indicate the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

The total number of unemployment funds established is 264, of which 31 are departmental and 233 municipal. The maximum number of persons in receipt of donation (91,225) was reached in March, 1921.

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment in November and December.—The most recent figures available are provisional in character and relate to December. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,739 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 680,269, show that 25,748 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed on the 31st of that month. The aggregate days of unemployment in December numbered 363,766, as against 364,249 in November.

Revised and final figures are given for November, when 1,701 funds, with an aggregate membership of 695,998, reported 10,121 (or 1.5 per cent.) wholly unemployed and 16,439 partially so, on the last working day of the month.

During December 14,646 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 13,745 in November. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 11,773 (11,266 in November). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 124 applications, as compared with 122 in November.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in December.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department of Switzerland, on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges, the number of applicants for work remaining on the "live register" on the 31st December, 1922, was 53,463 (as compared with 51,128 at the end of the preceding month, and 88,967 at the end of December, 1921). Of these, 14,057 were employed on relief works, leaving 39,406 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 10,319 normally engaged in the building trades, 7,192 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 6,537 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades, and 3,928 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work, 20,429 were reported as only partially employed, including 7,852 in the textile trades, 5,236 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 2,478 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. The vacancies offered by employers remaining unfilled on the same date numbered 1,178.

During the month of December, on an average, 587 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men, and 283 for each 100 for women. In November the figures were 525 and 251 respectively.

ITALY.

Unemployment in January.—According to a report received from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Rome, 381,968 persons were reported to be totally unemployed on 1st January, as compared with 354,238 on 1st December, 1922. In addition, 42,558 were partially unemployed at the later date and 43,140 at the beginning of December. On 1st January the number of totally unemployed in receipt of benefit was 72,812, as compared with 69,300 on 1st December.

GERMANY.

Employment in November.—The issue for 1st February of the German official journal *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt*, reporting on employment in December, states as follows: The end of the year brings with it regularly a marked drop in employment. This was clearly so in December, 1922, but at the same time certain other causes were at work which were independent of the season. The inferences to be drawn from the various sets of statistical data relating to the labour market are not uniform in character. On the whole, employment appeared to be not so good, but in individual industries and localities (such as metal working, the electrical industry, the chemical industry) it was still satisfactory. Employment was less favourable, without being decidedly bad, in the textile industry. In the building trades and in certain food, etc., trades (particularly tobacco), it was bad, as it was also, to a somewhat less degree, in the leather and printing trades.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation showed a large increase as compared with the preceding month. On 1st January these totalled 82,427, as against 42,860 on 1st December, a rise of 92 per cent. Male recipients increased by almost exactly 100 per cent. and female by 60 per cent.

Returns from trade unions also indicate a further increase of unemployment in December. Out of 6½ million organised workers covered by the statistics, 182,955, or 2.8 per cent., were out of work on the last day of the month, the corresponding figure for the end of November being 2.0 per cent. The following Table gives particulars for the more important unions represented in the returns:—

Unions.	Membership reported at end of Dec., 1922.	Percentage of Membership Unemployed.		
		Dec., 1922.	Nov., 1922.	Dec., 1921.
All Unions making Returns ..	6,455,475	2.8	2.0	1.6
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building (Soc. Dem.) ..	564,022	6.6	2.8	6.6
" (Christian) ..	57,055	6.5	0.9	3.2
Painters (Soc. Dem.) ..	54,435	9.7	6.9	7.9
Metal (Soc. Dem.) ..	1,541,022	0.8	0.6	0.6
" (Christian) ..	226,424	0.3	0.4	0.3
" (Hirsch-Duncker) ..	120,887	0.3	0.3	0.3
Textile (Soc. Dem.) ..	700,827	2.9	1.5	0.5
" (Christian) ..	138,470	2.2	3.4	0.3
Clothing (Soc. Dem.) ..	48,780	2.6	0.5	0.2
Boot and shoe ..	101,019	3.5	2.6	1.2
Transport (Soc. Dem.) ..	522,544	1.9	1.3	1.6
Printing ..	67,134	8.0	7.7	1.0
Bookbinding ..	96,869	2.7	2.2	1.0
Woodworking (Soc. Dem.) ..	417,230	1.9	1.2	0.9
Glass (Soc. Dem.) ..	73,467	0.2	0.2	0.3
Porcelain ..	70,160	0.7	0.6	0.9
Baking and confectionery (Soc. Dem.) ..	80,574	10.2	7.9	5.5
Brewing and corn-milling ..	82,823	1.9	1.6	1.0
Tobacco (Soc. Dem.) ..	94,231	22.5	16.4	6.1
Factory workers (irrespective of trade) ..	654,315	2.4	2.5	1.5
Factory and transport workers (Christian) ..	126,281	1.0	2.6	0.7
Municipal and State workers	217,371	1.6	1.6	1.7

The above totals do not include persons only partially employed, of whom there were 492,711, or 8.7 of the total membership, in unions making returns on this point. The proportion was greater among women and girls (18.6 per cent.) than among men (5.1 per cent.).

At public Employment Exchanges 733,243 applications for employment were registered during December, as against 797,348 in November, a decline of 8 per cent. The vacancies notified by employers, however, were 22 per cent. less in number than in the preceding month, with the result that for every 100 vacancies for men there were 219 applications (as against 175 in November), and for every 100 for women 155 applications (148 in November).

Statistics of membership of sickness insurance societies show that in 4,835 societies making returns the membership (i.e., the number of persons under obligation to insure, and therefore assumed to be in work) fell from 11,399,654 on 1st December, to 11,222,157 on 1st January, or by 1.6 per cent.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in January.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 6th January, out of 330,319 members of unemployment funds making returns, 14.0 per cent. were totally unemployed, and 3.5 per cent. partially so. In the first week of the preceding month (ending 9th December) the corresponding percentages were 10.7 and 2.3 respectively.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in December.—According to data furnished through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, out of 13,590 members of trade unions making returns to the Bureau, 12.9 per cent. were out of work on 31st December, 1922, as compared with 10.6 per cent. on the last day of November and 18.3 per cent. on 31st December, 1921.

* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 2nd February, 1923. Paris.

† *Revue du Travail*, January, 1923. Brussels.

‡ *Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt*, 15th January, 1923. Berne.

DENMARK.*

Unemployment in December.—Out of a total of 256,676 work-people covered by returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange, 20·3 per cent. were unemployed on 29th December, as compared with 15·2 per cent. on 1st December and 25·2 per cent. at the end of December, 1921.

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople included in Returns for 29th Dec., 1922.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		29th Dec., 1922.	1st Dec., 1922.	30th Dec., 1921.
Copenhagen:—				
Building trades	11,424	24·9	22·0	42·0
Other industries	58,161	22·0	15·1	27·5
Commercial employment ..	7,426	11·8	10·9	8·6
General labourers (trades not specified)	30,450	17·9	16·0	20·6
Total	107,461	20·4	15·8	25·5
Provinces:—				
Building trades	19,198	34·0	21·4	47·5
Other industries	54,819	16·4	12·5	22·9
Commercial employment ..	9,168	7·4	8·3	5·6
General labourers (trades not specified)	66,030	21·1	15·6	23·4
Total	149,215	20·2	14·7	25·0
Grand total.. ..	256,676	20·3	15·2	25·2

SWEDEN.†

Unemployment in November.—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions on 30th November was 17·1, as compared with 15·0 at the end of the preceding month and 28·8 on 30th November, 1921. The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns:—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 30th Nov., 1922.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		30th Nov., 1922.	31st October, 1922.	30th Nov., 1921.
All Unions making Returns ..	126,072	17·1	15·0	28·8
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Iron and steel	9,075	18·0	14·7	32·3
Foundrymen, etc.	2,653	29·9	33·4	41·7
Engineering	32,287	25·0	23·4	34·8
Textile	5,163	2·8	2·7	9·8
Clothing	3,722	8·9	7·8	9·1
Boot, shoe and leather ..	5,424	6·3	6·1	9·0
Food trade	3,438	10·6	9·7	..
Brewery	2,583	5·8	6·9	7·9
Tobacco	2,841	2·0	1·8	11·9
Sawmill	6,858	23·7	15·1	43·1
Woodworking	5,948	24·1	22·4	37·4
Paper	6,585	8·2	4·7	19·8
Municipal workers	4,510	2·7	1·5	4·3
Commercial employees ..	6,100	8·5	9·9	..
General and factory workers ..	12,727	23·7	23·0	34·8
(trades not specified)				

AUSTRALIA.‡

Unemployment in 4th Quarter of 1922.—The percentage of members of trade unions unemployed in the fourth quarter was 8·6, as compared with 9·6 in the preceding quarter, and with 9·5 in the fourth quarter of 1921.

* Statistiske Efterretninger, 20th January, 1923. Copenhagen.
† Societa Meddelanden, No. 1B 1923. Stockholm.
‡ Information supplied by cablegram through the courtesy of the Commonwealth High Commissioner in London.

UNITED STATES.*

Employment in December.—The Federal Department of Labour Statistics at Washington presents reports concerning the volume of employment in December, 1922, from 3,294 representative establishments, covering 1,587,708 workers in 43 manufacturing industries. A comparison of the figures with those for identical establishments in November, 1922, shows that, on the whole, there was an increase of 2·4 per cent. in the number of persons employed in the later month. Increases are shown in 33 industries and decreases in 10. The largest increase (29·9 per cent.) appears in the pottery industry. Agricultural implements, shipbuilding, men's clothing, foundry and machine shops, and car building and repairing show increases of 14·8, 7·7, 5·4, 4·5 and 4·2 per cent. respectively. Decreases are shown in fertilisers (11·4 per cent.), tobacco (5·9 per cent.), brick (4·3 per cent.), and the flour industry (3·2 per cent.). In respect of aggregate wages, 33 of the 43 industries show increases in December over the preceding month, and 10 decreases. The largest increase (25·7 per cent.) appears in the pottery industry. Increases are also shown in agricultural implements (18·4 per cent.), shipbuilding (10·2 per cent.) and men's clothing and foundry and machine shops (each 9·3 per cent.).

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of workpeople.			Aggregate Weekly Earnings.		
		Dec., 1921.	Dec., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—)	Dec., 1921.	Dec., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—)
				Per cent.	Dollars	Dollars	Per cent.
Iron and steel ..	105	116,132	146,358	+ 26·0	2,428,833	4,027,559	+ 65·8
Car building and repairing ..	55	42,615	54,836	+ 28·7	1,211,766	1,528,975	+ 26·2
Automobiles ..	46	96,091	126,333	+ 31·5	2,528,627	4,126,486	+ 63·2
Cotton manufacturing ..	52	43,218	45,546	+ 5·4	742,780	786,059	+ 5·8
Cotton finishing..	17	13,191	13,926	+ 5·6	294,797	316,683	+ 7·4
Hosiery and knit goods	62	31,828	31,048	— 2·5	548,050	523,043	— 4·6
Woollen	22	20,991	23,253	+ 10·8	470,255	557,246	+ 18·5
Silk	43	18,112	17,548	— 3·1	397,119	377,991	— 4·8
Men's clothing ..	43	32,716	28,681	— 12·3	983,627	789,059	— 19·8
Boots and shoes..	75	57,613	60,005	+ 4·2	1,325,925	1,425,871	+ 7·5
Tobacco, etc. ..	54	16,689	17,071	+ 2·3	303,156	321,981	+ 6·2
Leather	33	12,182	13,407	+ 10·1	262,926	208,806	+ 17·5
Paper	51	23,651	26,106	+ 10·4	568,273	639,505	+ 12·5

The general increase in the number of persons employed in the 13 industries was 15·1 per cent. Ten industries show increases and 3 decreases. Automobiles, car building and repairing, and iron and steel show the largest increases (31·5 per cent., 28·7 per cent. and 26 per cent. respectively). A decrease of 12·3 per cent. appears in men's clothing.

As regards aggregate earnings also, 10 industries show increases and 3 decreases. An increase of 65·8 per cent. in the iron and steel industry is the largest reported.

CANADA.†

Employment in December.—For 1st December, 1922, returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 6,369 firms with an aggregate working pay-roll of 780,990. On the 1st November the same firms reported 785,580. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st December, 1922, is 95·2, as compared with 95·8 for 1st November and 87·2 on 1st December, 1921.

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

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Employment Statistics Branch of the Canadian Bureau of Statistics.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

TRADE UNIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS—CONSTRUCTION OF RULES, DECLARATION, AND INJUNCTION.

IN this case the Plaintiff, a Derbyshire miner, claimed a declaration against the Defendants, a registered Trade Union under the Trade Unions Acts, 1871-1876, that the act of the Union in excluding him from membership was *ultra vires*; a declaration that he is still a member of the Union, and an injunction to restrain the Union and the Executive thereof from excluding him. The Plaintiff joined the Defendant Union in June, 1902, when he was working at a colliery which had shafts both in Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and in 1906 he was working in a part of the colliery which had a shaft only in Yorkshire. The Plaintiff on joining this Union in 1902 was subject to the Union Rules made in 1901, which rules were, however, altered under powers, in 1910, 1916, and 1920, and it was a question whether the alterations of rules after 1910 were validly effected. By the 1920 rules, it was provided that "the members shall consist of as many persons employed . . . in or about the various mines . . . in Derbyshire, excepting South Derbyshire, as may join from time to time" and "any member ceasing to work in or about a mine . . . in this county shall no longer be a member of this Union."

In 1921, the Union refused to accept further contributions from the Plaintiff, and on the ground that he was working at a Yorkshire pit ceased to recognise him as a member. It was

stated that in accordance with the rules a clearance had been offered to the Plaintiff to enable him to join the Yorkshire Miners' Association.

Mr. Justice Sargant in giving judgment said that three questions arose in this action. The first was whether as a matter of interpretation of the rules of the Union, the Plaintiff had ceased to be a member. The second question only arose if the first question was answered in the affirmative, and was whether as a matter of technicality there was a technically effective alteration of the rules, and the third, if both these questions were answered in the affirmative, whether the alteration was *ultra vires*. It had been contended that the rules of 1916 and 1920, which were practically identical, defined the members of the Union in terms which excluded the Plaintiff, but the Plaintiff had joined under the rules of 1901, and those rules did not limit membership to persons working in collieries in Derbyshire, or provide for a member ceasing to be such on working outside Derbyshire.

In His Lordship's judgment not only was the Plaintiff a person entitled to join the Union in 1902, but he remained a member after he went to the Yorkshire colliery, and his status was unaffected by working at that colliery.

In 1910 further rules were made, but again there was no limitation in terms to collieries inside Derbyshire, and even with this, the provision contained in these rules, that the

Union included present members, sufficed to preserve the Plaintiff's rights. Further alterations were made in 1916, and again in 1920, intending to restrict the local character of the Union, and providing that no one could join the Union not employed in Derbyshire, and had the Plaintiff then desired to join this Union, he would have been expressly excluded, but the words of the rule were "as may join from time to time," and it has been argued that these words operated in the past so as to exclude the present Plaintiff. In his judgment this would not be a correct interpretation of the rules. The correct interpretation of the rules was that the Plaintiff had not been disqualified from continuing to be a member of the Union. It would appear that miners in the position of the Plaintiff could be called upon to strike by the Yorkshire Union and yet receive strike pay from the Derbyshire Union, and it was a matter of no small wonder that the Defendant Union desired to remedy this position by a change in its rules, but it was the duty of the Court to construe the rules as they were found, and if a member was to be disqualified from membership the rules effecting such disqualification should be clear and without doubt. His Lordship said he was not called upon to decide the wider question whether there was any power on the part of the Trade Union to alter its rules so as to exclude a definite class of members, and he decided the case on the narrower ground that the Plaintiff had not been disqualified from membership by the alteration of the rules. There would accordingly be a declaration that the Plaintiff was still a member of the Union, and an injunction restraining the Union from refusing to accept his contributions.—*High Court of Justice, Chancery Division.—Tierney v. The Derbyshire Miners' and Bye-Product Workers' Union.*

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

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—Amalgamated Engineering Union v. Great Western Railway. The rates of pay and conditions of service of members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union employed by the Great Western Railway were set out in Decision No. 249 of the Court, and were also the subject of subsequent agreements between the parties. The rates of pay of men employed on lines, principally in South Wales, which are now included in the Great Western system, were not affected by Decision No. 249, but were matters of local agreement and settlement. The rates of pay and conditions of service of railway shopmen (excluding members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union) in England and Wales were laid down in Decision No. 728, and the Great Western Railway applied that decision to the whole of their shop staff, irrespective of the particular trade unions to which the men belonged. The claim of the Union is that as they were not parties to the decision the company was not justified in applying the terms of the decision and departing from the settlement effected in Decision No. 249 and the subsequent agreements. Decision.—The Court have fixed for most of the occupations concerned different rates for different centres. This differentiation is based on various considerations, among which the most important are the general, industrial and economic circumstances of the locality and the relative importance of the centre from the railway point of view. The rates and conditions of service laid down are based upon the terms of the decision of the Court referred to above, viz., Decision No. 728. The Court was also asked to determine whether shops attached to running-sheds should be regarded as forming part of the running-shed for the purpose of the payment of the extra 6s. a week payable to men whilst employed in the running-shed, and known as the running-shed differential. In the case of the shop attached to the running-shed at Newport (Ebbw Junction), the Court decided that in the case of men continuously employed in the shop as distinct from the shed no claim to the differential of 6s. a week arises. In other cases the Court are clearly of opinion that the matter is one for detailed and expert examination by the parties in respect to each shed or shop and an agreement if possible reached. Where no agreement can be arrived at the matter may again be referred to the Court. In respect of men other than fitters who previous to the operation of Decision No. 728 were in receipt of the running-shed differential the decision of the Court is the same as in the case of copper-smiths, set out in the summary of Decision No. 747, below. Where under the decision an alteration exceeding 2s. is made in any rate of wages it shall take effect to the extent of 2s. as from 1st January, 1923, and at the rate of 2s. or such part thereof as may remain, as from the first day of each succeeding calendar month. Issued 30th December, 1922. (746.)

COPPERSMITHS IN RUNNING-SHEDS—ENGLAND AND WALES.—National Society of Copper-smiths, Braziers and Metalworkers v. Certain Railway Companies of England and Wales. A question was raised on Decision No. 728 (Railway Shopmen—England and Wales) as to whether the railway companies had acted within the terms of the decision in withdrawing an extra payment or differential of 6s. a week from copper-smiths employed in running-sheds. Decision.—A company has the right to claim the withdrawal of an allowance, but until any claim is put forward and settled either by agreement or by decision of the Court the existing position remains unaltered and no change is warranted under the terms of Decision No. 728. Issued 30th December, 1922. (747.)

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

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE WORKERS: LONDON.—In the matter of a difference between the two sides of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of London. Difference—As to which of the two general Statements of Wages operating in the London shops should be paid by Messrs. Hitchings and Penny, Ltd., to their employees. Arbitrator—Mr. W. Addington Willis. Award—In so far as Messrs. Hitchings and Penny, Ltd., continued to carry out work of similar nature and grade to that executed by their predecessor, Mr. Hansen, they were bound to follow the established practice of paying for such work according to the First Class Statement, but when work of a lower character or grade than that formerly executed by their predecessor was done, the rates paid should be in accordance with any Statement in the Centre applicable to such work. Issued 30th December, 1922. (I.R. 113/1923.)

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE WORKERS: NORTHAMPTON.—The Two Sides of the Joint Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of the County District of Northampton. Difference—Application for revision of the award issued by Mr. Frank Sheppard on 25th August, 1922. (See LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1922, Page 392.) Arbitrator—Alderman Frank Sheppard, J.P. Award—No new fact or alteration of the conditions had been elicited to justify an alteration in the terms of the former award. Issued 5th January, 1923. (I.R. 1178/4/1922.)

FURNISHING TRADES WORKERS: NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.—The National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades' Association v. The North-East Lancashire Furnishing Trades Employers' Association. Difference—Application by the men concerned for the existing rate of wages of 1s. 9d. to remain in operation until 1st February, 1923, and for a ruling on the question as to whether the basis of calculating wages should be changed from 79 points equalling 1s. 9d. per hour to 82½ points, equalling 1s. 8½d. per hour. Arbitrator—Mr. F. H. McLeod, C.B., assisted by two Technical Assessors—Messrs. J. Hansen for the employers, and F. Bramley for the workpeople. Award—A reduction in wages of ½d. per hour, making the rate 1s. 8½d., should be brought into operation as from 1st February, 1923. Issued 22nd January, 1923. (I.R. 1978/1922.)

GAS MACHINE OPERATIVES: GORSEINON, SOUTH WALES.—The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation v. The South Wales Siemens Steel Association. Difference—Application by the Confederation that tonnage rates be fixed for men employed on the Gas Engines in the Melting Shop Department of the Works of the Grovesend Steel and Tinplate Company, Ltd., Gorseinon. Board of Arbitration—Sir William Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman), Mr. W. Simons (Employers' Representative), Mr. W. Dodgson (Employees' Representative). Award—The following tonnage rates were fixed for the operatives concerned:—One gas machine operated by one man on an eight-hours' shift, 3½d. per ton; two gas machines operated by two men, 3¼d. per ton; three gas machines operated by two men, 2½d. per ton; four gas machines operated by three men, 2¾d. per ton, the said rates being divided among the men employed in proportion to the datal rates in existence, and being exclusive of the sliding scale rate. Effective as from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of award. Issued 29th January, 1923. (I.R. 389/1923.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

MINERAL WATER MANUFACTURE WORKERS: LONDON.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. R. White and Son, Camberwell. Difference—Dispute arising out of the Company's proposal to reduce wages by 7s. 6d. per week as from 1st January, 1923. Agreement—A reduction in wages of 3s. 9d. per week should come into operation as from the first full pay day following the 1st January, and a further reduction of 3s. 9d. per week should become operative on the first full pay day following the issue of the 1923 Budget, provided that the Budget made no reduction in the Table Water Tax. No reduction should be made if the Tax were reduced. The Agreement also provided that three months' notice of revision should be given at any time after 31st July, and the party applying for such revision should arrange for a joint conference to be held within one month. Failing a settlement a further conference should take place under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour. Signed 15th December, 1922. (I.R. 2046/1922.)

TRAMWAY WORKERS: SUNDERLAND.—The National Union of General Workers v. The Sunderland Corporation Tramways Committee. Difference—Application for the withdrawal of the 1s. per week reduction, which the Committee proposed to bring into operation as from 3rd January, 1923, and for the continuance of eight days' leave per annum. Agreement—It was agreed that the shilling per week reduction should be applied as from 3rd January, and that the men concerned should have six days' holiday per annum with seven days' pay, as against eight days' holiday previously allowed. Agreed 1st January, 1923. (I.R. 1477/1922.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

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

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Scotland).

Order (W.D.S. 12), dated 29th January, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for certain classes of female workers in the RETAIL BRANCH of the trade, and specifying 5th February, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The *general minimum time-rates* (as varied) are 7½d. per hour in Area A. and 7d. per hour in Area B. for the special class (now abolished) of Bodice, Coat, Skirt, Gown or Blouse Hands, *i.e.*, these rates now apply to *all* female workers (except learners) in the Retail Branch of the trade.

The corresponding *piece-work basis time-rates* (as varied) are 8½d. per hour in Area A. and 8d. per hour in Area B.

[NOTE.—“Area A.” rates apply to (i) all Royal, Parliamentary and Police Burghs which had according to the most recent Census a population of over 12,000; and (ii.) the following Special Lighting Districts, the boundaries of which have been defined, *viz.* :—Bellshill and Mossend, Blantyre, Cambuslang, and Larkhall, all in the County of Lanark, and Vale of Leven, in the County of Dumbarton.

“Area B.” rates apply to the rest of Scotland.]

General Waste Materials Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (D.B. 7), dated 24th January, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers, and piece-work basis time-rates (as varied) for female workers, and specifying 1st February, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The *general minimum time-rates* (as varied) are (a) 11½d. per hour for male workers of 21 years of age and over employed in that branch of the trade engaged in the collecting, sorting, grading or breaking of scrap iron or other scrap metal where the collecting, sorting or grading of other waste materials is not carried out to a substantial extent in connection therewith; (b) 11d. per hour for male workers of 21 and over employed in any other branch of the trade; (c) 7d. per hour for female workers of 18 years of age and over employed *wholly or mainly* in the sorting, grading or stripping of Woollen Rags and/or Woollen and Worsted Waste Materials to shade and/or quality, and those employed in the operations of receiving, packing, compressing, teagling, craning, despatching or warehousing when carried on in or in association with or in conjunction with any establishment or department in which the sorting, grading or stripping of Woollen Rags and/or Woollen and Worsted Waste Materials to shade and/or quality constitutes the sole or main work of the establishment or department; (d) 6½d. per hour for female workers of 18 and over other than those specified in (c) above.

The rates for female workers, under 18 years of age, are correspondingly lower according to age of worker.

The minimum rates fixed by the Trade Board do not apply to male workers engaged in the loading or discharging of water-borne craft in any section of the trade.

The *piece-work basis time-rates* (as varied) are 8d. per hour for female workers employed on the operations specified in (c) above, and 7½d. per hour for other female workers.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (Scotland).

Order (H.M.S. 11), dated 9th February, 1923, confirming overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers in the *Wholesale Cloth, Hat and Cap Making Branch* of the Trade, and specifying 13th February, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied became effective.

Under these variations the overtime rates do not apply on any day, except Saturday, Sundays and customary public and statutory holidays, until nine hours have been worked, nor do the weekly overtime rates apply until 48 hours have been worked.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (J. 26), dated 22nd January, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers, and specifying 23rd February, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied shall become effective.

The *general minimum time-rates* (per week of 48 hours) (as varied) are :—(a) for Male workers : 39s. 1d. for male workers of 21 years of age and over (other than Male Loom Tenters with a recognised full charge) with lower rates for younger workers; (b) for Female workers, 37s. 6d. for Spinning Shifting Mistresses; 29s. 8½d. for Orra (or Spare) Spinners of 18 years of age and over; rates ranging, according to size of bobbins and number of spindles attended, from 29s. 4d. to 47s. 11d. for Single Spinners and from 31s. 3d. to 45s. 10d. for Double Spinners of all ages

employed on the Ordinary Flyer Frame commonly in use in the Jute trade; and 25s. for other female workers of 18 and over, with lower rates for younger workers and for female weaving learners.

Ready-Made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (R.M. 20 and 21), dated 22nd January, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied and fixed for male and female workers, and specifying 1st February, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied and fixed become effective.

(a) The *general minimum time-rates* are as follows : (i.) for male workers engaged on certain specified operations who have had the experience specified by the Trade Board, rates ranging from 10¾d. to 1s. 7½d. per hour, according to operation, etc., and experience of worker; (ii.) for all other male workers of 22 and over, 10¾d. per hour, with lower rates for younger workers; (iii.) for female workers employed as cutters, trimmers and fitters-up, 6½d. per hour for workers under 19, 7d. per hour for workers of 19 and under 20, and 7½d. per hour for workers of 20 years of age and over; (iv.) for other female workers, except learners, 6½d. per hour, with lower rates for female learners.

(b) The *piece-work basis time-rates* are as follows :—(i.) For the classes of male workers specified in (a) (i.) above, rates ranging from 1s. 0¼d. to 1s. 8¾d. per hour; (ii.) for all other male workers, 1s. 0¼d. per hour; (iii.) for female workers specified in (a) (iii.) above, 7½d., 8d. and 8½d. per hour respectively; (iv.) for all other female workers (other than learners occupied in fitting-up and hooking-up), 7½d. per hour.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

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

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposals (W.D. 16 and 17), dated 12th February, 1923 (i.) to vary by reduction the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates and to cancel the piece-work basis time-rates for female workers in the Retail Bespoke Dressmaking branch of the trade; and (ii.) to vary by reduction the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in any branch of the trade other than the Retail Bespoke Dressmaking Branch.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal (W.D.S. 11), dated 25th January, 1923, to vary by reduction the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in the Wholesale Manufacturing and all other branches of the trade except the Retail branch.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (J. 27), dated 6th February, 1923 (issued with the consent of the Minister), to fix general minimum piece-rates and to vary overtime rates for certain classes of female weavers, in the areas of Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Dundee, Carnoustie and Tayport (as defined by the Trade Board).

Laundry Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (W. 14), dated 8th February, 1923, to vary by reduction the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, guaranteed time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in Cornwall and the North of Scotland (as defined by the Trade Board).

Pin, Hook and Eye and Snap Fastener Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (O. 14), dated 8th February, 1923 (issued with the consent of the Minister), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers (other than home workers).

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.R. (N. 7), dated 17th January, 1923, to vary the general minimum time-rates for certain classes of female workers.

Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.F. (N. 8), dated 16th January, 1923, to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

Particulars of the minimum rates of wages referred to above, as regards Great Britain, may be obtained by reference to the LONDON and EDINBURGH GAZETTES.

Particulars regarding minimum rates of wages proposed, fixed or varied by Trade Boards established in Northern Ireland, may be obtained from the Secretary, Office of Trade Boards (Northern Ireland), 14, Bridge-street, Belfast.

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. 4035, SECTION 8 (1).—TRADE DISPUTE—MEN REFUSED NEW PIECE RATES—EMPLOYERS BROKE AGREEMENT BY CLOSING PITS WITHOUT RESORT TO CONCILIATION MACHINERY.

The employers, a colliery company, reported that, as the colliery had for some time been working at a loss, the colliers were asked to accept a reduction in certain rates on the price list, and they were informed that unless the reduction was accepted the colliery would be closed down. The men refused to agree to any reduction, and accordingly notices to terminate their contracts in 14 days were served on 14th October, 1922. On the expiration of the 14 days' notices a notice was posted at the colliery signifying the company's willingness to resume work if the men would accept the reductions for a temporary period, but the men declined to accept. Seventy-six colliers were given notice, and 31 daymen lost employment when the colliers ceased work.

The applicant, a miner, stated that he was one of the men affected by the issue of notices. His association representative contended that there was no dispute, because the men were willing to continue work at the old rates, which had been fixed in 1921 under a national agreement, and in his opinion these rates could only be altered by mutual agreement. In September, 1922, the employer had asked for 3 alterations in the price list, and the men had agreed to one of them. The men were prepared to continue working while negotiations were proceeding, but the employers decided to close the colliery. No alternative proposals were made by the men during the currency of the notices, but they had since offered terms which the company would not accept. Negotiations were still proceeding, however, and they would continue until an agreement was reached.

The colliery manager stated at the Court of Referees that several interviews took place before notices were tendered. The colliery was kept going for some time, although run at a loss, but, as the men refused to make any concessions, the company had to give notices. Further meetings which were held during the currency of the notices proved unfruitful, and the company were obliged to close the colliery.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed under Section 8 (1). The Court held that all the employees at this colliery had lost employment in circumstances which amounted to a trade dispute. The evidence showed that considerable negotiations had taken place before the men were given notice, and the subsequent stoppage of work was due to the failure to agree on certain items in the price list.

The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire against the Court's recommendation. At an oral hearing it was submitted that the employer must have been acting on the supposition that the mine was closed through trade depression. According to an agreement between the Workmen's Association and the Association of Employers, of which this employer was a member, machinery was provided for dealing with disputes, and clause 237 of the agreement stated that "No stoppage over questions in dispute must occur at the separate collieries until the machinery outlined above has been exhausted. . . ." The employer refused to make use of the conciliation machinery, but, of course, he could not be prevented from closing the mine simply on the ground that it did not pay. It was admitted that at the date of the hearing work had been resumed on terms which were a compromise between the views of the two parties.

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

"The statement of the employer in reply to questions put to him in writing, and the oral evidence at the Court of Referees given by the employer's representative, appear to me to leave no room for doubt that the applicant lost employment in consequence of the refusal of pieceworkers to accept certain reductions of rates in the Price List. If the reductions had been accepted, the employer was prepared to continue working the mine. I agree with the Court of Referees that in these circumstances there was a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute, even though the employer's action may not have been in accordance with an agreement entered into by the Association of which he was a member."

CASE No. 4064, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—DISTANCE OF WORK FROM APPLICANT'S HOME—INCONVENIENT AND EXPENSIVE TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS—UNEMPLOYED FOR TWELVE MONTHS.

A number of colliers, who had been unemployed for at least twelve months, were offered employment on 3rd October, 1922,

as colliers at a pit situated at about twelve miles from their homes. They refused the offers on the grounds that the charge of 7s. per week for conveyance to and from the colliery was excessive, that the pit in question was working only 2½ days per week, and, in some cases, that the temperature of the pit was so high that it would be unhealthy for them to return home by omnibus.

On behalf of the men it was stated that the highest rate for the district was 8s. 5d. per shift, and for 2½ days' work, allowing deductions of 7s. for 'bus fare and 3s. for other stoppages, a workman would have only 11s. 4d. left. Some of the applicants were not experienced colliers and would consequently earn less. Further, some of the applicants would have had to walk about 4 to 4½ miles from their homes to the 'bus, about 1½ miles from the 'bus terminus to the pit and a further mile from the shaft to the coal face. In addition, the men were accustomed to non-gaseous, cool, damp mines, and had not worked in deep and hot collieries such as the one at which they were offered work; they were not used to carrying safety lamps, having always used naked lights. It was admitted, however, that the men had not attempted to secure cheaper means of transit, and that they could have adapted themselves to the conditions at this mine.

The colliery manager stated that at the time in question the pit was working on an average of five shifts weekly. Full time, which was 5½ shifts, would probably be worked in future. The minimum wage was 8s. 5½d. per shift, but some men earned 14s. or 15s. per shift. The colliery was not a gassy pit, and the men could soon have accustomed themselves to working in it. The coal face was, on an average, half a mile from the shaft.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed on the ground that the employment offered was suitable. The only doubt which the Court experienced in disallowing the claims was the admittedly heavy cost of the conveyance, but they pointed out that no effort to obtain cheaper means of transport had been made. On this question, however, the men were granted leave to appeal to the Umpire.

It was ascertained that the means of conveyance in question were chars-a-bancs which had been provided by the local authorities who were anxious for the men to secure work in view of the time they had been unemployed.

At an oral hearing before the Umpire it was stated that forty men would need to combine to hire a char-a-banc to bring the cost to 7s. per week per man, and any reduction of the number would increase the cost to the rest. The proper solution of the transport difficulty was to have a railway station near to the colliery on a line which already ran near it, and the railway company were willing to have the station if the colliery company would pay the cost. The latter company refused, however, to spend any money at all.

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

"The unsatisfactory means of conveyance to and from work would, no doubt, involve hardship, but having regard to the length of time for which the applicants had been unemployed and the poor prospects of work in their own neighbourhood, they should have been willing to accept the employment offered. The period of disqualification may be reduced, however, to four weeks."

CASE No. 4070, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—CAPABLE OF, AND AVAILABLE FOR WORK DURING PERIOD WHEN REDUCTION OF FULL WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION WAS CONTESTED ON GROUND THAT APPLICANTS WERE UNFIT FOR LIGHT WORK.

The Insurance Officer reported that the applicants, two smelters, whose claims for benefit had been disallowed under Section 7 (1) (iii), presented themselves at the local Branch Employment Office of the Ministry of Labour on 23rd January, 1922, and inquired whether there was any light work available. They did not make any formal registration, and deliberately refrained from lodging their unemployment books or claiming benefit, because they were at that time prosecuting claims for a continuance of workmen's compensation at the maximum rate, in support of which they contended they were incapable of work, and because they knew that if they claimed benefit they would, in effect, declare that they were capable of work, and thus would prejudice their claims for compensation. In support of their claims for compensation they obtained medical certificates showing that they were not capable of work. The employers, however, had had a special medical examination before deciding to reduce the compensation rate, and the report was that the applicants were capable of light work. The claims for compensation were withdrawn on 20th March, 1922, and the men claimed benefit for the period 23rd January, 1922, to 20th March, 1922, on the ground that they were in fact capable of work and that their claims for compensation were erroneous.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed on the grounds that the applicants were not capable of, or available for, work, and that they had not lodged their claims in the prescribed manner.

The Insurance Officer agreed with the Court's recommendation, but submitted the case to the Umpire for final decision in accordance with an arrangement made by the Minister of Labour with the applicants' Association.

The Association submitted that this was a test case to ascertain the position of men who had been receiving full compensation for total incapacity, but whose amount of compensation had been reduced on the ground that they had recovered part of their earning capacity and were capable of light work. If it was

established that the workman was capable of some work then he was qualified to claim unemployment benefit from the date on which the compensation allowance was adjusted on this ground. Some period had to elapse, however, between the date of the notice of reduction of compensation and the date when proof of the workman's condition was finally established. In this period the workman was in the position that if he received unemployment benefit it was tantamount to an admission that he was capable of some work, and this fact would be used against him in his appeal against the reduction of the compensation. If, however, the workman failed to claim benefit, and it was subsequently decided that he was capable of some work, and his compensation was reduced as from the date of the notice, he was unable to secure unemployment benefit for the period in question because he had not made a claim in the prescribed manner. The Association therefore submitted that if a workman applied at an Employment Exchange for light work on the date from which it was proposed to reduce his compensation below the maximum rate, that should be regarded as a claim for benefit lodged in the prescribed manner, even though the applicant did not sign the declaration that he was capable of work, and arrears of benefit should be paid if and when it should be subsequently established, by the failure of his claim for continued full compensation, that the workman was capable of some work at the date of applying for light work at the Exchange, and if the workman was able to show that he was available for work, and unable to obtain it.

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

"The applicants had had a serious accident in February, 1920, resulting in severe burns, and were incapacitated for nearly two years, and in receipt of the maximum compensation. In January, 1922, after a medical examination conducted on behalf of the employers, they were notified by the employers that the weekly compensation payments would be reduced on the ground that they had become capable of light work. Through their Association they contested this reduction of compensation, but desired to receive Unemployment Benefit as from the date of the reduction in the event of its being upheld. They did not wish, however, to make claims for benefit in the ordinary way, because they would have to state that they were capable of work, and this might prejudice their claim for continuance of maximum compensation; nor did they wish to receive any benefit unless and until the claim for maximum compensation should be decided against them. They explained the situation at the Employment Exchange, but did not sign applications for benefit.

"After about two months the employers offered the applicants light employment, which they accepted and found they were able to perform. They, therefore, withdrew their objection to the reduction of compensation as from the date in January on which it had been made, and they desired to be paid unemployment benefit as from that date until the date when they obtained work. For the purpose of allowing a test case to come before me, the Minister of Labour has, in accordance with his powers, agreed to accept the informal application as valid. No question arises, therefore, of disallowance on the ground of failure to make application in the prescribed manner, neither have I to consider whether in circumstances of this kind the Minister should accept an informal claim.

"Accepting the claim as having been properly made, I have only to consider whether the applicants are disqualified for receipt of Unemployment Benefit on the ground that they were not 'capable of and available for work' during the period when they were contending in connection with the Compensation Claim, that they were not capable of work.

"The fact that in April the applicants proved themselves capable of work by accepting and successfully performing it is not necessarily conclusive evidence that they were so capable in January and February. This acceptance, however, in conjunction with the opinion of the medical men who examined the applicants on behalf of the employer, the fact that the injuries were of a kind of which the extent could probably be fairly well judged by medical examination, that nearly two years had elapsed since the injuries were received, and that the applicants withdrew their claim for maximum compensation for the period in question, satisfies me in this case that they were capable of work.

"With regard to availability for work, it is an important point against the applicants that they did not call regularly at the Employment Exchange for the purpose of making enquiries about possible work. On the other hand, there is force in the contention that they were in a well-organised trade and their Association was in a position to know of vacancies. I accept the evidence of the Association in this case that it is their policy to encourage men in this position to take work if possible and see if they can do it, and that the Association were, during the period in question, pressing the employers to offer the applicants light work, which ultimately the employers did in spite of the very serious slackness of trade which was experienced at the time. In all the circumstances, therefore, there do not appear to me to be sufficient grounds for disallowance of benefit."

CASE No. 4122, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—AVAILABILITY FOR WORK—BOYS IN HOLIDAY CAMP ARRANGED BY EMPLOYERS—PROSPECTS OF SECURING WORK NOT DIMINISHED.

The applicant, a youth 16 years of age, who was suspended owing to trade depression from his usual employment with a

shipbuilding and engineering company in Glasgow, was reported to have been attending a holiday camp which was run by his late employers, for the period 14th July to 24th July, 1922. His claim for benefit was disallowed as a test case under Section 7 (1) (iii) in respect of the camping period.

It was stated that the lads attending the camp were not more than 18 years of age and were usually employed by the firm. They paid 30s. for a period of 10 days in the camp, contributing this sum at the rate of 1s. per week during the year before the camp opened. The camp was situated at the seaside; the discipline was strict, the lads having to conform to fixed hours, and the curriculum included physical training, swimming and general welfare. All the work in connection with the camp was performed by the lads.

It was contended that the boys were available at short notice for any work which might be offered, a telegram to the supervisor being all that was necessary. At the time of the camp, however, the Glasgow Fair Holidays were in progress, and since all places of business in the town were closed it was very unlikely that any work could be offered. Further, the supervisor was in close touch with the firm, and during the camping period the managers and directors of the firm frequently visited the camp.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Court were satisfied that the applicant was available for work during the period in question.

The Insurance Officer formally disagreed with the Court's recommendation in order to obtain an authoritative decision by the Umpire.

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

"The camp in question was not an ordinary holiday-making arrangement, but was intended to exercise a beneficial influence on the boys attending it, and the chances of obtaining employment do not appear to have been diminished by attendance thereat. Provided, therefore, that the regulations for claiming benefit can be complied with, there need be no disqualification on the ground of failure to fulfil the requirements of Section 7 (1) (iii) of the Act."

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO LABOUR.

ALIENS.—*A return of alien passengers, excluding trans-migrants, landed, embarked, and refused leave to land, in the United Kingdom during the three months ending December 31, 1922.* Home Office. (Cmd. 1694.—III. : price 2d.)

CENSUS.—*Census of Scotland, 1921. Vol. I. Part 20: County of Kinross. Part 21: County of Kirkcubright. Part 22: County of Lanark. Part 23: County of Midlothian.* (S.O. publications : price 3s. 6d., 5s., 13s. 6d., 7s.)

HOUSING.—*Final reports of the Departmental Committee on the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920.* Ministry of Health. (Cmd. 1803 : price 9d.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—*Royal Commission on London Government. Minutes of evidence. Part VII.* (S.O. publication : price 3s.)

MINING.—(1) *Report by the Advisory Committee for Coal and the Coal Industry on the possibility of effecting economies in the costs that make up the price of coal to the consumer.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication : price 2s. 6d.) (2) *Statistical summary of output and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coalmining industry for the quarter ended 30th September, 1922.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (Cmd. 1797 : price 2d.) (3) *Preliminary statement (subject to correction) of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1922.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication : price 4d.)

PENSIONS.—*Fifth annual report of the Minister of Pensions, from 1st April, 1921, to 31st March, 1922.* (H.C. 18 : price 1s.)

RAILWAYS.—*Railway shopmen—Great Western Railway. Rates of pay and conditions of service.* Decision of Industrial Court, No. 746. 30th December, 1922. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication : price 3d.)

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.—*Report of the Medical Research Council for the years 1921-2.* (S.O. publication : price 3s. 6d.)

TRADE UNIONS.—*Statistical summary, showing the operations of registered Trade Unions for the years 1912-1921.* Registry of Friendly Societies. (S.O. publication : price 1s.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—*Sixty-seventh annual report of the Registrar-General for Scotland, 1921.* Scottish Board of Health. (S.O. publication : price 10s. 6d.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—*Statistics of compensation and of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1921.* Home Office. (Cmd. 1793 : price 6d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, JANUARY, 1923.

ADMIRALTY.

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

Accumulators: Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., London.
E.—American Cloth, Leather: Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., London.
—Anchors, Stockless: S. Taylor & Sons (Brierley Hill), Ltd., Brierley Hill.—**Badges, Embroidered:** R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.; E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans; Elsmere, Ltd., London, S.W.; Firmin & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, W.; George Kenning & Son, London, E.C.; Nutting & Kent, London, E.C.; Stephen Simpson, Preston; R. Stevenson, London, E.C.; Edward Stillwell & Son, Ltd., London E.C.; Stokoe & Co., London, S.W.; Virgo & Co., London, S.W.—**Bagging, Biscuit:** Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.—**Barrels, Elm:** W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—**Blankets:** J. Berry & Sons, Ltd., Ashburton; William Edleston, Sowerby Bridge.—**Boards, Distributing and Supply:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Boilers, Vertical:** Abbott & Co., (Newark), Ltd., Newark-on-Trent.—**Bolts and Nuts, Steel:** C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston; J. C. Prestwich, Ltd., Atherton; Stones Bros., Ltd., W. Bromwich.—**Boots, Half:** Adams Bros., Raunds; C. E. Nichols, Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds; Tebbutt & Hall Bros, Ltd., Raunds; Stephen Walker, Walgrave.—**Brass and Copper Sheets, Bars, etc.:** Nevill, Druce & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; McKechnie Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; Vivian & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Delta Metal Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Muntz's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brassfoundry:** Bailey & Mackey, Ltd., Birmingham; Evered & Co., Ltd., Smethwick; Harcourts, Ltd., Birmingham; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; W. Rowley, Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Tonks (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Bunting:** J. Clough & Son, Shipley; W. Bancroft & Sons, Halifax.—**Canvas Hose Tubing:** G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; F. Reddaway & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Capstans, Electric:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Carbon Tetra Chloride:** Albright & Wilson, Ltd., Oldbury, near Birmingham.—**Carpets, Rugs and Mats:** T. F. Firth & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Carpet Trades, Ltd., Kidderminster; Tomkinson & Adam, Kidderminster.—**Cases for Sun Helmets, etc.:** A. Lloyd & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; E. Marshall, Plymouth; J. F. Farwig & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cells, Inert:** Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., London, E.—**Cells, Secondary:** Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., London, E.—**Chemicals:** The United Alkali Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Brunner, Mond & Co., Ltd., Northwich, Cheshire; F. Allen & Sons (Poplar), Ltd., London, E.—**Cocks, Gunmetal Steam, etc.:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; S. Birkett & Sons (Cleckheaton), Ltd., Cleckheaton; J. Blakeborough & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse; Hayward, Tyler & Co., Ltd., London; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Drill, White Cotton:** John Johnson & Son, Manchester; Joshua Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Furnace, Muffle:** Alldays & Onions, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Gauges:** R. W. Munro, Ltd., London, N.—**Gear, Control for 250 tons Crane:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Gromets, Brass:** H. Hipkiss & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Hack Saw Blades:** C. Baynes, Ltd., Blackburn.—**Handkerchiefs, Black Silk:** J. & T. Brocklehurst & Sons, Ltd., Macclesfield.—**Handkerchiefs, White Cotton:** Eli Heyworth & Sons, Ltd., Blackburn.—**Helmets, Sun:** E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans.—**Lanterns and Gear:** Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Eli Griffiths & Sons, Birmingham.—**Lathe, Tool Room:** Holbrook & Sons, Stratford, E.—**Leather Straps or Millbands:** S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.; J. H. Fenner & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Lift, Electric:** W. Wadsworth & Sons, Ltd., Bolton.—**Lime Juice:** L. Rose & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Machine, Grinding:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Broadheath, Manchester.—**Machinery for 34 ft. Cutters:** J. W. Brooke & Co., Lowestoft; Record Engineering Co., Tutbury.—**Machinery for 32 ft. Cutters:** Atlantic Engine Co., Wishaw.—**Machinery for 36 ft. Pinnaces:** Dixon Bros. & Hutchinson, Ltd., Southampton; Parsons Motor Co., Southampton.—**Machinery for 30 ft. Cutters and 36 ft. Pinnaces:** J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Basingstoke.—**Machinery for 34 ft. Cutters:** Record Engineering Co., Tutbury.—**Machinery for 36 ft. Pinnaces:** Parsons Motor Co., Southampton.—**Marmalade:** Lipton, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Masts, W/T:** C. F. Elwell, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Nails, Copper, etc.:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; The Combination Metallic Packing Co. (1921), Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne; Cooper & Turner, Ltd., Sheffield; D. Powis & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Nails, Iron and Steel:** D. Bennie & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Rogerstone, Mon.; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; Hall & Rice, Ltd., West Bromwich; T. Parish & Son, Halesowen; J. Summers & Sons, Ltd., Stalybridge; The Tower Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Worcester; The Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington; D. Willetts, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Oars, Ash:** H. Ferns & Co., Liverpool; J. Gardner & Sons, Bootle, Liverpool.—**Oilskin Coats:** Edward Macbean & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Paint, White Lead:** Brimsdown Lead Co., Ltd., Brimsdown; Mersey White Lead Co., Ltd., Warrington; Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Paint, White Oxide of Zinc:** Crown Compositions Co., Swansea; Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Pickles:** Maconochie Bros., Ltd., London, E.; S. Hannah & Co., Glasgow; Stephens, Son & Co., Ltd.,

Gloucester.—**Pork, Salt:** Marsh & Baxter, Ltd., Brierley Hill.—**Repair of Cutters and Pinnaces, and Preparation for Installation of Machinery:** Vosper & Co., Portsmouth; W. White & Sons, Cowes, Isle of Wight; Frank Bevis, Portsmouth; Groves & Guttridge, E. Cowes, I. of W.—**Rolling Mills, Electrically-driven:** J. Robinson & Co., Ltd., Salford, Manchester.—**Serge, Blue:** J. Casson, Elland, Yorks; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Somerset; R. Gaunt & Sons, Ltd., Leeds.—**Steel Plates:** Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Cardiff; South Durham Steel & Iron Co., Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees; D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steel Sheets:** J. Lysaght, Ltd., Newport; Partridge, Jones & J. Paton, Ltd., Pontnewynydd; Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., Port Talbot; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Stretcher Weights and Fittings:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Travellers, Hand:** Herbert Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Traveller, 10-ton Electric:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Vests, Summer:** J. B. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Leicester; R. Rowley & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Vests, Winter:** T. M. Butler & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Zinc Slabs and Sheets:** G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; London Zinc Mills, Ltd., London, N.; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Halesowen.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Devonport: Creosoted Fir Sleepers: Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Creosoted Pitch Pine:** Plymouth & Oreston Timber Co., Ltd., Plymouth.—**Forton and Frater: Timber (Deal Battens, etc.):** Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Portsmouth: Asbestos Corrugated Sheets:** The British Fibro Cement Works, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Creosoted Pitch Pine:** The Commercial Timber Co., London, E.C.—**Douglas Fir Timber:** Bailey and Whites, Ltd., Portsmouth.—**Glass:** Pilkington Bros., Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.—**Oregon Pine Timber:** Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., London, E.C.—**H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: C.I. Pipes, Specials and Valves:** J. Blakeborough and Sons, Ltd., Brighouse, Yorks.—**C.I. Pipes, Specials, etc.:** Cochrane & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Fencing:** Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.

WAR OFFICE.

Brushes, Sweeping: C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Phoenix Brush Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cases, Wood:** S. Osborne (Chelsea), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cement, Portland:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Copper Ingot:** Henry Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Corrugated Steel Sheets:** Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port.—**Cylinders, Iron:** F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Eye Pieces for Anti-Gas Apparatus:** E. Camelinat & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**"Flexolac" and "Masticon":** Roofing Composition in Paint and Plastic Forms: Industrial Engineering, Ltd., Cricklewood.—**Hides, Strapback:** S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Hides, Crop Butt:** Tullibody Tanning Co., Tullibody, near Alloa, N.B.—**Leather Half-soles:** Adams Bros., Raunds; R. S. Lawrence & Co., London, N.—**Leather Lifts:** R. S. Lawrence & Co., London, N.—**Leathers, Stirrup:** Wilmott Bennett, Walsall.—**Lighterage:** W. Izzard, Ltd., Lea Bridge, Clapton.—**Liquor Creosoli:** Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd., London, E.; W. C. Smithie & Co., Farnworth, near Bolton.—**Mattresses, Single:** Atkinson & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Wm. S. Toms, Ltd., High Wycombe.—**Mattresses, Double:** Atkinson & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; W. & C. Nightingale, London, W.—**Mechanical Stokers and Gear:** Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., Renfrew.—**Metal, Rod:** Muntz's Metal Co., Ltd., Smethwick.—**Motor Spares:** Vulcan Motor & Engineering Co., Ltd., Southport.—**Presses, Hay Baling, Electric:** Hindle, Son & Co., Haslingdon.—**Pumps, Hydraulic:** J. Shaw & Sons, Ltd., Salford.—**Sleepers, Creosoted:** Christie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Spelter:** Morris Ashby, Ltd., London, E.C.; Henry Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steel, Round:** Barrow Haematite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Steelwork for Girder Bridges:** E. C. & J. Keay, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tents, Circular:** W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes.—**Torches, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton.—**Window Glass:** Pilkington Bros., Ltd., St. Helens.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** Canterbury: G. Browning, Canterbury. Royal Military College, Sandhurst: T. Carr, Halifax. Lough Swilly: Crawford & Eakin, Londonderry. Pasley: Dunn & Blenkinsop, Sunderland. North Shields: Dunn & Blenkinsop, Sunderland. Dover: G. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Dover. Taunton: F. C. Spear, Taunton.—**Building Works and Services:** Bodmin: W. E. Bennett, Bodmin. Weedon: Bosworth & Wakeford, Daventry. Erection of Married Quarters, Devonport: J. Crockwell, Devonport.—Topsham Barracks, Exeter: J. Crockwell, Devonport. Chilwell, R.A.O.D.: Wm. Crane, Ltd., Nottingham. Feltham Aerodrome: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E. Dettingen Barracks: E. C. Hughes, Wokingham. Sanitary Annexes to Block of Married Quarters, Marlborough Lines: G. Kemp & Co., Aldershot, Hants. Repair Roads, Lincoln Barracks: G. A. Pillatt & Son, Nottingham. Wellington Barracks: C. P. Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, N. Lichfield-Whittington Military Hospital: W. Willetts & Son, Old Hill, Staffs.—**Painting:** Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-on-Tyne: Arundel Painters, Ltd., Bradford.

AIR MINISTRY.

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The Publishers (to whom should be addressed all communications concerning subscriptions and sales) are H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2, and branches (see Cover).

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY WYMAN & SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, LONDON, E.C. 4.