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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during February. It was good at coal mines, in steel sheet manufacture, and in the worsted trade; fairly good in the tinplate trade; and fair in the iron and steel, woollen, hosiery, jute, carpet, ready-made clothing and paper trades. In most of the other large industries employment continued slack, but some improvement was reported in the iron mining, pig-iron, engineering, ship-building, building, furniture and pottery industries.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions from which returns are received was 13·1 at the end of February, as compared with 13·7 at the end of January, and 16·3 at the end of February, 1922. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·8 at 26th February, as compared with 12·7 at 22nd January, and 15·5 at the end of February, 1922. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 26th February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 1,376,000, of whom 1,073,000 were men and 218,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 29th January the corresponding total was 1,460,000, of whom 1,138,000 were men and 226,000 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 February resulted in an aggregate reduction of £64,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 480,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £400 in the wages of nearly 8,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by reductions included iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, and steel smelters in most districts, who sustained a decrease of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates in each case, equivalent to from $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 per cent. on current rates. In the clothing trades the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade and the wholesale mantle and costume trade in Great Britain were reduced by amounts varying from 1d. to 2d. per hour. There were also reductions in the Trade Board minimum rates for males and females employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade and for female workers in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade in Northern Ireland.

Among other large bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced in February were men employed in non-federated shipyards at Belfast and in ship repairing yards on the Mersey; gold, silver and jewellery workers at Sheffield; coopers; flour millers; and workpeople in the electricity supply industry in various districts.

Under the Trade Boards Acts, in addition to the reductions mentioned above, there were decreases in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople employed in the jute industry and in those fixed for workers in the general waste materials reclamation trade in Great Britain.

The principal group of workpeople whose wages were increased in February were iron ore miners in Cumberland, who received an increase of 3d. per shift.

During the first two months of 1923 the changes in the rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of over £120,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 950,000 workpeople and in a net increase of £43,000 in the weekly wages of 670,000 workpeople. Detailed statistics are given on page 101.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st March 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 76 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st February was 77 per cent., and that for 1st March, 1922, was 86 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 May, 1917. For food alone the increase at 1st March, as compared with July, 1914, was 71 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 90.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 41. In addition, 36 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of the month.

The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in February (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 40,000, as compared with 19,000 in the previous month and 30,000 in February, 1922. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during February was 337,000 working days, as compared with 117,000 days in January, 1923, and 269,000 days in February, 1922.

The principal disputes in progress during the month involved about 9,000 coal miners near South Shields and about 4,000 workpeople in the bookbinding trade in London.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILL.

A BILL to amend the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1922, was introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Labour on 28th February.

The Bill makes provision for a further grant of "uncovenanted" unemployment benefit (*i.e.*, benefit paid irrespective of contributions), as from 12th April next.

The "Fourth Special Period" of benefit (as defined in section 3 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922)* is to be prolonged, so as to extend from 2nd November, 1922, to 17th October, 1923. During the period as thus prolonged a total of 44 weeks of benefit may be drawn, subject to the condition that when a person has received 22 weeks of benefit in the fourth special period (*i.e.*, since the beginning of November, 1922), a gap of two weeks will occur before he becomes entitled to further benefit (clause 1).

From October, 1923, the Bill provides that benefit years shall be instituted to run from mid-October of one year to mid-October of the next year; and that during the first benefit year (from October, 1923, to October, 1924), 26 weeks of benefit may be paid, either in respect of contributions or, if necessary, irrespective of the payment of contributions. For subsequent benefit years the maximum period of benefit will be 26 weeks, payable only in respect of contributions (clause 2).

The 26 weeks of benefit within the first benefit year may be drawn without a break, if payable in respect of contributions, but, if benefit is authorised irrespective of contributions, a gap of three weeks will occur after 12 weeks of such benefit have been drawn (clause 2, proviso (2)).

The Bill proposes to make permanent the additional benefits payable in respect of a wife (or invalid husband) and dependent children, which, under existing legislation (Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922), are to continue only until the end of the "deficiency period" of the Unemployment Fund. The rates of contribution *after the end of the deficiency period* (*i.e.*, the date when the Treasury certifies that the Unemployment Fund is again solvent) are to be such as will be sufficient to provide for these additional benefits, but are not to exceed 6d. a week from the unemployed person and 6d. from the employer, in the case of a man; 4d. from the employed person and 5d. from the employer, in the case of a woman; and half these rates in the case of a boy or a girl, respectively. (At present the rates are 9d. a week from the worker and 10d. from the employer, in the case of a man, and half of those amounts in the case of a boy; 7d. a week from the worker and 8d. from the employer, in the case of a woman; and 4d. from the worker and 4½d. from the employer, in the case of a girl.) The State contribution after the end of the deficiency period is to be one-fourth of the joint contributions of employers and employed, instead of the present proportion of approximately one-third (clause 4).

With a view to meeting certain anomalies, the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, with regard to continuity of unemployment are amended. The new rule proposed is that benefit shall be payable, subject to a waiting period, for any three days or more of unemployment occurring during any six consecutive days, though not necessarily within one calendar week (clause 5).

With a view to carrying out the recommendations made by Lord Chelmsford (Juvenile Employment Inquiry, 1921), provision is also made with regard to the exercise by Local Education Authorities of their powers of adopting a choice of employment scheme under section 107 of the Education Act, 1921. In order to prevent duplication of machinery, the exercise of those powers is made conditional on the authorities undertaking the administration of unemployment benefit in respect of the juveniles concerned (clause 6).

Minor amendments are also proposed in regard to—

(a) Ante-dating claims to benefit (clause 7). (A period of unemployment is not deemed to begin until the insured contributor makes application for benefit in the prescribed manner, but the new clause provides that the Minister may make regulations permitting some earlier date to be substituted for the date of application when there is good cause for the delay in making application.)

(b) Provisions as to insurance stamps (clause 8).

(c) Recovery of sums wrongly paid by way of benefit (clause 9).

(d) Adaptation of "special schemes" (clause 10). (The new clause gives power to the Minister of Labour, after consultation with the body charged with the administration of a special scheme, to vary or amend the provisions of a scheme, in order to ensure benefits not less favourable than those provided by the general provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts.)

In a Memorandum† issued by the Ministry of Labour, regarding the financial clauses of the Bill, it is stated that if, when the reduced rates of contribution come into force, they are at the maximum rates permitted by the Bill (as specified above), the State contribution will be about £6,000,000 annually, as compared with the present amount of about £12,500,000 annually; while the combined contributions from employers and employed will be annually £24,000,000 instead of the present figure of about £35,000,000.

It is also stated that the amount of benefit payable from 19th April, 1923, to 15th October, 1924, under the provisions of the Bill, is estimated at £62,500,000, assuming that the number of per-

sons unemployed (including an allowance for short-time workers) may be, on the average, 1,250,000. It is estimated that on this basis the deficiency on the Unemployment Fund (which will be approximately £18,500,000 on 19th April, 1923) will increase to £20,000,000 in October, 1923, and to £22,500,000 in April, 1924, falling back to £20,700,000 in October, 1924. The maximum borrowing power, as fixed by the Act of 1922, is £30,000,000.

The further grant of benefit does not involve any increase in the rates of contribution from employers, employed or the State during the deficiency period; but as it must prolong the deficiency period and consequently postpone the date at which the present rates of contribution can be reduced, the effect is to increase the total amount of the contributions to be paid by all three parties during the deficiency period.

HEALTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

REPORT OF INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

THE Inter-Departmental Committee appointed in January, 1922,* "to consider the relations of Health Insurance and Unemployment Insurance, and to investigate the possibility of reducing the total cost of administration by modifying the Unemployment Insurance Scheme and by amalgamating Unemployment and Health Insurance cards, records, and, as far as possible, administration" have presented their third interim Report.†

The present Report is devoted to the two provisions of the existing scheme which require the continuous maintenance of a separate ledger account for each insured person, viz. (i) the provision in the second schedule to the Act of 1920 (usually known as the "one-in-six" rule), restricting unemployment benefit to one week for every six contributions; and (ii) the provision in Section 25 of the Act entitling an insured person, on reaching the age of 60, to a refund of the excess of his own contributions over the amount of benefit received, together with compound interest at 2½ per cent.

The Committee were led to consider these questions mainly from the point of view of economy in administration; but they have also been impressed with the reactions of the provision relating to refunds of contributions upon the financial position of the Unemployment Fund.

The One-in-Six Rule.—This rule makes benefit depend upon the whole past history of the individual, and therefore involves a running account of contributions and benefits in respect of over 11,000,000 persons, for an indefinite number of years. It is recognised that some limit must be placed on the claims for unemployment benefit, as has been done, for example, by the Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit; but these Trade Unions have nothing corresponding to the "one-in-six" rule, with the excessive burden of accounting it involves. The Committee point out, also, that the operation of the rule makes it difficult for insured persons to attempt any independent calculation of their benefit rights.

The Committee therefore propose that the "one-in-six" rule should be abandoned, and that instead of it the amount of benefit payable in a given year should depend on the average number of contributions paid in a given period preceding the benefit year. They suggest three contribution years as a suitable period.

They propose that the maximum period of benefit in any year should be 26 weeks. To qualify an insured person to receive the maximum period of 26 weeks' benefit, they propose that at least 48 contributions should have been paid on the average of the three preceding years, and that there should be a reduction of two weeks' benefit for every fall of three contributions. They further propose that benefit should be withheld altogether from a person whose average contributions in a year do not reach twelve, on the ground that such a person is obviously an intermittent worker, and not properly insurable at all.

The scheme proposed would need slight modifications, (a) at the present time, to meet the case of those who have been suffering heavily from unemployment during the past two years, and (b) permanently, as regard new entrants.

The effect of the new proposals would be that benefits would not be subject to any reduction on account of benefits paid in previous years, but would be dependent solely upon the average number of contributions during the three previous years.

Numerous experiments which have been made show that a somewhat greater amount of benefit would be provided on the average than under the present system. The new system would specially benefit those who are normally in regular work, but are subject to serious interruption of work, for example, in the winter.

Refunds.—The refund system is open to objection on grounds of principle, embodying, as it does, two essentially different forms of thrift, viz., insurance and banking: it involves the illogical proposition that, under a scheme of insurance, a person who is fortunate enough to have no occasion to make a claim is entitled to have his premium back. The system also involves complications in accounting; and the difficulty of insured persons in ascertaining their rights applies with even greater force to the refund provision than to the "one-in-six" rule.

The Committee also discuss, in detail, the serious effect of the refund provision (and in a less degree of the "one-in-six" rule) upon the finances of the Unemployment Fund, particularly

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1922, page 106.

† Cmd. 1821; price 3d. net. For notice of first and second interim reports, see LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1922, page 202.

* See the April, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, page 157.

† Cmd. 1824. H.M. Stationery Office, price 2d. net.

at the present time of stress. Instead of holding substantial reserves against its liabilities under these heads the Fund is heavily indebted to the Exchequer, owing to the recent extensive grant of "uncovenanted" benefit.

The Committee recommend the total abolition of the refund system. They make no recommendation as to compensation; they are satisfied that no material present value attaches to the contingent rights in this regard of persons under 50; while as regards those over 50 any payment of compensation would involve "making small individual payments to persons who, in the nature of the case, have been in practically full employment during the long period of stress which has fallen so heavily upon a large section of their fellow-workers." The amount of compensation payable to the insured persons over 50, if any should be paid, would approach £2,000,000.

The Committee estimate that the simplification of the records and accounts which it would be possible to effect under the foregoing recommendations would involve a saving of about £120,000 in a normal year, including bonus at the present rates.

USE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN RELIEF OF WAGES.

THE following is a summary of a Government Report shortly to be published on the subject of proposals to utilise the unemployment benefit payable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts to assist the provision of work for the unemployed.

The proposals are of two forms: to use unemployment benefit in part payment of wages on relief work provided through Local Authorities, and to use unemployment benefit in aid of wages paid by private employers.

The proposals are supported by the arguments that the payment of unemployment benefit is expenditure without return, and that long continued idleness is demoralising to unemployed workpeople. Although these arguments are at first sight reasonable, the objections to the proposal are found to be conclusive.

In the first place, the Unemployment Insurance Fund is contributory, and although the State directly contributes a share, three-fourths of the revenue is derived from the contributions by employers and employed. The Fund has borrowed from the Treasury over £16,000,000, and, in order to repay this debt, contributions will have to be maintained at their present high rates for a considerable period. During the past 12 months the Fund has paid out in benefit £47,700,000, of which £33,800,000 represents contributions from employers and workpeople, the contribution of the workpeople amounting to £15,700,000.

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts benefits are mainly of two kinds—"Covenanted" benefit, i.e., weekly benefit to which workpeople are entitled in virtue of the requisite number of weekly contributions paid during employment standing to their credit; and "Uncovenanted" benefit, an emergency "advance" of benefit to persons who, through the abnormal unemployment since 1920, have not a credit sufficient to entitle them to benefit on the basis of contributions.

The payment of uncovenanted benefit has been made possible partly by the loan from the Treasury, which will have to be repaid from future contributions. The Unemployment Fund is a great Trust Fund, maintained to provide benefit for contributors when unemployed.

If unemployment benefit were to be diverted from its present object in the manner suggested—and in any case this could not be done without legislation—the effect must be to strike a serious blow at the contributory principle, if not absolutely to destroy it, and probably to endanger repayment of the debt owing by the Fund. Even if the use of benefit were confined to the assistance of Local Authorities in respect of relief works, which have hitherto been financed directly out of rates and taxes, this is an object quite different from that for which the contributions were collected, and might lead to protests from the contributors to the Fund.

If it is argued that the grants to Local Authorities in respect of relief schemes are insufficient, the case should be argued on that basis. Such a plea is not in itself a justification for raiding the Unemployment Fund.

If the proposal is extended to include assistance to private employers, the claim of those who would lay the whole charge of relief of unemployment upon the Exchequer would become insistent, and, in addition, employers might naturally raise an objection to the use of their own contributions in aid of other employers, with whom they have no direct concern, and who might, in certain cases, be competitors.

As regards the special case of relief works undertaken by Local Authorities, there are the following objections, in addition to the preliminary objection discussed above:—

(i) To prevent abuse, the scheme would have to be confined to works put in hand expressly for the purpose of providing relief for the unemployed, and excluding those which it is the statutory duty of the authority to pay for out of the rates.

(ii) Much relief work is placed out to contract, with a view to stimulating ordinary trade. The difficulty of applying the scheme to such work would be insuperable; it would have to be confined to work carried out by direct labour.

(iii) The amount to be paid to a local authority would be the amount of the man's unemployment benefit. This is not extended indefinitely, and when the man's benefit was exhausted he might be discharged, because he would no longer carry a "premium." If he was kept on until the

relief works ended, he would still be faced with the fact that he would have *pro tanto* exhausted his benefit; and benefit might fail him just when he wanted it most.

(iv) Although the proposal would be less unsatisfactory if the payment could be confined to *additional* persons taken on to relief works, who are definitely a burden upon the Unemployment Fund, it would be difficult to resist the extension of such payments to the large number of men already engaged upon relief works.

As regards the application of the proposal to private industry, two detailed schemes have been considered. In one of these it was suggested that unemployed workpeople should surrender their benefits to an employer, who would be enabled to cut his prices and thus secure business. The benefit would only be payable in respect of a proportion of the men taken on additional to the complement existing on an appointed day. This scheme, however, is open to two fatal objections. It would be inequitable as between firm and firm; it would not benefit firms that were fully employed on the appointed day, but only those that were working with a reduced staff, and this reduced activity might be due to the firms' own inefficiency. Moreover, it would be difficult to guarantee that the subsidy would, in fact, be used to reduce prices; again, if one of a number of competing firms was enabled by the scheme to cut prices, the other firms would object to such a use of the Unemployment Fund to which they themselves had contributed.

Another scheme suggested aimed at meeting some of the objections to subsidising private schemes. It was suggested, for example, that the subsidy should apply only to the numbers employed in excess of the average number employed by a firm before a given date. This, however, would involve heavy administrative expenses in checking claims. It was also suggested that firms coming under the scheme should bind themselves to make no profits, or only limited profits, during any period when they were receiving a subsidy. But in this case (a) if no profits were allowed to be made, it is doubtful whether many firms would take up the scheme; (b) there is nothing to prevent the subsidy being paid in respect of men who might have obtained employment in any event in consequence of improvement of trade.

Moreover, any scheme for subsidising wages in private industry is open to the objections applying to the notorious Speenhamland scheme, which prevailed in agriculture, in certain areas, before the Poor Law of 1832. Under this system wages were subsidised from the Poor Law, with the result that they fell to a disgracefully low level, and it was difficult for any worker not on the Poor Law to obtain employment; while the poor rate was raised to a level which became intolerable.

The conclusion reached in the Report is, therefore, that "the use of the Unemployment Insurance Fund to subsidise wages, whether on relief work carried out by local authorities or of employers in private industry, would be objectionable in principle, as gravely endangering the contributory basis of the Fund, and impossible in practice without serious inequities and risk of abuse."

KING'S ROLL NATIONAL COUNCIL.

THE Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Training and Employment of Disabled Ex-Service Men reported last year (August, 1922) in favour of the establishment in the various counties and county boroughs of Local King's Roll Committees, whose work should be co-ordinated by a National Council. These recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Government, and, at the invitation of the Minister of Labour, King's Roll Committees are being set up in the various towns in the country, and a National Council has been constituted with the following members:—

Field-Marshal Earl Haig, K.T., G.C.B., O.M., etc., *Chairman*.

Major-General Sir John Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.P., *Vice-Chairman*.

Viscount Burnham, C.H., Lord Elphinstone, Lord Gorell, C.B.E., M.C., *House of Lords*.

Major The Hon. J. J. Astor, M.P., Major J. B. Cohen, M.P., J. Lawson, Esq., M.P., *House of Commons*.

T. W. Phillips, Esq., C.B., C.B.E., J. A. Barlow, Esq., C.B.E., *Ministry of Labour*.

I. G. Gibbon, Esq., C.B.E., *Ministry of Health*.

C. F. A. Hore, Esq., C.B., *Ministry of Pensions*.

Captain Appleby, D. P. Pielou, Esq., M.P., *British Legion*.

James Lithgow, Esq., J. E. Baker, Esq., *National Confederation of Employers' Organisations*.

Honorary Secretary: Lieut.-Col. Vivian L. Henderson, M.C.

At its first meeting on 20th February the National Council decided to ask all King's Roll Committees which had been established to complete the register of disabled ex-Service men unemployed in the locality and to classify the men on the completed register into three categories according to the difficulties likely to be experienced by them in finding employment owing to the nature of their disability.

It will be the task of the Local King's Roll Committees to try to secure employment under ordinary commercial or industrial conditions for as many disabled ex-Service men as possible, and for others to be employed on light jobs. The Committees are further charged with the task of examining the position of ex-Service men whose disability is so serious that if they are to be employed at all, they must be employed in some special institution set up for such classes of men.

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT, 1922.

THE Oversea Settlement Committee have issued their Report for the year 1922.*

The first part of the Report is historical, describing the circumstances under which the Committee began its work soon after the Armistice; the special conference on State-aided Empire Settlement in January-February, 1921; and the passing of the Empire Settlement Act in May, 1922. Since the passing of the Act negotiations have been going on with the Oversea Governments for the establishment of schemes of assisted migration, land settlement, etc., under the Act.

The Committee express the view that at the present time there is definite over-population in this country. During the war, migration practically ceased, and has not yet recovered to its pre-war level; at the same time our foreign trade has been crippled by the impoverishment of many of the countries with which we traded, and, even when normal conditions are restored, is likely to be more difficult than before, owing to higher tariffs and to the establishment of competing industries abroad. The Dominions, on the other hand, are in need of population, especially upon the land; and they are by far the best markets for our manufacture. This is shown in the following Table:—

Country.	White Population.	Exports of United Kingdom Produce and Manufactures (other than raw materials).	
		Total Value.	Value per head of white population of importing country.
		£	£ s. d.
Australia	5,437,000	45,356,000	8 6 10
Canada	8,943,000	18,988,000	2 2 6
Newfoundland	264,000	315,000	1 3 11
New Zealand	1,240,000	14,467,000	11 13 4
United States	94,821,000	38,760,000	0 8 2
Europe	426,900,000	172,006,000	0 8 1
France	39,210,000	31,030,000	0 15 10

The most desirable classes of migrants, in the opinion of the Committee, are children and juveniles. The Committee "are so convinced of the importance of youth and adaptability in connection with settlement overseas that they see little prospect of successful development of the new policy unless child migration and juvenile migration are stimulated to such an extent as to form a substantial portion—(say) not less than one-third—of the whole volume of migration." They point out that there are at present about 200,000 juveniles, male and female, in this country who have no immediate prospect of absorption in suitable industry; and that about 750,000 juveniles leave school each year. They add that public opinion will not be favourable to juvenile migration in the absence of ample safeguards for the welfare of the young settlers after their arrival.

The migration of women is also a thing to be specially encouraged, owing both to the great excess of the female over the male population in this country, and to the "urgent and unlimited" demand for women in the Dominions, especially as household helpers. Unfortunately, women are, at least in normal times, less disposed to migrate than men; though this may be less so at the present time, in view of the lack of employment in this country. One great obstacle is the high cost of passages, and the Committee suggest that this might be met by more liberal State assistance for women's passages. The Committee also emphasise the importance of providing suitable opportunities overseas for educated women.

As regards males, the Committee point out that the only male settlers for whom there are openings in the Dominions in any considerable numbers are those who are able and willing to work upon the land. Young, unmarried men are the class whose settlement overseas presents fewer difficulties than that of any other class; and assisted passages are available for such at the present time to certain of the Dominions, under specified conditions. The settlement overseas of married men with their families is ideally the best of all forms of migration; but it presents very great difficulties.

The special provision for ex-Service men and women came to an end (with certain exceptions) on the 31st December last. The following Table shows the approximate number of ex-Service men and women, and their dependants, who sailed under the Government free passage scheme from the commencement of the scheme on the 8th April, 1919, to the 31st December, 1922†:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
To Canada	11,539	7,522	7,499	26,560
" Australia	16,514	8,316	9,923	34,753
" New Zealand	5,467	3,391	4,032	12,890
" South Africa & Rhodesia	2,688	1,777	1,429	5,894
" Other Destinations ..	991	666	442	2,099
Total	37,199	21,672	23,325	82,196

The Report discusses the further measures which it seems desirable to take to make State-aided Empire settlement successful. The existing official machinery in this country must be supplemented by voluntary effort, and the voluntary organisations which interest themselves in Empire migration and settle-

ment must be strengthened. It will probably be found desirable, at no distant date, to encourage the establishment of migration committees in the various counties, and probably also in the cities and county boroughs, to advise and assist intending settlers. Even more important, in the opinion of the Committee, is an improvement in the arrangements in the Dominions for the reception, distribution and initial supervision of British settlers, which are still in many respects inadequate. The Report describes the arrangements which already exist in the various Dominions under this head.

Two sections of the Report deal with "Young Farmers' Clubs," which distribute live stock among children in various districts, and give them instruction as to the best means of dealing with them; and with the schemes for free or assisted passages, and the like, which have already been completed under the Empire Settlement Act, or are under negotiation with the various Dominion Governments, with charitable societies, etc.

In conclusion, the Committee say:—

"At the present time every male or female, child, juvenile or adult, who is surplus to the industrial needs of this country is a source of weakness to the Empire. . . . The problem is not one of relieving immediate and abnormal unemployment in this country. It is one of finding the way to facilitate the expansion of the British race, which, if it continues, as at present, to be over-congested in these islands and sparsely scattered in the Dominions, is likely both to deteriorate here and to fail to maintain itself overseas."

ASSISTED PASSAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE Empire Settlement Act, 1922, empowers His Majesty's Government, in association with the Government of any part of His Majesty's Dominions, to co-operate in carrying out agreed schemes for affording assistance to suitable persons in the United Kingdom who intend to settle in any part of His Majesty's Dominions.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia have jointly agreed upon a scheme for granting assistance towards the cost of passages and, where necessary, initial allowances to persons who desire to settle in Australia. This agreement came into operation on July 19th, 1922, and particulars of the scheme may be obtained on application at any Employment Exchange. An agreement (dated 28th August, 1922) has also been concluded between His Majesty's Government and the Government of New Zealand for the grant of assisted passages to suitable persons desiring to settle in that Dominion. Particulars regarding assisted passages to New Zealand may be obtained on application to the Office of the High Commissioner for New Zealand, 413, Strand, London, W.C. 2. Arrangements have also been made with the Government of the Province of Ontario, Canada (under an agreement dated 1st February, 1923), for the grant of assisted passages by way of loan, to enable a limited number of experienced farm labourers and domestic servants to proceed to that Province.

The total number of assisted passages granted from the inception of these schemes to the end of 1922 was 8,191, of which 7,058 were to Australia and 1,133 to New Zealand. The numbers of applications for assisted passages received during January and February, 1923, and the numbers of passages granted during those months, were as shown below:—

Destination.	Applications Received.		Assisted Passages Granted.	
	January.	February.	January.	February.
Australia	10,000*	10,000*	2,139	1,953
New Zealand	455	395	343	442
Ontario	(Not available.)	(Not available.)	—	400

It should be observed that the numbers of applications shown are exclusive of any dependants of the applicant for whom assisted passages are desired, but that the numbers of passages granted relate to the total numbers, inclusive of dependants.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FOR NEW WORKING-CLASS HOUSES.

AN announcement issued by the Ministry of Health on 15th March states that the Minister of Health (Mr. Neville Chamberlain) met that day representatives of the Associations of Municipal Corporations and of the Manchester Conference, introduced by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, and discussed with them the financial assistance to be given by the Government to the local authorities for the provision of new working-class houses.

After considerable discussion, the Minister agreed to offer a subsidy of £6 per house per annum for 20 years, to be available for a non-parlour house of five rooms. This figure was accepted by the representatives as one which would enable the building of houses to be pressed forward with the utmost vigour.

It is understood that the subsidy will be available for the encouragement by the local authorities of building by private enterprise, and those present unanimously agreed that measures to this end would have a prominent place in their programme.

* Approximate total.

* Cmd. 1804; price 6d. net.

† These figures do not include persons who received assisted passages under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922 (see Article in next column).

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

DURING the four weeks ended 24th February nine meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and one meeting of an Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee, 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.

At a meeting of the *Electrical Cable-making* Joint Industrial Council, held on 15th February, the workpeople's side requested that overtime rates in the industry should be brought into correspondence with those in the engineering industry. This question was discussed, and the matter was adjourned for a month for further consideration. In the issue of the Ministry of Labour Gazette for January and February 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, and the question was referred to the Industrial Court. This body has now issued its award, a summary of which will be found on page 114 of this issue. At a meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council, held on 16th February, the time allowed to District Councils in outstanding cases for the continuation of negotiations was extended until 13th March. It was reported at this meeting that agreements had been reached in the No. 9 (Home Counties) Area and the No. 13 (Scotland) Area, and these agreements were approved by the National Council. The East Midlands Provincial Joint Industrial Council for *Local Authorities Non-Trading Services* on the 24th January referred to its Executive Committee certain proposals put forward by the employers for revision of the existing sliding scale, and at a meeting held on the 21st February the recommendations of the Executive Committee were accepted by the Provincial Council. Future adjustments in wages will be made on a revised sliding scale operating quarterly.

ORGANISATION.

The three existing Provincial Councils for *Local Authorities Administrative, Technical and Clerical Services* have had under consideration the possibility of reviving the national organisation for these services, and have discussed the matter with an officer of the Ministry of Labour. The *Match Manufacturing* Joint Industrial Council on 15th February carried unanimously a resolution reducing the membership of the Council from 20 to 16 members, that is, eight on each side.

OTHER TOPICS.

The *Admiralty Departmental* Industrial Council, at a meeting held on the 16th February, discussed certain points arising out of the recruitment of labour for Admiralty Dockyards, and dealt at some length with the practice of giving preference to ex-Service men, and especially to ex-Naval men. On the 22nd February the *Clay* Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee received a report on the work of the Disputes Committee, which had been successful in settling a number of disputes in the industry. The Interim Committee also discussed the scheme presented by a representative of the Ministry of Labour for training disabled ex-Service men in the red-ware section of the pottery trade. The Committee felt that the heavy nature of most of the operations left little opportunity for placing disabled men, but agreed that one member of each side of the Committee should be appointed to serve on the National Trade Advisory Committee dealing with this question, but without power to commit the Interim Committee. The *Paper Making* Joint Industrial Council, on the 23rd February, remitted to a joint committee of employers and workpeople for consideration, and, if possible, for settlement, a dispute on the non-union issue. The *Printing* Joint Industrial Council held a special meeting on 2nd February for consideration of a dispute concerning the wages of certain employees engaged in the bookbinding trade in London. The Council appointed a Conciliation Committee, and subsequently this Committee and the parties to the dispute met the Chief Labour Adviser to the Ministry of Labour, when a suggestion that the matter should be referred to arbitration was generally approved. Later an *ad hoc* Board of Arbitration was set up, of which Sir David Harrel was appointed Chairman.* The *Tin Mining* Joint Industrial Council is understood to be taking joint action with the *China Clay* Joint Industrial Council with a view to securing a reduction of coal freights to Cornwall. On the 1st and 22nd February, the *War Department* Industrial Council considered a number of items, such as questions of payment to piece workers for attendance at Works Committee meetings. The submission of proposed promotions to Works Committees, the penalisation of workmen coming late, and the question as to what class of workpeople should be engaged in the examination of Lewis guns.

* The Board made an award on 6th March, determining the question under which Agreement wages should be paid.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 27th February, 1923, the number of men in training was 16,839, and the number awaiting training 11,725. Since 1st August, 1919, 68,173 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to the 7th March, 1923, 44,698 apprentices have been accepted for training with 17,846 employers, as compared with 44,696 apprentices with 17,844 employers on 7th February, 1923. The apprentices rejected up to the 7th March, 1923, numbered 2,178, this being the same as on the 7th February, 1923. Of those accepted 42,498 had terminated their training and 2,200 were still in training. The corresponding number on the 7th February, 1923, were 42,328 and 2,368.

The number of men who have received Institutional Training has increased during the four weeks from 2,301 to 2,306.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

On the 28th February, 1923, the number of employers on the King's National Roll was 30,791.

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.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

BEFORE building operations are begun in this country, the plans of the buildings* which are to be erected have to be submitted for approval to the competent Local Authority of the district; accordingly, periodical statistics of the estimated cost of buildings for which plans have been approved provide an indication of the prospects of employment for workpeople in the building trades and various subsidiary industries.

From early in 1910 to the year 1920 statistics were regularly collected by the Department and published in this GAZETTE, showing the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans had been approved in a considerable number of the principal towns. In view of the rapid changes in the costs of building and of the considerable number of plans approved upon which work was not proceeding, the publication of these statistics was discontinued after October, 1920; but as the influence of these two factors is now much less marked, it is proposed to resume their publication. Applications have accordingly been made to the Local Authorities in 167 of the principal towns in Great Britain, asking for particulars of the numbers and estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed in January and February, 1923, and 134 Authorities have supplied returns giving these particulars. The summarised figures are given in the following Table, together with the population in 1921, as shown by the Preliminary Reports on the Census for that year, for the 134 localities to which the returns relate:—

District, and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in January and February, 1923, in the 134 towns from which returns have been received.					
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other business premises.	Churches, Schools and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations.	TOTAL.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
ENGLAND AND WALES—						
Northern Counties (852,887)	111,600	28,700	12,200	29,100	39,400	221,000
Yorkshire .. (2,048,246)	352,500	96,200	89,500	91,500	189,900	819,600
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,057,585)	481,800	86,200	84,600	21,100	101,300	775,000
North and West-Midland Counties .. (2,433,429)	286,600	82,000	142,700	111,600	185,800	808,700
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,260)	297,200	32,100	29,300	11,700	35,100	405,400
Outer London †(1,756,336)	578,400	43,200	81,500	31,500	105,600	840,200
South-Eastern Counties (1,027,151)	476,100	9,400	36,300	30,000	118,700	670,500
South-Western Counties (432,465)	142,900	900	5,900	13,000	27,200	189,900
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (834,190)	89,500	5,100	29,200	7,100	27,800	158,700
SCOTLAND .. (2,105,143)	331,600	67,600	5,200	112,400	381,200	898,000
Total .. (14,188,692)	3,148,200	451,400	516,400	459,000	1,212,000	5,787,000

It will be seen that dwelling-houses account for over one-half of the estimated total cost of all the buildings for which plans were approved by the 134 Local Authorities who have supplied information to the Department.

* There are some exceptions, e.g., Government Buildings, Asylums.

† The figures are exclusive of the London County Council area, as to which particulars are not available.

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.

ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS IN COTTON WEAVING.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued a Report* containing the results of investigations into the atmospheric conditions in weaving sheds in the cotton industry.

The preface to the Report gives an account of the various inquiries that have previously been held into the effects of temperature and ventilation in cotton-weaving factories, especially in relation to the practice of artificial humidification, and of the measures that have been taken to remedy or reduce the discomfort caused by such humidification. The question whether humidification causes actual ill-health has never been settled, but progress has been made in the study of this question, and definite lines of inquiry are under consideration.

The present Report suggests that the discomfort caused by humidification might be relieved (i) by greater attention on the part of the operatives to suitable clothing; and (ii) by the introduction of some means for artificially increasing the movement of the air in the neighbourhood of the operatives, thereby increasing its cooling power. Suggestions are made as to the most suitable clothing to be worn by operatives, and as to means of increasing the air movement.

COST OF LIVING: IRISH FREE STATE.†

THE Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Irish Free State has prepared a further Report on the Cost of Living, in which it is stated that the following are the Cost of Living figures which have been compiled up to the present for the Irish Free State:—

Date.	Index Number.
Mid-July, 1914	100
Mid-March, 1922	191
Mid-June, 1922	185
Mid-October, 1922	189
Mid-January, 1923	190

The general basis on which the figures have been collected and compiled is the same as that which was explained in the Report on the Cost of Living for Mid-June last (see MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1922, page 364).

THE FAMILY WAGE SYSTEM ABROAD.

THE term "family wage system" as used in the present article has reference only to the system whereby differentiation is made between the wages payable to individuals according to their family responsibilities. For present purposes, therefore, it will not be necessary to discuss the system enforced by statute in Australia and New Zealand, which fixes the minimum or basic wage of an adult workman (whether married or single) at a figure calculated to enable him to support a family.‡

In European countries it needed the pressure of the social and economic problems created by the rise in the cost of living due to the War to develop a movement in favour of the family wage system. In no case, however, except Austria, has this system found acceptance to the extent of being embodied in a statute. The countries in which it has made most progress are France, Germany, Belgium, Holland and Austria.

France.—In France, where the family wage system has been most highly developed, employers have been actuated partly by the desire to encourage the rearing of large families so as to avert a threatened scarcity of native labour in the future. In private employment the system first began to assume importance in 1916, when a firm of iron founders in Grenoble decided to pay its workers an allowance of 7½ francs a month for one child, 18 francs for two, 31½ francs for three and 48 francs for four, with 12 francs for each child in excess of four. Immediately afterwards seven other firms in the district adopted this system, and in May, 1918, realising the necessity of placing the system on an obligatory basis and of distributing the cost fairly over the district and industry as a whole, the Iron Founders' Association of the Isère set up a special "compensation fund," to which each member contributed an amount calculated on his wages bill, and from which the whole of the family allowances were paid. This removed any incentive of employers to engage unmarried men or women in preference to married. The institution of this fund was important in that it has served as a model for most of the compensation funds set up since 1918.

The latest information on the growth of the movement is furnished by a speech made by the chairman of the Family Allowance Committee at the celebration, on 16th November, 1922, of the establishment of the hundredth "compensation fund."

* Industrial Fatigue Research Board. Report No. 21. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2s. net.

† "Report on the Cost of Living, January, 1923," Messrs. Eason and Son, Ltd., 40-41, Lower O'Connell-street, Dublin.

‡ According to the decision of Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court (delivered in 1907) the wage should be sufficient "to provide for the normal needs of the average worker regarded as a human being living in a civilized community," normal needs being held to include provision for a man, wife and three children.

A General Order of the New Zealand Court of Arbitration, dated 8th May, 1922, states that in making its awards it endeavours to provide for at least a "fair standard of living." It cites what it considers to be an adequate definition of this term: "The wages paid to a man of average industry and capacity should at least enable him to marry, to live in a decent house, and to provide the necessities of physical efficiency for a normal family, while allowing a reasonable margin for contingencies and recreation."

The speaker stated that there were at that time 107 such funds, covering nearly a million workers with 300,000 children under fourteen years of age, and an annual disbursement in family allowances of about 90,000,000 francs. If the public administrations and the private enterprises that pay family allowances but do not belong to a compensation fund are included, the total annual disbursement in family allowances for the whole of the country is stated to be some 300,000,000 francs in respect of 2½ million workers.

Various methods have been adopted for calculating the distribution of the cost, and for determining the nature, amount and conditions of the allowances. There appear to be three recognised bases of assessment of the contributions of individual firms to the compensation funds:—(1) The number of workers employed; (2) on the number of man-hours or man-days actually worked; (3) on the total wages bill.

Official and comprehensive details as to scales of allowances are not available for a later period than the year 1920, when the French Government investigated the subject. At the end of October, 1920, forty-three compensation funds were in existence, of which eighteen were confined to single industries, while twenty-five extended their operations to the whole of the industries in a particular district. The largest of these funds appears to have been the Paris (Commercial) Fund, to which were affiliated 1,000 employers having an aggregate annual wages bill of 1,200,000,000 francs, 200,000 work-people, and a total estimated annual disbursement in family allowances of 30,000,000 francs, or 2½ per cent. of the wages bill.

The rates of family allowance and the conditions under which the allowance was paid varied from district to district. In thirty-three funds the methods of computing the allowances may be divided into five groups:—

	No. of Funds.
(1) Increased allowance for second and subsequent children	17
(2) Same allowance for each child	5
(3) No allowance for first child or first two children, but high allowances for subsequent ones	5
(4) Same (rather low) allowance for first two children, increased allowance for subsequent ones	4
(5) Higher allowance for first or first two and lower for subsequent children	2
Total	33

The monthly allowance paid to a man with five children by these thirty-three funds ranged from 50 to 160 francs, but the methods appear on the whole to make relatively little difference in the amount of benefit for men with large families, it being found that for twenty-one funds the allowances for five children ranged from 100 to 140 francs a month. The maximum monthly sum paid to a man with five children in 1920 was thus equal to about one week's wages. The Textile Trade Compensation Fund for the Roubaix-Tourcoing district, however, has paid since November, 1921, 12 francs a working day for four children, or double the amount of any other Fund of which the rates of payment are known to the Department. In addition, maternity bonuses were generally paid. The age limit for children in respect of whom allowances are paid is generally thirteen or fourteen.

In addition to the compensation funds, there were in the year of the official inquiry eleven employers' associations (including seven in the metal trade), the constituent firms of which have agreed to pay family or dependants' allowances on the usual basis. In these cases no contribution was made to a general fund, each firm bearing the whole cost of its own allowances.

For the mining industry, a separate movement developed in the course of the War. On the 31st December, 1917, an agreement between the owners and the men provided for a payment of three francs a month per child to miners in the Pas-de-Calais. Other agreements followed, and impetus was given to the movement by the setting up of joint councils by the Ministries of Labour and Munitions, the object of these councils being to grade the wages of the miners in relation to the rise in the cost of living. Except in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais districts, where a daily allowance of one franc was granted for each child by a Government arbitration award in March, 1920, the allowances for miners were lower than those granted by the funds for other industries, and ranged between 50 and 60 francs a month.

In February, 1920, a private Bill was introduced to make it compulsory for employers to belong to a compensation fund. Compulsion, however, is strenuously opposed by the advocates of the system. In November, 1921, the Higher Council of Labour recommended that a clause requiring contractors for public works to belong to a compensation fund and to pay family allowances should be included in the forms of tender. This recommendation has been adopted in a modified form by the French Parliament. An Act dated 19th December, 1922, makes permissible the insertion in the forms of tender for public works of a clause requiring the contractors to pay family allowances to those employed on the work.

No development of the family wage system in agriculture has so far been recorded.

Germany.—In Germany the system of paying extra allowances in respect of family responsibilities is now very widespread. An analysis, from this point of view, of the terms of current collective agreements was recently undertaken by the German Ministry of Labour. It shows that while there are scarcely any trades in which the family wage principle is not

applied to some extent, there are a number of important industries in which it is universally recognised, amongst the latter being coal mining, mechanical engineering, textile, and paper and cardboard manufacture. It is to be met with very seldom in the building and woodworking trades (other than saw-mill in the clothing trades, in hotels and restaurants, and in ing), in the clothing trades, in hotels and restaurants, and in the industries working in flax and leather; while in a third the group of trades the field is divided about equally between the family wage system and that based wholly on the worker's value to his employer. This group comprises printing, the food, drink and tobacco trades, the pottery, glass, etc., trades, and commercial employment.

In most cases the principle is applied in the form not of a higher substantive or standard rate of wages, but of an allowance paid in addition to that rate. These allowances generally consist of the "household allowance" (also called "wife's allowance") and the "children's allowance." Many agreements, however, provide only for a "children's allowance."

In some agreements the "children's allowances" are graded according to the number and age of the children. In some the amount fixed decreases as the number of children increases; in others the amount increases with the number of children (e.g., an agreement for the Dresden electricity works dated 1st August, 1922, provides 48 marks a week for the first child and 34·7 marks for each succeeding child; while an agreement for the textile industry of the München-Gladbach district, dated 19th June, 1922, provides 6 marks a day for the first child, 7 marks for the next, up to 10 marks for the fifth and each succeeding one.

Allowances are paid only for dependent children, which, in the majority of cases, means children under 14. Other agreements state that allowances will be paid "until the completion of compulsory school attendance." Some agreements pay the allowances for children up to 16 and some even up to 19, if they are being trained for particular occupations requiring further education. In the agreement for Federal Government Undertakings and in a few other agreements allowances may be paid for children up to 21 years, and in two agreements for University-trained employees in the chemical industry up to 22 and to 24 years.

Allowances are paid to the father if the father is a wage-earner. Provisions are, however, to be found in some agreements to prevent the father spending the money on himself instead of on his family. One agreement prescribes that if this is likely to occur the employer, on the proposal of the Works Council, may take steps to pay the allowance direct to the mother or the children. Similar provisions are contained in the Berlin metal trade agreement and the agreement for the Rhenish-Westphalian Iron and Steel Trade, dated July, 1922.

The family wage system is applied in agriculture as well as in industrial and commercial undertakings. Agricultural workers for this purpose may be divided into two classes:

- (a) regular workers living on the estate; and
- (b) "free labourers."

The first class, which is most common on large estates in Northern Germany, receive a large part of their wages in kind. For married workers the payments in kind might be divided into—

- (1) fixed payments consisting of a house, plot of land, pasture for cattle, fuel, etc.; and
- (2) varying payments consisting of grain, potatoes, milk.

In fixing the payments in kind provision is made for a family of a certain size, sometimes of two, sometimes of three or four children, and the allowances of milk, grain and potatoes are increased for each child in excess of an agreed number. For the "free labourers" (day workers of a more or less permanent kind) the family wage principle is more directly operative, as they are paid largely in cash, though receiving some allowance in kind. Among such workers the higher remuneration to married men with families takes five forms:—

- (1) a higher cash wage where no payments in kind are made;
- (2) higher cash wage with same allowance in kind as unmarried men;
- (3) higher allowance in kind, but lower cash wage;
- (4) higher allowance in kind and the same cash wage; and
- (5) both higher allowances in kind and higher cash wages.

The agreement generally provides that these payments are conditional on the workers coming regularly to work. Sometimes the requisite annual number of working hours is fixed, e.g., at 2,800 hours.

The number of "compensation funds" is small in comparison with the number of trades or districts in which family wages are paid. This is partly due to the fact that in some trades the family allowances are small in proportion to the wages, and also that the allowances have sometimes remained stationary while wages have risen; in such cases the expense of administering a compensation fund would outweigh the advantages the employers would derive from it.* But the general reason for the absence of compensation funds is probably the great demand for labour in industry, which has prevented any discrimination against married men with large families.

Such funds as exist are mostly local or confined to a single employers' association. Only one fund covers the whole of Germany, that set up by the collective agreement for pharmacists, which is managed by a joint committee of employers and workers. The following other funds were established by the employers and

are managed entirely by them:—Metal trades manual workers (Berlin), non-manual workers (Anhalt), Rhenish-Westphalian cement works, and the textile trades of the Thuringian and Barmen-Elberfeld districts. The contributions paid by the employers are based either on the total number of workers employed or—as this method proved unfair to undertakings on short time—on the total wages bill.

Belgium.—In private enterprises, family allowance funds have existed in Belgium since 1915, especially in the mining industry. The rates paid in the latter industry vary in amount, the rate most frequently met being 25 centimes per working day per child under 14, raised in some cases to 50 centimes for the third or fourth and each succeeding child. At one mine in respect of each working day 40 centimes are paid for the wife, 40 centimes for the first child under 14, 60 centimes for the second, 80 centimes for the third, and 1 franc for the fourth and each succeeding child. Funds for the payment of family allowances have been in operation, since 1920, in the whole of the Verviers district (excluding the textile industry). The rate of allowance at present paid is 18 francs a month for each child under 14 to families with at least two children. A maternity allowance of 90 francs is also paid.

The more recent development of the family allowance system in Belgium is partly due to the desire of Belgian employers to counteract the attraction of Belgian labour into France by the higher wages obtainable in undertakings where family allowances are paid in that country.

On 1st September, 1922, the Quartermasters' Association of the Tournai district established a compensation fund, from which allowances are paid in respect of children under 14 years of age and infirm dependants. The rates are 50 centimes a working day for each of the first two children or dependants, 75 centimes for the third, and 1 franc for each child or dependant in excess of three. The National Fund for Family Allowances and Social Insurance in the Building and Public Works Industry pays quarterly allowances. The rates for the fourth quarter of 1922 were 30, 66, 108 and 156 francs for families with one, two, three or four children under 14 respectively, plus 48 francs for each additional child under 14. A compensation fund for the Liège district, which includes 85 engineering and iron and steel enterprises, with 40,000 workers, was established in December, 1922. Monthly rates of 10 francs for the first child under 14, 20 for the second, 30 for the third, and 40 for the fourth and following children are paid. A maternity allowance of 250 francs for the first and 150 francs for each subsequent child is also paid. The allowances are regarded by the employers as being quite distinct from wages, and are paid direct to the mother of the children (or to the person in charge of them).

It is also reported that the Industrial Committee of Louvain proposes to pay family allowances to the workers employed in the industrial establishments of Louvain and district; and that the Federation of Associations of Cigar Manufacturers (with headquarters at Turnhout) has decided, at the request of the Christian Tobacco Workers' Federation, to establish a compensation fund.

Holland.—Up to 1st January, 1920, there had been concluded 22 collective agreements affecting 756 establishments with 34,000 workers, which contained provisions as to family allowances. Grants were made in respect of children up to ages varying from 13 to 16, and the allowance ranged from 0·20 to 1·30 florins weekly for each child. In some cases grants were made for all children below the ages indicated; in other cases they began with the third or fourth child.

The collective agreement in the tobacco trade provides for an allowance of 1 florin a week for each child under 14 years of age, beginning with the fourth. The grants are made from a fund to which each employer contributes 1 per cent. of his wages bill. The total number of workers covered by the agreement was about 23,000, and allowances were paid on 1st January, 1921, to 988 of these. Similar agreements and funds exist in the baking industry in six large towns and in the boot and shoe industry throughout the country. An agreement between Roman Catholic employers and workers in the Limburg clay industry provides for the establishment of a fund for the payment of children's allowances, to be managed by a committee of five—two employers and two workers—with the "spiritual adviser" of the Workers' Association as chairman. The fund pays an allowance of 1 florin a week for each child under 14, beginning with the third. All employers pay into the fund a contribution representing a fixed percentage of their wage bill.

Austria.—A system of allowances for dependent children paid to the worker by the employer had been in operation in some important Austrian industries (notably metal working and engineering) for a considerable time before the Act of 21st December, 1921, on the Abolition of State Food Subsidies, made it universal. The Act provided that the allowances should be abolished by instalments, and that the employer should pay bonuses on wages and salaries in proportion to the price of bread for the worker, his wife and each dependent child under 14. The Act itself expired in June, 1922, but a special clause in it guaranteed that the children's allowance should be maintained until the passing of a Children's Insurance Act.* The allowance is 1,155 kronen a week for each child. In order to equalise the burdens for employers compensation funds were established, into which employers pay an equal sum for each of their workers, married and unmarried.

* This is confirmed by a statement in an article on wages by Herr Paul Schmerse in *Stahl und Eisen* (1st Feb., 1923) to the effect that while family ("social") wages are paid in most districts, these are so small as to be negligible from a social point of view.

* According to *Industrial and Labour Information* for 16th February, the Social Democratic Party has prepared a Bill for the institution of a system of children's insurance.

Other Countries.—In Czecho-Slovakia provisions for the payment of children's allowances are included in certain collective agreements, notably in coal mining.

In Spain a conference of the Employers' Association at Vigo in June, 1921, declared itself in favour of the "family-wage" principle, and decided to establish compensation funds under the sole direction of the employers, which should pay an allowance to the worker for each child under 13. No details are available as to the working of this scheme.

In Sweden the private railway companies in June, 1919, concluded an agreement with their staffs whereby married salaried employees were to have special cost-of-living allowances for their wives and every child under 15.

COST OF UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN SWITZERLAND.

THE following particulars are taken mainly from Messages of the Federal Council to the Federal Assembly, published in recent issues of the *Feuille Fédérale* :—

The number of totally unemployed persons of whom there was official cognisance in Switzerland rose from 3,004 (of whom 404 were in receipt of unemployment donation) at the end of June, 1920, to 99,541 (of whom 56,057 were in receipt of unemployment donation) at the end of February, 1922. Thereafter, the number declined, until it reached 59,456 at the end of June, 1922. The average number of totally unemployed over the whole of this period was about 66,000, and the average number in receipt of unemployment donation about 34,000. At the end of June, 1921, 8,863 persons were employed on relief works. This number rose to 24,560 at the end of April, 1922, and the average number of persons so employed over the period June, 1921, to June, 1922, was about 19,000.

The total population of Switzerland, according to the census of December, 1920, was 3,880,000, of whom, on the basis of the 1910 census, about 30 per cent., or, approximately, 1,164,000, including both sexes, would be normally engaged in gainful occupations as manual or subordinate non-manual workers—that is to say, at the end of February, 1922, when unemployment in Switzerland was at its worst, some 8½ per cent. of the total number of workers as defined above were known to be entirely without employment, except in so far as they were occupied on relief works.

Early in 1917 the Federal Government (by Decree of 24th March of that year) had set aside a proportion of the war profits tax for the creation of a fund to relieve unemployment. By the end of June, 1922, nearly 108 million francs had been paid into the Fund, and nearly 94 millions expended. In addition, sums amounting to nearly 136 million francs were voted by the Federal Assembly for the same purpose.

The relief of unemployment has taken two forms :—(a) The provision of unemployment donation, to the cost of which the Federal Government, the cantons and communes, and the employers, all contributed; and (b) the "creation of opportunities for work," to the cost of which the Federal Government and the cantons and communes contributed, but not the employers. The total amount expended under both heads by the end of June, 1922, is shown in the following Table :—

Object of Expenditure.	Federal Government.	Cantons and Communes.	Employers.	Total.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
(a) Donation	59,966,873	50,000,000	17,000,000	126,966,873
(b) Creation of opportunities for work	164,428,196	110,000,000	—	274,428,196
Total	224,395,069	160,000,000	17,000,000	401,395,069

The cost of administration, etc., absorbed a further 2,528,960 francs.

The "opportunities for work" provided out of Federal contributions included :—

	Amount expended. Francs.
Mortgage loans	11,100,000
Subsidies towards house building and unemployment relief works	80,000,000
Federal Government works	66,000,000
Financial aid to the watch-making industry* ..	5,000,000
Financial aid to the intellectual and artistic professions	1,219,945
Subsidies to encourage industrial production ..	308,251
Other purposes	800,000
Total	164,428,196

As regards the efficacy of these measures the following two illustrations may serve as examples.

(1) *Subsidies towards housebuilding, etc.*—The 80 millions appropriated for this purpose were made up of three sums of 15, 15 and 20 millions, voted in 1921, and of a sum of 30 millions taken from the Unemployment Fund. Of this total 71,166,700 francs had, on 1st August, 1922, been allotted as subsidies towards house building and public works schemes, undertaken by private enterprise, co-operative societies, etc., the cantons and communes and the Federal Government itself. In all a total expenditure of 612,057,400 francs on these schemes was involved, of which, it is estimated, some 65 per cent., or about 400 million francs, represented wages, either directly or indirectly. The Federal Government subsidy amounted to 11·6 per cent. of the total cost; and these figures show that each £11 12s. granted by the Federal Government gave occasion for an expenditure of £100 on building and public works schemes, of which about £65 went in wages. It is stated that work was thus provided, not only for a large number of unemployed, but also for numerous skilled workers in the building and allied industries;* and that by these means the private enterprises engaged on the work were enabled to tide over a difficult period.

(2) *Financial aid to the watch-making industry.*—A subsidy of 5 million francs to the watch-making industry was granted in December, 1921, and a further subsidy of 6 million francs in October, 1922. At the time the first grant was proposed (October, 1921) there were 20,525 wholly and 13,802 partially unemployed in the industry—i.e., some 70 to 75 per cent. of the total number of persons normally engaged in the industry. By the end of 1922 the number of unemployed watchmakers had fallen to 9,015 (6,537 wholly and 2,478 partially); and according to a report forwarded by H.M. Commercial Secretary at Berne this reduction is to be attributed to the Federal subsidy.

In addition to the sums mentioned above, a further credit of 50 million francs for the relief of unemployment was voted in October last (see MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, November, 1922, page 441), and, in the same month, a scheme for the relief of the embroidery industry was adopted, involving a total allocation of 12 million francs (see MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1922, page 478).

JOINT COMMITTEES FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF LABOUR DISPUTES IN SPAIN.

A ROYAL DECREE,† dated 5th October, 1922, provides for the creation of joint committees for the settlement of disputes between capital and labour in agricultural, commercial, industrial, mining and transport undertakings. The committees will be set up either on the initiative of the Minister of Labour (or of the provincial authorities or the local offices attached to the Ministry) or at the instance of the interested parties. They will be of two kinds—permanent and *ad hoc*. They may be set up for an industry, for a group of enterprises, for a particular trade or occupation, or for a single enterprise employing over 500 workers. They may be either local or regional.

Each joint committee, whether permanent or *ad hoc*, will be composed of an equal number of employers and of workers, who must be actively engaged in the industry or occupation they represent. The chairman is to be non-partisan and chosen by agreement between the two sides, or, in default of agreement, nominated by the Minister of Labour. He has a casting vote only by the unanimous agreement of both sides; otherwise his function is purely conciliatory. The committee may either appoint technical experts, or request the Minister of Labour to nominate them, to assist it in its deliberations. The Minister may, of his own accord, appoint technical experts to attend the meetings of the committee. In either case such technical experts do not vote.

Permanent joint committees will be established by Royal Order in the more highly industrialised districts. The members of the committees will be elected by secret ballot among the members of the employers' associations and the workers' trade unions concerned, or, where these do not exist, at separate meetings of employers and employed held for the purpose. Permanent joint committees are to be renewed every two years.

Temporary (or *ad hoc*) joint committees will be set up as occasion arises to deal with particular disputes in the less industrialised districts. The members of the committee will be appointed by the local authorities after consultation with the representatives of employers and employed.

The committees may decide, by a unanimity of votes, that the matter in dispute between the two sides shall be submitted for arbitration to the local authority, to an official organisation or to the Minister of Labour. The decisions of the committees are operative, subject to the rules governing the procedure of each committee.

* Over 40 per cent. (28·8 million francs) of the Federal subsidies to relief works went towards the construction of dwelling houses, involving an expenditure of 327·5 million francs, or 53 per cent. of the total expenditure (612 millions) to which relief works gave rise.

† Published in the *Boletín del Instituto de Reformas Sociales*, November-December, 1922.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ITALY : GOVERNMENT INQUIRY.*

THE Minister of Labour and Social Welfare has recently published the results of a special enquiry instituted in order to ascertain the effects of the industrial crisis on unemployment in small, medium and large-scale industries respectively.

A comparison was made between the situation in July, 1920 (a period of great industrial activity), November, 1921 (a period of serious economic depression), and that in July, 1922, when the crisis had decreased somewhat and certain branches of industry were even working satisfactorily.

Industries were classified as small, medium and large-scale, on the basis of the organisation either of labour or of technical methods in each of the undertakings in question.

The enquiry covered 10,677 undertakings, employing 975,119 workers. Generally speaking, the results of the enquiry show that large-scale industry was much more seriously affected by the crisis than small and medium-scale industry. In large-scale industry the number of workers employed had decreased by 14 per cent. in November, 1921, while in medium industries the decrease was only 6 per cent., and in small industries only 5 per cent.

In July, 1922, the situation in large-scale industry showed a substantial improvement, as the number of workers employed was only 10 per cent. less than in July, 1920. In small and medium industries, on the other hand, the situation had remained stationary, and in the former there was even a change for the worse, as the number of workers employed was 9 per cent. less than in 1920, instead of only 5 per cent., as in November, 1921.

In almost all districts small industries suffered least from the crisis. Venetia, Abruzzi, Campagna and Sardinia were exceptions.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN HOLLAND IN 1922.

PROVISIONAL figures relating to strikes and lock-outs in 1922 have been published in the *Maandschrift* (the journal of the Central Statistical Office) for 31st January, 1923.

The number of strikes, viz., 297, was somewhat greater in 1922 than in 1921, when the total was 278. One hundred and seven of the disputes of 1922 occurred in the building trades. Full particulars are available in regard to 275 of the disputes only. In these 30,332 workers took part, as compared with 43,604 participants in the 278 strikes of 1921 and 47,027 in the 446 strikes of 1920.

The year 1922 is remarkable for the large proportion of strikes against reductions in wages (25.59 per cent. of the total). The following Table classifies the strikes in the three years under review, according to the principal causes :—

Demands.	Percentage of Total No. of Strikes.		
	1922.	1921.	1920.
Wages, for increase	20.00	22.55	33.33
Wages, against decrease	25.59	14.51	3.16
Wages, other	13.12	18.04	18.05
Hours of labour	10.11	8.43	14.79
Recognition of Trade Unions	0.86	0.78	1.08
Other causes	25.37	33.14	27.12
Causes not ascertained	4.95	2.55	2.47
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

The number of lock-outs in 1922 was 17, affecting 13,681 workers, the corresponding figures for 1921 being 9 and 4,125, and for 1920, 25 and 19,437 respectively. A large proportion of the 1922 lock-outs (39 per cent.) were in order to enforce reductions in wages.

No information is yet available as to how the strikes terminated.

WAGE REDUCTION IN DENMARK.

UNDER an agreement entered into on 4th April, 1922, between the Danish Employers' Association and the Danish Federation of Trade Unions, wages were to rise or fall in accordance with the movements of the cost of living index number, which is calculated twice yearly by the Danish Statistical Department. The latest computation (for January, 1923) shows a decrease of 6 per cent. as compared with January, 1922. The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Copenhagen reported on 20th February that a corresponding wage reduction would take place.

* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 9th February, 1923. (Communications from the Italian Ministry of Labour.)

CHANGES IN WAGES IN DENMARK : THIRD QUARTER OF 1922.

THE issue for 2nd March, 1923, of the journal (*Statistiske Efterretninger*) of the Danish Statistical Department contains statistics of wages for the third quarter of 1922, compiled from returns furnished by the Danish Employers' Association. The data relate to a number of trades which, it is stated, are sufficient to be regarded as representative of manufactures and handicrafts generally. The figures bring the information concerning the general movement of wages down to the third quarter of 1922. (For information relating to the second quarter of 1922 see p. 479 of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for December last.)

The number of people covered by the latest returns is approximately 100,000, and the industries most strongly represented are metal and engineering (21,600), building (14,100), pottery, glass and stone (11,200), food preparation (10,600), textile (7,800) and printing and paper (6,300).

The general result of the computation shows that, if the country be taken as a whole, the average hourly earnings in the industries covered remained at the same level as in the second quarter of 1922 (viz., 1.42 kroner), and that they were 183 per cent. above the level of 1914. For skilled workmen the average hourly earnings increased from 1.72 kroner in the second quarter to 1.73 kroner in the third quarter, and those for unskilled remained stationary (1.40 kroner). The average hourly earnings of female workers during the same period fell from 0.92 kroner to 0.90 kroner.

THE GARMENT INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES : WAGES AND HOURS, 1911 TO 1922.

THE Bureau of Labour Statistics, Washington, in the December issue of the *Monthly Labour Review*, presents comparative statistics of wages and hours of labour for the years 1911 to 1922 in the principal occupations engaged in the manufacture of men's ready-made suits and overcoats in the United States.

The figures given below are taken from this source. They show the conditions prevailing in those occupations which in December, 1922, gave employment to over 500 workers. Each figure is an average computed from the hours actually worked and earnings actually received during a selected representative pay-roll period in each of the years specified. "Full-time hours per week" is taken to mean the number of hours accepted by employers and workpeople as constituting a regular full working week, beyond which any work done is considered as overtime.

The 1922 data shown in the source relate to 25,013 wage-earners employed in 112 establishments in New York City, Chicago, Baltimore, Rochester, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Boston. According to the 1919 United States Census, this total represents about 14 per cent. of all wage-earners in this industry in the United States as a whole and 22 per cent. of those in the seven cities taken together. The figures for years prior to 1922 are taken from the results of earlier investigations by the Bureau of Labour Statistics, the results of which have been published in the Bulletins of the Bureau. Wages data were not collected for the years 1915 to 1918, 1920 and 1921.

Occupation.	Average Full-time Hours per week, 1922.	Average Earnings per hour, 1922.	Average Full-time Earnings per week, 1922.	Index Numbers of Average Full- time Earnings per week. (1913 = 100.)					
				1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1919.	1922.
<i>Males.</i>									
Basters, coat ..	44.3	.848	37.58	87	85	100	95	173	268
Cutters, cloth ..	44.0	1.033	45.50	95	96	100	103	140	215
Machinists,* coat	44.1	.962	42.46	92	92	100	104	176	267
„ trousers	44.1	.902	39.63	84	86	100	94	174	242
Pressers, coat ..	44.1	.869	38.41	87	89	100	99	169	253
„ trousers	44.0	.879	38.66	86	93	100	93	161	240
<i>Females.</i>									
Basters, coat ..	43.8	.574	25.35	99	94	100	99	175	261
Sewers, coat ..	44.2	.526	23.35	91	90	100	98	162	250
„ vest ..	44.0	.519	22.91	93	92	100	99	154	234
„ trousers .	44.0	.422	18.61	90	96	100	91	158	219
Machinists,* coat	43.9	.593	25.98	102	96	100	106	167	251
„ trousers	43.9	.574	25.14	95	96	100	102	158	242
„ vest ..	43.8	.596	26.27	95	95	100	104	141	222
<i>Both Sexes.</i>									
All Occupations †	44.1	.728	31.91	90	92	100	99	155	234

From the last line of the table it will be seen that if all occupations and both sexes be taken together, the average earnings per week in 1922 were 134 per cent. higher than in 1913, and 160 per cent. higher than in 1911.

* The term "Operators" is used in the original.
† Including occupations not shewn in the Table.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	76%
Food only	...	...	...	71%

FOOD.

DURING February there was a further slight decline in the average cost of the pre-war working-class dietary. This was mainly due to further large reductions in the prices of eggs and bacon. As compared with 1st February, the average price of eggs at 1st March showed a decline of about $\frac{3}{4}$ d. each, and that of bacon a decline of nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. Fish and potatoes were also considerably cheaper at the later date, and flour, bread, milk and imported meat slightly so. On the other hand, the average prices of sugar and butter increased by about $\frac{3}{4}$ d. a pound, and those of British mutton, tea and cheese by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a pound during the month. As a net result of all the changes recorded the average increase in the retail prices of food over the level of July, 1914, fell to about 71 per cent. at 1st March, as compared with about 73 per cent. at 1st February.

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 February, 1923, and at 1st March, 1923:—

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

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Mar., 1923, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st Feb., 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	81	80
Thin Flank	59	62	60	60
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	45	41	43	44
Thin Flank	19	28	23	25
Mutton, British				
Legs	102	99	100	98
Breast	87	81	84	81
Mutton, Frozen				
Legs	90	79	84	84
Breast	36	36	36	37
Bacon (streaky)* ..	68	59	64	74
Fish	117	103	110	118
Flour	49	51	50	52
Bread	57	53	55	56
Tea	64	67	65	63
Sugar (granulated) ..	231	211	221	185
Milk	99	101	100	101
Butter—				
Fresh	79	86	83	79
Salt	73	76	75	69
Cheese†	90	91	91	87
Margarine	— 4	— 8	— 6	— 6
Eggs (fresh)	80	73	77	140
Potatoes	7	— 10	— 2	2
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	73	70	71	73

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

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest ((Restrictions) Act, 1920, indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st March, 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 in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st March the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, was about the same as a month earlier, and about 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

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

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 March, 1923, is approximately 76 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 77 per cent. at 1st February and 86 per cent. at 1st March, 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. The figure for 1st March is lower than that for any date since May, 1917:—

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

Month (beginning of).	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76
April ..	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 March, 1923, is about 5 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during February. It was good at coal mines, in steel sheet manufacture and in the worsted trade; fairly good in the tinplate trade; and fair in the iron and steel, woollen, hosiery, jute, carpet, ready-made clothing and paper trades. In most of the other important industries it continued slack, but some improvement was reported in the iron mining, pig iron, engineering, shipbuilding, building, furniture, and pottery industries.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.*

Among 1,188,041 members of Trades Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 13.1 at the end of February, as compared with 13.7 at the end of January and 16.3 at the end of February, 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 26th February, was 11.8, as compared with 12.7 at 22nd January and 15.5 at the end of February, 1922. For males alone the percentage was 13.4 at 26th February, as compared with 14.4 at 22nd January; for females the corresponding figures were 7.7 and 8.2. The number of workpeople on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges at 26th February was approximately 1,376,000, of whom men numbered 1,073,000 and women 218,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 29th January was 1,460,000, of whom 1,138,000 were men and 226,000 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 Acts, do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and the Live Register figures, therefore, do not indicate the total number unemployed.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal mining industry continued good on the whole. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th February was 1,139,649, an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 6.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th February was 5.50, as compared with 5.56 in January and 5.35 in February, 1922.

At iron mines employment showed some improvement; it was fair in Cumberland and Lancashire, 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 24th February showed an increase of 9.2 per cent. as compared with January, and of over 90 per cent. as compared with February, 1922. The average number of days worked per week by these mines in February, 1923, was 5.34 as compared with 5.50 in January, and with 5.17 in February of last year. At shale mines employment continued fair on the whole. It was also fair at limestone quarries, where much time was lost owing to bad weather, but bad at chalk quarries. At whinstone quarries in East Scotland employment continued moderate; at stone quarries producing road material in the Cleve Hill district it was bad. Employment was fair on the whole at granite and slate quarries and fairly good at china clay quarries.

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 February was 189, as compared with 183 at the end of January and 101 at the end of February, 1922. In the iron and steel trades employment was fair on the whole, and showed a marked improvement as compared with the previous month. It continued moderate generally, however, in the Cleveland and Lancashire districts, and was quiet at Leeds. 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 February 509 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 500 at the end of January and 436 at the end of February, 1922.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades continued bad, but showed a further improvement in most of the principal centres; 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, although further improvements were reported in the brass and wire trades, and in a few other sections. Employment was fair in the brass and sheet metal trades, the needle and fishing tackle and the holloware trades; it was fairly good in the wire trades; but bad in the chain and anchor, lock and latch, and, gold, silver and jewellery trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment was good in the section spinning Egyptian cotton, but continued very bad in the section spinning American cotton. In the weaving branch it showed a slight improvement, but many looms continued to be idle. In the woollen trade employment continued fair on the whole; in the spinning branch it was good with firms spinning for the hosiery trade. In the worsted trade employment con-

tinued good with wool sorters and wool combers, and in the worsted spinning branch, where, however, a slight decline was reported. In the weaving branch there was a decline, although many firms were working full time, and, in some instances, overtime. In the hosiery trade employment continued fair generally, but showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month; in the silk trade employment continued bad in the Macclesfield and Leek District; in the Eastern Counties it was reported as fairly good. Employment in the lace trade continued bad generally, except in the curtain section, where it was reported as moderate. In the carpet trade there was an improvement, and employment generally was reported as good; in the jute trade a further improvement was also reported, and employment was fair; in the linen trade it continued slack. In the textile, bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment continued slack on the whole; it was reported as fair, however, with hosiery trimmers and finishers at Leicester and Basford, good with silk dyers at Leek and Macclesfield, and very good with hosiery dyers at Basford.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade continued slack on the whole in the bespoke branch and fair in the ready-made branch; short-time working was reported from several districts, particularly in the bespoke branch. In the felt hat trade employment continued very quiet. In the boot and shoe trades employment showed a slight further improvement on the whole, but continued slack; in some districts there was much short time. In the leather trades employment was fair with tanners and curriers, and in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section; with saddle and harness makers it was bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades employment, though hindered by weather conditions, showed a slight improvement, but continued slack in the majority of centres. With painters employment showed a marked improvement, but was still very bad; it was also very bad with builders' labourers and with workpeople on construction of works. In the brick trade employment continued moderate, and was adversely affected by bad weather.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed an improvement, and was fair generally. With coachbuilders it improved to fair on the whole, and in some districts was reported as good; with basket makers employment was fairly good; with brush makers it was fair; with packing-case makers it was slack; and with mill-sawyers it was bad on the whole.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade remained fair on the whole, though there was a decline in the hand-made branch. In the printing trade employment was generally slack, but showed a slight improvement on the whole, as compared with the previous month, except with lithographic printers, who reported a decline at most centres and much short time; it was reported as very good with electrotypers and stereotypers in London. In the bookbinding trade employment continued bad on the whole, though a slight improvement on the previous month was reported in London and at Leeds.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade employment continued bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month; in the glass trades it also continued bad.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture the supply of labour was ample for all requirements, and, owing to bad weather, there was an increase in the number of men unemployed in some districts. Employment in the fishing industry continued fair on the whole with fishermen, and was generally moderate with fish dock labourers and fish curers.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers continued quiet. With seamen it was slack on the whole, the number of engagements being much below that for the previous month. At most of the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain berths.

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

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	14.0	12.2
1923.		
January	13.7	12.7
February	13.1	11.8

Further details and statistics as to the state of employment in a number of the principal industries are given on pages 93-97.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 1,188,041 in the branches covered by the returns received reported 155,165 (or 13.1 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1923, compared with 13.7 per cent. at the end of January, 1923, and 16.3 per cent. at the end of February, 1922.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of February, 1923.	Unemployed at end of February, 1923.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	125,226	11,102	8.9	- 0.1	+ 2.2
Coal Mining	134,343	8,133	6.1	..	- 7.6
Engineering and Ship-building	416,627	100,425	24.1	- 0.9	- 4.2
Miscellaneous Metal ..	55,854	5,329	9.5	- 1.4	- 5.2
Textiles :-					
Cotton	60,771	4,625	7.6†	..	- 3.3
Woollen and Worsted	12,213	136	1.1	..	- 1.6
Other	57,095	2,507	4.4	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	96,055	5,452	5.7	- 0.6	- 2.3
Furnishing	23,902	1,774	7.4	- 1.6	- 0.2
Other Woodworking ..	44,044	2,824	6.4	- 0.6	- 3.9
Clothing :-					
Boot and Shoe ..	75,204	3,858	5.1	- 0.7	- 0.2
Other Clothing ..	42,847	1,316	3.1	- 0.7	- 1.3
Leather	6,741	587	8.7	- 0.3	- 1.3
Glass	1,241	38	3.1	+ 0.4	- 2.1
Pottery	31,000	5,500	17.7	- 1.7	- 4.8
Tobacco‡	4,878	1,559	32.0	+ 0.7	+ 2.9
Total	1,188,041	155,165	13.1	- 0.	- 3.2

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11.8 per cent. (males, 13.4 per cent., females 7.7 per cent.) at 26th February, as compared with 12.7 (males, 14.4 per cent., females 8.2 per cent.) at 22nd January. A Table showing the estimated number insured and the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 99.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in February, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 93 to 97.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Feb., 1923.	February, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days	Days.
Coal Mining	1,139,649	5.50	- 0.06	+ 0.15
Iron "	9,085	5.34	- 0.16	+ 0.17
Shale "	4,180	5.96	+ 0.06	+ 0.02
Pig Iron .. ..	..	Furnaces in Blast 189	Number. + 6	Number. + 88
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	..	Mills Working 509	+ 9	+ 73
Iron and Steel	79,257	Shifts Worked (one week). 427,651	Per cent. + 7.7	Per cent. + 33.0

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a
		Month ago.		Month ago.‡
		Per cent.		Per cent.
Textiles :-			£	
Cotton	87,564	- 1.2	153,570	+ 2.4
Woollen	17,082	+ 0.9	35,491	+ 0.5
Worsted	31,781	- 0.4	62,392	- 0.4
Boot and Shoe ..	50,996	+ 0.3	116,881	+ 1.8
Pottery	11,476	+ 0.3	21,506	+ 2.4
Brick	5,714	+ 1.9	12,284	- 3.4
Total	204,613	- 0.3	402,124	+ 1.4

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thick Curve ————— = 1923.

Thin Curve ————— = 1922.

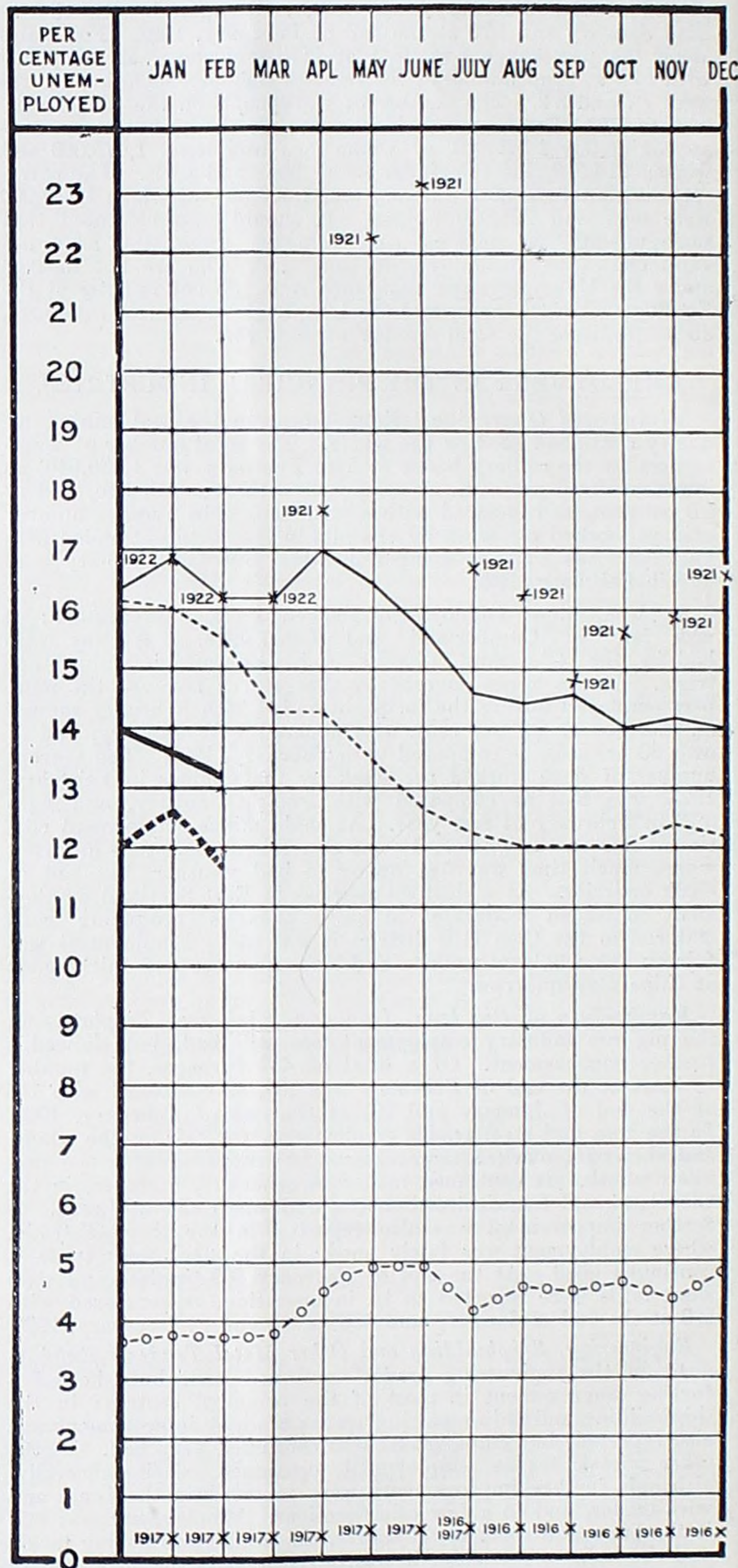
Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1913-22.

× 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 99.

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 February continued good on the whole. The average weekly number of days (5.50) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th February, showed a decrease of 0.06 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th January, but an increase of 0.15 of a day on a year ago. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th February showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. on the number at 27th January, and of 6.0 per cent. on a year ago.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4.1 per cent. at 26th February, as compared with 4.5 per cent. at 22nd January.

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.*			
	24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Month ago.		Month ago.		
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ..	61,129	+ 0.5	+ 6.5	5.47	- 0.02	- 0.01
Durham ..	166,304	+ 0.8	+ 14.0	5.00	- 0.38	- 0.27
Cumberland and Westmorland ..	11,523	- 0.7	+ 4.1	5.71	- 0.02	—
South Yorkshire ..	106,974	+ 0.5	+ 4.5	5.54	- 0.09	+ 0.02
West Yorkshire ..	66,604	- 0.1	+ 1.6	5.69	—	+ 0.42
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	105,102	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	5.21	+ 0.01	+ 0.55
Derbyshire ..	63,926	+ 0.9	+ 3.1	5.77	+ 0.03	+ 0.43
Notts. and Leicester ..	63,486	+ 0.3	+ 2.2	5.58	+ 0.05	+ 0.37
Warwick ..	21,690	+ 0.4	- 1.0	5.94	- 0.02	+ 0.08
North Staffordshire ..	34,477	—	+ 1.6	5.67	+ 0.01	+ 0.67
South Staffs.,† Worc. and Salop ..	34,935	+ 1.2	+ 4.5	5.94	—	+ 0.23
Glouc. and Somerset ..	14,348	+ 0.7	+ 4.5	5.56	—	+ 0.22
Kent ..	1,804	+ 2.7	+ 30.3	5.69	+ 0.32	+ 0.71
North Wales ..	17,452	+ 1.1	+ 10.7	5.85	+ 0.16	+ 0.54
South Wales and Mon.	234,602	+ 0.2	+ 8.5	5.62	- 0.08	- 0.10
England and Wales	1,004,356	+ 0.5	+ 6.0	5.49	- 0.09	+ 0.12
SCOTLAND.						
Mid & East Lothians ..	15,308	+ 0.2	+ 4.8	5.35	- 0.02	—
Fife and Clackmannan ..	29,665	—	+ 8.2	5.54	+ 0.15	+ 0.32
Rest of Scotland ..	90,320	+ 0.7	+ 6.3	5.53	+ 0.04	+ 0.41
Scotland ..	135,293	+ 0.5	+ 6.6	5.51	+ 0.05	+ 0.34
Great Britain ..	1,139,649	+ 0.5	+ 6.0	5.50	- 0.06	+ 0.15

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th February, was 0.27 of a day, of which 0.17 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. In the fortnight ended 27th January the average time lost was 0.21 of a day, of which 0.17 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. For the fortnight ended 28th February, 1922, the average time lost was 0.41 of a day, nearly all due to the same causes. The non-winding time in each of these periods was about one-quarter of a day.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 24th February, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 22,246,800 tons, compared with 21,219,200 tons in four weeks ended 27th January, and with 19,763,000 tons in the four weeks ended 25th February, 1922.

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 February to 7,792,841 tons, or 97,302 tons less than in January.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron.—In the Cleveland district employment was again bad: as compared with the previous month there was an improvement in the numbers employed, but the average time worked showed

* 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.

a slight decline. In Cumberland and Lancashire employment was fair; in other districts it continued moderate, with a tendency towards improvement.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines.		
	Fort-night ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Year ago.
		Month ago.		Month ago.	
Cleveland ..	3,523	+ 14.5	4.65	- 0.19	- 0.13
Cumberland and Lancashire ..	4,253	+ 7.3	6.00	+ 0.07	+ 0.04
Other Districts ..	1,299	+ 2.5	5.07	- 0.66	+ 0.68
All Districts ..	9,085	+ 9.2	5.34	- 0.16	+ 0.17

Shale.—Employment was fair, on the whole, with little change as compared with January. Returns received from firms employing 4,180 workpeople in the fortnight ended 24th February, 1923, showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the total number employed as compared with the previous month, and an increase of 22.9 per cent. as compared with February of last year. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.96 in February, 1923, 5.90 in January, 1923, and 5.94 in February, 1922.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during February, though still bad, showed a further improvement. As compared with a year ago there was a marked improvement.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of February, as shown by the returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 189, compared with 183 at the end of January, and with 101 at the end of February, 1922.

Returns received by the Federation from 86 firms employing 22,504 workpeople at the end of February showed an increase of 3.5 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of January, when the number was 21,739. At the end of February, 1922, 16,162 workpeople were employed by these firms.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of February, 1923, January, 1923, and February, 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 Feb., on a	
		Feb., 1923.	Jan., 1923.	Feb., 1922.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Durham and Cleveland ..	115	40	39	27	+ 1	+ 13
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	46	16	17	9	- 1	+ 7
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield.	38	16	15	8	+ 1	+ 8
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	35	34	19	+ 1	+ 16
Lincolnshire ..	22	16	15	6	+ 1	+ 10
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	68	18	19	12	- 1	+ 6
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	8	8	8	—	—
Total (England and Wales) }	385	149	147	89	+ 2	+ 60
SCOTLAND ..	102	40	36	12	+ 4	+ 28
TOTAL ..	487	189	183	101	+ 6	+ 88

The production of pig iron in February amounted to 543,400 tons, as compared with 567,900 tons in January and with 300,100 tons in February, 1922.

* See footnote in previous column.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good in the tinplate trade, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month; it was much better than a year ago. At the end of February 392 mills, about four-fifths of the total number in existence, were reported to be in operation, as compared with 385 at the end of January and with 329 a year ago. Employment in the steel sheet trade continued good, and showed an improvement as compared with both the previous month and a year ago. At the end of February the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns was 117, as compared with 115 at the end of January, and with 107 in February, 1922.

The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 2,575 at 26th February, as compared with 2,623 at 22nd January.

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 February, 1923 :—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ..	74	—	+ 7	392	+ 7	+ 63
Steel Sheet ..	13	—	—	117	+ 2	+ 10
TOTAL ..	87	—	+ 7	509	+ 9	+ 73

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in February, 1923, amounted to 96,233 tons, or 1,820 tons more than in January, 1923, and 23,636 tons more than in February, 1922.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was fair on the whole, and showed a considerable improvement as compared with the previous month. It continued moderate generally, however, in the Cleveland and Lancashire districts, and was very quiet at Leeds. As compared with a year ago employment showed a general improvement.

According to returns received from firms employing 79,257 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 24th February (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 7.7 per cent. on the previous month and of 33.0 per cent. on a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open in the week was 5.4, as compared with 5.3 in January and 4.9 in February, 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 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Week ended 24th Feb., 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 ..	8,539	+ 8.7	+ 27.9	49,617	+ 9.8	+ 36.4
Crucible Furnaces ..	285	+ 4.0	+ 17.8	1,278	+ 14.5	+ 44.2
Bessemer Converters ..	717	+ 5.2	+ 12.2	3,663	+ 3.8	+ 25.8
Puddling Forges ..	4,673	+ 4.4	+ 37.4	22,456	+ 9.1	+ 75.9
Rolling Mills ..	29,235	+ 4.8	+ 27.8	149,805	+ 6.7	+ 46.0
Forging and Pressing ..	2,690	+ 1.2	+ 2.9	13,654	+ 4.9	+ 15.7
Founding ..	7,805	+ 9.2	+ 4.6	43,031	+ 11.8	+ 10.9
Other Departments ..	6,356	+ 7.8	+ 9.6	35,254	+ 8.8	+ 13.6
Mechanics, Labourers..	18,957	+ 6.9	+ 21.1	108,893	+ 6.8	+ 29.2
Total ..	79,257	+ 6.2	+ 21.3	427,651	+ 7.7	+ 33.0
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland and Durham ..	6,578	+ 9.6	+ 20.9	35,474	+ 9.9	+ 37.6
Cleveland ..	8,483	+ 8.1	+ 25.8	48,665	+ 12.0	+ 30.9
Sheffield and Rotherham ..	18,787	+ 3.9	+ 18.5	99,038	+ 5.1	+ 34.2
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,426	+ 1.1	+ 2.6	13,332	+ 2.1	+ 11.2
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ..	8,691	+ 9.0	+ 30.2	45,402	+ 9.7	+ 42.0
Staffordshire ..	8,415	+ 0.4	+ 28.4	45,152	+ 1.8	+ 35.0
Other Midland Counties	3,982	+ 1.2	+ 26.3	20,883	+ 1.5	+ 39.6
Wales and Monmouth..	7,769	+ 0.8	+ 7.3	43,305	+ 1.1	+ 9.9
Total, England and Wales ..	65,131	+ 4.4	+ 20.3	351,251	+ 5.7	+ 30.8
Scotland ..	14,126	+ 15.5	+ 26.1	76,400	+ 18.1	+ 44.2
Total ..	79,257	+ 6.2	+ 21.3	427,651	+ 7.7	+ 33.0

* 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 707,100 tons, compared with 634,100 tons in January and 418,800 tons in February, 1922.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry in February continued bad, but showed a further improvement in most of the principal centres.

On the North-East Coast employment was still bad, but there was a further slow improvement. In Lancashire and Cheshire there was an improvement in general engineering, but in the textile machinery section a decline was reported at some centres. Employment was a little better in Yorkshire, at Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester, and in the Eastern Counties. The improvement in the motor industry at Birmingham was maintained; with pattern-makers employment was reported as fairly good. At Coventry a further improvement was reported, affecting the motor, cycle, aeroplane, and machine tool sections; a considerable amount of overtime was worked. In London there was a further improvement; but in the Southern Counties little change was reported. In South Wales conditions were again rather better.

In the Glasgow district there was a slight improvement, and on the East Coast of Scotland conditions were rather better on the whole. In the Belfast district also there was a decrease in the percentage of unemployment.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople registered as unemployed in the engineering and iron-founding industry according to the Unemployment Insurance records, at 26th February, as compared with 22nd January :—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th February, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 26th February, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 22nd Jan., 1923.
London ..	21,698	15.0	- 1.6
South-Eastern ..	11,792	15.5	- 1.3
South-Western ..	8,312	13.7	- 1.0
Midlands ..	36,329	16.6	- 2.6
North-Eastern ..	52,135	22.6	- 1.2
North-Western ..	42,241	19.2	- 1.3
Scotland ..	39,465	22.3	- 2.4
Wales ..	1,671	12.5	- 1.6
Northern Ireland ..	2,947	24.7	- 2.4
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND }	216,590	18.8	- 1.7
Males ..	211,193	19.6	- 1.8
Females ..	5,397	7.2	- 0.5

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades during February continued very bad, though it again showed a slight improvement.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople whose Unemployment Insurance Books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th February :—

Division.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th February, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 26th February, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentages as compared with 22nd Jan., 1923.
London ..	4,511	25.8	- 0.3
South-Eastern ..	1,908	17.2	- 1.3
South-Western ..	8,053	18.1	- 0.9
Midlands ..	199	21.2	- 0.2
North-Eastern ..	36,189	38.9	- 3.0
North-Western ..	15,166	33.0	- 2.5
Scotland ..	35,830	37.7	- 3.7
Wales ..	4,890	28.1	- 0.9
Northern Ireland ..	8,242	24.8	- 1.8
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND }	114,988	32.1	- 2.2
Males ..	114,521	32.4	- 2.3
Females ..	467	8.3	—

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad, though a further slight improvement was reported. On the East and South Coasts it was still bad, but a slight improvement was shown on repair work. At the Bristol Channel Ports, however, repair work declined towards the end of the month. On the Mersey employment was bad, but an improvement was reported by shipwrights on new work. At Barrow it was very bad.

In Scotland employment continued very bad generally, though it improved with shipwrights and joiners on the Clyde; at Dundee employment was rather worse than in the previous month. At Belfast employment remained bad.

COTTON TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in the section of the trade spinning Egyptian cotton, but it was still very bad in the section spinning American cotton. Organised short time, in this section, as mentioned last month, had ceased at the end of January; but a very large amount of short time continued to be worked during February, as recommended by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, and at the end of the month the General Committee of the Federation passed a resolution recommending the members of the Federation in the American section to curtail production to the extent of 50 per cent. during March. Employment on the manufacturing side of the industry also continued to be very poor, and many looms were again idle; but there was an improvement as compared with February of last year.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the numbers of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10·6 on the 26th February, as compared with 11·7 on the 22nd January.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stockport, and Rochdale districts employment was bad both in the spinning and in the weaving departments, except in the velvet section, where there was a further improvement and employment was fairly good. Spinners were still working short time.

At Bolton, employment remained about the same as in January, both in the spinning and in the weaving departments; with spinners at Leigh it was fairly good; at Bury it was still bad, but slightly better than in January.

In the Blackburn, Burnley, Preston and Darwen districts employment in the weaving department was still very slack, but showed, on the whole, a slight improvement: it was appreciably better than in February of last year. Some firms closed entirely for a week at a time, and short time was worked in various forms; while many weavers were minding less than the normal number of looms: at Blackburn it was estimated that 20,000 looms were stopped each week during the month. Employment was also slack in the spinning department in these districts; except at Accrington, where it was fair, and better than in January.

The following Table summarises the returns 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 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	12,193	— 2·0	+ 3·1	19,887	+ 1·1	— 12·6
Spinning	22,639	— 1·6	+ 1·7	38,658	+ 0·7	— 11·5
Weaving	36,263	— 1·4	+ 10·2	59,665	+ 4·7	+ 0·5
Other	8,987	— 1·3	+ 3·0	21,295	+ 1·6	— 6·5
Not specified	7,482	+ 2·9	+ 17·8	14,065	+ 0·4	+ 3·4
Total	87,564	— 1·2	+ 6·7	153,570	+ 2·4	— 5·3
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	3,865	+ 6·2	+ 8·2	6,451	+ 4·6	— 5·9
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	8,379	+ 4·9	+ 15·7	13,740	+ 19·5	+ 1·5
Oldham	10,794	+ 0·1	+ 4·3	19,959	+ 4·5	— 17·6
Bolton and Leigh ..	14,879	+ 0·3	+ 3·4	25,839	+ 0·2	— 10·2
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	9,019	— 2·9	+ 0·6	14,176	— 2·5	— 7·6
Manchester	5,181	— 11·2	— 11·6	8,886	— 7·8	— 19·1
Preston and Chorley ..	6,829	+ 3·2	+ 11·7	12,024	+ 7·5	+ 18·8
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	8,216	— 2·6	+ 9·4	15,078	+ 2·8	— 1·8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	9,861	— 5·8	+ 14·5	20,143	+ 2·0	+ 0·1
Other Lancashire Towns	3,589	— 2·2	+ 24·3	5,701	— 1·3	+ 14·9
Yorkshire Towns	4,413	— 1·0	+ 6·8	7,562	— 2·6	— 4·2
Other Districts	2,539	— 2·0	+ 4·6	4,011	— 2·8	— 0·3
Total	87,564	— 1·2	+ 6·7	153,570	+ 2·4	— 5·3

In the week ended the 24th February, about 20 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, to the extent of nearly 14 hours a week on the average. In the week ended 27th January about 26 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 imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 119,888,800 lbs. in February, 1923, compared with 119,909,300 lbs. in the previous month, and with 91,454,200 lbs. in February, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 10,881,600 lbs. in February, 1923, compared with 12,814,700 lbs. in January, 1923, and 14,913,200 lbs. in February, 1922.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 342,558,500 square yards, as compared with 399,988,200 square yards in the previous month, and with 251,954,800 square yards in February, 1922.

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

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades in February showed little change on the whole as compared with the previous month, but there was much variation as between one branch of trade and another, and even as between one firm and another. Employment in the wool sorting, wool combing, and worsted spinning branches continued to be better than in other sections, in which, however, employment was considerably better on the whole than in February of last year.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3·8 per cent. on the 26th February, as compared with 4·4 per cent. on 22nd January.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

In the woollen-spinning branch employment was good with firms spinning for the hosiery trade, but not with those spinning for the woollen weaving trade. There was a decline in employment in the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts. In the heavy woollen district (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) it showed a slight improvement, and was considerably better than a year ago. There was a considerable improvement in the low woollen trade of Leeds and Morley. In the blanket and rug trade employment continued fairly good; in the rag and shoddy trade there was a slight improvement. In the tweed trade there was little change; some firms were working overtime during part of the month, but only for a short period. In the flannel trade employment in the Stockport and Rochdale districts was good, full time being generally worked.

In Scotland employment remained fairly good, though employers continued to find difficulty in running all the looms full time.

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

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	418	+ 2·5	+ 14·5	1,013	+ 5·0	+ 12·6
Spinning	4,175	+ 1·3	+ 16·2	8,523	+ 1·0	+ 16·7
Weaving	6,844	+ 1·1	+ 10·8	12,734	+ 0·3	+ 10·9
Other Departments ..	5,068	— 0·0	+ 7·4	11,675	— 0·4	+ 10·1
Not Specified	577	+ 1·1	+ 11·2	1,546	+ 3·3	+ 15·3
TOTAL	17,082	+ 0·9	+ 11·1	35,491	+ 0·5	+ 12·2
Districts.						
Huddersfield District ..	1,330	+ 0·2	+ 10·3	3,461	+ 0·4	+ 10·2
Leeds District	1,794	+ 3·7	+ 19·9	3,789	+ 1·9	+ 14·5
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,986	+ 1·7	+ 6·4	4,401	+ 4·0	+ 18·2
Other Parts of West Riding	1,985	— 0·3	+ 7·0	4,577	+ 4·0	+ 13·9
Total, West Riding	7,095	+ 1·4	+ 10·4	16,228	+ 2·7	+ 14·4
Scotland	4,866	+ 0·4	+ 14·8	9,728	+ 1·5	+ 13·6
Other Districts	5,121	+ 0·6	+ 8·7	9,535	— 4·0	+ 7·4
TOTAL	17,082	+ 0·9	+ 11·1	35,491	+ 0·5	+ 12·2

In the week ended 24th February about 21 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received from employers were working short time, to the extent of nearly 8 hours a week on the average.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment during February continued good in the wool sorting and combing and worsted spinning branches, though not quite so good as in January. In the weaving trade there was, on the whole, a decline, although many firms were working full time, and, in some instances, overtime. In the stuff trade employment at Bradford, Keighley and Silsden was worse than in January, though somewhat better than a year ago. In the Bradford coating trade the decline was not so marked.

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 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 24th Feb., 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	4,483	—	+ 8·5	12,355	— 0·2	+ 1·7
Spinning	16,474	— 0·5	+ 7·7	26,269	— 0·8	— 2·4
Weaving	5,607	+ 0·4	+ 10·5	11,823	+ 0·8	+ 11·8
Other Departments ..	2,911	— 1·4	+ 9·8	7,351	— 1·1	+ 0·5
Not specified	2,306	— 0·9	+ 5·4	4,594	— 0·3	+ 2·9
TOTAL	31,781	— 0·4	+ 8·3	62,392	— 0·4	+ 1·6

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

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
<i>Districts.</i>		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bradford District..	15,871	- 0.8	+ 9.9	32,995	- 0.7	+ 2.1
Keighley District..	5,477	+ 0.2	+ 2.0	10,471	+ 0.0	- 2.4
Halifax District ..	2,814	- 0.5	+ 2.1	5,031	+ 0.5	- 2.7
Huddersfield District ..	3,454	+ 0.5	+ 26.0	7,065	+ 1.1	+ 21.2
Other Parts of West Riding ..	3,046	- 0.3	+ 2.0	5,150	- 1.4	- 8.7
Total, West Riding ..	30,662	- 0.4	+ 8.3	60,712	- 0.3	+ 1.7
Other Districts ..	1,119	+ 0.1	+ 8.0	1,680	- 2.4	- 3.6
TOTAL ..	31,781	- 0.4	+ 8.3	62,392	- 0.4	+ 1.6

In the week ended 24th February about 3 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, to the extent of nearly 9 hours a week on the average. In the previous month approximately the same proportion were working a similar amount of short time.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 45,629,700 lbs. in February, 1923, compared with 54,705,800 lbs. in January, 1923, and 70,792,100 lbs. in February, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,098,400 lbs., compared with 3,878,500 lbs. in January, 1923, and 3,147,700 lbs. in February, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 17,559,700 square yards, compared with 22,063,500 in January, 1923, and 11,783,300 square yards in February, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 112,597 pairs, 160,307 pairs and 61,923 pairs in February, 1923, January, 1923, and February, 1922, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued slack, with much short time. There was little general change as compared with January, slight improvements in some districts being nearly balanced by a decline in others.

There was a further improvement at Leicester, where employment was fair, and at Stafford, where it was good, following upon improvements in January; in both these towns employment was decidedly better than in February of last year. There was also a slight improvement at Norwich. On the other hand, there was a further decline in the Bristol and Kingswood district, in the Leeds district, and in Scotland; and there was still much short time in these districts, and also at Northampton and Kettering, and in the country districts of Leicester and Northampton. Employment in the Rossendale Valley was fair.

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 8.2 on the 26th February, 1923, as compared with 8.8 on the 22nd January.

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 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
<i>England and Wales:—</i>		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	2,041	+ 2.3	+ 2.9	4,806	+ 2.1	- 5.0
Leicester	9,349	+ 2.4	+ 6.4	25,237	+ 7.1	+ 10.8
Leicester Country District	2,555	+ 0.5	- 2.4	5,647	+ 2.8	- 6.4
Northampton	6,654	- 0.7	- 3.9	15,526	+ 2.0	- 2.4
Northampton Country District	7,174	- 0.8	+ 4.3	15,804	- 1.1	- 2.9
Kettering	3,193	+ 0.3	+ 2.7	8,005	+ 1.3	+ 0.0
Stafford and District ..	2,524	+ 0.6	+ 7.2	6,035	+ 2.2	+ 15.1
Norwich and District ..	4,244	+ 2.1	+ 7.1	8,298	+ 3.6	- 6.1
Bristol, Kingswood and District	2,111	- 4.4	+ 8.3	4,301	- 2.5	+ 13.6
Leeds and District ..	1,952	+ 1.2	+ 4.6	3,994	- 4.3	- 2.3
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ..	4,259	- 0.3	+ 22.4	9,617	+ 0.2	+ 22.6
Birmingham and District	1,021	+ 0.1	+ 4.4	1,744	- 13.3	- 10.6
Other parts of England and Wales	1,492	+ 0.3	+ 7.9	2,919	+ 2.6	+ 17.5
England and Wales ..	48,569	+ 0.4	+ 5.0	111,933	+ 1.9	+ 3.4
Scotland	2,427	- 1.5	- 5.7	4,948	- 2.2	- 5.6
Great Britain	50,996	+ 0.3	+ 4.4	116,881	+ 1.8	+ 2.9

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

Returns received from firms employing 32,600 workpeople showed about 27 per cent. on short time at the end of the month, to the extent of about 12½ hours a week on the average. At the end of the previous month about 34 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns then received were on short time to the extent of about 10½ hours a week on the average.

The exports of boots and shoes in February, 1923, amounted to 70,849 dozen pairs, or 2,362 dozen pairs less than in January, 1923, but 25,030 dozen pairs more than in February, 1922.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, taken as a whole, showed a slight improvement during February; it continued slack, however, at the majority of centres. Unsettled weather conditions prevailed throughout the month, and short time was worked in a number of districts. A decrease in the percentage unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books remaining lodged at Employment Exchanges, was evident in all the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below; the percentage unemployed for the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 18.8 at 26th February, as compared with 20.7 five weeks earlier.

Employment showed a marked improvement with painters and a slight improvement with all the other occupations mentioned in the Table except plumbers. On the whole, however, it was still very bad with painters, builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works, and bad or slack with other classes.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 26th February, and the increase or decrease in the percentage as compared with 22nd January:—

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 26th Feb., 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 26th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 22nd Jan., 1923.
<i>Building Trade.</i>			
Carpenters	14,455	10.7	- 0.9
Bricklayers	7,450	12.1	- 0.7
Masons	2,269	9.5	- 0.7
Slaters	818	14.6	- 1.2
Plasterers	2,699	15.6	- 1.1
Painters	27,961	24.3	- 6.3
Plumbers	4,855	13.0	+ 0.6
Labourers of above ..	62,566	22.9	- 1.5
All other occupations ..	18,730	18.8	- 1.1
Total	141,803	18.4	- 1.9
<i>Construction of Works.</i>			
Navvies	8,687	24.6	- 2.0
All other occupations ..	14,986	19.4	- 2.1
Total	23,673	21.1	- 2.0
Grand Total	165,476	18.8	- 1.9
<i>Divisions.</i>			
London	37,872	20.4	- 1.5
South-Eastern	16,312	12.9	- 2.3
South Western	15,570	14.4	- 2.4
Midlands	20,688	21.2	- 1.1
North-Eastern	23,220	21.0	- 1.8
North-Western	24,474	21.2	- 1.5
Scotland	16,193	18.7	- 2.6
Wales	7,034	18.6	- 2.3
Northern Ireland	4,113	31.2	- 2.9
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	165,476	18.8	- 1.9
Males	165,146	18.9	- 1.9
Females	330	5.0	+ 0.5

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during February continued moderate on the whole, and was adversely affected by bad weather. It was again bad in the Birmingham and Nottingham districts. Comparison with a year ago showed a general decline in employment.

The percentage of people unemployed in the brick, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th February, was 14.1 per cent., as compared with 15.1 per cent. at 22nd January.

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 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,649	Per cent. - 1.0	Per cent. - 8.8	£ 3,591	Per cent. - 3.8	Per cent. - 21.4
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,425	+ 3.5	- 0.9	7,233	- 4.0	- 14.1
South and South-West Counties and Wales	550	+ 0.9	- 13.0	1,243	+ 1.6	- 27.5
Other Districts	90	-	- 13.5	217	- 2.7	- 24.1
TOTAL	5,714	+ 1.9	- 4.8	12,284	- 3.4	- 18.0

Returns from firms employing 4,885 workpeople show that 17 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 9 hours on the average, during the week ended 24th February.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades during February remained bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.8 at 26th February, 1923, as compared with 15.5 at 22nd January, 1923.

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 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
China Manufacture ..	1,424	Per cent. - 0.3	Per cent. - 10.1	£ 2,611	Per cent. + 0.6	Per cent. - 19.3
Earthenware Manufacture	8,409	+ 0.3	+ 5.0	15,829	+ 3.8	- 0.4
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,643	+ 0.5	+ 4.3	3,066	- 3.1	+ 10.7
TOTAL	11,476	+ 0.3	+ 2.8	21,506	+ 2.4	- 1.8
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	8,811	+ 0.5	+ 2.4	16,021	+ 2.4	- 1.1
Other Districts	2,665	- 0.4	+ 4.1	5,485	+ 2.4	- 3.6
TOTAL	11,476	+ 0.3	+ 2.8	21,506	+ 2.4	- 1.8

Returns from employers relating to short-time working showed that of 9,974 workpeople covered 41 per cent. were working, on an average, about 18½ hours less than full time in the week ended 24th February.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during February continued quiet. 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 26th February, 1923, was 19.9, as compared with 19.1 at 22nd January.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	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—					
3rd Feb., 1923 ..	5,100	2,535	7,635	7,789	15,424
10th " ..	4,934	2,606	7,540	8,014	15,554
17th " ..	4,675	2,488	7,163	8,029	15,192
24th " ..	4,694	2,649	7,343	7,861	15,204
Average for 4 weeks ended 24th Feb., 1923	4,851	2,569	7,420	7,923	15,343
Average for Jan., 1923	5,224	2,772	7,996	8,219	16,215
Average for Feb., 1923	5,574	2,758	8,332	8,648	16,980

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

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in February was 827, as compared with 978 in the previous month, and with 1,175 in February, 1922.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teemers on the Tyne and Wear continued good; with other classes of work on the Tyne it varied, but was generally somewhat better than in January. At Blyth it remained slack. At Middlesbrough there was a marked improvement with dock labourers. At Hull employment was fair, and at other East Coast ports there was little change compared with the previous month.

Southern and Western Ports.—At Southampton employment was slack. At the South Wales ports there was, on the whole, little variation from the level of the previous month. The average weekly number of dock labourers employed at Liverpool during the four weeks ended 26th February was 15,321, compared with 14,958 in the five weeks ended 29th January, and 13,628 in the corresponding period of last year.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow and Leith employment was moderate and fair respectively. At Dundee it was fair, but not so good as in the previous month. It declined at Belfast, and was reported as moderate.

SEAMEN.

DURING February employment with seamen was slack on the whole, the number of engagements being much below that for the previous month. At most of the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain berths.

The percentage of seamen unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 22.2 at 26th February, as compared with 22.3 at 22nd January.

Employment on the Thames was fair during the greater part of February, but declined at the end. The demand for men on the Tyne declined, and was reported as quiet at the end of the month. It was quiet on the Wear and on the Tees. At Hull employment declined, except for a revival during the week ended 24th February. Employment was quiet throughout the month at Southampton, poor at Bristol, and moderate at Avonmouth. The demand at Cardiff was fair. Employment at Swansea fluctuated during February, being described as moderate at the close of the month. The demand continued good at Newport. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand showed a substantial decline in the first half of February, but improved afterwards, being reported as fair at the end of the month.

The demand was quiet on the Clyde and slack at Leith, and improved in both districts towards the end of the month. Employment at Belfast was dull.

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 February :—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	Feb., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Two months ended.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb., 1923.	Feb., 1922.
ENGLAND & WALES :					
<i>East Coast—</i>					
Tyne Ports.. — ..	1,530	— 45	+ 459	3,105	3,094
Sunderland	184	— 114	— 71	482	437
Middlesbrough	385	— 156	+ 110	926	603
Hull	1,236	— 489	+ 394	2,961	1,938
Grimsby	—	— 21	— 4	21	25
<i>Bristol Channel—</i>					
Bristol†	779	— 153	— 59	1 711	1 735
Newport, Mon.	954	— 413	— 73	2 321	1 759
Cardiff‡	3,151	+ 24	+ 497	6 278	6 209
Swansea	402	— 612	— 277	1,416	1,193
<i>Other Ports—</i>					
Liverpool	8,744	— 4,390	+ 537	21,878	18,068
London	6,644	— 1,632	— 223	14,920	14,587
Southampton	4,298	— 4,336	— 2,086	12,932	11,457
SCOTLAND :					
Leith	198	— 377	+ 10	773	494
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	253	— 175	+ 90	681	348
Glasgow	1,742	+ 230	+ 22	3,254	3,178
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast	106	— 118	— 189	330	633
TOTAL	30,606	— 12,777	— 863	73,989	65,758

* 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 26th February, 1923, was 1,376,409, of whom 1,072,677 were men, 46,516 boys, 218,431 women, and 38,785 girls. Compared with 29th January, there was a decrease of 84,009, which was distributed as follows: Men, 65,170; women, 7,834; juveniles, 11,005.

During the four weeks ended 26th February the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 72,842, of which 45,899 were for men, 15,892 for women, and 11,051 for juveniles. Compared with the four weeks ended 29th January, there was an increase of 8,368 in the total number of vacancies filled.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 26th February, 1923:—

Week ended	Applications by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople (Live Register.)	From Employers.
29th January, 1923 ..	20,214	15,927	1,460,418	15,690
5th February, 1923 ..	19,070	17,247	1,433,803	14,973
12th " " ..	21,079	17,611	1,411,653	16,361
19th " " ..	21,929	19,178	1,389,440	16,183
26th " " ..	21,572	18,806	1,376,409	16,166
Total (4 weeks) ..	83,650	72,842	—	—

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraphs is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 5th February are dealt with below:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of applications (553,005) from workpeople during the four weeks ended 5th February showed a daily average of 23,042—a decrease of 3,731, or 14.0 per cent., compared with the daily average of the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 14,803, women for 5,508, and juveniles for 2,731—decreases of 15.5 per cent. and 17.9 respectively, in the case of men and women, and an increase of 7.5 per cent. in the case of juveniles.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 5th February there were 75,518 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,146, as compared with 2,773 during the preceding period. Of this daily average 1,718 were for men, 934 for women, and 494 for juveniles. Compared with the previous month the number of vacancies notified for men, women and juveniles increased by 9.8 per cent., 13.1 per cent., and 29.0 per cent., respectively.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 63,031—a daily average of 2,626, as compared with 2,355 during the previous statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,538, women for 649, and juveniles for 439. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 1,449; women, 568; and juveniles, 338.

Juveniles.—During the period, 31,500 applications were received from boys and 34,036 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 5,307, and 4,852 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 6,542 vacancies were notified, and 5,684 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 21.7 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

Statistics relating to *Building Trades* (men) and to *Domestic Service* occupations (women) for the four weeks ended 5th February have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below:—

In the building trades 6,770 vacancies were notified for men and 5,955 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were: Carpenters, 1,570 vacancies notified and 1,390 filled; bricklayers, 1,023 vacancies notified and 864 filled; painters, 1,393 vacancies notified, and 1,120 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,218 vacancies and 1,209 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 140,602† at 5th February, compared with 151,764† at 8th January.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 5th February was 13,505. Of this number 5,935 were for resident domestic servants, 2,846 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,409 for charwomen, and 576 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 739.

Of the 8,754 vacancies filled, 2,497 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,144 as non-resident, 3,103 as charwomen, and 461 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 5th February for work in domestic services was 34,302, compared with 32,205 on 8th January.

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 four weeks ended 5th February was 1,890.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas and for the principal towns therein the number of persons remaining on the "live registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th February, 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 26th February, 1923.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 29th Jan., 1923.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London	168,998	37,588	16,829	223,415	− 10,502
South Eastern Division ..	67,489	9,547	6,775	83,811	− 6,793
Brighton	3,229	739	651	4,619	− 326
Chatham	3,070	432	628	4,130	− 468
Ipswich	3,647	380	409	4,436	− 137
Norwich	4,038	333	177	4,548	− 627
Rest of South Eastern	53,505	7,663	4,910	66,078	− 5,235
South Western Division ..	73,919	11,068	7,118	92,105	− 4,556
Bristol	13,044	3,426	1,708	18,178	− 476
Plymouth	5,941	1,006	610	7,557	− 245
Portsmouth	6,257	636	815	7,708	+ 344
Reading	1,939	218	371	2,528	− 267
Southampton	7,345	607	555	8,507	+ 457
Swindon	1,297	199	275	1,771	− 118
Rest of South Western	38,096	4,976	2,784	45,856	− 4,251
Midlands Division ..	137,186	33,813	10,584	181,583	− 18,416
Birmingham	36,023	10,309	1,866	48,198	− 5,405
Coventry	3,755	583	101	4,439	− 1,097
Cradley Heath	3,867	948	201	5,016	− 1,713
Derby	3,378	376	304	4,058	− 397
Leicester	2,454	278	27	2,759	− 266
Northampton	1,857	480	131	2,468	− 404
Nottingham	7,244	1,360	450	9,054	− 782
Smethwick	4,604	1,387	583	6,574	− 291
Stoke-on-Trent	7,066	4,505	699	12,270	− 1,634
Walsall	4,741	854	1,343	6,938	− 303
West Bromwich	2,822	587	226	3,635	− 312
Wolverhampton	6,957	1,998	449	9,404	− 614
Rest of Midlands	52,418	10,148	4,204	66,770	− 5,197
North-Eastern Division ..	203,392	18,244	11,712	233,348	− 15,155
Barnsley	2,665	189	156	3,010	+ 39
Bradford	4,888	581	95	5,564	− 13
Darlington	2,202	209	139	2,640	− 130
Dewsbury	1,301	336	55	1,692	− 81
Doncaster	409	166	115	690	− 145
Gateshead	6,400	632	600	7,632	− 360
Grimsby	2,640	206	210	3,056	− 73
Halifax	1,679	203	11	1,893	− 57
Hartlepool	7,005	322	333	7,760	− 436
Huddersfield	2,533	229	102	2,864	− 484
Hull	10,117	777	1,131	12,025	− 723
Leeds	15,765	1,823	651	18,239	− 1,309
Lincoln	3,733	490	126	4,349	− 151
Middlesbrough	8,342	328	276	8,946	− 1,249
Newcastle-on-Tyne	18,208	1,418	1,123	20,749	− 799
Rotherham	1,619	175	293	2,087	− 362
Sheffield	26,040	2,649	1,399	30,088	− 1,612
South Shields	5,644	388	281	6,313	− 451
Stockton-on-Tees	7,055	197	317	7,569	− 1,106
Sunderland	15,317	918	863	17,098	− 1,348
York	1,891	279	693	2,863	− 118
Rest of North-Eastern	57,739	5,729	2,743	66,211	− 4,187
North Western Division	191,027	62,418	17,837	271,282	− 9,837
Accrington	1,944	929	133	3,006	− 166
Ashton-under-Lyne	3,620	1,306	282	5,298	− 401
Barrow	8,244	519	675	9,438	− 570
Birkenhead	6,933	606	961	8,500	− 861
Blackburn	4,443	2,150	353	6,946	− 655
Blackpool	1,153	826	124	2,103	− 18
Bolton	5,246	1,049	209	6,504	− 258
Burnley	4,288	3,948	627	8,863	− 1,226
Bury	1,912	1,479	163	3,554	+ 463
Chorley	1,115	351	73	1,539	− 102
Liverpool	41,460	7,534	4,016	53,010	− 1,281
Manchester	27,209	5,724	2,177	35,110	− 2,323
Nelson	1,186	751	68	2,005	+ 464
Oldham	5,994	4,246	389	10,629	+ 1,239
Preston	4,978	3,359	897	9,234	+ 2,865
Rochdale	3,310	1,433	171	4,914	− 450
St. Helens	3,076	384	355	3,815	− 231
Salford	9,092	3,038	1,389	13,519	− 1,583
Stockport	3,489	2,045	279	5,813	− 661
Warrington	2,306	250	114	2,670	− 594
Wigan	2,596	3,682	740	7,018	+ 427
Rest of North Western	47,433	16,719	3,642	67,794	− 3,915
Scotland Division ..	155,912	26,587	10,464	192,963	− 14,121
Aberdeen	6,484	788	402	7,704	− 290
Clydebank	4,426	252	285	4,963	− 98
Dundee	7,317	2,702	371	10,390	− 243
Edinburgh	11,060	1,861	769	13,690	− 574
Glasgow	67,400	11,127	4,834	83,361	− 4,318
Greenock	8,415	731	344	9,490	− 658
Motherwell	2,098	313	148	2,559	− 1,459
Paisley	6,436	684	366	7,486	− 804
Rest of Scotland	42,306	8,079	2,915	53,300	− 5,677
Wales Division ..	43,745	3,064	2,760	49,569	− 2,557
Cardiff	6,581	582	687	7,850	+ 791
Llanelli	727	149	68	944	− 232
Newport	2,605	193	188	2,986	− 257
Swansea	3,126	238	292	3,656	+ 1
Rest of Wales	30,706	1,902	1,525	34,133	− 2,860
Northern Ireland	80,979	16,164	1,222	98,365	− 2,078
Belfast	17,970	10,411	780	29,161	− 1,680
Londonderry	2,423	591	48	3,062	− 145
Lurgan	931	1,136	59	2,126	− 43
Lisburn	764	386	22	1,172	− 185
Newry	763	228	12	1,003	− 18
Rest of Northern Ireland	8,128	3,402	301	11,831	− 2
Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland ..	1,072,677	218,431	85,301	1,376,409	− 84,009

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 26th February, 1923, there were on the Live Registers 1,042,000 men, 202,000 women and 84,000 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.

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 26th Feb., 1923.			Percentage Unemployed.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 22nd Jan., 1923.		
	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	141,503	300	141,803	18.5	5.2	18.4	- 1.9	+ 0.6	- 1.9
Construction of Works other than Building	111,590	830	112,420	23,643	30	23,673	21.2	3.6	21.1	- 2.0	- 0.1	- 2.0
Shipbuilding	353,020	5,620	358,640	114,521	467	114,988	32.4	8.3	32.1	- 2.3	-	- 2.2
Engineering and Ironfounding	1,077,840	74,890	1,152,730	211,193	5,397	216,590	19.6	7.2	18.8	- 1.8	- 0.5	- 1.7
Construction and Repair of Vehicles	186,380	30,410	216,790	22,389	2,549	24,938	12.0	8.4	11.5	- 1.7	- 1.4	- 1.7
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork	182,410	39,270	221,680	21,871	2,918	24,789	12.0	7.4	11.2	- 0.4	- 0.9	- 0.5
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.	175,500	65,410	240,910	21,060	4,825	25,885	12.0	7.4	10.7	- 0.9	- 0.1	- 0.8
Metal Trades :-												
Iron, steel, Tinplate, and Galvanized Sheet Manufacture	293,880	14,270	308,150	51,731	1,107	52,838	17.6	7.8	17.1	- 3.3	-	- 3.1
Brass, Copper, Zinc, etc., Manufacture	51,770	13,230	65,000	9,097	1,476	10,573	17.6	11.2	16.3	- 0.5	- 1.4	- 0.7
Electrical and Surgical Instruments, etc.	66,580	38,260	104,840	8,064	2,694	10,758	12.1	7.0	10.3	- 1.1	- 0.2	- 0.7
Hand Tools, Cutlery, etc.	20,640	8,360	29,000	3,897	1,226	5,123	18.9	14.7	17.7	- 0.8	-	- 0.5
Needles, Pins, Steel Pens, Dies, Seals, etc.	5,440	9,760	15,190	605	1,024	1,629	11.1	10.5	10.7	+ 0.2	- 2.2	- 1.3
Wire and Wire Goods	21,650	6,230	27,880	2,647	563	3,210	12.2	9.0	11.5	- 1.3	- 0.2	- 1.0
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Chains, Anchors, etc.	20,060	15,320	35,380	4,477	2,490	6,967	22.3	16.3	19.7	- 3.9	- 1.5	- 2.8
Hardware and Hollow-ware	58,100	49,230	107,330	7,681	7,069	14,750	13.2	14.4	13.7	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 0.8
Watches, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	30,630	20,570	51,200	4,434	1,924	6,358	14.5	9.4	12.4	- 0.7	- 0.5	- 0.7
Miscellaneous Metal Goods (including Musical Instruments)	35,100	16,620	51,720	3,594	1,638	5,232	10.0	9.9	9.9	- 0.5	- 1.5	- 0.9
Rubber and Leather Trades :-												
Rubber & Rubber & Waterproof Goods	34,890	30,120	65,010	5,042	2,704	7,746	14.5	9.0	11.9	- 1.9	- 1.2	- 1.6
Leather and Leather Goods	48,040	21,250	69,290	5,679	2,101	7,780	11.8	9.9	11.2	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 0.6
Brick, Tile, etc.	68,470	8,910	77,380	9,636	1,259	10,895	14.1	14.1	14.1	- 1.1	+ 0.3	- 1.0
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	36,930	34,650	71,580	4,158	5,002	9,160	11.3	14.4	12.8	- 2.7	- 2.6	- 2.7
Glass Trades (excluding Optical, Scientific, etc.)	37,900	7,730	45,630	7,975	716	8,691	21.0	9.3	19.0	- 1.0	- 0.9	- 1.0
Hotel, College, Club, etc., Services	86,470	190,560	277,030	12,744	16,015	28,759	14.7	8.4	10.4	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.5
Laundry Service	15,980	87,730	103,710	1,434	4,512	5,946	9.0	5.1	5.7	+ 0.1	-	-
Commercial, Clerical, Insurance and Banking	120,610	81,640	202,250	9,008	2,734	11,742	7.5	3.3	5.8	- 0.4	-	- 0.2
Transport Services :-												
Railway Service	241,530	12,670	254,200	18,738	575	19,313	7.8	4.5	7.6	- 1.2	- 0.6	- 1.2
Tramway and Omnibus Service	98,900	5,190	104,090	4,174	170	4,344	4.2	3.3	4.2	- 0.1	+ 0.2	-
Other Road Transport	153,410	4,080	157,490	28,132	127	28,259	17.8	3.1	17.4	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.1
Seamen	110,810	1,490	112,300	24,829	149	24,978	22.4	10.0	22.2	-	- 3.3	- 0.1
Canal, River, Harbour, etc., Service	190,040	2,940	192,980	38,011	383	38,394	20.0	13.0	19.9	+ 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.8
Warehousemen, Packers, Porters, etc.	32,780	5,560	38,340	7,024	618	7,642	21.4	11.1	19.9	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.1
Mining Industry :-												
Coal Mining	1,214,990	9,670	1,224,660	49,948	435	50,383	4.1	4.5	4.1	- 0.4	- 0.5	- 0.4
Iron Mining and Ironstone Quarrying	22,920	60	22,980	4,591	7	4,598	20.0	11.7	20.0	- 2.1	+ 10.0	- 2.0
Other Mining	9,810	230	10,040	2,437	16	2,453	24.8	7.0	24.4	- 1.9	+ 1.8	- 1.8
Quarrying (other than Ironstone), Clay, Sand, etc., Digging	59,330	770	60,100	4,478	58	4,536	7.6	7.5	7.5	- 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.8
Printing and Paper Trades :-												
Paper Making and Staining	43,340	17,660	61,000	3,465	1,063	4,528	8.0	6.0	7.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Manufactured Stationery	22,220	47,930	70,150	1,684	3,110	4,794	7.6	6.5	6.8	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	131,330	81,820	213,150	9,759	4,264	14,023	7.4	5.2	6.6	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.3
Textile Trades :-												
Cotton Trade	220,320	381,150	601,470	22,235	41,269	63,504	10.1	10.8	10.6	- 0.4	- 1.6	- 1.1
Woollen and Worsted Trades	111,820	156,570	268,390	6,272	3,830	10,102	5.6	2.4	3.8	- 0.9	- 0.5	- 0.6
Silk Trade	11,460	22,050	33,510	872	1,137	2,009	7.6	5.2	6.0	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Flax, Linen and Hemp Trades	28,270	62,480	90,750	4,755	12,413	17,168	16.8	19.9	18.9	- 1.1	- 1.0	- 1.1
Jute Trade	11,930	30,180	42,110	1,712	3,478	5,190	14.4	11.5	12.3	-	- 1.4	- 1.0
Rope, Twine, Cord and Net Manufacture	7,250	14,870	22,120	952	1,502	2,454	13.1	10.1	11.1	- 0.9	- 0.5	- 0.6
Hosiery Trade	19,080	65,560	84,640	757	1,546	2,303	4.0	2.4	2.7	+ 0.3	-	-
Lace Trade	10,860	16,960	27,820	2,346	1,185	3,531	21.6	7.0	12.7	- 2.5	- 1.6	- 2.0
Carpet and Rug Manufacture	9,990	14,050	24,040	400	446	846	4.0	3.2	3.5	- 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing, etc.	78,600	26,620	105,220	6,250	1,657	7,907	8.0	6.2	7.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.4
Other Textiles	13,200	31,340	44,540	1,214	2,635	3,849	9.2	8.4	8.6	- 0.5	+ 0.2	-
Clothing Trades :-												
Tailoring Trades	65,810	132,680	198,490	7,775	10,939	18,714	11.8	8.2	9.4	- 1.6	- 2.4	- 2.2
Dress etc., Making, Millinery, Furriers, etc.	22,450	214,750	237,200	1,931	15,480	17,411	8.6	7.2	7.3	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 1.2
Hats, Caps and Bonnets	13,190	20,880	34,070	1,420	1,198	2,618	10.8	5.7	7.7	- 1.1	- 1.0	- 1.0
Corset Trade	2,160	12,180	14,340	116	625	741	5.4	5.1	5.2	- 3.7	+ 0.5	- 0.1
Boot, Shoe, etc., Trades	97,300	53,030	150,330	10,317	2,006	12,323	10.6	3.8	8.2	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.6
Other Clothing	18,790	23,000	41,790	2,096	1,406	3,502	11.2	6.1	8.4	- 0.4	-	- 0.2
Food, Drink and Tobacco :-												
Manufacture of Food and Drink	270,310	174,790	445,100	26,495	20,512	47,007	9.8	11.7	10.6	-	-	-
Tobacco, Cigar and Cigarette Manufacture	13,990	32,970	46,960	1,226	2,797	4,023	8.8	8.5	8.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :-												
Public Utility Services	216,270	12,580	228,850	17,261	564	17,825	8.0	4.5	7.8	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Oilcloth, Linoleum and Cork Carpets	9,800	3,370	13,170	596	110	706	6.1	3.3	5.4	- 0.6	+ 0.3	- 0.4
Distributive Trades	573,720	437,800	1,011,520	46,887	24,300	71,187	8.2	5.6	7.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
National and Local Government Service	250,240	73,780	324,020	27,680	3,874	31,554	11.1	5.3	9.7	- 0.7	- 0.2	- 0.7
Professional Services	63,160	69,550	132,710	3,907	1,817	5,724	6.2	2.6	4.3	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.2
Other Industries and Services	160,790	59,410	220,200	41,523	6,071	47,594	25.8	10.2	21.6	- 1.5	- 0.3	- 1.1
TOTAL	8,541,030	3,209,420	11,750,450	1,142,348	246,512	1,388,860	13.4	7.7	11.8	- 1.0	- 0.5	- 0.9

* In addition to the figures given for total unemployment there were 58,964 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 February, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 41, as compared with 54 in the previous month and 62 in February, 1922. In these new disputes 23,000 workpeople were directly involved and 6,000 indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, 11,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 36 disputes which began before February and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 77, involving 40,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during February of 337,000 working days.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in February 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 February.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Feb.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Feb.
	Started before 1st Feb.	Started in Feb.	Total.		
Mining & Quarrying	5	19	24	23,000	199,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	14	5	19	1,000	13,000
Textile and Clothing	1	7	8	6,000	23,000
Printing, Paper, etc., Trades	3	..	3	5,000	64,000
Other Trades..	13	10	23	5,000	33,000
Total, Feb., 1923	36	41	77	40,000	337,000
Total, Jan., 1923	17	54	71	19,000	117,000
Total, Feb., 1922	44	62	106	30,000	269,000

The principal new dispute was one involving 6,147 coal miners, etc., in the South Shields district, who were idle from 12th to 23rd February in sympathy with workpeople at a neighbouring colliery where a dispute was in progress from 25th January to 23rd February on a question respecting the payment of the minimum wage. On work being resumed, the question in dispute was settled by an agreement confirming the practice already in force, with certain reservations. A number of stoppages of work occurred in February at collieries in South Wales and Monmouthshire to compel non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation to join the Federation. In most cases the object was attained after a brief stoppage of work, but one dispute involving 2,300 workpeople was still in progress at the time of going to press. The dispute which began on 20th January, involving about 4,000 workpeople in the bookbinding industry in the London district, terminated on 13th February, when the matter in dispute was submitted to arbitration. The arbitrators decided that the bookbinding employers (whose refusal to adopt the rates of wages for warehousemen, packers, porters, etc., agreed upon by the London Master Printers' Association occasioned the dispute) were parties to the agreement in question.

Causes.—Of the 41 disputes beginning in February, 8, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 11, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 14, directly involving 9,000 workpeople, on questions of unionism and non-unionism; one, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, in sympathy with workpeople involved in another dispute; and 7, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, from other causes (including one dispute as to the landing of fish from German trawlers).

Results.—Settlements were effected during February in the case of 29 new disputes, directly involving 17,000 workpeople, and 15 old disputes, directly involving 9,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 19, directly involving 12,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 8, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 17, directly involving 12,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 7 disputes, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING FEBRUARY, 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.—South Shields (near).	{	3,099	25 Jan.	23 Feb. ‡	Dispute as to payment of minimum wage. In sympathy with workpeople involved in above dispute.	Agreement reached confirming practice in force, but providing that "reserved" cases be discussed before pay-notes are issued.
		6,147	12 Feb.	23 Feb.		
Coal miners, etc.—Newport, Mon. (near).		2,300	5 Feb.	..	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Llanelly (near)	{	800	5 Feb.	10 Feb.	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	Non-members joined the Federation.
		900	14 Feb.	20 Feb.		
		900	19 Feb.	24 Feb.		
TEXTILE AND CLOTHING TRADES:—						
Cotton spinners, etc.—Stockport		939	22 Feb.	..	Against proposed change in piece price list, involving reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
Jute workers—Dundee		1,795§	23 Feb.	..	Dispute arising out of reduction in the number of workpeople employed at certain sets of spinning frames.	No settlement reported.
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.
Raincoat garment workers—Manchester.		2,000	14 Feb. ||	19 Feb.	Dispute arising out of proposed reduction in wages.	Temporary settlement effected.
PRINTING, PAPER, ETC., TRADES:—						
Paper workers—Edinburgh (near)		487	18 Jan.	..	Refusal to work with a non-unionist.	No settlement reported.
Bookbinders, warehousemen, packers, porters, etc.—London district.		4,000¶	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.	Arbitrators decided that the bookbinding employers were parties to the agreement between the London Master Printers' Association and the workpeople's Trade Union.
OTHER TRADES:—						
Fishing vessels' skippers, mates and crews—Aberdeen.		3,000¶	24 Feb.	..	Against landing of fish from German trawlers.	No settlement reported.
Furnishing trades operatives—London (near).		500	5 Jan.	..	Against proposed introduction in certain departments of system of piece-work or payment by results.	No settlement reported.
Employees of co-operative society—Glasgow.		650	9 Feb.	9 Feb.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Proposal withdrawn.

* 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.

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

‡ Temporary resumption of work occurred 29th-30th January and 2nd-7th February.

§ Number directly and indirectly involved at the works originally affected. At these works a partial resumption occurred on 26th February, but in March other works became involved.

¶ Irregular stoppages of work occurred prior to this date.

¶ Estimated number.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of £64,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 480,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £400 in the wages of nearly 8,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected are shown below :—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
			£	£
Iron and Steel Manufacture	—	92,000	—	4,350
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal ..	—	57,000	—	6,550
Clothing	—	199,000	—	38,900
Other	7,750	129,000	420	14,200
Total	7,750	477,000	420	64,000

In the iron and steel group the workpeople affected by reductions included iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, who sustained a decrease of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, equivalent to about 1¾ per cent. on current rates. Steel smelters generally, and steel millmen in the West of Scotland and in several districts in England, also had their wages reduced by 2½ per cent. on standard rates (equivalent to about 2 per cent. on current rates). There was a reduction of 1¼ per cent. on standard rates (about 1 per cent. on current rates) in the wages of Siemens steel workers in South and West Wales.

Men employed in non-federated shipyards at Belfast and in ship-repairing yards on the Mersey had their wages reduced by amounts varying, according to the amount of their wages, from 2d. to 2s. 6d. per week, the full reduction of 2s. 6d. applying to all piece-workers and to time-workers whose wages, previous to 1st January, were 52s. 6d. per week or over. In other metal trades there were reductions of 7½ per cent. on basis rates in the case of workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades at Sheffield, and of 5 per cent. on the basis time and piece rates of male workers and on the piece rates of certain classes of female workers in the metallic bedstead industry. There were also reductions in the wages of farriers in a number of towns in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland.

The principal changes in the clothing trades took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Boards Acts. In the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade the minimum hourly rates for men were reduced by amounts varying from 1½d. to 2d. in Great Britain, and by 1¾d. to 2¼d. in Northern Ireland, and for women the minimum rates were reduced by 1d. per hour in Great Britain and by 1¼d. per hour in Northern Ireland, reductions of smaller amounts being made in the rates of young persons. Workpeople employed in the wholesale mantle and costume trade in Great Britain also sustained reductions of 1d. per hour in the case of women and of 1½d. to 2d. per hour in the case of men. Female workers in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade in Northern Ireland had their minimum time rates reduced by ¼d. or ½d. per hour.

In other trades there was an increase in the wages of iron ore miners in Cumberland. There were reductions in the wages of coopers in most of the important centres in Great Britain and

at Belfast, workpeople employed in the flour milling industry, and workpeople employed in the electricity supply industry in a large number of towns.

Under the Trade Boards Acts, in addition to the reductions mentioned above in the clothing group, there were decreases in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople employed in the jute industry, and in those fixed for workers in the general waste materials reclamation trade in Great Britain.

Of the decreases taking effect in February, seven, amounting to nearly £42,000 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders; nineteen, amounting to £5,000 per week, were arranged by Standing Joint bodies of employers and workers; twenty-eight, amounting to nearly £4,400 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; seven, amounting to £200 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; four, amounting to £450 per week, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining sixty-two cases, amounting to £12,000 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. Reductions in wages preceded by disputes involving stoppages of work accounted for only £200 per week. Five increases in wages were reported in February, two of which, amounting to about £380 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices, the remaining three increases being arranged by direct negotiation.

Summary of Changes in January and February, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the first two months of 1923 :—

Group of Trades.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases	Increases.	Decreases.
			£	£
Building and Allied Trades	100	24,000	10	7,600
Mining and Quarrying ..	622,000	57,000	40,800	750
Iron and Steel	19,500	161,000	750	7,300
Engineering, Shipbuilding, &c.	—	148,000	—	20,300
Other Metal	600	47,000	15	7,000
Textile	9,200	50,000	145	4,200
Clothing	7,000	210,000	440	40,200
Transport	2,700	49,000	540	7,900
Furniture and Woodworking	—	22,000	—	3,700
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c.	—	22,000	—	3,350
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	—	72,000	—	9,700
Public Utility Services ..	—	55,000	—	6,800
Other	10,000	27,000	300	3,200
Total	671,100	944,000	43,000	122,000

In the corresponding two months of 1922 there was a net reduction of £970,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 5,520,000 workpeople, and a net increase of £3,400 in the wages of 20,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The principal change reported in February was an increase of one hour per week in the working hours of brewery workers at Sheffield.

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

NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in February, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during February 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	Inverness and District	1 Feb.	Masons and joiners	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 3½d.; joiners, 1s. 3d.
		1 Feb.	Slaters and plasterers	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: slaters, 1s. 4½d.; plasterers, 1s. 4d.
	Moray, Banff and Nairn	21 Feb.	Painters	Decrease of 2½d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 3½d.).
		8 Feb.	Plumbers	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 4d.).
	Oban	1 Jan.	Plumbers	Decrease of 2d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 4d.).
	Douglas and District (Isle of Man)	5 Feb.	Painters	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6d.).
		3 Feb.	Masons, joiners, slaters, plumbers and plasterers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6d.).
			Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, plasterers, painters and labourers	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 4d.; labourers, 1s.

* 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.

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

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Iron Mining, etc.	Cumberland ...	5 Feb.	Iron ore miners Winding enginemen Other underground and surface workers	Increase, under sliding scale,* of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (9s. 4d. to 9s. 7d.), and of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 8d. to 6s. 11d.). Increase, under sliding scale,* of 2½d. per shift (8s. 2½d. to 8s. 5d.). Increase, under sliding scale,* of 1½d. per shift for men and of ¾d. for boys under 16. Rates after change for underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 2d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire	4 Feb.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 39½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
Quarrying	Northumberland and Durham	15 Feb.	Freestone quarrymen and labourers	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen, 1s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. per hour.
	West Cumberland	12 Feb.	Limestone quarrymen	Increase, under sliding scale,* of 1½d. per shift for men, and of ¾d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 3d. per shift; day borers (1st class), 7s. 9d.; day labourers (1st class), 7s. 1d.; ruddmen, 6s. 7d. per shift.
	Clee Hill District...	31 Jan.	Roadstone quarrymen, sett-makers, stone breakers, labourers, etc.	Decrease of 7½ per cent. on present earnings.
Coke and By-products	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 Feb.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase of 5 per cent. on standard base rates of 1916 and 1917, making wages 17½ to 27½ per cent. above standard.†
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	North Lincolnshire	4 Feb.	Blastfurnacemen Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 39½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Minimum rate for labourers after change: 3s. 8d. per shift plus 39½ per cent. plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 30½ per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: pattern-makers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 42s.; machine men (millers, borers, planers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers, 30s. (and 32s. 6d. after one year), plus in each case the percentage addition of 30½ per cent. and a tonnage bonus.
	England and West of Scotland‡	4 Feb.§	Steel melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producemen and charge wheelers	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on the standard of 1905, leaving melters' wages 33½ per cent. (basic process) and 8½ per cent. (acid process) above the standard.§
	England and Scotland	4 Feb.¶	Roll turners	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of ⅓ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921.¶
	Tees-side	4 Feb.	Workpeople employed in steel rolling mills and production departments	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Workington ...	4 Feb.	Steel millmen, engineers' labourers and general labourers Engineers employed at steel works	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard. Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rate, leaving rate 42s. per week plus 33½ per cent. plus a tonnage bonus.
	Barrow-in-Furness	4 Feb.	Rail millmen	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 25 per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	5 Feb.	Enginemen, cranemen, etc. ...	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	5 Feb.	Wire hoop millmen	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
	Scunthorpe	4 Feb.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers, general labourers, etc. Bricklayers employed at steel works	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard. Decrease, under sliding scale,* to a rate of 1s. 2½d. per hour (plus tonnage bonus).
	Midlands (including parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire)	5 Feb.	Iron puddlers Iron and steel millmen Other classes	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard of 1908, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. War bonuses reduced by 6d. per week for men, 3d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years of age, and 1½d. per week for boys under 18 years.
	South and West Wales	3 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) engaged in Siemens steel manufacture	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 18½ per cent. above the standard, plus an additional 20 per cent. for those with base earnings of not more than 30s. per week; an additional 6d. per shift for those with a base rate of 30s. 1d. to 40s. per week, and an additional 4d. per shift for those with a base rate of 40s. 1d. to 50s. per week.
	West of Scotland...	4 Feb.§	Steel millmen, gas producemen, enginemen, cranemen, firemen, etc.	Decrease, under sliding scale,* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard.§

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

† The above increase was given under the terms of an agreement by which it was decided that two reductions totalling 17½ per cent. which were made in December, 1921, and May, 1922, should be restored to the extent of 5 per cent. on 1st February, 5 per cent. on 1st May, and 2½ per cent. on 1st August. The percentages above standard vary at the different plants.

‡ The change applied to firms who are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, those in England being situated principally in the North East Coast district, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and the Midlands.

§ In the case of semi-skilled men and labourers, the reduction of 2½ per cent. was to be applied as follows:—1½ per cent. or ⅓ of war advances from 11th March, and 1½ per cent. or ⅓ of war advances from 8th April.

¶ On the North East Coast the reduction took effect in two equal instalments of ⅓ of war advances on 11th March and 8th April.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, ETC.				
Engineering, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc.	Tees-side (certain non-federated firms)	12 Feb.	Workpeople employed in engineering, boilermaking, bridge-building, etc., shops	Decrease of 6s. 6d. per week.
	Mersey District ...	12 Feb.	Men employed in the ship-repairing trade (including engineers)	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were 52s. 6d. per week or over; and of smaller amounts for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were 37s. 6d. per week or under.*
	Mersey District...	{ 1 Jan. 22 Jan. 12 Feb. }	Sailmakers	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Further decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Further decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for a full week: 52s. 6d.
	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Walsall and District	1 Jan.	Boatbuilders	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 3½d.).
	Portsmouth ...	1 Feb.	Men employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades†	Decrease, in war bonus, of 1s. per week.‡
	Barry, Cardiff, Newport, Penarth, Port Talbot, Swansea, Sharpness, Avonmouth and Bristol	1 Feb.	Platers, caulkers, riveters, holders-up, drillers, shipwrights, etc., employed on piecework in the ship-repairing trade	Residuary war bonus of 3s. 9d. per week withdrawn.
	Clyde District ...	17 Feb.	Boiler scalers and ship scalers	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: boiler scalers, 1s. 3d.; ship scalers, 1s. per hour.
	Belfast (non-federated firms)	1 Feb.	Men employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were 52s. 6d. per week or over, and for pieceworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were more than 37s. 6d. but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus), previous to 1 January, were 37s. 6d. per week or under.§
	OTHER METAL TRADE			
	Wire Manufacture	London	Adult male wire workers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 4d.) for timeworkers and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, leaving piecework prices in operation previous to November, 1922, subject to a reduction of 10 per cent.
Bedstead Manufacture	Birmingham, Smethwick, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge, Keighley and Glasgow	12 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade	Decrease of 5 per cent. in the basic time and piecework rates for men, and in the basic piecework rates for women engaged in dipping bedsteads in black. Basis rates after change: men—cupola men, 1s. 3d. per hour (56-hour week); frame setters, 1s. 4d. per hour (48-hour week); stock-fitter in charge, 85s. per week; stock-fitter (second hand, able to fit all classes of stocks), 70s. per week; stock-fitter (improver, not less than 3 years' experience), 30s. per week; bending, 1s. 3d. per hour; cutting off and other sections, 1s. 1½d. per hour; less 5 per cent. in each case, and subject to a bonus addition of 16s. per week. (See also Decision No. 748 on p. 113).
Bobbin and Shuttle Making	Scotland	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the bobbin and shuttle making industry	Decrease of 5s. per week for men. Rates after change: skilled men, 52s.; semi-skilled, 45s. 6d.; labourers, 39s.
Optical Instrument Manufacture	London|| ... ..	1st pay day in Feb.	Women employed in the optical instrument making trade	Decrease of ½d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.) for those 18 years of age and over.
Gold, Silver and Allied Trades	Sheffield	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades	Bonus of 47½ per cent. for timeworkers, and of 52½ per cent. for pieceworkers, reduced to 40 per cent. and 45 per cent. respectively. Hourly rates after change for men: skilled, 1s. or 11d. (according to occupation); semi-skilled, 10d.; unskilled, 9d.; plus, in each case, bonus of 40 per cent.
			Warehouse women and girls employed in the gold, silver and allied trades	Revised scale of weekly basis rates adopted, varying according to age, from 5s. at 14 to 15 years to 15s. at 19 to 20 years; such rates to be subject to an addition of 40 per cent.
Farriery	Liverpool and Birkenhead	Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change: firemen, 75s.; doormen, 73s.
	Manchester, Hanley, and Stoke-on-Trent	26 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 7d. per hour or 74s. 5d. per week; doormen, 1s. 6½d. per hour or 72s. 5½d. per week.
	Other large towns in Lancashire and Cheshire¶	26 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6½d. per hour or 72s. 5½d. per week; doormen, 1s. 6d. per hour or 70s. 6d. per week.
	Smaller towns in Lancashire and Cheshire** (with Kendal and High Peak District)	26 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 68s. 7½d. per week; doormen, 65s. 7½d. per week.
	Various towns in Yorkshire††	26 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6½d.; doormen at Hull, 1s. 6½d.; doormen at other towns, 1s. 6d.
	Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Merthyr	12 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change at Swansea: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5d.
	Glasgow District...	Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen or drivers, 1s. 5½d.

* It was arranged that reductions, each of amounts similar to the above, were to take effect as from 1st January, 22nd January, 12th February and 5th March, making a total reduction after 5th March of 10s. per week in the case of workers whose wages previous to 1st January were 52s. 6d. per week or more (including 10s. war bonus).

† Except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry and those employed in H.M. Dockyards, etc.

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

§ It was arranged that reductions, each of amounts similar to the above, were to take effect as from 1st January, 1st February, 1st March and 1st April, making a total reduction after 1st April of 10s. per week in the case of pieceworkers, and of time-workers whose wages, previous to 1st January, were 52s. 6d. per week or more.

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

¶ Including Accrington, Altrincham, Ashton, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Lancaster, Leigh, Middleton, Nelson and District, Oldham, Ormskirk, Preston, Rochdale, Rossendale, Southport, Stockport, St. Helens, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan.

** Including Alsager, Bentham, Chester, Crew, Furness District, Garstang, Kirkham, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich, and Tarporley.

†† Including Barnsley, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull, Keighley, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield and Todmorden.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued).				
Farriery (contd.)	Edinburgh ..	19 Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½d.
	Paisley and District	Feb.	Farriers	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½d.
	Dundee, Arbroath and Montrose	Dec., 1922	Farriers	Decrease of 1d. per hour.
	Belfast	{ 1 Jan. 1 Feb. }	Farriers	{ Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Further decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: firemen, 65s.; doormen, 57s. 6d.
Spring Manufacture Safe Making	Sheffield	1st full pay after 13 Feb.	Laminated spring fitters and vicemen, smiths and strikers	Decrease, in flat rate bonus, of 1s. per week.
	Birmingham, Dudley, Sedgley, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton	Pay day in week ending 20 Jan.	Iron safe engineers	Decrease of 5 per cent. on current rates.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Jute Industry	Great Britain ...	23 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the preparing, spinning, or weaving of (a) jute, or (b) jute and any other fibre except flax and hemp:— Male workers (except loom tenters 21 years and over with recognised full charge) Female workers:— Spinners, other than orra (or spare) spinners Orra (or spare) spinners 18 years and over Spinning shifting mistresses Other workers	Decrease in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see also p. 75 of February GAZETTE):— Decrease varying from 8½d. to 1s. 6½d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 3d.; 16 and under 18 years, 20s. 10d.; 18 and under 21 years, 35s. 2d.; 21 years and over, 39s. 1d. Decrease varying according to size of bobbin and number of spindles from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 11d. per week for single spinners, and from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d. per week for double spinners. Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week (30s. 10½d. to 29s. 8½d.). Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week (39s. to 37s. 6d.). Decrease of 8½d., 10½d. or 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 3d.; 16 and under 18, 20s. 10d.; 18 and over, 25s.* “Cost of living” wage reduced under sliding scale from 68 per cent. to 65·45 per cent. on basis wages, the flat rate bonus of 10s. per week for journeymen and 9s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
			Machine calico printers	
Textile Printing	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland and certain firms in Yorkshire	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Mar.		
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade	Scotland	5 Feb.	Female workers 20 years of age and over with not less than 6 years' experience in the retail branch of the trade who make bodices, coats, skirts, gowns or blouses without supervision Female workers employed in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade:— Timeworkers: Other than learners Learners Pieceworkers	Decreases† in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1½d. per hour for Area A† and 1½d. per hour for Area B.† Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: Area A,† 7½d., 8½d.; Area B,† 7d., 8d. (See also p. 75 of February GAZETTE.) Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. Decrease of ½d. or 1½d. per hour in time rates and ½d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (7½d. to 7d.). Minimum time rates after change: 18 years and over, 6½d.; under 18 years—varying from 2d. to 6d. per hour according to age of commencing and length of employment. Decrease of ½d. or 1½d. per hour in time rates. Decrease of 10 per cent. on piece rates fixed from 6 Oct., 1921, making a total reduction of 20 per cent. since that date. Decreases in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively§:— Decrease of 2d. and 1½d. per hour for special classes, such as cutters, knifemen, fitters-up, tailors, pressers, machinists, passers, with not less than 5 years' experience, and with not less than 3 but less than 5 years' experience after 19 years respectively, and of 1½d. per hour for all other workers (time rate 1s. to 10½d.). Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Decrease of ½d. to 1½d. per hour in time rates and ½d. per hour in piecework basis time rate. Decrease of 1d. per hour. General minimum time rate after change for women other than cutters, trimmers and fitters-up, 6½d. Decrease of ½d. to ¾d. per hour in minimum time rates. Decreases in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively||:— Decrease of 1½d. or 2d. per hour. Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Decrease of 1½d. or 1½d. per hour. Decrease of ½d. to 1½d. per hour in time rates and ½d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 0½d.). Minimum time rates after change: under 15 years, 2d., increasing to 5½d. at 18 and under 19, and to 10½d. at 22 years and over.
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief, etc., Trade	Northern Ireland	1 Feb.		
Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade	Great Britain ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the wholesale mantle and costume trade:— All classes of male workers 22 years of age and over, except warehousemen, packers and porters Warehousemen, packers and porters (22 years and over) Male workers under 22 years Female workers, other than learners Female learners	
Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade	Great Britain ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade:— Male workers: Cutters, fitters up, tailors, pressers, machinists, passers, etc. Under pressers and plain machinists Warehousemen, packers and porters Other male workers	

* Female weaving learners are to receive lower rates for one period only of learnership not exceeding two months.

† The above decreases resulted from the abolition of the special rates previously paid to the workers specified, the new minimum rates being the same as paid to other classes of workers in the retail branch.

‡ Area A.—(a) All Royal, Parliamentary and Police Burghs which had, according to the most recent census, a population over 12,000; and (b) the following Special Lighting Districts, viz., Bellshill and Mossend, Blantyre, Cambuslang, Larkhall and Vale of Leven.

Area B.—The whole of Scotland other than Area A.

§ See also p. 35 of January GAZETTE.

|| See also p. 75 of February GAZETTE.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade (contd.)	Great Britain (contd.)	1 Feb.	CLOTHING TRADES—(continued).	
			Workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade (contd.):— Female workers (other than learners):— Cutters, trimmers and fitters-up	
			Other workers (including homeworkers)	
			Learners	
	Northern Ireland	15 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade:— Male workers (other than learners):— 22 years and over ...	
			Under 22 years of age ...	
			Male learners	
			Female workers:— Other than learners ...	
			Learners	
			Decrease of 1d. per hour in time rates, and piecework basis time rates fixed at 7½d., 8d., and 8½d. per hour for those under 19 years, 19 and under 20, and 20 years and over respectively. Minimum time rates after change: under 19, 6½d.; 19 and under 20, 7d.; 20 and over, 7½d.	
			Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum time and piecework basis time rate respectively after change: 6½d., 7½d.	
			Decrease of ¼d. to ¾d. per hour in time rates.	
Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively.				
Decrease of 1½d. to 2½d. per hour. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: Measure cutters, 1s. 4½d., 1s. 5½d.; stock or knife cutters, fitters-up, tailors, pressers-off, machinists, passers, 1s. 2½d., 1s. 3½d.; under-pressers and plain machinists, 11½d., 1s. 0½d.; warehousemen—24 years, 1s. 0½d., 1s. 2d.; 23 years, 11½d., 1s. 0½d.; 22 years, 10½d., 11½d.; packers—24 years, 1s., 1s. 1½d.; 23 years, 11d., 1s. 0½d.; 22 years, 10½d., 11½d.; porters and all other male workers, 10½d., 11½d.				
Decreases varying from ½d. to 2d. per hour. Minimum time rates after change: under 15 years, 2d., increasing to 5½d. at 18 and under 19, and to 8½d. at 21 and under 22 years.				
Decreases varying from ½d. to 2d. per hour.				
Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change, 5½d., 6½d.				
New scales of minimum weekly time rates fixed, starting at rates varying from 6s. to 10s. per week, according to commencing age, and increasing by varying amounts to 20s. per week.				
Dock, Riverside, etc., Labour	The Wear	3 Feb.	Skippers, engineers, firemen and mates employed on tug-boats	Decrease of 7s 6d. per week. Rates after change: skippers, 75s. 9d.; engineers, 64s. 6d.; firemen and mates, 53s. 3d. per week.
	Hull	3 Jan.	Riggers employed by fishing vessel owners	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week.
	Newcastle-on-Tyne	8 Feb.		Decrease of 2s. per week. Rates after change: one-horse drivers, 52s.; two-horse drivers, 55s.; petrol wagon drivers (heavy) and steam wagon drivers, 62s.; steerers, 56s. per week.
				Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week.*
Road Transport	Birmingham	1st pay in Jan. 1st pay in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the road transport industry	Further decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: one-horse drivers and stablemen, 45s.; two-horse drivers, 50s.; drivers of mechanical vehicles (2 tons and over), 55s.; (15 cwt. to 2 tons), 50s.; (under 15 cwt.), 45s. per week.*
	Swansea	12 Feb.		Decrease of 3s. per week. Rate after change for one-horse drivers, 57s. per week.
Agriculture	Lancashire:— Northern Area	1 Feb.	Adult male labourers	Rates adopted up to 30 April of 37s. 6d. per week for skilled teamsmen and stockmen, and of 35s. per week for other workers.†
	Southern Area	13 Feb.	Adult male labourers	Rate of 35s. per week adopted.‡
	Ashby, Bosworth, Hinckley and Atherstone District	23 Feb.	Adult male labourers	Rate of 31s. adopted for a week of 54 hours.†
	Shropshire	23 Feb.	Adult male labourers	Rate of 30s. per week adopted for a week of 53 hours up to 31 October.§
Book Publishing	London	1st pay day in Feb.	Packers, porters, etc., employed by book publishers	Decrease of 2s. per week for men and of proportionate amounts for women and boys. Rates after change: packers, 66s. 6d.; porters, lookers-out, messengers and liftmen, 63s. 6d.
	Great Britain	Pay day in week ending 3 Mar.	Press telegraphists employed by certain provincial newspaper proprietors leasing private wires from the Post Office	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: operators employed in offices fitted with high speed machines—London, 105s.; provinces, 95s.; Morse operators—London, 95s.; provinces, 90s.
Furniture Manufacture	Liverpool and District	1 Feb.	Upholsterers employed in the wholesale trade	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 10d. to 1s. 9d.).
	North East Lancashire and Todmorden	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists	Decrease of ½d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.), and a proportionate decrease for apprentices and improvers. (See award on p. 74 of February GAZETTE.)
	Newry	5 Feb.	Cabinet makers, french polishers and upholsterers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.).
	Belfast	6 Jan.	Sawyers and machinists ...	Decrease of 3s. 11d. per week. Rate after change for sawyers, 64s. 4d.

* These decreases took effect under an arrangement which was made by the Birmingham Horse and Vehicle Owners' Association and the Birmingham and Midland Counties Coal Merchants' Association without agreement by the Trade Union concerned.

† The rate was agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.

‡ The rate was not agreed to by the workers' side of the local Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the Employers' Executive.

§ The rate was agreed upon between the Employers' representatives on the local Conciliation Committee and the Workers' Union, but it is understood that the agreement is not recognised by the National Union of Agricultural Workers.

¶ Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Nelson, Padiham, and Preston.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES—(continued).				
Packing Case Making	London ...	1st full pay in Jan.	Nailing machinists, dovetailing machinists, lock-cornermen, overhand jointers, tonguers and groovers, hand holers, branders, printers and borers Other fully qualified male adult workers Labourers ... Apprentices and improvers ... Female workers ...	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: nailing machinists—6 nails and under, 1s. 4½d.; 7 nails and over, 1s. 5d.; dovetailing machinists and lock-cornermen, 1s. 4½d.; tonguers and groovers, 1s. 4½d.; overhand jointers, 1s. 5d.; hand holers, branders, printers and borers, 1s. 3½d. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: saw doctors, 1s. 7d.; saw sharpeners (hand filing), 1s. 6½d.; panel planers, 1s. 4½d.; others, 1s. 5½d. Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 1½d.). Decrease of ¾d. per hour. Rates after change: 16 to 17 years, 5½d., increasing to 9½d. at 18 to 19, and to 1s. 1½d. at 20½ to 21 years. Decreases of ½d. to 1d. per hour. Rate after change: at 21 and over, 10d.
Coopering	Great Britain, also Belfast*	Pay after 1st full pay in Feb.	Coopers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of 6½ per cent. for pieceworkers (leaving piece rates generally 82½ per cent. above pre-war rates). Rates after change: London, 1s. 8d.; Birmingham, Liverpool, Northwich, Derby, Nottingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Leicester, Manchester, Swansea, Wolverhampton, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Greenock, Leith, Paisley, Stirling, Livingston and Belfast, 1s. 7d.; other districts, 1s. 6d.*
	North Staffordshire†	26 Feb.	Dry coopers employed in the manufacture of hogsheads for pottery manufacture	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.).
Picture Frame Making	Belfast ...	1st pay in Feb.	Picture frame makers ...	Decrease of 5s. per week (75s. to 70s.).
CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES.				
Glass Working	Birmingham, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Stourbridge, Warrington, and Tutbury	2nd pay day in Feb.	Flint glass cutters, intaglio workers and engravers	Decrease of 4s. per week.
Brick Manufacture	Peterborough ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Pressed brickmakers ...	Decrease of 10 per cent. on present earnings. Rates after change: burners, 59s. per week; oilers, 11½d. per hour; fitters, 1s. 1½d. per hour; labourers, 10d. per hour.
Pottery Manufacture	Glasgow, Musselburgh, Portobello and Rutherglen	2nd pay day after 14 Feb.	Workpeople employed in stone-ware pottery manufacture (pieceworkers only)	Percentage addition to basis piece rates reduced† from 25 to 22½.
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Flour Milling.	Great Britain§ ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the flour milling industry (including motor lorry drivers, carriers, and horse carmen where previously included with mill employees):— Men and boys ... Women, 18 years and over...	Decreases for those 21 years and over of 2s. 6d. per week for those in Class A, AA, and B mills, and of 2s. per week for those in Class BB and C mills, with proportionate reductions for those under 21 years. Rates after change: Men 21 years and over:—First roller-men, Grade I., Class A, 70s. 6d.; Class AA, 68s.; Class B, 65s. 6d.; Class BB, 61s. 6d.; Class C, 58s. Grade II., Class A, 68s. 6d.; Class AA, 66s.; Class B, 63s. 6d.; Class BB, 59s. 6d.; Class C, 56s. Grade III., Class BB, 57s. 6d.; Class C, 54s. General labourers, etc.: All grades, Class A, 54s. 6d.; Class AA, 52s.; Class B, 49s. 6d.; Class BB, 45s. 6d.; Class C, 42s.‡ Decrease of 1s. per week for those in Class A mills and of 6d. per week for those in Class AA, the rates for those in Class B, BB, and C remaining unchanged. Rates after change: Class A, 31s.; Class AA, 30s.; Class B, 29s.; Class BB, 28s.; Class C, 27s.‡
	Certain towns in Yorkshire||	Pay day in week ending 10 Feb.	Adult male workers employed in the baking and confectionery trades by private traders	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 70s.; doughmixers and ovenmen, 65s.; tablehands, 60s.
Baking and Confectionery Trades	Chorley ...	17 Feb.	Bakers and confectioners ... Adult workers (except labourers)	Decrease of 6s. per week for adults (66s. to 60s.¶) and of 3s. per week for juveniles. Decrease of 5s. per week for dayworkers (71s. to 66s.¶), and for nightworkers, of 7s. per week for tablehands (83s. to 76s.), and of 8s. per week for other classes.
	Preston and District	12 Nov., 1922	Labourers ... Juniors and male apprentices	Decrease of 4s. per week for dayworkers (59s. to 55s.) and of 6s. per week for nightworkers (69s. to 63s.). Decreases varying from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week for dayworkers, and of 3s. 6d. or 4s. per week for nightworkers.
	Belfast ...	Pay week in which 12 Feb. falls Pay week in which 26 Feb. falls	Bakers and confectioners ... Semi-skilled and unskilled workers	Decrease of 4s. per week. Rates after change: bakers—day, 76s., night, 82s.; doughmen, night, 87s.; ovenmen, day, 81s., night, 87s.
	Newry ... Douglas and Ramsey (Isle of Man)	1 Feb. 1st week in Jan.	Adult male workers ... Adult male workers ...	Decreases varying from 1s. to 3s. per week. Rates after change for labourers: day, 57s.; night, 63s. Decrease of 3s. per week (69s. to 66s.¶) Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week (62s. 6d. to 60s.¶).

* The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Council for the Cooperage Industry. At Burton-on-Trent the rate for those at block and on unions and pressure work is 1s 7d. per hour, and for vat-makers 1s 8d.

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

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

§ The decrease took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry. In the case of men and boys, further decreases similar in amount to those shown above operate from the middle of March. A list of the districts comprised by each class was given on p. 555 of the GAZETTE for October, 1921.

¶ Including Bradford, Barnsley, Bridlington, Doncaster, Dewsbury, Hull, Halifax, Huddersfield, Harrogate, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, and York.

¶ The rate quoted refers to tablehands.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 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).				
Brewing	Yorkshire (excluding Sheffield)	Pay day in week ending 17 Feb.	Brewery workers (including transport workers)	Decrease of 4s. per week for male and female workers 18 years and over, of 3s. per week for female workers 17 and under 18, and of 2s. per week for those under 17 years. Rates after change: male workers (except transport workers), 37s. 6d. at 18 years, increasing to 56s. at 21 and over; female workers—employed in brewing department—under 17 years, 15s. 6d., increasing to 36s. at 20 and over; employed in bottling departments—under 17 years, 15s. 6d., increasing to 31s. 6d. at 19 and over.
	Sheffield	Pay day in week ending 3 Feb.	Brewery workers (except coopers)	Decrease of 4s. per week.* Minimum rates after change: men (inside), 60s.; carters and lorrymen, 62s.; assistants and stablemen, 60s.; women employed in the bottling department, 31s.
Wholesale Provision Trade	Lancashire and parts of Cheshire and Yorkshire	1st pay day in Feb.	Warehousemen and porters employed in the wholesale grocery and provision trade	Decrease of 5 per cent. for those 20 years of age and over and of 7½ per cent. for those under 20 years. Rates after change: warehousemen—16 years, 19s., increasing to 28s. 3d. at 18, 50s. 4d. at 21, and to 57s. 11d. at 25 years and over; porters—16 years, 18s. 6d., increasing to 27s. 9d. at 18, 46s. 1d. at 21, and to 52s. 3d. at 24 and over.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Miscellaneous Trades and Occupations	Great Britain ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the general waste materials reclamation trade:— Female workers in the woollen rag and/or woollen and worsted waste materials section	Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively†: Decrease of ¼d. per hour in minimum time rates (except for those under 15 years, for whom there was no change), and ¼d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (8¼d. to 8d.). Minimum time rates after change: under 14½ years, 3¼d. increasing to 4¼d. at 16 and under 16½ years and to 7d. at 18 years and over.
			All other female workers ...	Decrease of ¼d. or ½d. in minimum time rates and ¼d. per hour in piecework basis time rate (7½d. to 7¼d.). Minimum time rates after change: under 14½ years 3d. increasing to 4¼d. at 16 and under 16½ years and to 6¼d. at 18 and over.
			Male workers 21 years and over:— Employed in the scrap iron and scrap metal section Other male workers ...	Decrease of ¼d. per hour in minimum time rate (1s. to 11¼d.). Decrease of ¼d. per hour in minimum time rate (11¼d. to 11d.).
	Manchester ...	1 Jan., 1923	Workpeople employed in wholesale textile, etc., warehouses	Decrease† of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers and of from 3d. to 9d. per week for female workers.
			Workpeople employed by retail butchers (private traders):— Managers	Increase† of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers and of from 3d. to 9d. per week for female workers. Minimum rates after changes: male workers—14 years, 10s. 6d., increasing to 22s. 6d. at 18, 38s. 6d. at 21 and to 51s. 6d. at 23 years; female workers—14 years 10s., increasing to 20s. 6d. at 18, and to 29s. at 21 years.
			Assistants	Rate of 80s per week adopted for trade up to £50 per week, with an additional 1s. 6d. per week for each additional takings of £10 up to £200.
	Lancashire (certain towns)	1 Dec., 1922	Slaughtermen	New scale of minimum rates adopted as follows:—16 to 17 years, 19s., increasing to 25s. at 18 to 19 and to 60s. at 21 and over (if skilled).
			Pork butchers	Minimum rate of 80s. per week adopted.
			Butchers employed by co-operative societies:— Managers	Minimum rates adopted of 80s. per week for foremen and of 75s. per week for pork butchers.
	Manchester District	1st pay day in Feb.	Assistants	Decrease of 5s. per week in minimum rate (81s. to 76s.).
			Slaughtermen	Decrease of 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 16 years, 18s., increasing to 24s. 3d. at 18 and to 63s. at 21 and over.‡
			Pork section (machine-men and pork butchers)	Decrease of 3s. per week (80s. to 77s.).
South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 Feb.	Managers, etc., employed by co-operative societies	Decrease of 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change: first hands, 77s.; second hands, 74s.	
		Fishery coopers:— Journeyman (time workers only)	Decrease of 5 per cent. on scale of minimum rates.	
		Apprentices	Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 60s.	
Electricity Supply Undertakings	Various districts in England¶	Pay preceding 1st pay day after 7 Jan.	Electrical fitters and wiremen employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings	Scale of minimum weekly rates adopted, starting at 8s. during 1st year, and increasing to 20s. and 24s. during 1st and 2nd six months respectively in fourth year.
			Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings	Decreases of amounts corresponding with those sustained by men employed by electrical contractors (varying from 1d. to 1½d. per hour). Rate after change in London: 1s. 8d. per hour.
			Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings (except electrical fitters and wiremen and engineers)	Bonus of 12½ per cent. previously paid on total earnings reduced to 8½ per cent. Minimum hourly rates after change for general indoor and outdoor labourers respectively: Zone A, 7·25d., 7·75d.; Zone B, 6·56d., 7·05d.; Zone C, 6·28d., 6·75d., plus in each case 21s. 9d. per week, plus 8½ per cent.**
	North East Coast**	1st full pay after 1 Feb.		Decrease of 5 per cent. on total wages. Minimum hourly rates after change for general indoor and outdoor labourers, respectively: Zone A, 1s. 1·87d., 1s. 2·42d.; Zone B, 1s. 1·2d., 1s. 1·80d.; Zone C, 1s. 0·91d., 1s. 1·52d.**

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

† See also p. 75 of February GAZETTE.

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

§ First assistants where three, including manager, are employed, 3s. extra; and 5s. extra where five or more, including manager, are employed.

¶ Including Aberdeen, Buckie, Fraserburgh, Lerwick, Peterhead, Stornoway and Wick.

¶ The decrease applied to undertakings which pay the rates of wages recognised by the District Joint Industrial Councils in the following areas:—London, Yorkshire, East Midlands (Grade 2 Undertakings only), and West of England.

** The undertakings at which this decrease in wages was put into operation were those which follow the decisions of the District Joint Industrial Council for the Electric Supply Industry. At some of the undertakings the rates actually paid to labourers are higher than the minimum rates quoted, which are those recognised by the District Joint Council. At the majority of undertakings which do not follow the arrangements made by the District Joint Council, no reduction in wages was made in February, and different rates are paid.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES—(continued).				
Electricity Supply Undertakings (contd.)	West Midlands* ...	1st pay in Feb.	Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings	Decrease of 1s. 3d. per week. Minimum hourly rates after change for indoor general labourers: Zone A, 1s. 1'96d.; Zone B, 1s. 1'46d.; Zone C, 1s. 0'96d.*
	East Coast* ...	1 Feb.	Labourers† employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings	Rates fixed at an amount 2s. per week above the rate paid to labourers in the local authority non-trading services, subject to such amount not exceeding the rate already provided for in the District Council's Schedule,‡ and not falling below:—Grade A districts, 48s.; Grade B, 45s.; Grade C, 42s.
	South Coast* ...	1st full pay in Feb.	Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings	Decrease of 2s. per week all round, and a new grading scheme adopted dividing the area into four Zones§ instead of two as previously: Zone A rates to be 2s. less than before, Zone B 2½ per cent. below Zone A, Zone C 5 per cent. below Zone A, and Zone D 7½ per cent. below Zone A. Minimum hourly rates after change for indoor labourers: Zone A, 1s. 1'8d.; Zone B, 1s. 1'45d.; Zone C, 1s. 1'11d.; Zone D, 1s. 0'76d.§
	Devonshire and Cornwall* ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Electrical and mechanical fitters and excavators All other classes ...	Weekly rates adopted of 67s. 3d. for fitters and 25s. 11½d. for casual labourer excavators.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire*	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings	Decrease of 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change for indoor and outdoor labourers: Zone A, 52s. 11½d.; Zone B, 48s. 11½d.; Zone C, 44s. 11½d.
	Scotland* ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings (except electrical fitters and wiremen and engineers)	Decreases of 5s. per week (1½d. per hour) for skilled grades, of proportionate amounts for semi-skilled grades, and of 3s. per week (¾d. per hour) for unskilled grades. Minimum hourly rate after change for indoor and outdoor general labourers: 1s. 2½d.*
Waterworks Undertakings	Glasgow ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in Corporation Electricity Department	Decrease of 5 per cent. on total wages. Minimum hourly rates after change for indoor general labourers: Zone A, 1s. 1'68d.; Zone B, 1s. 1'38d.; Zone C, 1s. 0'79d.*
	Plymouth ...	10 Jan.	Workpeople employed at Waterworks Undertakings	Decrease of 2s. per week for able-bodied males and of 1s. per week for watchmen and females. Rates after change for indoor and outdoor labourers, 54s. to 58s. per week.
Gas Undertakings	Glasgow ...	7 Feb.	Workpeople employed in Corporation gas works	Decrease of 1s. 11d. per week. Rates after change: pipelayers 51s. 6d. to 53s. 6d.; general labourers, 49s. per week.
	Huddersfield ...	1 Feb.	Motormen, conductors, car-cleaners, and general labourers employed in Tramway Department	Decrease of 2s. per week. Rates after change: ordinary machine stokers, 63s.; labourers (in works), 54s.; labourers (outside), 54s. 6d. per week.
Tramways Undertakings	Sheffield ...	4 Feb.	Motormen, conductors, car-cleaners, and general labourers employed in Tramway Department	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: motormen, 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3½d.; conductors (18 years and over), 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3½d.; car cleaners, 1s. 2½d.; general labourers, 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3½d. per hour.
	Glasgow ...	1st full pay in Feb.	Motormen, conductors, car-cleaners, semi-skilled and unskilled men and women employed in Tramways Department	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: motormen, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 3'85d.; conductors (18 years and over), 1s. 2'1d. to 1s. 2'75 d.; car cleaners (night), 1s. 2'71d.; (day), 1s. 2'89d.; and general labourers, 1s. 2'74d. per hour.
Local Authority Services	Certain Authorities in Glamorganshire||	1st full week in Feb.	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in non-trading departments of Local Authorities	Decrease of 2s. per week for men and of 1s. per week for women and for boys under 18 years of age. Rates after change: motormen and conductors on entering service, 56s. per week; after 6 months, 57s.; after 1 year, 58s.; after 2 years, 60s.; after 3 years, 62s.; after 4 years, 64s.
	Glasgow ...	1st full pay week in Feb.	Corporation employees in non-trading departments whose wages are not regulated by agreements or trade union conditions	Decrease of 2d. per hour, and a sliding scale adopted whereby wages are to fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc. Rate after change for labourers, 1s. 2d. per hour. Decrease in bonus of 2s. per week for unskilled and semi-skilled employees, and of 1s. per week for females, non-able-bodied males and boys under 18 years of age. Rates after change for labourers, scavengers and sweepers, 54s. per week.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1923.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
Food, Drink, etc.	Sheffield ...	3 Feb.	Brewery workers (except coopers)	Increase of 1 hour per week (carters and stablemen, 48 to 49; inside workers, lorrymen and assistants, 47 to 48).¶

* The undertakings at which this decrease in wages was put into operation were those which follow the decisions of the District Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry. At some of the undertakings the rates actually paid to labourers are higher than the minimum rates quoted, which are those recognised by the District Joint Council. At the majority of undertakings which do not follow the arrangements made by the District Joint Council no reduction in wages was made in February, and different rates are paid.

† It was agreed that reductions, where made, should apply proportionately to the following classes:—Engine cleaners or greasers, crane drivers, ash hoppers and conveyers, coal handling plant attendants, coal trimmers, boiler cleaners, public lighting attendants, overhead wiremen's assistants, and fitters' and joiners' mates.

‡ The schedule and the minimum rates fixed are subject to variations in accordance with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.

§ The undertakings affected, include the following named under their respective Zones: A, Bournemouth, Brighton, Eastbourne, Portsmouth, Southampton; B, Basingstoke, Bexhill, Weymouth and Worthing; C, Aldershot; D, Lymington.

|| The decrease took effect under an arrangement made by the Joint Wages Board for Local Authorities in Glamorganshire. The Authorities affected include the following:—Aberdare, Barry, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Glyncorrwg, Merthyr Tydvil, Neath, Penarth, Port Talbot, Pontypridd, Rhondda, and Neath R.D.C.

¶ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by reductions already reported as having been arranged to take effect in March:—Coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midlands area, and Scotland; ship repairers on the Mersey; electrical cable makers; heating and domestic engineers; workpeople in the retail bespoke tailoring trade (under Trade Board Order); flour millers; brewery workers at Burton; employees in the electricity supply industry on the North-East Coast and in Yorkshire; and workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire, and the West Midlands.

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 February, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below, corresponded to a rate of 553 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 7 per 10,000 on the previous month, and an increase of 19 per 10,000 on a year ago.

As compared with January, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 12,277 (or 1·3 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief was higher by 1,082 (or 0·9 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 13,359 (or 1·6 per cent.). Twelve districts showed increases, and every other district showed a decrease. The greatest decreases were in the Stockton and Tees district (156 per 10,000 of population), in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (102 per 10,000), and in the Paisley and Greenock district (100 per 10,000).

As compared with February, 1922, the total number relieved showed an increase of 32,888 (or 3·5 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 726 (or 0·6 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 32,162 (or 4·0 per cent.). Seventeen districts showed decreases, and every other district showed an increase. The greatest increases were in the Glasgow district (361 per 10,000 of population), in the Paisley and Greenock district (329 per 10,000) and in the West Ham district (218 per 10,000).

Four districts showed increases ranging from 69 to 165, and seven districts showed increases ranging from 9 to 55.

Selected Urban Areas.*	Number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief on one day in February, 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	9,550	12,197	21,747	267	— 8	— 49
North District	10,462	29,831	40,293	401	+ 2	+ 18
Central District	2,648	3,319	5,967	450	— 5	— 26
East District	10,179	56,507	66,686	1,052	+ 10	+ 165
South District	19,998	94,678	114,676	604	— 5	+ 31
TOTAL, Metropolis ..	52,837	196,532	249,369	556	— 2	+ 31
West Ham	4,209	69,973	74,182	1,007	— 20	+ 218
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ..	2,730	32,291	35,021	720	— 27	+ 134
Stockton and Tees District ..	1,234	24,329	25,563	972	— 156	— 164
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	3,986	6,692	10,678	137	— 3	+ 9
Wigan District	1,831	12,612	14,443	333	— 1	— 115
Manchester District ..	8,915	33,449	42,364	419	— 5	— 37
Liverpool District ..	10,458	58,514	68,972	583	— 24	— 120
Bradford District ..	1,801	5,270	7,071	193	— 1	— 71
Halifax and Huddersfield	1,252	3,485	4,737	125	+ 1	— 56
Leeds District	2,568	11,367	13,935	290	+ 6	+ 69
Barnsley District ..	919	8,998	9,917	317	+ 2	— 17
Sheffield District ..	2,682	50,574	53,256	1,058	— 50	— 2
Hull District	1,834	14,423	16,257	525	— 7	— 4
North Staffordshire ..	2,129	6,412	8,541	211	— 8	— 6
Nottingham District ..	2,145	10,582	12,727	279	+ 13	+ 55
Leicester District ..	1,223	3,179	4,402	188	— 12	— 23
Wolverhampton District ..	3,274	30,609	33,883	483	— 8	— 120
Birmingham District ..	7,310	59,188	66,498	723	— 40	— 153
Bristol District	2,625	14,221	16,846	416	+ 6	+ 26
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,442	14,925	17,367	376	+ 13	— 27
TOTAL "Other Districts"	61,358	401,120	462,478	458	— 15	— 43
SCOTLAND.†						
Glasgow District	5,025	112,676	117,701	1,216	+ 72	+ 381
Paisley & Greenock Dist.	807	17,167	17,974	939	— 100	+ 329
Edinburgh & Leith Dist.	1,634	16,080	17,714	421	+ 5	+ 73
Dundee and Dunfermline	750	3,668	4,418	214	+ 13	+ 34
Aberdeen	509	6,078	6,587	414	+ 7	+ 31
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	407	9,366	9,773	963	— 102	— 144
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts }	9,132	165,035	174,167	851	+ 22	+ 224
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Feb., 1923 }	127,536	832,660	960,196	553	— 7	+ 19

* 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.

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 February, 1923, was 20. Two deaths due to lead poisoning in the pottery industry were reported during the month. Six cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during February, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—

Smelting of Metals ..	...
Plumbing and Soldering ..	1
Printing .. ..	...
File Cutting and Hardening ..	...
Tinning of Metals ..	...
Other Contact with Molten Lead ..	...
White and Red Lead Works ..	1
† Pottery	8
Vitreous Enamelling ..	...
Electric Accumulator Works ..	2
Paint and Colour Works ..	1
Indiarubber Works ..	1
Coach and Car Painting ..	1
Shipbuilding .. ..	...
Paint used in other Industries ..	...
Other Industries ..	1

TOTAL OF ABOVE... 16

HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING ... 6

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

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

TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ... 2

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—

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

TOTAL ANTHRAX ... 2

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 February, 1923, was 224, as compared with 196 in the previous month and 175 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

RAILWAY SERVICE.		Factories and Workshops (continued):	
Brakesmen and Goods Guards ..	1	Boiler Making & Constructional Engineering ..	1
Engine Drivers ..	4	Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ..	1
Firemen ..	2	Other Metal Trades ..	2
Guards (Passenger) ..	...	Shipbuilding ..	4
Permanent Way Men ..	6	Wood ..	1
Porters ..	...	Gas ..	4
Shunters ..	2	Electric Generating Stations ..	1
Mechanics ..	1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ..	3
Labourers ..	...	Chemicals, etc. ..	3
Miscellaneous ..	7	Food and Drink ..	3
Contractors' Servants ..	...	Paper, Printing, etc. ..	2
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ..	23	Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	...
MINES.		Rubber Trades ..	...
Underground ..	111	Other Non-Textile Industries ..	3
Surface ..	13	TOTAL FOR FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ..	49
TOTAL, MINES ..	124	Docks, Wharves, etc., s. 104 ..	9
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ..		Buildings, s. 105 ..	8
Factories and Workshops.		Warehouses, s. 104 and Railway Sidings, s. 106 ..	1
Cotton ..	1	TOTAL ...	67
Wool, Worsted, & Shoddy ..	4	Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 ..	
Other Textiles ..	1	Total (excluding Seamen) ...	
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ..	...	224	
Metal Extracting and Refining ..	4		
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ..	8		
Metal Founding ..	...	
Engineering and Machine Making ..	3		

* 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.

‡ Of the 8 persons affected in the pottery industry 5 were females.

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

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.			
	Per cent. 109	Per cent. 158	Per cent. 120	Per cent. 80	Per cent. 71	Rise.	Date.
UNITED KINGDOM ..	—	—	—	—	—	Mar. '23	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna) ..	—	—	9,320†	323,100	107,8300	Feb. '23	
Belgium† ..	—	359	310	281	339	Feb. '23	
Czechoslovakia§ ..	—	—	1,246	1,330	862	Dec. '22	
Denmark ..	112	153	136	84	80	Jan. '23	
Finland ..	—	882	1,178	1,005	992	Dec. '22	
France (Paris)§ ..	161	273	206	197	216	Feb. '23	
„ (other towns)§ ..	188||	288||	250||	212||	214	Nov. '22	
Germany ..	—	—	1,391	6,736	136,500	Jan. '23	
Holland (The Hague) ..	—	143	113	80	66	Nov. '22	
„ (Amsterdam) ..	110	117	85	44	42	Dec. '22	
Italy (Rome) ..	106	218	302	359	376	Dec. '22	
„ (Milan) ..	210	345	406	392	400	Feb. '23	
Norway ..	189	219	195	133	114	Feb. '23	
Poland (Warsaw) ..	—	—	45,555	129,711	323,729	Dec. '22	
Sweden§ ..	210	197	132	79	66	Jan. '23	
Switzerland ..	—	—	110	57	55	Jan. '23	
United States ..	86	115	45	39	41	Jan. '23	
OVERSEAS DOMINIONS.							
Australia ..	47	94	61	48	45	Jan. '23	
Canada ..	86	127	48	38	42	Feb. '23	
India (Bombay) ..	—	—	88	74	51	Jan. '23	
New Zealand ..	44	67	64	44	40	Feb. '23	
South Africa ..	39	97	39	16	17	Jan. '23	

* 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 February the increase for all working-class families ranged from 339 to 347 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. || Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.*	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†					Latest figures available.	
		July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.			
		Per cent. 105-110	Per cent. 152	Per cent. 119	Per cent. 84	Per cent. 76	Rise.	Date.
UNITED KINGDOM ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	—	—	—	—	Mar. '23	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								
Austria (Vienna) ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	—	9,700§	284,400	960,000	Feb. '23	
Belgium ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	353	279	266	297	Feb. '23	
Bulgaria ..	A, D	—	—	1,512	2,331	2,398	Oct. '22	
Denmark ..	A, B, C, D, E	111	162	137	99	98	Jan. '23	
Finland ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	811	1,039	1,018	1,039	Dec. '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	
„ ..	A, B, C, D	—	—	—	5,282	111,927	Jan. '23	
Italy (Rome) ..	A, B, C, D, E	105	213	287	329	339	Dec. '22	
„ (Milan) ..	A, B, C, D, E	180	341	394	388	397	Feb. '23	
Luxemburg ..	A, C, D	—	—	284	259	299	Dec. '22	
Norway ..	A, B, C, D, E	180	202§	202§	155§	142	Dec. '22	
Poland ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	—	25,609	78,698	230,876	Dec. '22	
Spain (Madrid) ..	A, D	74‡	90‡	84	79	80	Jan. '23	
„ (Barcelona) ..	A, D	81‡	91‡	78	73	71	Jan. '23	
Sweden ..	A, B, C, D, E	157	170	136	90	83	Jan. '23	
Switzerland ..	A, D	—	—	59	58	58	Jan. '23	
United States ..	A, B, C, D, E	77§	117§	80||	67§	70	Dec. '22	
OVERSEAS DOMINIONS.								
Australia ..	A, B	33‡	67‡	46‡	43	43	3rd Qtr. 1922	
„ ..	A, B, C, E	—	—	—	—	42	Aug. '22	
Canada ..	A, B, D	56	90	52	46	50	Feb. '23	
Egypt (Cairo) ..	A, D	—	—	93	72	74	Dec. '22	
India (Bombay) ..	A, B, C, D	—	89	77	65	56	Jan. '23	
New Zealand ..	A, B, D	32	49	57	44	43	Nov. '22	
South Africa ..	A, B, D	25	62	30‡	20	20	Jan. '23	

* 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, Luxemburg 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. 91-92 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 February.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 24th February was 11,922 (8,671 men and 3,251 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 8,109 (3,900 for men and 4,209 for women). During the week under review the exchanges succeeded in placing 26,496 persons (21,358 men and 5,138 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 2,093 foreign immigrants.

Out-of-work Benefit in February.—According to the latest returns six departmental and thirty-six municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 1st March, the total number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 2,813 (2,541 men and 272 women). This total shows an increase of fifty-five when compared with the corresponding figure (2,758) 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 thirty-one are departmental and 233 municipal. The maximum number of persons in receipt of donations (91,225) was reached in March, 1921.

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment in December and January.—The most recent figures available are provisional in character and relate to January. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,697 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 647,754, show that 25,514 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The aggregate days of unemployment in January numbered 390,590, as against 367,386 in December.

Revised and final figures are given for December, in which month 1,745 funds, with an aggregate membership of 686,429, reported 11,743 (or 1.7 per cent.) wholly unemployed and 14,312 partially so on the last working day of the month.

During January 15,950 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 14,646 in December. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 13,153 (11,773 in December). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 121 applications, as compared with 124 in December.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in January.—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 January, 1923, was 56,275 (as compared with 53,463 at the end of the preceding month, and 79,091 at the end of January, 1922). Of these, 12,264 were employed on relief works, leaving 44,011 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 10,981 normally engaged in the building trades, 6,793 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 6,332 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades, and 4,816 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work, 19,868 were reported as only partially employed, including 8,584 in the textile trades, 4,851 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 2,007 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. The vacancies offered by employers remaining unfilled at the end of January numbered 1,492.

During the month of January, on an average, 624 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men and 196 for each 100 for women. In December the figures were 587 and 283 respectively.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in February.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 10th February, out of 327,563 members of unemployment funds making returns 12.0 per cent. were totally unemployed and 2.9 per cent. partially so. In the first week of the preceding month (ended 6th January) the corresponding percentages were 14.0 and 3.5 respectively.

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

† Revue du Travail, February, 1923. Brussels.

‡ Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, 15th February, 1923. Berne.

GERMANY.

Employment in January.—The issue of *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* for 1st March, reporting on employment in January, states that, so far as can be gathered from the various statistical data, employment underwent a decline during that month, but hardly to the extent believed in some quarters. Certain industries, such as the Rhenish-Westphalian metal and engineering, the chemical and the electrical industries, even reported a slight increase in the membership of their factory sickness insurance funds (or, in other words, in the numbers employed). The events which disturbed the Western industrial area during January and the frequent and sudden fluctuations which occurred from time to time in the exchange value of the currency (which rendered the importation of raw materials from abroad extremely difficult), led in some instances to restricted working time and to discharges of staff. In agriculture alone was there an increased demand for workers.

The figures as to the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation in January are incomplete, returns from several important areas not being received. So far as can be ascertained, the total for 1st February is 144,312, as compared with 85,301 for 1st January.

Returns from trade unions show an increased number of organised workers out of employment. Out of 5,800,000 included in the returns 252,873, or 4.4 per cent. of the total, were out of work on 31st January, as compared with 2.8 per cent. in the preceding month and 3.3 per cent. at the end of January, 1922.

Unions.	Member-ship reported at end of Jan. 1923.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Jan., 1923.	Dec., 1922.	Jan., 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	5,808,830	4.4	2.8	3.3
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building (Soc. Dem.) ..	550,619	12.4	6.6	19.0
" (Christian) ..	56,196	6.6	6.5	8.5
Painters (Soc. Dem.) ..	53,998	12.7	9.7	13.4
Metal (Soc. Dem.) ..	1,349,357	1.3	0.8	0.6
" (Hirsch-Duncker) ..	120,782	0.5	0.3	0.2
Textile (Soc. Dem.) ..	702,368	3.3	2.9	0.7
" (Christian) ..	130,981	2.3	2.2	0.7
Clothing (Soc. Dem.) ..	62,640	2.0	2.6	0.2
Boot and shoe ..	97,717	3.9	3.5	1.7
Transport (Soc. Dem.) ..	496,866	2.7	1.9	4.9
Printing ..	62,403	8.4	8.0	1.3
Bookbinding ..	96,773	4.5	2.7	1.1
Woodworking (Soc. Dem.) ..	424,231	2.4	1.9	1.0
Glass (Soc. Dem.) ..	61,128	0.6	0.2	0.6
Baking and confectionery (Soc. Dem.) ..	77,894	9.6	10.2	5.6
Tobacco (Soc. Dem.) ..	83,546	23.8	22.5	11.8
Factory workers (irrespective of trade) ..	644,628	4.2	2.4	2.2
Factory and transport workers (Christian) ..	127,531	5.3	1.0	1.1
Municipal and State workers ..	212,117	2.4	1.6	1.9

The above totals do not include persons only partially employed, of whom in January there were 13 per cent. among the 5,000,000 trade union members covered by the returns—a considerable increase when compared with the figure (8.7 per cent.) for the preceding month. The returns from public Employment Exchanges, which show the position on 16th February, indicate a considerably larger number of applications for employment, as against a slight increase in the number of vacancies notified. At 715 of the larger Exchanges the applications numbered 426,967, as against 59,439 offers of situations. In the preceding month the totals were 386,037 and 55,793 respectively.

Statistics of membership of sickness insurance societies show that in 4,826 societies making returns the membership (*i.e.*, the number of persons under obligation to insure, and hence assumed to be in work) fell from 10,835,422 on 1st January to 10,748,363 on 1st February, or by 0.8 per cent.

NORWAY.

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

Unions.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Jan. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1922.	Jan. 31, 1922.
Bricklayers and masons (Christiania) ..	871	861	931	9.2	14.5	10.2
Carpenters ..	801	770	892	20.1	18.7	35.1
Painters (Christiania) ..	449	446	611	20.3	17.5	29.3
Metal workers ..	6,763	6,671	6,791	13.8	15.5	23.2
Boot and shoe makers ..	933	894	821	13.6	9.3	11.1
Printers ..	2,393	2,383	2,365	4.1	6.6	10.8
Bookbinders (Christiania) ..	810	721	742	12.3	8.3	24.4
Cabinetmakers ..	501	504	589	16.4	12.3	26.3
Bakers (Christiania) ..	609	597	500	13.3	13.9	11.0
Total ..	14,130	13,847	14,242	12.4	13.2	20.4

SWEDEN.*

Unemployment in December.—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions on 31st December was 21.7, as compared with 17.2 at the end of the preceding month and 33.2 on 31st December, 1921. The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns:—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Dec., 1922.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Dec., 1922.	30th Nov., 1922.	31st Dec., 1921.
All Unions making Returns ..	128,168	21.7	17.2	33.2
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Iron and steel ..	8,562	24.7	18.0	41.5
Moulders ..	2,287	40.6	31.8	44.8
Engineering ..	27,803	25.9	25.0	33.8
Textile ..	4,973	3.0	2.8	6.5
Boot, shoe and leather ..	5,610	6.6	6.3	13.1
Food trade ..	3,610	20.0	10.0	..
Brewery ..	3,106	7.0	7.4	8.2
Tobacco ..	2,992	2.0	2.0	7.9
Sawmill ..	9,444	48.7	25.5	63.0
Woodworking ..	6,056	23.6	23.9	42.1
Paper ..	8,234	7.6	7.6	34.7
Municipal workers ..	6,536	4.7	2.9	4.8
Commercial employees ..	6,106	10.0	8.5	12.3
General and factory workers (trades not specified) ..	13,939	29.5	23.8	45.3

DENMARK.†

Unemployment in January.—Out of a total of 257,417 work-people covered by returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by the trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange, 21.5 per cent. were unemployed on 26th January, as compared with 20.3 per cent. on 29th December and 28.9 per cent. at the end of January, 1922.

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople included in Returns for 26th Jan., 1923.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		26th Jan., 1923.	29th Dec., 1922.	27th Jan., 1922.
Copenhagen:—				
Building trades	11,707	28.7	24.9	46.6
Other industries	58,901	18.3	22.0	28.4
Commercial employment ..	8,020	11.0	11.8	9.1
General labourers (trades not specified)	30,382	18.7	17.9	23.0
Total	109,010	19.0	20.4	27.2
Provinces:—				
Building trades	19,399	42.6	34.0	58.4
Other industries	54,747	17.3	16.4	24.8
Commercial employment ..	9,231	7.9	7.4	6.3
General labourers (trades not specified)	65,030	24.7	21.1	30.1
Total	148,407	23.3	20.2	30.1
Grand total.. ..	257,417	21.5	20.3	28.9

CANADA.‡

Employment in February.—For 1st February, 1923, returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 6,253 firms with an aggregate pay-roll of 733,063 workers. On the 1st January the same firms reported 707,859 workers. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st February is 89.5, as compared with 86.3 for 1st January, and 78.9 for 1st February, 1922.

UNITED STATES.§

Employment in January.—According to a statement issued by the United States Department of Labour, industrial employment was accelerated owing to the adjustment of the coal mine and railway shop controversies, and labour shortages were apparent in every section of the country.

The Federal Department of Labour Statistics at Washington presents reports concerning the volume of employment in January, 1923, from 4,153 representative establishments, covering 1,839,678 workers in forty-three manufacturing industries.

A comparison of the figures with those for identical establishments in December, 1922, shows that, on the whole, there was an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number of persons employed

* *Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 2, 1923. Stockholm.

† *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 26th February, 1923. Copenhagen.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Employment Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

§ Mainly from information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

in January. Increases are shown in twenty-four industries and decreases in eighteen, while one industry (sawmilling) shows no change. The largest increase (36.9 per cent.) appears in the pottery industry. Women's clothing and fertilisers show increases of 11.1 and 10.8 per cent. respectively. Decreases are shown in the brick (7.7 per cent.) and flour industries (7.0 per cent.). In respect of aggregate wages, twelve of the forty-three industries show increases in January over the preceding month and thirty-one decreases. The largest increase (54.5 per cent.) appears in the pottery industry; increases are also shown in women's clothing (24.9 per cent.) and fertilisers (9.3 per cent.).

The net increase in the number of persons employed in the thirteen industries is 19.5 per cent. Ten industries show increases and three decreases. Automobiles, iron and steel, and car building and repairing show the largest increases (42.7 per cent., 40.2 per cent. and 35.8 per cent. respectively); a decrease of 9.8 per cent. appears in men's clothing.

As regards aggregate earnings, eleven industries show increases and two decreases. Increases of 135.7 per cent. in the automobile industry and of 103.6 per cent. in the iron and steel industry are the largest reported.

The following Table affords a comparison between returns from identical establishments in January, 1923, and January, 1922:—

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of workpeople.			Aggregate Weekly Earnings.		
		Jan., 1922.	Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—)	Jan., 1922.	Jan., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—)
				Per cent.	Dollars	Dollars	Per cent.
Iron and steel ..	110	109,708	153,794	+ 40.2	2,054,756	4,182,879	+103.6
Car building and repairing ..	55	41,125	55,857	+ 35.8	990,899	1,467,718	+ 48.1
Automobiles ..	39	84,418	120,466	+ 42.7	1,475,644	3,478,815	+135.7
Cotton manufacturing ..	56	55,927	55,488	— 0.8	946,431	978,224	+ 3.4
Cotton finishing..	17	13,534	14,096	+ 4.2	285,759	309,597	+ 8.3
Hosiery and knit goods	62	30,288	30,308	+ 0.1	490,704	489,425	— 0.3
Woollen ..	23	23,824	25,879	+ 8.6	521,069	607,389	+ 16.6
Silk ..	45	18,436	17,894	— 2.9	374,397	379,700	+ 1.4
Men's clothing ..	34	28,412	25,629	— 9.8	855,645	762,611	— 10.9
Boots and shoes..	71	60,474	62,612	+ 3.5	1,380,660	1,460,175	+ 5.8
Tobacco, etc. ..	49	13,940	15,048	+ 7.9	246,844	278,218	+ 12.7
Leather ..	33	12,928	14,431	+ 11.6	275,805	321,603	+ 16.6
Paper ..	45	19,496	20,830	+ 6.8	468,843	512,117	+ 9.2

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

APPLICATION OF ACT TO SEAMEN—CREW OF FISHING VESSEL REMUNERATED BY SHARES—TRAWLER—HAND HAVING SHARE IN VESSEL'S EARNINGS EXCLUDED.

Section 7 of the above Act provides as follows:—

"1. This Act shall apply to masters, seamen, and apprentices to the sea service and apprentices in the sea-fishing service, provided that such persons are workmen within the meaning of this Act, and are members of the crew of any ship registered in the United Kingdom, or of any other British ship or vessel of which the owner, or (if there is more than one owner) the managing owner, or manager resides or has his principal place of business in the United Kingdom.

Sub-section 2 of the same section creates an exception to this general application, and reads as follows:—

"2. This Act shall not apply to any such members of the crew of a fishing vessel as are remunerated by shares in the profits or the gross earnings of the working of such vessel."

Upon this sub-section it has been decided that a fisherman is not excluded merely because he is the owner of one of the 64 shares in the vessel, but he is excluded if any part of his remuneration consists of shares, even though the amount of shares is guaranteed to be equal to a fixed sum, or is only a small addition to a substantial weekly wage. This latter decision was confirmed by a majority of the House of Lords in 1913.

A case bearing on this sub-section was heard in the Court of Appeal on the 19th February last, in which the owners of the Grimsby trawler "Angolea" appealed from a County Court Judge's decision awarding compensation to a trimmer employed on the "Angolea" at a wage of two guineas per week, all found, plus 2d. in each pound on net profits. Compensation was awarded to the trimmer on account of an injury to his left hand which occurred in the course of his employment. Their Lordships allowed the appeal, holding that the trimmer was excluded from the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act because he was in part remunerated by a share in the earnings of the vessel.—Court of Appeal, 19th February, 1923.

(2) Accident to Miner—Suicide after Return to Work—Cause of Suicide.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, applies to "Personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment." Deliberate self-maiming and suicide are obviously not accidental injuries to which the Act can be applied, but suicide may in certain cases be consequential on an injury sustained by accident, and when the suicide results from insanity consequent on personal injury by accident it has been held to be death resulting from the injury. The onus of proof rests with the dependants of the deceased, who must show not only that death is due to insanity, but also that the insanity is the direct result of the injury.

In May of last year a miner suffered injuries resulting from the fall of the roof where he was working, when he was struck over his right eye and ear. The wound over the eye healed, but the ear remained septic. In June he returned to work, and in July he committed suicide. The application for compensation was heard at the Abertillery County Court, when evidence was given that before the accident the miner had been of a cheerful disposition, but from the date of his accident until his death he had suffered from sleeplessness, considerable pain and melancholia. The learned County Court Judge found as a fact that when he committed suicide the miner was insane and that the insanity was the result of shock arising from the injury, and consequently made an award in favour of the widow. Against this decision the respondent company appealed on the ground that the evidence did not justify the finding of insanity. The

Court of Appeal held that if there was in this case evidence to show that the accident led to melancholia and suffering which might have caused insanity and subsequent suicide the finding of the County Court Judge could not be reversed. They accordingly dismissed the appeal.—Court of Appeal, 14th February, 1923.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

[Mr. J. G. PEASE, C.B.E., was appointed by His Majesty to be Umpire as from the 1st February, 1923, under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1922, in succession to Mr. W. B. Yates, who retired on reaching the age limit.]

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. 4127, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT ON LABOUR MARKET FOR WORK IN CASE OF ABSENCES OF REGULAR MEN—DOUBT WHETHER REGULAR WORK AVAILABLE AT ONCE—NO TRIAL GIVEN.

It was reported that the applicants, a number of colliers, had on 1st November, 1922, refused offers of employment at a colliery about 8 miles away. The standard rate of 10s. per shift was offered, but it was pointed out that the men could have earned from 12s. to 15s. per day. All the men had been unemployed for some months, but they refused the offers because, *inter alia*, the colliery was too far away and there were over 200 men on the colliery company's books who should have been given the work. It was stated that the colliery company provided charrs-à-bancs for the purpose of conveying their employees to and from the colliery, and for this each man was charged 3s. per week.

On behalf of the men it was stated that the company kept a pool, or market of labour, from which they drew men to fill the places of absent regular men. The total number of men signed on by the colliery was 995, and the number of men actually working was 784, leaving 211 men unaccounted for and to whom regular work should be offered before further men were brought into the market.

The colliery company stated that they had applied to the Employment Exchange for 100 men, and one of the reasons which necessitated this application was the fact that a number of the men already employed actually attended for work on only one or two days per week. The average percentage of absentees through sickness, accidents and voluntary absences was from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent., and a statement on behalf of the men, to the effect that about 50 men per week were on the market and were not engaged, was not correct. A further reason for the demand for extra men was the company's decision to fit up new working places so that a total of about 880 men could be employed; but the demand was subsequently withdrawn after pressure had been brought to bear by the men's Association.

The men contended that the percentage of absentees at the colliery was only 12 per cent., and that the company wanted to flood their labour market. Assuming they accepted the offers they might report at the colliery for 6 days a week, but it was highly probable that they would get work for one shift only. Of about 200 men who had been sent by the Exchange, only 26 had been engaged and 17 had started work; the remainder had, in general, been rejected as unsuitable because, the company stated, they had made impossible demands.

The colliery company further stated that they could still employ the 100 men for whom they had applied to the Exchange, and that since they had cancelled that demand they had started all men who had applied for work. Their previous figures of 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. for absentees were correct.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed on the ground that the men had refused offers of suitable employment. In view of the reasons and statistics supplied by the company for their demand for the men the Court were unable to accept the men's contentions.

The applicants' Association declined to accept the Court's recommendation and appealed to the Umpire.

At an oral hearing before the Umpire it was stated that this mine was very hot, the temperature being 95 deg., and, for this reason men could not work more than 4 to 5 shifts per week. The percentage of absenteeism had been exaggerated, and, in any event, included absences due to sickness and accident. A representative of the employers agreed that the figures covered absence from all causes and stated that it was round about 20 per cent., of which 14 per cent. was due to voluntary abstention. It was on this account that more men could be employed, and, in addition, there were developments in progress. It was further contended on behalf of the applicants that the question where the additional men were to work had been gone into with the under-manager, and it appeared that there were practically no definite places available yet. The demand for additional men was made simply on the general impression that, owing to abstentions due to the heat, there appeared to be room for more men at work each day than were actually at work. There were, however, already on the books of the Company over 200 more men than were ordinarily at work. Surplus men were "on the market" and attended in case there might be vacancies from day to day, and the applicants would be simply an addition to the numbers on the market. It was not fair that men should be expected to travel daily such distances as the present applicants would have to do for a chance of work which might occur only once a week.

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

"The applicants should have made a reasonable trial of the employment offered. I am doubtful, however, in view of the explanations which have been made, whether the prospective employer was in a position to offer at once or in the near future anything but casual work contingent on the absence of regular men, which would be a serious disadvantage to men who had to incur the expense of a long journey to the mine. In view of this the Insurance Officer should be prepared to allow benefit after the lapse of two weeks from the date of refusal of the employment."

CASE NO. 4194, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—NOT AN ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION—CHURCH CARETAKER RELINQUISHED CARETAKING, BUT CONTINUED WITH ORGAN BLOWING, LOCKING UP, ETC.

The applicant was reported to be employed on odd jobs at a church, receiving 6s. 6d. per week in respect of this work. His claim for benefit, which he lodged on 6th November, 1922, was, therefore, disallowed under Section 7 (1) (ii).

The applicant stated that he had previously been the caretaker of the church in question for twenty-six years at a wage of 19s. per week and breakfasts. When he was caretaker he had carried on, in addition to his caretaking, the duties which he now performed, viz., ringing the church bell, blowing the organ on each Thursday evening and Sunday morning and evening, and locking up the church each night at 9 p.m. In March, 1922, he was superseded by a younger man in his duties as caretaker, but he was allowed to continue with the odd jobs above mentioned.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Court held that the applicant's usual occupation was that of a caretaker, and as it was not usual to unite the two offices of caretaker and organ blower the applicant had commonly carried on the work of organ blowing in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his occupation as caretaker; organ blowing was, therefore, an additional occupation, from which the applicant derived less than 3s. 4d. per day on the average.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. He thought it clear that the applicant's occupation as caretaker had included the work of blowing the organ and locking up the church, and that the applicant was really now carrying on part of his previous main work. The locking up of the church on each evening was also work from which the applicant derived remuneration. His present duties could not be regarded as having been carried on in addition to and outside the working hours of his usual employment, since a caretaker was obviously required to be available at all hours.

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

"In my judgment the applicant is continuing a part of his usual employment and is not to be regarded as engaged in an occupation which he has ordinarily followed in addition to his usual employment."

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

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

METALLIC BEDSTEAD INDUSTRY.—Employers' and Workers' sides of the Conciliation Board for the Metallic Bedstead Industry. *Decision.*—Reduction of the basis day and piecework rates of male workers and of the basic piecework rates of women engaged in dipping bedsteads in black by 12½ per cent., to operate as regards 5 per cent. on 12th February, 1923, as regards a further 5 per cent. on 1st April, 1923, and as regards the remaining 2½ per cent. on 1st June, 1923. In the case of other workpeople, no alteration to be made in day or piece rates. Issued 9th February, 1923. (748.)

BOILERFIREMEN AND GASPRODUCERMEN.—Fédération of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (London and North Western Section). *Decision.*—The men concerned are engaged not for night shift work only, but for day, intermediate and night shift work, and are not specifically engaged for night work within the meaning of Schedule F. of Decision No. 728. The Court, therefore, uphold the claim that the men are entitled to payment at rate and a third for all ordinary time worked between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., whether on night shift or intermediate shift. Issued 14th February, 1923. (749.)

ELECTRICAL WIREMEN AND FITTERS (LONDON DISTRICT).—Electrical Trades Union v. Southern Railway Company (London and South Western Section). In applying Decision No. 728, the company classified two of their wiremen as Grade II. workmen, and the claim of the union is that they should have been placed in Grade I. *Decision.*—The Court decide that the two men concerned do not at present reach the standard set out in Decision No. 728, entitling them to be placed in Grade I. Issued 14th February, 1923. (750.)

EQUIPMENT EXAMINERS—LONDON DISTRICT.—Electrical Trades Union v. Southern Railway Company (London and South Western Section). *Decision.*—The Court decide that the men concerned shall be regarded as staff men, and that accordingly the terms of Decision No. 728 do not apply to them. In these circumstances the general question raised by the Union as to the right of a company to compel men to contract out of the award does not arise. The Court note that the men's original claim was for a reconsideration of their basis rate and suggest that the company should give the matter some further consideration. Issued 14th February, 1923. (751.)

STAYERS—STRATFORD.—Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. London and North Eastern Railway Company (Great Eastern Section). In the absence of a specified rate and by comparison with other rates laid down in Decision No. 728, the company fixed a basis rate of 45s. a week for stayers at Stratford. The Society forthwith protested that the men should be paid as skilled riveters. *Decision.*—The basis rate paid previous to Decision No. 728 shall be continued up to the date of the present decision, and as from the first pay period following that date the basis rate shall be 45s. a week. Issued 14th February, 1923. (752.)

EMPLOYEES IN MARINE AND DOCKS ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENTS—SOUTHAMPTON.—National Union of Railwaymen v. Southern Railway Company (London and South Western Section). *Decision.*—The men in question are not covered by Decision No. 728. Issued 15th February, 1923. (753.)

WOODWORKERS IN MARINE AND DOCKS ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENTS—SOUTHAMPTON.—Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers v. Southern Railway Company (London and South Western Section). *Decision.*—The men concerned are not covered by Decision No. 728. Issued 15th February, 1923. (754.)

GAS WORKERS—CREWE.—Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (London and North Western Section). *Decision.*—The men concerned are covered by Decision No. 728, and the claim of the Federation that they should be excluded from its operation is, therefore, not established. Issued 15th February, 1923. (755.)

WAGON REPAIRERS—WILLES DEN, CAMDEN AND BOW.—Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (London and North Western Section). *Decision.*—The nature of the work of the men concerned does not entitle them to be regarded as Grade II. wagon repairers, but as Grade III. wagon repairers. In the case of the three men at Willesden who, previous to the operation of Decision No. 728, were in receipt of an extra 3s. a week, the Court decide that they are not performing work of a character other than the ordinary and customary duties of their class, and find that the claim for the continuance of the extra allowance has not been established. Issued 15th February, 1923. (756.)

BLACKSMITH—LONDON DISTRICT.—Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (London and North Western Section). It was claimed that a blacksmith employed in the wagon repair department at Camden should be classified as Grade I., and should not have been placed by the company when applying Decision No. 728 in Grade II. *Decision.*—The claim for a higher grading for the man concerned is not established. Issued 15th February, 1923. (757.)

WAGON REPAIRERS—GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY, LONDON DISTRICT.—Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. Great Western Railway Company. The Federation claimed that wagon repairers employed in London should be rated at 48s. a week, contending that Decision No. 728 recognises a differential of 4s. in rates between London and Class I. towns. *Decision.*—The Court decide that the claim has not been established, and in paying the men 44s. a week the company correctly applied the decision. Issued 15th February, 1923. (758.)

FITTERS' LABOURERS—WEST HAM.—National Union of Railwaymen v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (Midland Section). It was claimed that ten men employed at West Ham should have been graded as "assistants, mates or helpers" and not as labourers. At the hearing, which resulted in Decision No. 728, it appeared that a certain class of workmen were described as "assistants, mates or helpers," and in making special provision for these men it was the object of the Court to provide for a practice which already existed and not to bring within that class those who were not already in it. *Decision.*—It did not appear from what emerged at the hearing whether the men concerned do or do not come within the classification of "assistants, mates or helpers," and the Court, therefore, remit the matter to the parties for further consideration. Issued 16th February, 1923. (759.)

MILLWRIGHTS', SAWYERS' AND PLUMBERS' LABOURERS—HORWICH.—Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (London and North Western Section). *Decision.*—From the evidence produced it does not appear that any of the men concerned are engaged on work requiring any greater skill than that of a Grade I. labourer, and the Court accordingly find that the claim to be regarded as "assistants, mates or helpers" is not established. Issued 16th February, 1923. (760.)

PAINTERS—SWINDON.—Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. Great Western Railway Company. The company, in applying Decision No. 728, appear to have assumed that their painters must be graded by occupations, and that men in the same occupation must necessarily be assigned to the same grade. This is not required by the decision; and all painters, whatever particular painting they are engaged upon, are entitled to be placed in Grade I. if they are required to do work of the highest class finish and are capable of mixing and matching colours. *Decision.*—The explanation of the method of grading should enable the parties to reach agreement as to the correct application of the decision. With reference to the claim in the matter of grading of individual workmen, the Court will be prepared to give a further decision if, after conferring, the parties are unable to reach agreement. Issued 17th February, 1923. (761.)

CARRIAGE FITTERS—SWINDON.—Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. Great Western Railway Company. The federation appealed against the rates paid by the company to carriage fitters employed at Swindon. *Decision.*—The rates paid are those laid down under Decision No. 728, and the Court can do no more than confirm that the company are paying the correct rates. Issued 17th February, 1923. (762.)

SAND MILL ATTENDANTS, BOILERMEN, ETC.—SWINDON.—Workers' Union v. Great Western Railway Company. *Sand Mill Attendants.*—It was claimed that men described as sand mill attendants should be paid a rate higher than that laid down in Decision No. 728 for sand mixers. *Decision.*—The Court decide that they are of the grade described in the decision as sand mixers, and that the claim for a higher rate has not been established.

Boilermen.—Before the application of the decision two grades of boilermen were recognised at Swindon, but as the decision laid down only one range of rates for the occupation—viz., 32s-36s. a week—the company, in consequence, reduced both grades to 36s. a week. The company were quite justified in doing this, but intimated that they had had no opportunity of examining with the Union, under paragraph 29 of the Decision, the case of individual workmen. It was agreed, with the consent of the Court, that the matter should stand over for discussion between the parties.

Lifters, Carriage and Wagon.—Previous to Decision No. 728 one man in each gang of three was rated higher than the other two, but under the decision the difference disappears. The company intimated that they were prepared to discuss with the union the position of men who were previously in receipt of the higher rate. On this understanding the matter, with the consent of the Court stands over for discussion between the parties. Issued 17th February, 1923. (763.)

PAINTERS—SWINDON.—Workers' Union v. Great Western Railway Company. An appeal was made by the union against the grading, under Decision No. 728, of inside coach painters and men engaged upon preliminary work on coach bodies. It was stated that the appropriate grade for the last-mentioned class of workers was still under consideration by the management, and it was agreed, with the consent of the Court, that their case should be referred back to the parties for discussion. With regard to the other painters concerned, the company seem to have classified them according to occupation. For the decision of the Court see the summary of Decision No. 761, above. Issued 17th February, 1923. (764.)

PAINTERS—EARLESTOWN.—National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators v. London Midland and Scottish Railway Company (London and North Western Section). In applying Decision No. 728, the company placed forty-four men in Grade II. and eight men in Grade III.; the society contended that the men concerned are entitled to a higher grading. *Decision.*—Under the definition in Decision No. 728, the allocation of a painter to the highest grade depends not only on the possession of the requisite skill, but also that the man may be required to do work of the highest class finish; and, bearing in mind the class of painting performed by the men concerned, the Court decide that the grading adopted by the company is not inconsistent with the decision. Issued 21st February, 1923. (765.)

TOOLMAKER—WOLVERTON.—Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (London and North Western Section). Previous to Decision No. 728, the man concerned was paid 1s. a week above the district rate for fitters, and was also in receipt of an additional 7s. a week as chargeman, which has since been reduced to 4s. No rate is laid down in Decision No. 728 for toolmakers, and the company, in applying the decision, paid them the standard rate laid down for fitters. *Decision.*—Without determining the toolmakers' rate at Wolverton, the Court direct that the rate of 47s. a week of the man concerned shall be restored as from 1st October, 1922. The claim for a higher additional rate as chargeman is not, in the circumstances now prevailing, established. Issued 31st February, 1923. (766.)

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY.—Employers' side of the District Council (No. 2) Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire for the Electricity Supply Industry v. Trade Union side of the Council. *Decision.*—(a) The following grades shall be rated in section "A" undertakings as follows, as from the beginning of the first full pay week in March, 1923: Electrical fitter, electrician or electrical wireman, telephone electrician or linesman, mechanical fitter and armature winder, 1s. 6d. per hour. The rates in section "B" undertakings and section "C" undertakings will be respectively 2d. per hour and 1½d. per hour less than those in section "A" undertakings. The rates of wages now determined will be subject, in common with the rates for the other classes of workpeople concerned, to the cost of living sliding scale agreement of November, 1921. (b) The rates of wages of the other grades of workpeople concerned shall be reduced by 1d. per hour as from the beginning of the first full pay week in March, 1923. Issued 28th February, 1923. (767.)

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

BRICKLAYERS' LABOURERS IN STEEL WORKS: WEST OF SCOTLAND.—Iron and Steel Trades Confederation v. Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association. Difference—Claim by the Confederation that the employers, who were parties to what is known as the Brown Booklet Agreement made on 22nd April, 1921, were not, in so far as bricklayers' labourers employed in steel works in the West of Scotland were concerned, carrying out Clause 5 of the said agreement correctly. Arbitrator—Sir William Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. Award—It was held that the claim had not been established. Issued 14th February, 1923. (I.R. 492/1923.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS: DUNDEE.—Scottish Union of Bakers and Confectioners v. Messrs. Durkie (J. S. Anderson), Hilltown, Dundee. Difference—Dispute arising from the firm's employment of a non-union man. Agreement—It was agreed that the non-union man should be employed in a non-baking capacity only. Signed 19th February, 1923. (I.R. 371/1923.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

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

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (R.B. 22), dated 22nd February, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male workers (other than certain classes of apprentices and learners), and specifying 1st March, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The general minimum time-rates as varied are :—

(a) for male workers who have completed five years' employment as an apprentice and/or learner and/or improver and

- (i) less than one year's subsequent employment, 1s. 1d. per hour;
- (ii) not less than one and less than three years' subsequent employment, 1s. 2d. per hour;
- (iii) not less than three years' subsequent employment, 1s. 3d. per hour;
- (iv.) who are employed in the making up of any one of : military dress uniforms (excluding khaki), naval frock and dress uniforms, hunt coats and riding breeches, frock and dress coats, and court and diplomatic garments, 1s. 5d. per hour.

(b) for other male workers, *excluding* (i) workers specified in (a) above, (ii) learners, (iii) apprentices, and (iv) cutters and trimmers, 1s. per hour.

The piece-work basis time-rates are : 1s. 2½d., 1s. 3½d., 1s. 4½d. and 1s. 6½d. per hour respectively for the classes of workers specified above in (a), (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

The definitions, conditions and provisions governing the application of the minimum rates are set out in R.B. (23).

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

Order (R. 32, 33 and 34), dated 17th February, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates as varied for male and female workers, and specifying 1st March, 1923, as the date from which the rates become effective.

The general minimum time-rates as varied are, according to operation in which worker is engaged.

(a) for workers *other than* certain specified classes employed in the NET SECTION of the trade : 10d., 10½d., 11d. and 11½d. per hour for male workers of 21 years of age and over, and 6½d., 6¾d., 6½d. and 6¾d. per hour for female workers of 18 years of age and over, with correspondingly lower rates for male and female workers under those ages;

(b) for certain classes of workers in the NET SECTION of the trade : 10d., 10½d., 11d. and 11½d. for male workers of 21 and over and 6d., 6d., 6½d. and 6½d. for female workers of 18 and over, with correspondingly lower rates for younger workers.

The piece-work basis time-rates applicable to the classes of workers referred to above are, respectively : (a) for male workers, 11d., 11½d., 1s. and 1s. 0½d. per hour; for female workers, 6¾d., 6¾d., 7d. and 7½d. per hour; (b) 11d., 11½d., 1s. and 1s. per hour for male workers and 6½d., 6½d., 6¾d. and 7d. per hour for female workers.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.S. (10), dated 27th February, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying 5th March, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates for certain classes of male indentured apprentices of 19 years and over, 33s. to 57s. per week of 48 hours.

General minimum piece-rates, formerly shown as basic rates, less percentage reductions, now shown as net rates.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

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

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal (H.M.S. 12), dated 1st March, 1923, to vary by reduction the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for female learners in their 2nd, 3rd and 4th years of learner-ship in all branches of the trade *other than* the Wholesale Cloth Hat and Cap Making Branch.

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

Proposals (R. 35 and R. 36), dated 5th March, 1923, (i) to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in the NET SECTION of the trade; and (ii) to vary and fix general minimum piece-rates for female homeworkers.

Paper Box Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.B. (N. 4), dated 19th February, 1923, to vary by reduction the general minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates for 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.

INSURANCE INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME (GRANT) REGULATIONS, 1923.

The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Grant) Regulations, 1923, dated January 24th, 1923, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1922 (a).

Whereas by virtue of the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) Order, 1921, a Special Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the Scheme) is, and has been since the fourth day of July, 1921, in force with respect to the Insurance Industry;

And whereas a Joint Board of Management (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Board) is the body charged with the administration of the Scheme;

And whereas by sub-section (7) of Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as the Minister) is empowered by Regulations made by him, with the consent of the Treasury, to determine the sum to be paid to the Joint Board in every year out of monies provided by Parliament, and to prescribe the conditions upon which such payments may be made;

Now, therefore, the Minister, by virtue of the powers hereinbefore recited, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby, with the consent of the Treasury, makes the following Regulations :—

1. While the Scheme is in force the sum to be paid under the said sub-section (7) of Section 18 of the Act out of monies provided by Parliament to the Joint Board shall in every insurance year be whichever of the two following amounts is in that insurance year the less, that is to say :—

(a) An amount equal to one-fourth of the amount received by the Joint Board by way of contributions in respect of employed persons properly paid during the insurance year in question under the provisions of the Scheme; or

(b) An amount equal to three-tenths of the amount which would, if the Scheme had not been in force and if the rates of contribution set out in the Third Schedule to the Act as originally enacted had been in operation, have been paid by way of contributions under the general provisions of the Act out of monies provided by Parliament in respect of the employed persons to whom the Scheme applies.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Grant) Regulations, 1923, and shall be deemed to have come into operation on the fourth day of July, 1921.

Signed by order of the Minister of Labour this 24th day of January, 1923.

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

INSURANCE INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME (DETERMINATION OF PAYMENTS) REGULATIONS, 1923.

The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Determination of Payments) Regulations, 1923, dated January 24th, 1923, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1922 (a).

Whereas by virtue of the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) Order, 1921, a Special Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the Scheme) with respect to the Insurance Industry came into force on the fourth day of July, 1921;

And whereas a Joint Board of Management (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Board) is the body charged with the administration of the Scheme;

And whereas the Minister has, with the consent of the Treasury, by the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Grant) Regulations, 1923, determined the sum which, under sub-section (7) of section 18 of the Act, is to be paid in each insurance year to the Joint Board out of monies provided by Parliament;

And whereas by sub-section (10) of the said section 18 a payment is to be made out of the unemployment fund to the Joint Board, and for the purpose of calculating the amount of such payment there are to be determined, in accordance with Regulations made by the Minister with the approval of the Treasury, the four sums hereinafter mentioned, that is to say :—

(a) A sum (hereinafter referred to as sum No. 1) approximately equivalent to the amount of the contributions paid by employers and employed persons during the period between the 7th day of November, 1920, and the 4th day of July, 1921, in respect of employed persons while employed in the Insurance Industry; and

(b) A sum (hereinafter referred to as sum No. 2) approximately equivalent to the amount to which, having regard to the number of contributions aforesaid, the Joint Board

(a) These Regulations, although statutory, are provisional only. Permanent Regulations will be made later.

would, if the Scheme had been in force during the period aforesaid, have been entitled under the aforesaid sub-section (7); and

(c) A sum (hereinafter referred to as sum No. 3) approximately equivalent to the amount paid or payable out of the unemployment fund to employed persons in the Insurance Industry at any time before they cease to be entitled to benefit under the general provisions of the Act; and

(d) A sum (hereinafter referred to as sum No. 4) approximately equivalent to the rateable part of the costs of administering the general provisions of the Act.

Now, therefore, the Minister, by virtue of the powers conferred upon him by the sub-sections hereinbefore recited, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby, with the consent and approval of the Treasury, makes the following Regulations:—

1. Sum No. 1 shall be determined by treating the approximate aggregate value of unemployment insurance stamps properly affixed to unemployment books under the general provisions of the Act and the Regulations made thereunder (but excluding stamps affixed in respect of contributions under section 41 of the Act) during the period between the 7th day of November, 1920, and the 4th day of July, 1921, in respect of employed persons who were either employed in the Insurance Industry on the 4th day of July, 1921, or, if unemployed at that date, had then last been employed in that industry as being the amount of the contributions paid by employers and employed persons during the period aforesaid in respect of employed persons while employed in the Insurance Industry.

2. Sum No. 2 shall be determined by treating the amount to which the Joint Board would have been entitled under sub-section (7) of section 18 of the Act and the Regulations made thereunder, if the Scheme and the said Regulations had been in force during the period between the 7th day of November, 1920, and the 4th day of July, 1921, as being the amount to which the Joint Board would, if the Scheme had been in force during the period aforesaid, have been entitled under the said sub-section.

3. Sum No. 3 shall be determined by treating the aggregate value of the amounts which, on the 4th day of July, 1921, had been paid, or were payable, out of the unemployment fund to employed persons who were either employed in the Insurance Industry on that date, or, if unemployed at that date, had then last been employed in that industry in respect of the period between the 7th day of November, 1920, and the 4th day of July, 1921, as being the amount paid or payable out of the unemployment fund to employed persons in the Insurance Industry at any time before they ceased to be entitled to benefit under the general provisions of the Act.

4. Sum No. 4 shall be determined by treating a sum equivalent to one-tenth of the aggregate of sum No. 1 and sum No. 2 as being the rateable part of the costs of administering the general provisions of the Act.

5. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Determination of Payments) Regulations, 1923, and shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 4th day of July, 1921.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 24th day of January, 1923.

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

COAL MINES ACT, 1911.

MINING INDUSTRY ACT, 1920. BOARD FOR MINING EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations for Certificates as Managers and Under-Managers and for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines.

AN examination for first and second-class certificates of competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines will be held on the 23rd and 24th May, 1923, at Edinburgh, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sheffield, Wigan, Cardiff and Birmingham.

The written part of an examination for certificates of qualification as Surveyors of Mines will be held at the same centres on the 24th May, 1923.

Applications for the necessary forms should be made not later than the 1st April, 1923. It is important that candidates should state whether they have already sat at one or more of the Board's examinations.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Board for Mining Examinations, Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, S.W. 1.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO LABOUR.

AGRICULTURE.—*Report of the Committee on Agricultural Credit.* Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (Cmd. 1810; price 9d.)

CENSUS.—(1) *Census of England and Wales, 1921. County of London. Tables (Part II.).* (S.O. publication; price 8s.) (2) *Census of Scotland, 1921. Vol. I. Part 24. County of Moray.* Part 25. *County of Nairn.* Part 26. *County of Orkney.* Part 27. *County of Peebles.* (S.O. publications; price 5s., 3s., 4s., 3s. 6d. respectively.)

EMIGRATION.—*Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1922.* (Cmd. 1804; price 6d.) (See also page 84 of this GAZETTE.)

HEALTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—(1) *Third interim report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Health and Unemployment Insurance.* Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health. (Cmd. 1821; price 3d.) (See also page 82.) (2) *Unemployment Insurance Bill, 1923. Memorandum regarding the financial clauses.* Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 1824; price 2d.) (See also page 82.)

HOUSING.—*Increase of Rent, etc. (Restrictions) Acts. Memorandum by Minister of Health.* (H.C. 22; price 2d.)

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.—*Report of an enquiry into juvenile delinquency.* Scottish National Council of Juvenile Organisations. (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

MINING.—*Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarters ended 31st March and 30th June, 1922.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 6d. and 4d.)

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.—*Atmospheric conditions in cotton weaving.* Report No. 21. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 2s.) (See also page 86.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—(1) *Supplement to the 75th annual report of the Registrar-General for England and Wales. Part IV. Mortality of men in certain occupations in the three years 1910, 1911 and 1912.* (S.O. publication; price 13s. 6d.) (2) *Registrar-General's statistical review of England and Wales. Tables. Part I. Medical.* (New annual series No. 1.) (S.O. publication; price 15s.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, FEBRUARY, 1923.

ADMIRALTY.

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

Air Compressor, Electrically Driven: Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough (Sub-contractors for Motor, English Electric Co., Ltd., London).—**Batteries, Plate Groups and Separators for:** The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Biscuit:** P. Brown & Co., Ltd., N. Shields.—**Brown Jean:** John Booth & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Brushes:** W. T. Clark & Co., Birmingham; W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse, Glos.; C. H. Long & Sons, Birmingham; G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Brushes, Ltd., St. Albans, Herts.—**Cables, Boxes, etc., Supplying and Laying at R.N. Cordite Factory, Holton Heath:** W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cables and Switchgear, etc., Underground, Supply and Installation of:** Foote, Milne & Co., London, S.W.—**Calico:** G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester.—**Canvas, R.N. and M.N.:** Anderson & Chalmers, Arbroath; Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee; A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Dundee; Port Glasgow & Newark Sailcloth Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; F. Webster & Sons, Arbroath; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.—**Cells:** Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath; Premier Accumulator Co. (1921), Ltd., Northampton; The D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire.—**Chain, Rigging and Pitched:** W. Griffin & Sons, Ltd., Cradley Heath; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney; Woodhouse Bros., Cradley Heath; Edge & Sons, Ltd., Shifnal; R. Sykes & Son, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Cloth, Woollen, for Table Covers:** J. Raistrick & Son, Thackley; J. Halliday & Co., Ltd., Pudsey.—**Coffee:** S. Hanson & Co., London, E.C.—**Condensers:** Telegraph Condenser Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Fire-bricks:** J. Dougall & Sons, Ltd., Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire;

Hill, Westlake & Co., Ltd., Gunnislake, Cornwall; Leeds Fire-clay Co., Ltd., Leeds; J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge; H. Foster & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Glenboig Union Fire-clay Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Priestman Collieries, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Firehearth, Conversion of:** Manlove, Alliott & Ltd., Nottingham.—**Flour:** North Shore Mill Co., Ltd., Liverpool; W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Forgings and Castings:** Shiphams & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Laces, Boot, Black Cotton:** W. Paton, Ltd., Johnstone.—**Lard:** J. Henderson & Co., Ltd., London.—**Lead, Red:** Rowe Bros. & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Leather, Cloth:** Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Linen Goods:** William Ewart & Son, Belfast; Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast; John Gunning & Son, Belfast; York Street Flax Spinning Co., Ltd., Belfast; R. Usher & Co., Ltd., Drogheda; A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy.—**Linoleum:** Tayside Floorcloth Co., Ltd., Newburgh, Fife.—**Locks and Gear:** J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Lowe & Fletcher, Willenhall; A. Marston & Co., Ltd., Willenhall; E. Tonks & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall; Walsall Locks & Cart Gear, Ltd., Walsall; J. Parkes & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall.—**Lorries, Austin 30/40 cwt.:** Austin Motor Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Mahogany:** Hoar & Brown, London, E.—**Mineral Jelly:** Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Motor, 150 H.P., with Control Gear, Field Regulators and Spares:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Paint, Oxide of Iron:** Hemingway & Co., London, E.; Golden Valley Ochre & Oxide Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Padlocks, Wrought Iron:** A. Marston & Co., Ltd., Willenhall; Walsall Locks & Cart Gear, Ltd., Walsall.—**Platinum Wire:** Johnson, Matthey & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pyrometer and C.O. 2 Outfit Combined and Accessories:** Cambridge & Paul Instrument Co., Ltd., Cambridge.—**Rope, Steel Wire:** Binks Bros., Ltd., London, E.; Bullivant & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd.,

London, E.; Webster & Co., Ltd., Sunderland; The Warrington Wire Rope Works, Ltd., Liverpool; R. Hood, Haggie & Son, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Refiner, Conical, Motor-driven:** Masson, Scott & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Reps and Damasks:** Walsh & McCrea, Ltd., Halifax; J. Holdsworth & Co., Ltd., Halifax; Glover Bros (Leeds), Ltd., Leeds.—**Screws:** British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds; Butler, Spragg & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Henry Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; T. Eaves, Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; Horton & Son, Ltd., Darlaston; London Screw Co., Smethwick; Partridges, Ltd., Birmingham; A. Stokes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Shirts, Soft White:** Vernon, Booth & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steel, Bar:** Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steel, Tool:** A. Balfour & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Marsh Bros. & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; W. Spencer & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel Plating, Perforated:** W. Barns & Son, Ltd., London, N.; G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Suet:** Hugon & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Switchgear and Cables, Supply of and Erection of Rotary Converters:** British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Terry Towelling:** William, R. Lee, Ltd., Heywood.—**Tiles:** Maw & Co., Ltd., Jackfield, Shropshire; Gibbons, Hinton & Co., Ltd., Brierley Hill, Staffs.—**Vans and Trucks, Ford:** Wallace Harmer Motors, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Vinegar:** Crosse & Blackwell (Mfg. Co.), Ltd., London, W.C.; Fardon's Vinegar Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Water Closets and Gear:** Doulton & Co., Ltd., Paisley; Shanks & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Wood Goods (Manufactured):** J. Brown & Sons (Thatcham), Ltd., Newbury, Berks.; R. Charnley & Sons, Ulverston, Lancs.; C. W. Clinch & Sons, Newbury, Berks.; E. & W. Coward, Ulverston, Lancs.; Dyne & Evens, London, E.; East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamstead, Herts.; J. B. Latham & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; J. Nicholls & Sons, Wolverhampton; J. Reynolds, Chesham, Bucks.; Rudders & Paynes, Ltd., Birmingham; Wm. Shepherd & Sons (Kendal), Ltd., Kendal; Staveley Wood Turning Co., Staveley; C. White, London, S.E.; H. Workman, Ltd., Woodchester, Glos.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Devonport: Creosoted Pitch Pine: The Plymouth & Oreston Timber Co., Ltd., Plymouth.—**Portsmouth: Portland Cement:** The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: Cast Iron Pit Covers and Frames:** O'Brien, Thomas & Co., London, E.C.—**Portland Cement:** The Ship Canal Portland Cement Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.—**Steelwork:** J. Lysaght, Ltd., Bristol.

WAR OFFICE.

Aluminium: J. Batt & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; British Aluminium Co., Ltd., Kinlockleven.—**Ball Bearings:** Ransom & Marles Bearing Co., Ltd., Newark-on-Trent.—**Boots:** J. & C. Claridge, Ltd., Rushden; R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; Northants Productive Scty., Wollaston.—**Cases, Wood:** Harrison & Rogers, Ltd., London, S.W.; A. Lloyd & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Copper Ingot:** British-American Metals, Ltd., London, E.C.; H. Gardiner & Co., Ltd., London.—**Dowels, Tan:** Blackstaff Flax Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Drawers, Woollen:** Toller & Lankester, Leicester.—**Engines, Leyland:** Leyland Motors, Ltd., London, S.E.—**"Lanchester" Power Unit:** Lanchester Motor Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lead, Pig, Soft:** Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Machine, Button Hole:** Reece Machinery Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Nickel:** Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., Swansea.—**Pig Iron:** Barrow Haematite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Poles, Telegraph (Field) Stores:** M. Gruer Hollow Spar Co., Ltd., Gosport.—**Spelter:** Morris Ashby, London, E.C.; British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Stable Fitments:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., Stratford.—**Stair Treads:** Ferodo, Ltd., Chapel-en-le-Frith; The Safety Tread Syndicate, Ltd., London, E.—**Steel Discs:** Baldwins, Ltd., Newport.—**Stove Piping:** F. W. Potter & Co., London, E.C.—**Vulcanizing Cashmere:** The India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Wheels, (Steel) for Peerless Lorries:** The National Steel Foundry (1914), Ltd., Leven.—**Windscreens:** G. Beaton & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Wire Entanglements:** The Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** Preston: C. & G. L. Desoer, Ltd., Liverpool. Carlisle: J. Laing & Son, Ltd., Carlisle. Richmond: T. B. & W. Shaw, London, S.W.—**Building Works and Services:** Seaforth Barracks: C. & G. L. Desoer, Ltd., Liverpool. Chester Castle: Parker Bros., Chester. Wellington Barracks: C. P. Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, N. Whittington Barracks, Lichfield: S. Robinson, Bradford. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Artillery Barracks: G. R. Wade & Son, Richmond, Yorks.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aeroplane Spares: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Vickers, Limited, London, S.W.; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Aircraft:** Vickers, Limited, London, S.W.; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—**Aircraft, Alterations to:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Aircraft, Conversion of:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Bolts, Nuts and Screws, Galvanised:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brooke Marine Engines and Spares:** J. W. Brooke & Co., Lowestoft.—**Chemicals and Accessories:** Houghton Butcher Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Clothing for Cadets:** Burberrys, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Crossley Spares:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Dorman Engine Spares:** W. H. Dorman & Co., Staf-

ford.—**Drainage (Surface Water) at Manston Aerodrome:** Pearce Bros., Bromley, Kent.—**Engines (Power Plant):** E.L.S. Engines, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines (Aero):** Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Westminster.—**Engine Spares:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Exploders, Cylinders and Boxes:** Noble Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Felt Covering Roofs, Cranwell:** Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E.—**Gun Spares:** Vickers, Ltd., Westminster.—**Hire of Motor Cars:** Austin Motor Co., Ltd., London, W.; W. J. Smith, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Lamps, Electric:** The Stella Lamp Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Leyland Spares:** Leyland Motors, Ltd., Leyland, Lancs.—**Magnetos:** British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Oil, Mineral Lubricating:** Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Henry Wells Oil Co., Manchester.—**Pantaloon, Blue:** Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Rapson Tyres and Deflector Tubes:** Rapson Tyre & Jack Co., Ltd., New Malden, Surrey.—**Reconditioning of Buildings (Harcott):** Guest & Goodall, Ltd., Ascot.—**Rolls Royce Chassis, Spares for:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Shock Absorber Cord:** Luke, Turner & Co., Leicester.—**Steel Sheets, Corrugated:** F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Supply Line:** Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Timber:** Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., London, E.C.; G. H. Renton & Co., London, E.C.; G. Boxall & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; J. Latham, Ltd., London, E.C.; Gabriel Wade & English, Ltd., London.—**Tractor Spares:** Clayton & Shuttleworth, Ltd., Lincoln.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Accumulators, Gas, and Spares, for Light Beacons: The Secretary, Trinity House, London, E.C.—**Bedcovers:** H. Bond & Co., Manchester.—**Boots and Laces:** S. Walker, Walgrave, Northants.—**Bridges:** Armstrongs & Main, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Cable, Insulated, etc.:** Hooper's Tel. & India Rubber Works, Ltd., London, E.C.—**C.I. Bends, etc.:** The Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., London, E.C.; Ship Canal Portland Cement Co., Liverpool; Tunnel Cement Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Corrugated Iron Culverts:** The Wolverhampton Corr. Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.—**Doors, Steel Roller, Shutt:** S. W. Francis & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Dressings, etc.:** Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Ducts, etc., Salt Glazed Ware:** The Albion Clay Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent.—**Electric Lamps:** The General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Engine and Boiler, Portable Steam:** Ransomes, Simms & Jefferies, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Flannel:** T. & C. Littlewood, Rochdale.—**Ignition and Detonators:** Curtiss & Harvey, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Hats:** Hall & Phillips, Ltd., Nuneaton.—**Lead, White:** Rowe Bros. & Co., Liverpool.—**Lymph, Galf:** Dr. A. B. Green, Riviere House, Cornwall.—**Motor Lorries:** J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Oil:** C. C. Wakefield & Co., London, E.C.; Sterns, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Oil, Engine:** F. How & Co., London, E.—**Paint:** Red Hand Composition, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pangas, etc.:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Paper:** J. Dickinson & Co., London, E.C.—**Pumps and Spares:** Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Quinine:** Howards & Sons, Ltd., Ilford, Essex.—**Reinforced Concrete Sheets:** The British Reinforced Concrete Engg. Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Serge:** T. & J. Tinker, Huddersfield; J. Berry & Sons, Ashburton, Devon.—**Sheeting, etc.:** Howe & Coates, Ltd., Manchester.—**Steel and Iron for Concrete Reinforcements:** P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steel Rails:** Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steelwork:** W. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge, N.B.—**Steelwork for Carriage Shed:** The Widnes Foundry Co., Ltd., Widnes, Lancs.—**Structural Steelwork:** W. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge, N.B.—**Switches and Crossings, etc.:** The Isca Foundry Co., Ltd., Newport, Mon.; The Anderson Foundry Co., Ltd., Port Clarence, Middlesbrough.—**Telegraph Materials:** The Controller, P.O. Stores Dept., London, N.—**Telephone Cable, etc.:** W. T. Henley's Tel. Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tubes, Boiler and Ferrules:** The British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tubes, Brass, Boiler:** The Muntz's Metal Co., Ltd., Smethwick, near Birmingham.—**Type:** Stephenson, Blake & Co., Sheffield.—**Wagon Ironwork:** R. Hudson, Ltd., Leeds.—**Water Works Material, etc.:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Glasgow.—**Wire, Copper, etc.:** F. Smith & Co., Salford, Manchester.

POST OFFICE.

Cable Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing: Bolton-Bury-Heywood: W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Bristol-Bath: W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Conduits—Laying:** Tudor Street, E.C., and Willesden (Dudden Hill Lane and Neasden Lane); Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Nottingham-Newark (Sections I. and III.): C. S. Tomlinson, South Normanton, near Alfreton. Bristol-Exeter (Sections VI., VII., VIII. and XII.): H. Smith, Newport, Mon. Bristol-Exeter (Sections IX. and X.), Goring, Wallingford and Wendover, Hanley Town, Burnley-Todmorden (Section II.), and Sandwich: A. Blair, Lyell & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Stockport (Reddish and Portwood) and Walkden (Lancs.): Chandler Bros., Manchester. Broomhill (Sheffield) and Wakefield-Barnsley-Sheffield (Sections III., IV., and V.): Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. Rochdale-Halifax (Sections I., II., III., and IV.) and Yateley and Puttenham: J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W. Stepney (Senrab Street, Regent's Canal): A. Thomson & Co., London, W.C. Rochdale-Halifax (Section V.) and Milnsbridge: H. Wilson, Halifax. Bristol-Exeter (Section XI.): Fothergill Bros., Ltd., Exeter. Wakefield-Barnsley-Sheffield (Sections I. and II.): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. Long Eaton (Derbyshire): Whittaker, Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Aberdeen-Murle and Aberdeen (Section IV.): J. McAdam & Sons, Ltd., Aberdeen. Kirkcaldy-Dundee (Section IV.): Casey & Darragh, Stirling.

Liverpool (Anfield—Section II.): H. C. Pullar & Co., Manchester. Nunhead and Peckham Rye, S.E., and Walthamstow: F. R. Hipperson, London, E.C. Altrincham (Hale), Settle (Yorks.), Woking, and Tottenhall and Wolverhampton (North-west, etc.): J. F. Hodge & Co., Rednal, near Birmingham. Fortwilliam (Belfast): J. Ross & Son, Belfast. Chatham-Maidstone: G. P. Trentham, Ltd., Birmingham. Sherwood (Nottingham): W. & J. Cunliffe, Nottingham. Kingston-Hawkes Road, and Putney Hill-Rochampton Lane: O. C. Summers, London, N.—**Lifts:** Post Office Savings Bank, London, W.: Wm. Wadsworth & Sons, Ltd., Bolton.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** For Babcock & Wilcox, London, E.C., for J. & N. Phillips & Co., Ltd., Manchester, and for Higginson & Co., London, E.C.: The Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, W.C.

Apparatus, Telephonic: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., Liverpool; British L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts; General Electric Company, Ltd. (Peel Conner Telephone Works), Coventry; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Sterling Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex.—**Arms, Wood:** Millars' Timber & Trading Co., Ltd., Purfleet.—**Cable, Telegraphic and Telephonic:** Connolly's (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Enfield Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Casing and Cover:** Wm. Duncan Tucker & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—**Castings, Joint Box:** McDowall, Steven & Co., Ltd., Falkirk; United Steel Companies Ltd. (Messrs. Thos. Butlin & Co.'s Branch), Wellingborough.—**Cells, Secondary, Stationary:** London Battery & Cable Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Cords, Telephone:** British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Couplings, C.I.:** Bradley & Turton, Ltd., Kidderminster.—**Creosoting Telegraph Poles, Stayblocks, etc.:** William Christie & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Ducts:** Albion Clay Company, Ltd., Woodville; Hepworth Iron Co., Ltd., Hazlehead, Sheffield; James Oakes & Co., Jacksdale, Notts.—**Ear-pieces, Telephone:** North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Insulators:** T. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Lead Sheet and Strip:** Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Lugs, Lead:** I. N. Lyons, Ltd., London, N.—**Oil, Cylinder:** Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W., or Birkenhead.—**Pipes, C.I.:** Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham.—**Pipe, W.I.:** E. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Rods, Stay:** Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Slates, Building:** Bingley, Son & Follit, Ltd., Penrhyn, Bangor.—**Tents, Joints Collapsible:** J. Smith & Co. (London, E.), Ltd., Goodmayes, Essex.—**Vehicles, Motor, Ford and Parts:** A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—**Wire, Bronze:** British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.; Enfield Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex.—**Wire, Copper, Hard Drawn:** Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak, Birmingham; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; F. Smith & Co., incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co., and Smiths Ltd., Salford.—**Wire, G.I.:** Rylands Brothers, Ltd., Warrington.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Adding Machines: Burroughs Adding Machine, Ltd., Nottingham.—**Binders, Loose Leaf:** Nevett Bookbinding Co., Ltd., Hendon.—**Brushes, Typewriter:** Yeoman Brush Manufacturing Co., London, N.—**Carbon Papers, Contract for Supply of:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Dunstable.—**Carbon Paper:** Read Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Hounslow; Crusader Manufacturing Co., London, E.—**Cloth, Tracing:** Winterbottom Book Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester; B. J. Hall & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Cord:** Belfast Ropework Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Covers (Pluviusin):** T. J. Weeks & Sons, Ltd., London, N.E.—**Covers (Loose Leaf):** G. Wells & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Drawing Pins:** Tucker Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Electric Motors:** Electromotors, Ltd., Manchester.—**"Enfield" Motor Cycle Combinations:** Enfield Cycle Co., Ltd., Redditch.—**Envelopes:** J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead; Millington & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—**"Ford" Delivery Vans:** Wallace Harmer Motors, Ltd., London, W.C.—**"Ford" Bodies:** Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops, London, S.W.; W. H. Perry, London, N.; Bonallack & Sons, London, E.—**Gum Arabic:** G. Boore & Co., London, E.C.—**India Tags:** Sensitive Honing Co., Ltd., London, N.; Spickett & Downs, London, E.—**Ink, Duplicator:** Crusader Manufacturing Co., London, E.; Farquharson Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Interlocking Drying Trays:** R. Green, London, E.—**Knives, Desk:** Harrison Bros & Howson, Sheffield.—**Laces, Filing:** G. Hughes & Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Lathe, Screwcutting:** Dean Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley.—**Leyland Lorries:** Leyland Motors, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Linotype Metal:** G. G. Blackwell & Sons, Ltd., Liverpool.—**Metals, Loose Leaf:** C. H. Hare & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Monotype Metal:** Eyre & Spottiswoode, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Motor Generator:** J. H. Holmes & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Paper Fasteners:** Twigg & Beeson, Birmingham.—**Paper Maturing Machine:** Hunters, Ltd., Bristol.—**Paper of Various Descriptions:** Backhouse & Coppock, Ltd., Macclesfield; British Patent Perforated Paper Co., London, E.; J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Airdrie & Caldercruix; J. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal; Darwen Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Darwen; J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead; Ford Paper Works, Ltd., Hylton; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton; Guard Bridge Paper Co., Ltd., Guard Bridge; Hendon Paper Works Co., Ltd., Sunderland; Hill, Craig & Co., Balerno; Inveresk Paper Co., Ltd., Musselburgh; C. Marsden & Sons, Ltd., Northfleet and Ramsbottom; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd.,

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