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

EMPLOYMENT.

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

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

WAGES.

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

The largest group of workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced were building trade operatives, who sustained reductions, in the majority of districts, of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d. per hour in the case of craftsmen (with an additional reduction ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1½d. per hour in the case of plumbers in London and certain other localities), and of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour in the case of labourers. Other classes of workers whose wage rates were reduced included electric cable makers, heating and domestic engineers, hosiery workers in the Midlands, carpet workers, furniture warehousemen and removers, cement workers, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery and fruit preserving workers, compositors in provincial towns, and tramway workers. Under the Trade Boards Acts there were reductions in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople in the pin, hook and eye and snap fastener trade, and in the brush and broom trade in Great Britain, and for certain classes of workers in the ostrich and fancy feather

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

The principal groups of workpeople who obtained increases in wages were coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, the East Midlands, Scotland, and the Radstock district; the amounts of increase varied, in different districts, from 2½ per cent. to 7 per cent. on current rates. There were also increases in the wages of iron miners in Cumberland, Furness and Lincolnshire, blast-furnace workers in Cumberland and Lincolnshire, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and the West of Scotland, and Siemens steel workers in South and West Wales.

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

COST OF LIVING.

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

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

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADE.

ARBITRATOR'S AWARD.

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

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

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

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

* Cmd. 1876; price 2d. net.

† Cmd. 1891; price 2d. net.

the wages of craftsmen shall be reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in London, by 1d. per hour in Grade A and B towns in the provinces, and by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in Grade C towns, while the wages of labourers are to be maintained as nearly as possible at 75 per cent. of the craftsmen's wages, all the reductions to be on account of future adjustments rendered necessary by the operation of the sliding scale. No further variation in wages is to be made prior to January, 1924.

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

EXCHANGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS FOR THE YEAR 1922-23.

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

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

SHIPBUILDING TRADE DISPUTE.

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

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

DUNDEE JUTE WORKERS' DISPUTE.

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

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

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

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

WAGES, HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

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

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

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

OTHER TOPICS.

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

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

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

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 29th May, 1923, the number of men in training was 14,080, and the number awaiting training 9,059. Since 1st August, 1919, 72,549 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

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

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

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

NATIONAL SCHEME.

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

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

SETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN ON THE LAND.

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

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

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

ALCOHOLISM AND WORKERS' LEISURE IN FRANCE.†

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

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

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

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

PHOSPHORUS IN MATCH INDUSTRY: ESTHONIA AND THE BERNE CONVENTION.

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

* Stationery Office Publication price 6d. net.

† *Bulletin du Ministère du Travail*, Jan.-March, 1923.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN SWEDEN: NEW ACT.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

DECASUALISATION OF DOCK LABOUR AT DUTCH PORTS.†

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

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

The arrangements for compensation for unemployment are as follows:—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NIGHT WORK OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN ITALY.

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

AGRICULTURAL WAGE COMMITTEES IN HUNGARY.*

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

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

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

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

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

COAL MINERS IN TURKEY:

REGULATION OF WORKING CONDITIONS.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT OF JAPANESE FACTORY ACT.†

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	69%
Food only	...	...	...	60%

FOOD.

THE returns relating to prices at 1st June show a further slight decline in the average cost of the pre-war working-class dietary, which showed an average increase of 60 per cent. at 1st June over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 62 per cent. at 1st May. This decline was mainly due to a further fall in the price of butter, which showed an average reduction of about 2d. per lb. There was also a further drop of about 1½d. per lb. in the average price of cheese. The movements in the prices of the remaining articles included in the statistics were relatively small.

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 May, 1923, and at 1st June, 1923:—

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

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st June, 1923, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st May, 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	77	80	79
Thin Flank ..	56	59	57	58
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	42	38	40	38
Thin Flank ..	18	21	19	19
Mutton, British				
Legs	100	99	99	101
Breast	81	77	79	83
Mutton, Frozen				
Legs	83	74	79	78
Breast	28	29	23	30
Bacon (streaky)* ..	61	53	57	58
Fish	108	91	93	100
Flour	45	49	47	46
Bread	56	51	53	53
Tea	66	68	67	67
Sugar (granulated) ..	282	255	269	264
Milk	53	61	57	62
Butter—				
Fresh	37	38	37	53
Salt	32	32	32	44
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)* ..	58	62	60	78
Margarine	— 6	— 8	— 7	— 7
Eggs (fresh)	31	22	27	20
Potatoes	2	— 17	— 8	— 6
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	62	58	60	62

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

† By a printer's error this figure appeared as 4d. in last month's issue. The price at 31st March (4½d.) and the reduction between 31st March and 1st May (4d.) were correctly printed, and the correct figure was used in calculating the index-number.

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 June, 1923, was between 45 and 50 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Act falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st June 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 prices of coal and gas at 1st June remained about the same as at 1st May, being approximately 90 per cent. and 65 per cent. respectively above the level of July, 1914. For lamp oil and for candles the average percentage increases over the pre-war level 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. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st June, as compared with July, 1914, was about 85 per cent., or about the same as at 1st May.

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 June, 1923, is approximately 69 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 70 per cent. at 1st May.

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 June is lower than that for any date since February, 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	74
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69
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 June, 1923, is about 5 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

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

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.*

Among 1,176,052 members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 11·3 at the end of May, as compared with 11·3 at the end of April, and with 16·4 at the end of May, 1922. 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 21st May was 10·7, as compared with 10·9 at 23rd April, and 13·5 at the end of May, 1922. For males alone the percentage was 11·8 at 21st May, as compared with 12·1 at 23rd April; for females the corresponding figures were 8·0 and 7·9. The number of workpeople on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges at 28th May was approximately 1,261,000, of whom men numbered 959,000, and women 229,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 30th April was also 1,261,000, of whom 963,000 were men, and 218,000 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.—At coal mines employment continued good, and showed little change on the whole as compared with the previous month. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 19th May was 1,157,789, an increase of 0·3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 5·8 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 19th May was 5·59 as compared with 5·69 in April and 4·85 in May, 1922.

At iron mines employment showed a slight improvement, but was still bad in the Cleveland district and fair in other districts. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 1·5 per cent. in the total number employed compared with April and an increase of nearly 60 per cent. as compared with May, 1922. The average number of days worked per week by the mines was 5·68 in May, 1923, 5·48 in April, 1923, and 5·31 in May, 1922. At shale mines employment continued fair. At limestone quarries it continued good in the Buxton district and fair in the Clitheroe district; in the Weardale district it improved and was fair. Short time continued to be worked at most slate quarries. At granite quarries employment remained fair. An improvement was reported at whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland, where employment was fairly good. It continued moderate at grindstone and building stone quarries in the Stanton-in-Peak and Rowsley district, and bad at stone quarries in the Clee Hill district. In the china clay quarries in Cornwall and Devon employment improved and was good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinsplate.—In the pig iron industry employment showed a further slight improvement and was moderate. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of May was 223, as compared with 216 at the end of April and 110 at the end of May, 1922. The number of workpeople employed was over 50 per cent. greater than a year ago. At iron and steel works employment continued fair and showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the tinsplate and steel sheet trades employment continued good; at the end of May 519 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 513 at the end of April, and 470 at the end of May, 1922.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades was still bad, though the slow general improvement was maintained in most districts. The motor industry generally was fairly busy, and the electrical section on the whole improved during the month. The textile machinery section, however, continued to decline. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment remained very bad, and was adversely affected by the lock-out of members of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders from the yards of federated shipbuilding firms. In the other metal trades employment showed an improvement in certain sections, but remained generally moderate. It was good or fairly good in the brasswork, nut, bolt and nail, needle and fish hook and fishing tackle, and wire and hollow-ware trades; fair in the tube, sheet metal, and stove and grate trades; and slack or bad in the bedstead, lock and latch, cutlery and file, chain and anchor, and jewellery and plated ware trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade continued bad in the weaving department and in the American spinning section, where the curtailment of production by 50 per cent. continued. The section spinning Egyptian cotton continued to be well employed. In the woollen and worsted trades employment

showed a further decline, except in the Heavy Woollen district (Dewsbury, Batley, &c.), where employment in some departments showed a decided improvement. In the hosiery trade employment continued moderate; in the silk trade it remained fair in the Eastern Counties; in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district it showed a slight improvement but was still bad. In the lace trade employment showed a slight decline on the whole, and was bad in the levers and plain net sections, and moderate in the curtain section; in the carpet trade it continued good. In the linen trade in Ireland employment showed a further slight improvement, but was still bad; in Scotland it also continued bad. In the jute trade employment during May was good, but the Dundee works were closed during the first week of June owing to a dispute. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment remained slack on the whole, short time working being fairly general. It was fair, however, with silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek, and with hosiery dyers, trimmers and finishers at Leicester and Basford.

Clothing Trades.—In the tailoring trades employment showed a slight improvement in a number of districts, and was fairly good on the whole; in the felt hat trade it was also slightly better, and was fair on the whole, but much short time continued to be worked; in the shirt and collar trades it was also fair on the whole, though at Manchester it was reported as slack and worse than in the previous month. In the boot and shoe trades employment showed a temporary slight improvement at most centres in the middle of May owing to pressure of orders for Whitsuntide, but this was not maintained, except to a small extent; and employment at the end of the month was still slack on the whole, with short time working very prevalent. In the leather trades employment continued fair in the tanning and currying section; in the portmanteau, trunk, and fancy leather section there was a slight decline and employment was only moderate; with saddle and harness makers a slight improvement was reported, but employment remained very quiet.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades, taken as a whole, continued to improve during May; though generally only moderate, it was better than in May of last year. It was fair with bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, and painters; and generally bad with builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works. In the brick trades employment was fair on the whole, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month.

In the furnishing trades employment showed a further slight improvement and was fair. With coachbuilders it was fairly good generally, some overtime being worked in the railway shops at Birmingham. With millsawyers and wood cutting machinists employment was moderate on the whole. With coopers and brush and basket makers employment was fair.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued fair on the whole, and showed an improvement in a few centres; but some mills still worked intermittently. In the printing trade it was also fair on the whole with letterpress printers, but showed a slight decline in London and a number of provincial centres, including Birmingham, Sheffield, Bradford and Manchester. It was good with electrotypers and stereotypers generally. In the lithographic printing trade employment continued slack, but there was some improvement at a few centres; lithographic artists were fairly well employed in London and Manchester. In the bookbinding trade employment continued generally slack.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trades employment remained slack generally, but a slight improvement was reported, especially in the sanitary earthenware and tile trades; in the glass trades employment continued bad on the whole.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture the supply of labour continued sufficient for requirements; extra labour being required for hoeing in some districts, rather more men were in work than during the previous month. In the fishing industry employment was fair on the whole.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment among dock labourers continued generally moderate. With seamen employment was moderate on the whole.

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 May, 1922.

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.
1922.		
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
March	12·3	11·1
April	11·3	10·9
May	11·3	10·7

Further details and statistics as to the state of employment in a number of the principal industries are given on pages 205-9.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,176,052 in branches covered by the returns received reported 133,243 (or 11·3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of May, 1923, compared with 11·3 per cent. at the end of April, 1923, and with 16·4 per cent. at the end of May, 1922.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of May, 1923.	Unemployed at end of May, 1923.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	123,693	9,825	7·9	+ 0·2	+ 1·2
Coal Mining	133,877	2,541	1·9	- 0·1	- 11·3
Engineering and Ship-building	406,018	89,036	21·9	+ 0·6	- 9·8
Miscellaneous Metal ..	54,517	4,682	8·6	- 0·3	- 5·3
Textiles:—					
Cotton	60,927	5,869	9·6†	+ 0·1	+ 5·8
Woolen and Worsted ..	12,238	198	1·6	+ 0·4	+ 0·1
Other	58,411	2,278	3·9	- 0·2	- 0·6
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	95,782	4,764	5·0	+ 0·2	- 1·8
Furnishing	26,678	1,630	6·1	- 0·1	+ 1·1
Woodworking	44,100	1,871	4·2	- 0·8	- 5·7
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe.. ..	75,028	3,556	4·7	- 0·5	+ 0·2
Other Clothing	44,346	419	0·9	- 1·0	- 1·3
Leather	6,945	612	8·8	+ 0·1	- 2·7
Glass	1,239	28	2·3	- 0·5	- 2·5
Pottery	27,500	4,750	17·3	- 0·2	- 6·3
Tobacco§	4,753	1,184	24·9	- 10·3	- 24·4
Total	1,176,052	133,243	11·3	..	- 5·1

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 10·7 per cent. (males 11·8 per cent., females 8·0 per cent.) at 21st May, as compared with 10·9 (males 12·1 per cent., females 7·9 per cent.) at 23rd April. A Table showing the estimated number insured and the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 211.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

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

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1923.	May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining	1,157,789	5·59	- 0·10	+ 0·74
Iron	8,947	5·68	+ 0·20	+ 0·37
Shale	4,487	5·96	+ 0·15	+ 0·01
Pig Iron .. .. .	..	Furnaces in Blast 223	Number. + 7	Number. + 113
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ..	..	Mills Working 519	+ 6	+ 49
Iron and Steel	82,091	Shifts Worked (one week). 437,538	Per cent. - 0·2	Per cent. + 66·1

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.¶
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Textiles:—						
Cotton	81,611	— 1·5	— 7·8	141,457	— 1·1	— 15·0
Woollen	15,624	— 0·4	+ 7·9	32,178	— 3·0	+ 4·1
Worsted	31,145	— 1·0	+ 2·6	60,014	— 1·6	— 6·4
Boot and Shoe	52,325	+ 0·0	+ 2·4	125,580	+ 2·5	+ 2·2
Pottery.. ..	11,784	— 0·3	+ 2·8	20,748	— 2·4	— 4·0
Brick	7,105	+ 4·4	+ 16·1	16,532	+ 5·5	+ 15·3
Total	199,594	— 0·7	— 1·2	396,509	— 0·0	— 5·7

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

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

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

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

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

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

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

Thick Curve ————— = 1923.

Thin Curve ————— = 1922.

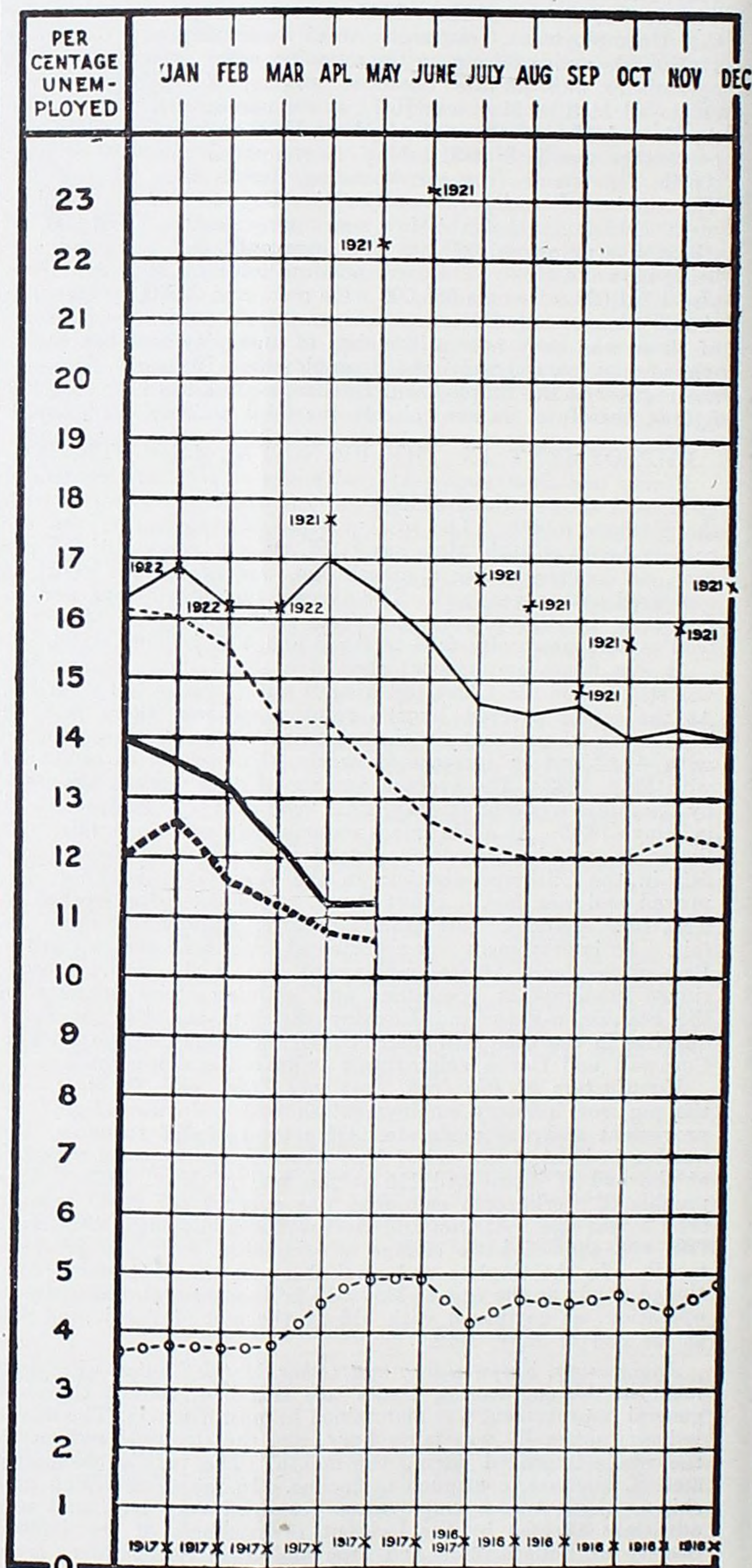
Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1913-22.

× 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 211.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

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

The average weekly number of days (5.59) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 19th May showed a decrease of 0.10 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th April, but an increase of 0.74 on a year ago. In the fortnight ended 19th May, 1923, however, an average of 0.09 of a day was due to holidays, chiefly in the Lancashire and South Wales districts; in the Cumberland and Westmorland district an average of about half a day was lost on account of disputes. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 19th May showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. on the number at 28th April and of 5.8 per cent. on a year ago.

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

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

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*			
	19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
	19th May, 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Fort-night ended 19th May, 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ..	61,947	+ 0.2	+ 5.8	5.50	+ 0.01	+ 0.09
Durham ..	169,513	+ 0.4	+ 10.4	5.49	+ 0.04	+ 0.43
Cumberland and Westmorland ..	11,876	+ 0.7	+ 4.8	5.19	— 0.47	— 0.05
South Yorkshire ..	109,627	+ 0.3	+ 6.4	5.62	— 0.04	+ 0.38
West Yorkshire ..	67,537	+ 0.2	+ 3.4	5.82	— 0.05	+ 1.57
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	105,633	+ 0.3	+ 1.8	5.51	— 0.16	+ 1.45
Derbyshire ..	64,321	+ 0.3	+ 2.5	5.72	— 0.09	+ 1.94
Notts. and Leicester ..	63,954	— 0.1	+ 2.5	5.56	— 0.09	+ 1.68
Warwick ..	21,552	— 0.1	— 1.4	5.93	+ 0.17	+ 2.19
North Staffordshire ..	34,957	— 0.2	+ 3.3	5.82	+ 0.03	+ 1.28
South Staffs.,† Worc. and Salop ..	35,116	+ 0.3	+ 3.8	5.97	— 0.01	+ 2.01
Glouc. and Somerset ..	14,751	+ 0.5	+ 3.6	5.86	+ 0.03	+ 1.82
Kent ..	1,847	+ 0.5	+ 22.4	5.66	— 0.03	— 0.34
North Wales ..	17,761	+ 0.5	+ 9.0	5.94	+ 0.03	+ 0.68
South Wales and Mon.	239,586	+ 0.5	+ 6.3	5.49	— 0.36	— 0.25
England and Wales	1,019,978	+ 0.3	+ 5.4	5.59	— 0.12	+ 0.75
SCOTLAND.						
Mid & East Lothians ..	15,579	+ 0.6	+ 4.8	5.46	— 0.02	+ 0.18
Fife and Clackmannan ..	30,203	+ 0.3	+ 7.0	5.58	+ 0.02	+ 0.41
Rest of Scotland ..	92,029	+ 0.6	+ 10.3	5.51	—	+ 0.76
Scotland ..	137,811	+ 0.5	+ 8.9	5.52	—	+ 0.61
Great Britain ..	1,157,789	+ 0.3	+ 5.8	5.59	— 0.10	+ 0.74

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

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

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

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

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

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

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

Districts.	Number of Work- people employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
	Fort- night ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as com- pared with a		Fort- night ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as com- pared with a		
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.	
			Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland	3,532	+ 0.3	+ 94.0	5.44	+ 0.62	+ 1.17	
Cumberland and Lanca- shire	3,990	+ 2.3	+ 56.4	5.86	- 0.14	- 0.07	
Other Districts	1,425	+ 2.1	+ 13.1	5.73	+ 0.01	+ 0.18	
All Districts	8,947	+ 1.5	+ 58.9	5.68	+ 0.20	+ 0.37	

Shale Mining.

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

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

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

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

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

District.	Total Number of Furnaces	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in May, on a	
		May, 1923.	April, 1923.	May, 1922.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Durham and Cleveland ..	115	48	46	27	+ 2	+ 21
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	46	18	18	11	..	+ 7
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield.	38	18	17	11	+ 1	+ 7
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	40	40	20	..	+ 20
Lincolnshire ..	22	19	18	9	+ 1	+ 10
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	58	21	20	12	+ 1	+ 9
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	11	11	8	..	+ 3
Total (England and Wales) }	385	175	170	98	+ 5	+ 77
SCOTLAND ..	102	48	46	12	+ 2	+ 36
TOTAL ..	487	223	216	110	+ 7	+ 113

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

* See footnote in previous column.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

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

According to returns received from firms employing 82,091 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 19th May (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each case) showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. on the previous month, but an increase of 66.1 per cent. on a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open in the week was 5.3, compared with 5.4 in April and with 4.9 a year ago.

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

	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate number of Shifts Worked.*		
	Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a		Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS.						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,807	— 2.0	+ 38.2	50,676	— 2.5	+ 43.9
Crucible Furnaces	339	+ 0.9	+ 67.0	1,432	+ 0.5	+ 99.5
Bessemer Converters	298	— 1.3	— 41.9	1,616	— 0.6	— 28.6
Puddling Forges	4,626	— 2.4	+ 68.4	21,250	— 5.0	+ 103.1
Rolling Mills	29,320	+ 4.4	+ 42.9	148,251	+ 2.6	+ 61.7
Forging and Pressing	3,077	— 3.1	+ 84.0	15,587	— 5.7	+ 158.4
Founding	8,666	+ 2.1	+ 189.2	46,319	— 2.3	+ 196.3
Other Departments	6,634	+ 2.4	+ 62.0	36,608	+ 1.4	+ 73.7
Mechanics, Labourers..	20,324	— 0.0	+ 37.6	115,749	— 0.7	+ 44.1
Total	82,091	+ 1.5	+ 52.3	437,538	— 0.2	+ 66.1
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland and Durham	6,786	+ 3.5	+ 96.3	33,980	— 3.1	+ 94.6
Cleveland	8,349	— 3.4	+ 43.1	47,521	— 3.8	+ 58.6
Sheffield and Rotherham	20,337	+ 1.3	+ 112.1	107,135	— 0.4	+ 144.3
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,643	— 0.0	+ 85.1	13,656	— 6.8	+ 109.4
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	7,862	— 0.3	+ 62.4	41,590	+ 0.8	+ 76.3
Staffordshire	8,449	+ 6.8	+ 11.0	44,710	+ 5.0	+ 17.6
Other Midland Counties ..	4,125	+ 5.0	+ 20.3	22,325	+ 4.7	+ 54.4
Wales and Monmouth..	8,887	+ 6.4	+ 12.3	49,223	+ 5.6	+ 12.6
Total, England and Wales	67,438	+ 2.2	+ 52.9	360,140	+ 0.5	+ 65.5
Scotland	14,653	— 1.7	+ 49.6	77,398	— 3.4	+ 68.6
Total	82,091	+ 1.5	+ 52.3	437,538	— 0.2	+ 66.1

The production of steel ingots and castings in May, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 821,000 tons, compared with 749,400 tons in April and with 462,300 tons in May, 1922.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good during May. At the end of the month 519 mills were reported to be in operation, at the works for which information is available, as compared with 513† at the end of April and with 470 a year ago.

The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 1,862 at 21st May, as compared with 1,847 at 23rd April.

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 May, 1923:—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a		At end of May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ..	76	+ 1	+ 5	400	+ 7†	+ 43
Steel Sheet ..	13	– 1	– 1	119	– 1	+ 6
TOTAL ..	89	..	+ 4	519	+ 6†	+ 49

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in May, 1923, amounted to 106,970 tons, or 15,594 tons more than in April, 1923, and 21,257 tons more than in May, 1922.

* 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 implied that the number of shifts shown was actually worked by all the men employed.

† Revised figure.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was still bad during May, but the slow general improvement was maintained in most districts. The motor industry generally was fairly busy, and the electrical section improved, on the whole, during the month. In the textile machinery section, however, employment continued to decline.

On the North-east coast employment in the marine engineering section, which was bad at the beginning of the month, was adversely affected by the shipbuilding dispute; large numbers of men were out of work and others on short time. Employment was fairly good, however, with electrical and motor engineers on the Tyne and Wear, with constructional engineers at Middlesbrough, and with men engaged on locomotive work at Darlington. In Lancashire and Cheshire the decline in the textile machinery section continued in various districts; much short time was worked and the Whitsun holidays were extended in many cases. In general engineering there was a slight improvement in the Manchester district. At railway works employment continued fair.

In Yorkshire the improvement of the last few months was scarcely maintained, except at Leeds, where there was a continued slight improvement in certain sections. At Nottingham employment, although very bad with lace machine builders, improved slightly on the whole, and was reported as good with hosiery machine builders and cycle makers. The improvement at Lincoln was maintained, and although a large number of men were unemployed, overtime continued to be worked in certain sections. At Derby the railway works continued to be fairly busy, but motor works were slack. In the Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton district the seasonal improvement in the motor and cycle industries was well maintained. In some cases overtime and night shifts were worked, and there was a demand for certain classes of skilled workers, though many men were still unemployed. Much short time was still reported in the other engineering industries of the district.

In the Eastern Counties employment was fair on the whole and better than in the previous month. At Norwich there was again a decided improvement, employment being reported as good; at Colchester, however, it continued slack. The motor industry in London and the Southern Counties was fairly busy, and at railway works at Swindon there was a further increase in the number of men employed. In South Wales there was a slight improvement on the whole.

In the Glasgow district employment showed a decline, many employees at locomotive and other works being suspended. At Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen little change was observed as compared with the previous month.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment insurance books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 21st May:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 21st May, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 21st May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in percentage as compared with 23rd April, 1923.
London	17,231	11.9	— 1.1
South-Eastern	9,763	12.9	— 0.9
South-Western	7,053	11.6	— 0.8
Midlands	30,758	14.0	— 1.0
North-Eastern	44,254	19.2	— 0.9
North-Western	43,755	19.9	+ 0.8
Scotland	34,567	19.6	+ 0.2
Wales	1,221	9.1	— 0.9
Northern Ireland	2,697	22.6	— 1.2
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND }	191,299	16.6	— 0.4
Males	186,669	17.3	— 0.5
Females	4,630	6.2	— 0.5

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades remained very bad during May, and was adversely affected by the lock-out of members of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders from the yards of members of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation, which was in progress throughout the month (see pages 199 and 212).

In the districts involved in the dispute (including the Clyde, East Scotland, North-East Coast, Hull, Southampton, Birkenhead and Barrow) employment, already bad, became even worse, a large and increasing number of other workpeople being rendered idle in consequence of the lock-out of members of the Boilermakers' Society.

In shipyards not involved in the dispute, a fair amount of repair work was in progress at Liverpool; at the Bristol Channel ports, however, employment was reported as bad, though there was an improvement at Swansea and Avonmouth at the end of the month. On the Thames work was interrupted during the second half of the month by a dispute between the Boilermakers' Society and the River Thames Dry Dock Proprietors and Ship Repairers' Association (see page 212). Barge builders on the Thames were fairly well employed. At Belfast employment continued bad on the whole.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople whose unemployment insurance books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 21st May. Insured persons who have lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises at which they were employed are not generally eligible for benefit, and are not, therefore, included in the figures:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 21st May, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 21st May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) in percentage as compared with 23rd April, 1923.
London	4,723	27.0	+ 1.7
South-Eastern	1,496	13.5	− 1.5
South-Western	9,076	20.4	+ 2.3
Midlands	152	16.2	− 2.4
North-Eastern	35,997	38.7	+ 3.8
North-Western	13,606	29.6	+ 0.6
Scotland	37,411	39.4	+ 5.6
Wales	5,411	31.1	− 3.9
Northern Ireland	7,208	21.7	− 1.1
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	115,080	32.1	+ 2.6
<i>Males</i>	<i>114,685</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>+ 2.6</i>
<i>Females</i>	<i>395</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>− 0.2</i>

COTTON TRADE.

DURING May employment continued bad in the weaving department and in the section of the spinning department which spins American cotton. The Whitsuntide holidays were very generally extended. The curtailment of production by 50 per cent. in the American spinning section continued. The section spinning Egyptian cotton continued to be well employed, full time being generally worked.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged, was 22.4 on the 21st May, as compared with 17.6 on the 23rd April.

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 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	10,203	− 2.6	− 11.4	15,881	− 1.2	− 21.6
Spinning	19,568	− 3.0	− 11.3	31,847	− 3.8	− 20.7
Weaving	35,325	− 0.6	− 7.2	59,696	− 0.2	− 10.9
Other	8,429	− 0.2	− 1.0	19,077	− 3.4	− 9.8
Not specified	8,086	− 2.1	− 2.9	14,956	+ 4.9	− 16.8
Total	81,611	− 1.5	− 7.8	141,457	− 1.1	− 15.0
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	2,665	− 16.3	− 21.3	4,681	− 5.9	− 26.7
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	6,779	+ 0.6	− 0.9	10,223	− 3.6	− 17.8
Oldham	6,842	− 9.6	− 15.7	10,446	− 6.5	− 38.5
Bolton and Leigh	15,011	+ 0.1	− 1.0	25,470	− 2.7	− 6.4
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	7,054	− 11.3	− 16.3	10,185	− 12.9	− 26.4
Manchester	5,470	+ 13.9	− 6.3	9,188	+ 8.6	− 7.6
Preston and Chorley	6,330	− 4.1	− 9.3	10,947	− 8.0	− 12.1
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	9,363	+ 4.6	− 11.4	17,632	+ 10.7	− 17.0
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	12,356	+ 0.3	− 4.1	26,108	+ 2.1	− 6.6
Other Lancashire Towns	2,965	+ 2.2	− 20.4	5,153	+ 3.5	− 21.0
Yorkshire Towns	3,901	− 1.8	+ 1.8	6,659	− 2.2	− 2.9
Other Districts	2,875	− 1.0	+ 5.2	4,765	− 0.1	+ 1.8
Total	81,611	− 1.5	− 7.8	141,457	− 1.1	− 15.0

Returns from firms with 6,900 workpeople in the Oldham district show that, during the first three weeks of May (prior to Whitsuntide), about 38 per cent. of these workpeople were on full time; about 17 per cent. were stopped for two of the three weeks, another 16 per cent. for one week, and the employees of one firm (about 4 per cent. of the total) were stopped for the whole three weeks. About 25 per cent. were on short time for all or part of the period. In the other districts, taken collectively, about 28 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of nearly 16 hours a week on the average. The districts most affected were Bury and Rochdale, where about 58 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, to the extent of 22 hours a week on the average, and Stockport, where 76 per cent. were on short time, to the extent of 16½ hours a week on the average, during the week ended 19th May.

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts there was no improvement in the spinning section; a number of mills were closed entirely for indefinite periods, much short time was worked, and extended holidays—on the average ten days instead

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

of the usual three—were very general at Whitsuntide. In the weaving section at Oldham employment was also bad, except in the velvet department, where it was still fair. At Bolton employment was reported as fair with spinners and card-room workers, but poor, and worse than a month earlier, with weavers. At Leigh it was good with spinners, and slightly better than in April. In the Bury and Rochdale district employment was considerably worse even than in April; the mills at Rochdale closed at Whitsuntide for periods varying from six to ten days.

Employment in the principal weaving centres continued to be very bad; there was a temporary improvement in some cases in the period before the Whitsuntide holidays, but at the end of the month employment was even worse, on the whole, than in April. In the Preston district there was much short time and unemployment; the average production is stated to have hardly reached 50 per cent. of the maximum. In the Blackburn district it was stated that from 20 to 30 per cent. of the looms were idle in the first half of the month, and nearly 38 per cent. at the end of the month; many mills were closed down entirely. At Burnley it was stated that not more than 40 per cent. of the looms were at work in the middle of the month; the situation at Nelson and at Colne, however, was not quite so bad as at Burnley.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 45,827,500 lbs. in May, 1923, compared with 48,244,300 lbs. in the previous month, and with 113,775,400 lbs. in May, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 12,574,500 lbs. in May, 1923, compared with 10,895,400 lbs. in April, 1923, and 20,767,300 lbs. in May, 1922.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 409,962,600 square yards, as compared with 316,278,700 square yards in the previous month, and with 341,424,800 square yards in May, 1922.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

THERE was a further decline in employment in May, affecting both the woollen and the worsted trades. The decline affected almost all departments in all the principal districts except one; the exception was the Heavy Woollen district (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.), where employment in some departments showed a decided improvement.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4.1 on the 21st May, as compared with 3.6 on the 23rd April.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

Employment showed a marked decline in the Huddersfield district, and a marked improvement in the Dewsbury and Batley district: other districts showed little change. The total net effect of the various changes was a slight decline, affecting all departments.

Employment in the tweed trade of the Colne Valley and of the Heavy Woollen district remained fair. The improvement in the low woollen trade of Leeds and Morley continued; although employment was still bad on the whole in these districts, it was much better than a few months ago. Employment in the blanket trade was good in the Heavy Woollen district and in the Calder Valley; in the rag and shoddy trade it was still poor, but showed a slight improvement. In the flannel trade employment on the whole was fairly good; it showed a decline in the Rochdale district, but a slight improvement at Yeadon and Guiseley and in Wales.

There was a slight decline in the Scottish tweed trade: many firms were closed on Saturdays, and some firms were unable to run the whole of their machinery, even for five full days a week.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	318	− 4.5	+ 1.6	774	− 0.6	− 2.0
Spinning	3,764	− 0.4	+ 11.7	7,564	− 2.8	+ 8.7
Weaving	6,175	− 0.6	+ 7.9	11,621	− 2.9	+ 5.0
Other Departments	4,547	+ 0.1	+ 7.6	10,224	− 4.5	+ 2.2
Not Specified	820	+ 0.4	− 2.1	1,995	+ 2.3	− 4.2
TOTAL	15,624	− 0.4	+ 7.9	32,178	− 3.0	+ 4.1
DISTRICTS.						
Huddersfield District	1,306	− 2.5	+ 6.6	3,108	− 11.1	− 2.7
Leeds District	1,819	− 0.1	+ 8.0	3,861	+ 0.6	+ 1.2
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,645	− 0.2	+ 8.6	3,894	+ 8.2	+ 17.5
Other Parts of West Riding	2,128	+ 0.3	+ 9.7	4,639	− 7.2	+ 10.5
Total, West Riding	6,898	− 0.5	+ 8.4	15,502	− 2.7	+ 6.8
Scotland	4,300	+ 0.2	+ 7.5	8,812	− 1.7	+ 1.5
Other Districts	4,426	− 0.8	+ 7.7	7,864	− 5.0	+ 2.1
TOTAL	15,624	− 0.4	+ 7.9	32,178	− 3.0	+ 4.1

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

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

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment in the wool-sorting department was still good, but showed a marked change for the worse, some short time being worked towards the end of the month. In wool-combing the change was much more marked; one firm dismissed some of its workpeople and a number of other firms went on short time. In the botany spinning section there was also much short time and slackness, and this was not counterbalanced by any marked improvement in the cross-bred section, in which, however, employment was fairly good.

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

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

Departments.	Number of Workpeople			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th May, 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	4,551	- 2.0	+ 0.7	11,982	- 2.4	- 9.5
Spinning	16,313	- 0.5	+ 3.7	25,518	- 1.7	- 6.4
Weaving	5,185	- 2.4	+ 1.2	10,842	- 2.1	- 3.0
Other Departments ..	2,878	+ 0.9	+ 4.8	7,484	+ 1.2	- 1.3
Not specified	2,218	- 0.8	- 1.7	4,188	- 2.6	- 13.6
TOTAL	31,145	- 1.0	+ 2.6	60,014	- 1.6	- 6.4
Districts.						
Bradford District..	15,588	- 1.0	+ 4.1	32,018	- 1.0	- 4.0
Keighley District..	5,426	- 1.1	- 0.3	10,390	- 0.3	- 6.2
Halifax District ..	2,725	- 1.8	- 2.0	4,519	- 4.2	- 17.7
Huddersfield District ..	3,385	- 1.0	+ 5.9	6,425	- 5.8	- 9.5
Other Parts of West Riding	2,901	- 0.3	+ 0.2	5,043	- 0.3	- 6.4
Total, West Riding ..	30,025	- 1.0	+ 2.5	58,395	- 1.6	- 6.4
Other Districts	1,120	+ 0.2	+ 4.5	1,619	- 0.6	- 5.2
TOTAL	31,145	- 1.0	+ 2.6	60,014	- 1.6	- 6.4

Returns received from firms employing 29,290 workpeople showed that about 13 of these workpeople were working short time, to the extent of about 9½ hours a week on the average.

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

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

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

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

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

THERE was a temporary slight improvement in the state of employment at most centres of the boot and shoe trade in the middle of May owing to pressure of orders for Whitsuntide; but this was not maintained, except to a small extent at some centres, and employment at the end of the month was slack on the whole, with short time working still very prevalent. The Whitsuntide holidays were extended at many centres.

Employment at Leicester continued fair, only a small amount of short time being worked. There was a further slight improvement at Northampton, but short time was still worked and about half the factories closed for a whole week at Whitsuntide. At Wellingborough employment was still bad. Apart from a temporary improvement before the holidays, employment at Kettering continued poor; there was much unemployment, and those who remained in employment were working only about three-quarter time, on the average. Employment at Stafford continued fair, full time being worked. There was no marked change at Norwich. In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment remained poor, though there was a temporary improvement before the Whitsuntide holidays in the light footwear trade. At Leeds employment continued very quiet in the heavy boot trade; in the light footwear trade it was fair. Employment in the slipper trade in the Rossendale Valley continued fair.

In Scotland employment was bad at all the principal centres.

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

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

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

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
England and Wales:—						
London	2,113	- 2.3	- 5.8	5,194	+ 0.6	- 4.5
Leicester	9,146	- 0.0	+ 5.5	24,566	- 0.9	+ 4.3
Leicester Country District	2,677	- 0.1	- 4.5	6,362	+ 2.8	- 5.6
Northampton	6,836	+ 0.4	- 2.6	17,343	+ 2.1	- 6.0
Northampton Country District	7,822	+ 0.6	+ 1.9	18,579	+ 4.8	+ 4.4
Kettering	3,344	- 0.3	- 4.5	9,015	+ 7.7	+ 12.3
Stafford and District ..	2,573	- 0.1	+ 5.8	6,450	+ 0.6	+ 6.7
Norwich and District ..	4,402	- 1.6	- 4.9	9,294	+ 1.7	- 9.1
Bristol, Kingswood and District	2,102	+ 4.0	+ 11.6	4,379	+ 12.1	+ 22.6
Leeds and District	1,871	- 1.7	+ 0.6	4,068	+ 8.9	- 1.5
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ..	4,488	+ 0.7	+ 17.5	10,271	+ 1.0	+ 11.2
Birmingham and District	1,002	- 0.4	+ 1.2	1,908	- 0.8	- 6.5
Other parts of England and Wales	1,404	- 1.0	+ 7.8	2,687	+ 0.7	+ 4.3
England and Wales ..	49,780	- 0.0	+ 2.6	120,116	+ 2.5	+ 1.9
Scotland	2,545	+ 0.9	..	5,464	+ 3.1	+ 9.2
Great Britain	52,325	+ 0.0	+ 2.4	125,580	+ 2.5	+ 2.2

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

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

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

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

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

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

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

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 21st May, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 21st May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 23rd Apl., 1923.
Building Trade.			
Carpenters	9,194	6.8	- 1.6
Bricklayers	3,109	5.1	- 2.5
Masons	1,241	5.2	- 1.7
Slaters	596	10.6	- 1.2
Plasterers	1,579	9.2	- 4.4
Painters	8,215	7.1	- 2.8
Plumbers	3,954	10.6	- 1.1
Labourers of above ..	46,084	16.9	- 2.2
All other occupations ..	14,788	14.8	- 1.3
Total	88,760	11.5	- 2.1
Construction of Works.			
Navvies	7,193	20.4	- 1.6
All other occupations ..	12,434	16.1	- 0.6
Total	19,632	17.5	- 0.8
Grand Total	108,392	12.3	- 1.9
Divisions.			
London	22,779	12.3	- 2.3
South-Eastern	9,714	7.7	- 1.8
South-Western	11,012	10.2	- 1.6
Midlands	13,894	14.2	- 2.2
North-Eastern	15,286	13.8	- 2.1
North-Western	16,601	14.4	- 2.0
Scotland	10,859	12.6	- 1.3
Wales	4,979	13.2	- 1.5
Northern Ireland	3,268	24.8	- 1.2
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	108,392	12.3	- 1.9
Males	108,135	12.4	- 1.9
Females	257	3.9	- 0.4

BRICK TRADE.

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

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

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,717	+ 2.3	+14.6	4,083	+ 6.1	+14.0
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,938	+ 5.5	+20.1	9,132	+ 6.7	+19.4
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,284	+ 4.1	+ 5.8	2,926	+ 2.1	+ 5.0
Other Districts	166	+ 3.1	+26.7	391	- 0.8	+22.2
TOTAL	7,105	+ 4.4	+16.1	16,532	+ 5.5	+15.3

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

POTTERY TRADES.

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

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

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
China Manufacture	1,463	- 0.6	- 10.1	2,616	- 0.6	- 3.1
Earthenware Manufacture	8,569	- 0.2	+ 3.7	14,987	- 3.2	- 6.4
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,752	- 0.5	+ 11.3	3,145	- 0.1	+ 8.1
TOTAL	11,784	- 0.3	+ 2.8	20,748	- 2.4	- 4.0
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	9,070	- 0.6	+ 2.5	14,879	- 3.9	- 6.4
Other Districts	2,714	+ 0.9	+ 3.7	5,869	+ 1.5	+ 2.7
TOTAL	11,784	- 0.3	+ 2.8	20,748	- 2.4	- 4.0

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

SEAMEN.

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

The percentage of seamen unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 18.4 at 21st May, as compared with 19.0 at 23rd April.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate and declined towards the end of the month. Employment on the Tyne remained quiet. The demand was slack on the Wear and quiet on the Tees. At Hull employment was fair early in May; it declined later, but improved again in the latter part of the month. The demand at Southampton was brisk for the greater part of the month, but declined at the end. It was quiet at Bristol and moderate at Avonmouth, declining in both ports at the end of the month. The demand at Cardiff was fair in the first half of May, and declined subsequently. Employment at Swansea and Newport was good. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand was fair until the end of the month, when a decline set in.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	May, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Five months ended.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	May, 1923.	May, 1922.
ENGLAND & WALES :					
<i>East Coast—</i>					
Tyne Ports.. - ..	932	- 309	- 732	6 627	8,021
Sunderland 	134	+ 61	- 39	790	889
Middlesbrough	440	+ 93	- 25	2,013	1,707
Hull 	1,457	+ 150	+ 198	7,088	6,328
Grimsby 	4	- 6	- 15	39	76
<i>Bristol Channel—</i>					
Bristol† 	1,231	+ 280	+ 127	4 772	4,879
Newport, Mon. 	1,159	+ 251	+ 79	5,357	5,212
Cardiff‡ 	2,777	+ 33	- 1,088	14,136	15,441
Swansea 	965	+ 154	+ 34	3,839	3,224
<i>Other Ports—</i>					
Liverpool .. - ..	14,266	+ 2,194	- 706	59,237	53,753
London .. - ..	8,175	+ 1,127	+ 654	37,081	35,631
Southampton 	11,167	+ 1,221	- 579	41,481	38,645
SCOTLAND :					
Leith 	361	+ 80	- 26	1,909	1,542
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth 	247	+ 86	- 19	1,329	1,107
Glasgow 	2,881	- 655	- 38	12,619	9,662
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast 	322	+ 114	+ 71	1,105	1,389
TOTAL 	46,518	+ 4,879	- 2,104	199,422	187,506

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

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—					
5th May, 1923 ..	5,736	3,287	9,023	8,098	17,121
12th " ..	5,110	2,703	7,813	7,949	15,762
19th " ..	4,493	3,128	7,621	7,653	15,274
26th " ..	4,317	2,851	7,168	7,673	14,841
Average for 4 weeks ended 26th May, 1923 ..	4,940	2,998	7,938	7,851	15,789
Average for Apr., 1923	4,565	3,389	7,954	7,998	15,953
Average for May, 1922	5,380	3,206	8,586	8,318	16,904

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in May was 865, as compared with 888 in the previous month, and with 1,291 in May, 1922.

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

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

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

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

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

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

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 work—people—at 28th May, 1923, was 1,260,634,† of whom 959,145 were men, 39,612 boys, 228,529 women, and 33,348 girls. Compared with 30th April there was a decrease of 761. In the women's department there was an increase of 10,829, while in the case of men and juveniles there were decreases of 3,414 and 8,176 respectively.

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

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

Week ended	Applica- tions by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople (Live Registers.) †	From Employers.
30th April, 1923	22,958	19,092	1,261,395	19,408
7th May, 1923	24,236	19,435	1,244,609	19,586
14th " " " " " "	23,862	19,352	1,208,964	20,409
21st " " " " " "	16,339	14,633	1,247,180	19,217
28th " " " " " "	19,027	15,638	1,260,634	19,097
Total (4 weeks)	83,464	69,058	—	—

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

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of 573,742 applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 7th May showed a daily average of 23,906—a decrease of 3.0 per cent., compared with the daily average of the previous month. Of this daily average men accounted for 15,347, women for 6,009, and juveniles for 2,550—decreases of 1.7 per cent. and 8.4 per cent. respectively in the case of men and women, and an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the case of juveniles.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 7th May there were 93,663 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,903, as compared with 4,022 during the preceding period. Of this daily average 2,168 were for men, 1,108 for women, and 627 for juveniles. Compared with the previous month the number of vacancies notified for men decreased by 8.6 per cent., while in the case of women and juveniles there were increases of 4.4 per cent., and 6.6 per cent. respectively.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 76,974—a daily average of 3,207, as compared with 3,368 during the previous statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,906, women for 747, and juveniles for 554. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 2,134; women, 724; and juveniles, 510.

Juveniles.—During the period 30,139 applications were received from boys, and 31,052 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 7,474, and 6,640 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 7,572 vacancies were notified, and 6,655 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 22.8 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 7th May have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below:—

In the building trades 12,153 vacancies were notified for men and 9,680 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were:—Carpenters, 2,608 vacancies notified and 2,069 filled; bricklayers, 2,068 vacancies notified and 1,381 filled; painters, 3,602 vacancies notified and 2,987 filled; and builder's labourers, 1,591 vacancies and 1,492 placings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

† Workmen on short time are not included.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas and for the principal towns therein the number of persons remaining on the "live registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 28th May, 1923. 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 28th May, 1923.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as compared with 30th Apr., 1923.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London	144,364	31,032	12,591	187,987	– 9,168
South Eastern Division..	51,658	6,730	4,481	62,869	– 5,352
Brighton	2,458	470	402	3,330	– 282
Chatham	3,516	263	427	4,206	– 492
Ipswich	3,322	318	342	3,982	– 245
Norwich	3,765	309	106	4,180	– 296
Rest of South Eastern	38,597	5,370	3,204	47,171	– 4,037
South Western Division..	64,894	8,903	5,537	79,334	– 4,501
Bristol	12,429	2,424	1,113	15,966	– 1,416
Plymouth	5,920	844	522	7,286	– 426
Portsmouth	6,912	571	650	8,133	+ 514
Reading	1,919	158	260	2,337	– 93
Southampton	7,397	775	455	8,627	+ 64
Swindon	880	125	258	1,263	– 167
Rest of South Western	29,437	4,006	2,279	35,722	– 2,977
Midlands Division	117,831	30,253	7,408	155,492	– 3,808
Birmingham	30,813	8,962	1,186	40,961	– 470
Coventry	3,306	369	112	3,787	– 82
Cradley Heath	3,649	806	141	4,596	+ 92
Derby	2,120	453	250	2,823	– 217
Leicester	1,912	388	38	2,338	– 161
Northampton	1,654	401	56	2,111	– 142
Nottingham	7,137	1,473	302	8,912	+ 594
Smethwick	4,082	1,110	337	5,529	– 462
Stoke-on-Trent	6,192	3,468	273	9,933	+ 85
Walsall	4,756	755	939	6,450	+ 2
West Bromwich	3,290	509	192	3,991	+ 416
Wolverhampton	5,781	1,909	324	8,014	– 264
Rest of Midlands	43,139	9,650	3,258	56,047	– 3,199
North-Eastern Division..	179,008	16,327	10,336	205,671	+ 1,201
Barnsley	1,292	98	71	1,461	– 241
Bradford	3,062	921	87	4,070	+ 488
Darlington	1,279	149	126	1,554	– 361
Dewsbury	1,092	261	70	1,423	– 319
Doncaster	257	147	105	509	– 61
Gateshead	6,075	489	473	7,037	– 275
Grimsby	2,070	135	155	2,360	+ 20
Halifax	1,894	281	14	2,189	+ 340
Hartlepool	6,842	254	339	7,435	+ 37
Huddersfield	2,440	345	94	2,879	+ 408
Hull	9,411	536	948	10,895	+ 120
Leeds	12,575	1,441	533	14,549	– 904
Lincoln	2,707	354	130	3,191	– 265
Middlesbrough	9,277	220	274	9,771	+ 1,440
Newcastle-on-Tyne	18,233	1,286	1,239	20,758	– 6
Rotherham	1,402	131	164	1,697	+ 21
Sheffield	22,017	2,213	1,163	25,393	– 1,298
South Shields	6,030	323	362	6,715	+ 42
Stockton-on-Tees	6,418	122	245	6,785	+ 117
Sunderland	14,429	732	774	15,935	+ 479
York	1,497	289	637	2,423	– 252
Rest of North-Eastern	48,709	6,100	2,383	57,192	+ 1,671
North Western Division	201,780	98,033	20,773	320,586	+ 28,947
Accrington	4,988	2,404	444	7,836	+ 2,684
Ashton-under-Lyne	4,279	2,791	465	7,535	+ 946
Barrow	7,568	312	640	8,520	+ 139
Birkenhead	6,518	364	960	7,842	+ 737
Blackburn	4,370	4,949	537	9,856	– 1,557
Blackpool	503	235	16	754	– 632
Bolton	5,350	1,660	383	7,393	+ 221
Burnley	5,102	6,081	708	11,891	– 852
Bury	1,547	2,164	172	3,883	+ 203
Chorley	1,313	489	136	1,938	– 11
Liverpool	44,082	6,415	3,634	54,131	+ 261
Manchester	22,937	6,718	1,751	31,406	– 819
Nelson	1,058	755	88	1,901	+ 744
Oldham	15,239	11,621	1,694	28,554	+ 9,579
Preston	3,886	2,185	236	6,307	– 1,823
Rochdale	5,549	5,891	971	12,411	+ 5,249
St. Helens	2,424	275	252	2,951	– 155
Salford	8,453	4,269	1,279	14,001	+ 628
Stockport	3,398	3,675	490	7,563	+ 799
Warrington	1,917	329	119	2,365	+ 34
Wigan	2,016	4,280	671	6,967	– 750
Rest of North Western	49,283	30,171	5,127	84,581	+ 13,322
Scotland Division	140,905	22,829	8,841	172,575	– 235
Aberdeen	5,570	846	268	6,684	– 1,138
Clydebank	3,949	252	242	4,443	– 274
Dundee	6,446	2,397	302	9,145	– 230
Edinburgh	10,850	1,598	557	13,005	+ 156
Glasgow	64,608	9,818	4,122	78,548	+ 293
Greenock	9,307	626	320	10,253	+ 45
Motherwell	2,063	156	161	2,380	+ 658
Paisley	5,987	771	566	7,324	+ 451
Rest of Scotland	32,125	6,365	2,303	40,793	– 146
Wales Division	31,993	3,158	2,125	36,276	– 4,011
Cardiff	6,197	480	446	7,123	– 758
Llanelli	485	71	69	625	– 74
Newport	2,635	176	179	2,990	+ 100
Swansea	2,394	145	216	2,755	– 474
Rest of Wales	20,282	1,286	1,215	22,783	– 2,805
Northern Ireland	26,712	11,764	818	39,294	– 3,834
Belfast	15,769	7,912	494	24,175	– 2,162
Londonderry	1,994	517	46	2,557	– 3
Lurgan	688	364	23	1,075	– 315
Lisburn	551	194	18	763	– 213
Newry	718	192	19	929	– 133
Rest of Northern Ireland	6,992	2,585	218	9,795	– 1,068
Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland	959,145	228,529	72,960	1,260,634	– 761

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 for this purpose any three days

of unemployment within a period of six consecutive days shall be treated as a continuous period of unemployment, and any two such continuous periods separated by a period of less than three weeks shall be treated as one continuous period of unemployment. Persons employed in establishments where, owing to trade depression, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis in such a manner as to fall within the above provision are accordingly eligible for benefit. Payment of unemployment benefit is subject to certain statutory conditions and disqualifications. 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 21st May, 1923.			Percentage Unemployed.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 23rd April, 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	83,527	233	83,760	11.6	4.0	11.5	— 2.1	— 0.4	— 2.1
Construction of Works other than Building.	111,593	830	112,420	19,603	24	19,632	17.6	2.9	17.5	— 0.9	— 0.7	— 0.8
Shipbuilding	353,020	5,620	358,640	114,685	395	115,080	32.5	7.0	32.1	+ 2.6	— 0.2	+ 2.6
Engineering and Ironfounding	1,077,840	74,890	1,152,730	186,669	4,630	191,299	17.3	6.2	16.6	— 0.5	— 0.5	— 0.4
Construction and Repair of Vehicles	185,383	30,410	216,790	16,970	1,732	18,702	9.1	5.7	8.6	— 0.9	— 1.6	— 1.0
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork	182,410	39,270	221,680	17,991	2,509	20,500	9.9	6.4	9.2	— 0.5	— 0.4	— 0.6
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.	175,500	65,410	240,910	18,322	4,225	22,547	10.4	6.5	9.4	+ 0.1	— 0.4	—
Metal Trades:—												
Iron, Steel, Tinplate, and Galvanized Sheet Manufacture.	233,880	14,270	308,150	44,905	988	45,893	15.3	6.9	14.9	— 0.4	— 0.4	— 0.4
Brass, Copper, Zinc, etc., Manufacture	51,770	13,230	65,000	7,543	1,283	8,826	14.6	9.7	13.6	— 0.9	— 1.0	— 0.9
Electrical and Surgical Instruments, etc.	66,563	38,260	104,820	6,390	2,335	8,725	9.6	6.1	8.3	— 0.9	— 0.6	— 0.8
Hand Tools, Cutlery, etc.	20,640	8,360	29,000	3,030	1,117	4,147	14.7	13.4	14.3	— 3.0	— 0.4	— 2.3
Needles, Pins, Steel Pens, Dies, Seals, etc.	5,440	9,750	15,190	572	784	1,356	10.5	8.0	8.9	— 0.2	— 1.5	— 1.0
Wire and Wire Goods	21,650	6,230	27,880	1,933	478	2,411	8.9	7.7	8.6	— 0.3	— 0.1	— 0.3
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Chains, Anchors, etc.	20,063	15,320	35,380	4,429	2,107	6,536	22.1	13.8	18.5	+ 1.0	— 0.6	+ 0.3
Hardware and Hollow-ware	53,103	49,230	102,330	6,754	5,539	12,293	11.6	11.3	11.5	— 0.2	— 1.6	— 0.8
Watches, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	30,630	20,570	51,200	4,174	1,663	5,837	13.6	8.1	11.4	— 0.7	— 0.5	— 0.6
Miscellaneous Metal Goods (including Musical Instruments).	33,100	16,620	52,720	3,311	1,375	4,686	9.2	8.3	8.9	— 0.2	— 0.8	— 0.4
Rubber and Leather Trades:—												
Rubber & Rubber & Waterproof Goods	34,830	30,120	65,010	4,406	2,559	6,965	12.6	8.5	10.7	— 0.2	+ 0.3	—
Leather and Leather Goods	48,040	21,250	69,290	5,117	1,753	6,870	10.7	8.2	9.9	—	— 1.3	— 0.5
Brick, Tile, etc.	68,470	8,910	77,380	6,236	985	7,221	9.1	11.1	9.3	— 1.7	— 0.8	— 1.6
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	36,930	34,650	71,580	3,121	4,142	7,263	8.5	12.0	10.1	— 1.2	+ 0.8	— 0.4
Glass Trades (excluding Optical, Scientific, etc.).	37,900	7,730	45,630	7,319	612	7,931	19.3	7.9	17.4	— 0.4	— 0.8	— 0.4
Hotel, College, Club, etc., Services	86,470	190,560	277,030	10,829	12,760	23,589	12.5	6.7	8.5	— 1.2	— 1.1	— 1.1
Laundry Service	15,980	87,730	103,710	1,162	3,843	5,005	7.3	4.4	4.8	— 0.5	— 0.4	— 0.5
Commercial, Clerical, Insurance and Banking.	120,610	81,640	202,250	7,999	2,309	10,308	6.6	2.8	5.1	— 0.5	— 0.2	— 0.4
Transport Services:—												
Railway Service	241,530	12,670	254,200	14,094	379	14,473	5.8	3.0	5.7	— 0.7	— 0.7	— 0.6
Tramway and Omnibus Service	93,900	5,190	104,090	3,420	142	3,562	3.5	2.7	3.4	— 0.2	— 0.1	— 0.2
Other Road Transport	158,410	4,080	162,490	25,470	115	25,585	16.1	2.8	15.7	— 0.9	+ 0.2	— 0.9
Seamen	110,810	1,490	112,300	20,616	92	20,708	18.6	6.2	18.4	— 0.6	+ 0.3	— 0.6
Canal, River, Harbour, etc., Services	190,040	2,940	192,980	43,765	332	44,097	23.0	11.3	22.9	+ 1.0	— 0.8	+ 1.1
Warehousemen, Packers, Porters, etc.	32,780	5,560	38,340	6,328	480	6,808	19.3	8.6	17.8	— 0.8	—	— 0.7
Mining Industry:—												
Coal Mining	1,214,990	9,670	1,224,660	34,968	355	35,323	2.9	3.7	2.9	— 0.3	— 0.6	— 0.3
Iron Mining and Ironstone Quarrying	22,920	60	22,980	3,617	4	3,621	15.8	6.7	15.8	+ 0.5	+ 1.7	+ 0.5
Other Mining	9,810	230	10,040	1,795	11	1,806	18.3	4.8	18.0	— 2.5	+ 1.3	— 2.4
Quarrying (other than Ironstone), Clay, Sand, etc., Digging.	59,330	770	60,100	3,108	47	3,155	5.2	6.1	5.2	— 0.3	— 0.8	— 0.3
Printing and Paper Trades:—												
Paper Making and Staining	43,340	17,660	61,000	3,055	1,060	4,115	7.0	6.0	6.7	— 0.4	— 1.4	— 0.7
Manufactured Stationery	22,220	47,980	70,200	1,548	2,719	4,267	7.0	5.7	6.1	— 0.4	— 0.2	— 0.3
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	131,330	81,820	213,150	9,030	3,846	12,876	6.9	4.7	6.0	+ 0.2	— 0.2	—
Textile Trades:—												
Cotton Trade	220,320	381,150	601,470	44,784	90,040	134,824	20.3	23.6	22.4	+ 3.6	+ 5.5	+ 4.8
Woolen and Worsted Trades	111,820	156,570	268,390	6,232	4,675	10,927	5.6	3.0	4.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.5
Silk Trade	11,460	22,050	33,510	705	773	1,478	6.2	3.5	4.4	— 0.3	— 0.6	— 0.5
Flax, Linen and Hemp Trades	28,270	62,480	90,750	4,043	9,089	13,137	14.3	14.5	14.5	— 0.5	— 3.7	— 2.6
Jute Trade	11,930	30,180	42,110	1,722	2,769	4,491	14.4	9.2	10.7	+ 3.0	— 1.8	— 0.4
Rope, Twine, Cord and Net Manufacture.	7,250	14,870	22,120	848	1,680	2,508	11.7	11.2	11.3	— 0.4	— 0.2	— 0.3
Hosiery Trade	19,080	65,560	84,640	917	2,810	3,727	4.8	4.3	4.4	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	+ 0.8
Lace Trade	10,860	16,960	27,820	2,299	1,132	3,431	21.2	6.7	12.3	+ 2.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
Carpet and Rug Manufacture	9,990	14,050	24,040	357	425	782	3.6	3.0	3.3	— 0.1	— 0.3	— 0.2
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing, etc.	78,600	26,620	105,220	7,957	2,418	10,375	10.1	9.1	9.9	+ 2.1	+ 2.9	+ 2.4
Other Textiles	13,200	31,340	44,540	990	2,651	3,641	7.5	8.5	8.2	— 0.4	+ 0.2	—
Clothing Trades:—												
Tailoring Trades	65,810	132,680	198,490	4,314	4,602	8,916	6.6	3.5	4.5	— 1.1	— 0.9	— 1.0
Dress, etc., Making, Millinery, Furriers, etc.	22,450	214,750	237,200	1,625	8,888	10,513	7.2	4.1	4.4	— 0.6	— 0.6	— 0.6
Hats, Caps and Bonnets	13,190	20,880	34,070	1,075	835	1,910	8.2	4.0	5.6	— 1.3	— 0.8	— 1.0
Corset Trade	2,160	12,180	14,340	112	948	1,060	5.2	7.8	7.4	— 0.4	+ 2.0	+ 1.6
Boot, Shoe, etc., Trades	97,300	53,030	150,330	9,658	2,293	11,951	9.9	4.3	7.9	— 0.8	— 0.2	— 0.6
Other Clothing	18,790	23,000	41,790	2,430	1,214	3,644	12.9	5.3	8.7	+ 2.0	— 0.4	+ 0.7
Food, Drink and Tobacco:—												
Manufacture of Food and Drink	270,310	174,790	445,100	23,680	17,137	40,817	8.8	9.8	9.2	— 0.6	— 1.3	— 0.8
Tobacco, Cigar and Cigarette Manufacture.	13,990	32,970	46,960	1,195	2,566	3,761	8.5	7.8	8.0	— 0.6	— 2.5	— 1.9
Miscellaneous Trades and Services:—												
Public Utility Services	216,270	12,580	228,850	15,508	506	16,014	7.2	4.0	7.0	— 0.2	— 0.1	— 0.3
Oilcloth, Linoleum and Cork Carpets	9,800	3,370	13,170	563	76	639	5.7	2.3	4.9	— 0.9	—	— 0.6
Distributive Trades	573,720	437,800	1,011,520	43,493	20,231	63,724	7.6	4.6	6.3	— 0.3	— 0.4	— 0.4
National and Local Government Service.	250,240	73,780	324,020	25,254	3,115	28,369	10.1	4.2	8.8	— 0.4	— 0.2	— 0.3
Professional Services	63,160	69,550	132,710	3,505	1,503	5,008	5.5	2.2	3.8	— 0.5	— 0.3	— 0.3
Other Industries and Services	160,790	59,410	220,200	37,790	5,473	43,263	23.5	9.2	19.6	— 1.8	— 0.6	— 1.5
TOTAL	8,541,030	3,209,420	11,750,450	1,003,897	257,791	1,261,688	11.8	8.0	10.7	— 0.3	+ 0.1	— 0.2

* In addition to the figures given for total unemployment there were 53,668 persons, or 0.5 per cent., working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to Unemployment Insurance benefit.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

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

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in May.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in May.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in May.
	Started before 1st May.	Started in May.	Total.		
Mining & Quarrying	1	9	10	11,000	74,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	8	10	18	28,000	588,000
Textile ..	1	2	3	3,000	59,000
Printing, Paper, etc., Trades	7	..	7	1,000	18,000
Chemical, Glass etc.	4	3	7	1,000	16,000
Food, etc., Trades ..	5	..	5	2,000	24,000
Other Trades ..	15	25	40	2,000	28,000
Total, May, 1923 ..	41	49	90	48,000	807,000
Total, April, 1923 ..	38	52	90	110,000	1,077,000
Total, May, 1922 ..	55	38	93	382,000†	7,879,000†

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

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

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

TOTALS FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1922 AND 1923.‡

Groups of Industries.	January to May, 1922.			January to May, 1923.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building ..	36	3,000	67,000	21	14,000	251,000
Mining and Quarrying	75	59,000	721,000	67	110,000	703,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	28	355,000†	15,321,000†	35	31,000	632,000
Other Metal ..	30	8,000	186,000	17	2,000	26,000
Textile ..	6	3,000	48,000	12	34,000	883,000
Clothing ..	12	2,000	40,000	8	3,000	21,000
Transport ..	27	4,000	38,000	20	2,000	22,000
Agriculture and Fishing	2	2,000	50,000	4	8,000	247,000
Printing, Paper, &c., Trades ..	3	1,000	34,000	9	6,000	161,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ..	10	1,000	29,000	10	1,000	24,000
Chemical, Brick, Glass, Pottery, etc. ..	8	1,000	24,000	15	2,000	30,000
Food, &c. Trades ..	10	4,000	55,000	12	3,000	56,000
Other Trades ..	12	1,000	11,000	25	2,000	5,000
Employees of Public Authorities ..	23	4,000	72,000	17	3,000	45,000
Total ..	282	448,000	16,696,000	272	221,000	3,106,000

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING MAY, 1923

Occupations and Locality.§	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.§	Result.§
	Directly.	Indirectly.¶	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:— Miners, etc.—Swansea (near).	2,000	..	1923. 14 May	1923. 26 May	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Non-unionists joined the Miners' Federation.
Coal hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers—Whitehaven (near).	1,015	1,408	15 May	..	Dispute as to proposed change in method of working and alterations in rates of wages.	No settlement reported.
METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIPBUILDING:— Platers, riveters, caulkers, etc. (shipbuilding and repairing), and other workpeople—Federated Districts.|| Platers, riveters, caulkers, etc. (ship-repairing)—Thames.	10,000¶	14,000**	30 April	..	See page 199.	No settlement reported.
..	..	1,400††	17 May	2 June	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Modified reduction accepted.
TEXTILE 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.	††	..	23 Feb.	..	See page 199.	No settlement reported.
PRINTING, PAPER, ETC., TRADES:— Paperworkers—Edinburgh (near)	487	36	18 Jan.	22 May	Refusal to work with a non-unionist.	Non-unionist in question transferred to other work.
Manufacturing stationery, etc., employees.—London.	748	..	9 Mar.	..	Dispute arising out of objection to non-unionists.	No settlement reported.
OTHER TRADES:— Fitters, labourers, etc., engaged on constructional and maintenance work at oil works—Swansea (near).	521	..	5 April	17 May	Against increase in working hours to those observed in the engineering industry, and against recent reduction in rates of wages to district engineering rates.	Hours not to be increased; parties to negotiate as to allowances to be paid in addition to district rates, for exceptionally dirty or difficult work.
Employees of Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd. engaged in confectionery and drug packing, etc.—Pebbleton, Tyne and Silvertown, London, E.‡‡	845§§	..	21 April	..	Against reduction in wages, in alleged violation of an undertaking that variations in wages be subject to negotiation and, failing agreement, to arbitration.	No settlement reported.
Bakers—Dundee	600	..	30 April	1 May	Against proposed alterations in working agreement involving, <i>inter alia</i> , a uniform working week of 46 hours, instead of 45 at larger bakeries and 47 at smaller ones.	Working hours to be 45 and 46 respectively, men making concessions regarding the remuneration of future apprentices. (See also page 230)

* 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.

† Disputes involving about 350,000 workpeople in the engineering and shipbuilding industries were in progress in May, 1922.

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

§ 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.

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

¶ Estimated number involved, exclusive of workpeople unemployed when the stoppage began. Exact figures are not available.

** Estimated number indirectly involved by the end of May. †† Estimated number, including workpeople indirectly involved.

‡‡ In May the stoppage affected only the establishment which was involved in the dispute in February, the general lock-out at other works having ceased on 18th April. On the 1st June, the whole of the 29,000 workpeople employed by members of the Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers were locked out for the second time. The lock-out was withdrawn on 7th June, the stoppage continuing at the original works only.

§§ Employees at other works of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., ceased work in June in support of these workpeople.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

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

The groups of industries principally affected are shown below :—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building	1,500	411,500	£ 400	£ 61,900
Mining and Quarrying ..	679,000	500	89,100	50
Metal	26,500	44,000	3,000	4,500
Textile	—	82,500	—	7,000
Transport	—	78,500	—	4,100
Public Utility Services ..	—	89,000	—	5,250
Other	—	161,000	—	16,700
Total	707,000	867,000	92,500	99,500

In the building industry the rates of wages of skilled workers, except plasterers and painters in Scotland, were reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in London, by 1d. per hour in nearly all the larger towns (the principal exceptions being Liverpool and Birkenhead), and by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in the smaller towns. Labourers sustained reductions ranging from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour in different localities. In addition to these reductions the rates of wages of plumbers in many districts, including London, were further reduced, by amounts ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour, in order to bring the rates down to those recognised for other classes of craftsmen.

In the coal mining industry there were increases in rates of wages in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, Scotland and the Radstock district, the amount of increase ranging from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates in the Radstock district to 7 per cent. in Durham.

In the metal trades the principal increases affected blast-furnacemen in Cumberland and Lincolnshire, iron-puddlers and millmen in the North of England and the West of Scotland, and Siemens steel workers in South and West Wales. The most important bodies of workers who sustained decreases included electric cable makers, heating and domestic engineers, and ship-repairers on the Thames.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of Changes in January—May, 1923.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building and Allied Trades	1,500	458,000	£ 410	£ 72,100
Mining and Quarrying ..	697,200	9,000	97,100	1,500
Iron and Steel	56,800	83,000	5,300	5,900
Engineering, Shipbuilding, &c.	1,500	152,000	170	26,300
Other Metal	3,000	102,000	260	19,700
Textile	50	235,000	10	16,300
Clothing	—	325,000	—	58,700
Transport	2,700	283,000	550	47,200
Paper, Printing, &c. ..	—	36,000	—	6,500
Furniture and Woodworking	100	32,000	10	7,400
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c.	100	110,000	10	19,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	—	223,000	—	26,100
Public Utility Services ..	1,150	234,000	180	25,000
Other	—	67,000	—	7,900
Total	764,100	2,352,000	104,000	339,600

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

Hours of Labour.

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

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

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
Building	Various towns in England†	1 May‡	Plumbers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8d.).
	London District (15-mile radius of Charing Cross)	1 May‡	Plumbers	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Macclesfield ...	1 May‡	Plumbers	Decrease of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Preston ...	1 May‡	Plumbers	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Nottingham and Derby Districts§	1 May‡	Plumbers	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Matlock and Newark	1 May‡	Plumbers	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Walsall, Wednesbury and Darlaston	1 May‡	Plumbers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Cardiff ...	1 May‡	Plumbers	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 8d.).

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

† Accrington, Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Atherton, Barnsley, Batley, Birmingham, Blackburn, Blaydon, Blyth, Bolton, Bradford, Brighouse, Burnley, Bury, Cheadle, Clitheroe, Colne, Darlington, Darwen, Dewsbury, Disley, Doncaster, Dukinfield, Durham, Eccles, Edenfield, Farnworth, Gateshead, Glossop, Great Harwood, Halifax, Harrogate, Hartlepool, Haslingden, Hebden Bridge, Hexham, Heywood, Horbury, Hyde, Ilkley, Jarrow, Keighley, Leeds, Leigh, Manchester, Menston, Middlesbrough, Middleton, Mirfield, Morley, Morpeth, Mossley, Nelson, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Normanton, North and South Shields, Oldham, Openshaw, Ossett, Otley, Padiham, Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Rishton, Rochdale, Rotherham, Sale, Salford, Sheffield, Shipley, Sowerby Bridge, Spen Valley, Stalybridge, Stockport, Stockton, Sunderland, Sutton Coldfield, Thornaby, Todmorden, Tyldesley, Wakefield, Wallsend, Whitefield, Wilmslow, Wombwell and Yeadon.

‡ The reduction took effect as the result of a notice issued by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers and the Institute of Plumbers, Ltd., that, as from 1st May, 1923, the rates of wages, hours of labour, and such other matters as are dealt with nationally by the National Wages and Conditions Council should be determined for the plumbing trade on such national basis, and that the wages recognised at that date by the National Council should apply to the plumbing trade. For particulars of further changes for plumbers see entry for the general building trade on next page.

§ Including Belper, Ilkeston, Leicester, Long Eaton, Loughborough, Mansfield, and Sutton-in-Ashfield.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES—continued.				
Building (contd.)	Aberystwyth ...	4 May	Building trade operatives ...	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.
	Belfast ...	1 May	Painters ... Labourers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.). Increase of 2d. per hour for general labourers (10d. to 1s.), and of 1½d. per hour for special labourers and hodsmen (11½d. to 1s. 1d.).
	Coleraine ...	1 May	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, slaters, plumbers, plasterers and painters	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3d.).
	Portadown ...	1 May	Bricklayers and masons ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	London and Districts within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross; also Grays and Purfleet and Epsom	23 May	Building trade operatives ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour for craftsmen and crane, engine, etc., drivers, and of ¼d. per hour for scaffolders, labourers, etc. Rates after change: masons (façers), granite masons, and spindle and four-cutter machinists, 1s. 8½d.; painters, 1s. 6½d.; bricklayers, banker masons, plumbers, plasterers, slaters, and other craftsmen, 1s. 7½d.; electric derrick drivers, 1s. 6½d.; steam derrick drivers, 1s. 6d.; marble polishers, 1s. 5½d.; crane and traveller drivers, 1s. 5d.; engine drivers, 1s. 3½d.; scaffolders and timbermen, 1s. 3½d.; labourers, boiler attendants and crane signalmen, 1s. 2½d.
	Various other towns in Great Britain	26 May	Building trade operatives (excluding plasterers and painters in Scotland)	Decreases for craftsmen of 1d. per hour in Grade A and B towns and of ½d. per hour in Grade C towns; and for labourers of from ½d. to ¾d. per hour so as to maintain wages at approximately 75 per cent. of the craftsmen's rate in each district.† [For towns affected and rates of wages after change see Table on p. 222.]
	Birmingham and District	24 May	Gas fitters ...	Decrease* of ½d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 5d.).
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Northumberland...	1 May	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 9·85 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 105·15 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 9½d. per day.
	Durham ...			Increase of 13·48 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 105·16 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day.
	Yorkshire and East Midland Area†			Increase of 9·31 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, making wages 54·52 per cent. above the standard of 1911.
	Radstock ...	26 April		Increase of 3·31 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 35·48 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
	Scotland ...	1 May		Increase of 8·63 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, making wages 132·82 per cent. above the standard of 1888, subject to subsistence allowance for surface workers operative from 1 January, 1922 (see p. 80 of February, 1922, GAZETTE).
Coke and By-products Manufacture	Durham ...	1 May	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase of 13·48 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 105·16 per cent. above the standard subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day.
	West Yorkshire ...	1st full pay in May		Increase|| of 3·35 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 50·35 per cent. above the standard.
	South Yorkshire ...	1 May		Increase of 9·31 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 54·52 per cent. above the standard.
	South Wales ...	1 May		Increase of 5 per cent. on standard base rates of 1916 and 1917, making wages 22½ to 32½ per cent. above standard.¶
Iron Mining	Cumberland ...	7 May	Iron ore miners ...	Increase|| of 7d. per shift in the bargain price (10s. 2d. to 10s. 9d.), and of 7d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 6d. to 8s. 1d.).
	Furness District ...	13 May	Winding enginemen ... Other underground and surface workers	Increase|| of 5½d. per shift (8s. 10½d. to 9s. 3½d.). Increase|| of 3½d. per shift for men, and of 1½d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change for underground 1st class leading labourers, 6s. 9d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire	6 May	Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters, whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements)	Increase|| of 9d. per shift in the bargain price for miners (8s. 7d. to 9s. 4d.); of 8½d. in the minimum wage (7s. 10d. to 8s. 6½d.); of 8d. per shift for surfacemen; and of 4d. per shift for boys under 16.
	West Cumberland	14 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase|| of 3½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 43½ per cent. above the standard plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
Quarrying	Portland ...	26 May	Limestone quarrymen ...	Increase|| of 3½d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 6d. per shift for other men, and of 3d. for boys under 16. Rates after change: blacksmiths and joiners, 9s.; knobblers, 9s. 2½d. per shift; day borers (1st class), 8s. 8½d.; day labourers (1st class), 8s. 0½d.; ruddmen, 7s. 6½d. per shift.
			Banker masons, stone machinists, smiths and labourers	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 6d.; machinists, 1s. 5½d.; smiths, 1s. 4½d.; labourers (semi-skilled), 1s. 3½d., (unskilled) 1s. 2½d.
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay in May	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen on maintenance work, but including bricklayers) employed at blast-furnaces	Increase|| of 10½ per cent. on standard rates of 1919, making wages 44½ per cent. above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus.**
	North Lincolnshire	6 May	Blastfurnacemen ...	Increase|| of 3½ per cent. on the standard rates of 1909, making wages 43½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for labourers 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 43½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift.

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

† In the case of some towns which were re-graded the amount of the reduction was less than that specified, and in a few cases the re-grading resulted in no reduction being made. For particulars of the Arbitrator's Award, under which the reductions took effect, see page 198.

‡ Viz., Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.

§ In the case of West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1st May was 52·86 for the Eastern area and 49·52 for the Western area.

|| This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

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

** The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slagers, fillers, etc., is 82 in the Workington area and 77 in the Furness area.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE—(continued).				
Pig Iron Manufacture (contd.)	North Lincolnshire	6 May	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at ironstone mines and in iron and steel works	Increase* of 1·25 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 31·75 per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: patternmakers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 42s.; plus in each case 31·75 per cent. and a tonnage bonus.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	North of England	28 May	Iron puddlers	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	28 May	Iron millmen	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	28 May	Merchant millmen	Increase* of 7½ per cent. making wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
	South and West Wales	6 May	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) engaged in Siemens steel manufacture	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 23½ per cent. above the standard, plus an additional 20 per cent. to those with base earnings of not more than 30s. per week; an additional 6d. per shift to those with a base rate of 30s. 1d. to 40s. per week, and an additional 4d. per shift to those with a base rate of 40s. 1d. to 50s. per week.†
Engineering, Ship repairing, etc.	West of Scotland	28 May	Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 45 per cent. above the standard.
	Lincoln, Gainsborough and Newark	1st pay day in May	Patternmakers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rate after change: 46s. per week, plus 10s. per week war wage.
	Thames District ...	16 May†	Shipwrights, blacksmiths, joiners, sheet metal workers, patternmakers, fitters, electric crane drivers, sawyers, plumbers, electricians and french polishers	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: patternmakers, 69s.; shipwrights and blacksmiths, 66s. 6d.; joiners and sheet metal workers, 68s.; fitters, plumbers, electricians and sawyers, 65s.; french polishers, 67s. 6d.; electric crane drivers, 62s.
			Painters	Decrease of 2d. per day. Rate after change: 68s. per week.
Sheet Metal Working Light Castings Manufacture	Dundee	1 May	Riggers	Decrease of 2½d. per day except Saturday. Rate after change: Saturday, 7s. 9d.; other week days, 11s. 9½d.
			OTHER METAL TRADES.	
	West of Scotland	2 April	Sheet metal workers and gas fitters	Decrease§ of ½d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.).
	Electric Cable Making	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire||	3rd pay day in May	Dressers ... ..	Decrease of 1d. per hour (being the withdrawal of the special advance granted in June, 1920).
Men, 21 years and over, other than plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates				Decrease§ of 1s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: 48s. 11½d. to 54s. 10d.
Great Britain, other than the above counties||		Youths 18 to 20 years		Decrease§ of 1s. 2½d. per week.
Electric Cable Making		North-East Coast District||		1 May	Boys 14 to 17 years ... ..	Decrease§ of 3½d. per week.
	Women 18 years and over		Decrease§ of 1s. per week. Rates after change: 25s. 6d. to 29s. 6d., plus service bonus if any.	
	Girls 14 to 17 years		Decrease§ of 6d. per week.	
	Men, 21 years and over, other than plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates		Decrease§ of 1s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: 43s. 6d. to 49s. 6d.	
Bobbin and Shuttle Making	North Western District||	1 May	Youths 18 to 20 years	Decrease§ of 1s. 6d. per week.
			Boys 14 to 17 years	Decrease§ of 3d. per week.
			Women 18 years and over	Decrease§ of 1s. per week. Rates after change: 25s. 6d. to 29s. 6d. plus service bonus if any.
			Girls 14 to 17 years	Decrease§ of 6d. per week.
Surgical Instrument Manufacture	Scotland|| ... ..	1 May	Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electric cable making industry	Decreases of 2s. 11d. per week for plumber-jointers, of 2s. 6d. per week for jointers, and of 2s. 3d. per week for jointers' mates.
			Decreases, according to Zone, of 1s. 11d. or 1s. 10d. per week for plumber-jointers, of 1s. 10d., 1s. 9d., or 1s. 8d. per week for jointers, and of 1s. 6d., 1s. 5d., or 1s. 4d. per week for jointers' mates.	
			Decreases, according to Zone, of 1s. 11½d., 1s. 10½d., or 1s. 9½d. per week for plumber-jointers, of 1s. 9½d., 1s. 8½d., or 1s. 7½d. per week for jointers, and of 1s. 4½d., 1s. 3½d. or 1s. 3½d. per week for jointers' mates.	
			Decrease§ of 1s. per week for men, and of 6d. per week for women. Rates after change: higher skilled men, 64s. 6d.; lesser skilled men, 55s.; labourers, 45s.; women, 26s.	
Hame Making	England and Wales	1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the bobbin making industry; also shuttle-makers employed by certain firms at Garston and Blackburn.	Addition of 45 per cent. previously paid on revised pre-war piecework prices reduced to 40 per cent., and a decrease of 5 per cent. in wages for timeworkers.
			Surgical and dental instrument makers	Decrease of 15 per cent. for flat side glazed tangs grinding, for untinned horn setting in and whetting, and for all blades ground glazed sides down to 2½ in. stone ¾ in. blade, leaving current piecework prices subject to bonus of 12½ per cent.
			Workpeople employed in the razor making trade	Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving pre-war prices subject to an addition of 90 per cent.
			Hame makers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for men 21 years of age and over (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6d.).
Gold, Silver and Allied Trades	London	1st pay day in May	Silversmiths, polishers, platers, gilders, chasers, stampers, burnishers, etc.—	Decrease of 10 per cent. on pre-war prices, leaving pre-war prices subject to an addition of 60 per cent.
			Timeworkers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade A,** 1s. 7d.; Grade B,** 1s. 6½d.; Grade C,** 1s. 5½d.; Grade D,** 1s. 4½d.
			Pieceworkers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: pipe fitters, 1s. 5½d.; charge hands—Glasgow and Paisley, 1s. 6½d.; Edinburgh, 1s. 6½d.
			Pipe fitters	
Heating and Domestic Engineering	England and Wales	1 May	Pipe fitters and charge hands ...	
	Scotland	1 May		

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

† Boys under 18 get 3d. per shift actually worked, in addition to the 23½ per cent. under the sliding scale.

‡ Further reductions in wages have been arranged to take effect for various classes of workpeople in June, July, August, September, and October. Particulars of the reductions will appear in subsequent issues of the GAZETTE.

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

|| The decreases for time rate described took effect under an agreement made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Cable Making Industry. Reductions were also made in the wages of the pieceworkers.

¶ No reduction took place on polished hollow work or blades ground on less than a 2½ in. stone, and on setting in and whetting other than the item mentioned above.

** The Grades are as follows:—Grade A.—London. Grade B.—Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and Walsall and all towns between; together with the Potteries District, Stafford, Coventry, Rugby, Tamworth and Burton-on-Trent: Lancashire and Cheshire; Newcastle-on-Tyne; Scarborough. Grade C.—Parts of Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Worcestershire not included above; and Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Cardiff and Bristol. Grade D.—All other Districts.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Farriery	Sunderland	Week beginning 30 April	OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued). Farriers Male timeworkers over 21 years of age	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: farriers, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½d. Decrease* of 1s. 4d. per week for skilled men and charge hands, and of 1s. per week for others. Rates after change: toolmakers over 25 years, 79s. 4d. and 69s. 10d.; toolmakers 21 to 25 years, 59s. 10d.; charge hands in hardening shops and rolling mills, 71s. 10d.; charge hands in shaking mills and tempering and colouring shops, 63s. 10d.; others, 49s.
Manufacture of Metal Pens and other Metal Smallwares	Birmingham and District	7 May	Male timeworkers under 21 years of age Apprentices Female dayworkers Female pieceworkers Female learners Men (excluding outworkers) ...	Decreases* of amounts, varying according to age, from 3d. to 9d. per week. Decreases* of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 6d. per week. Decreases* of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 5d. per week. Decrease* in the basis piecework rate of 5d. per week (26s. 7d. to 26s. 2d.) Decreases* of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 5d. per week.
Lock, Latch and Key Making	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Willenhall and Walsall Districts; also London, Bolton, and Wigan	1st pay day after 1 May	Women Outworkers in the key industry (males) Workpeople employed in the pin, hook and eye and snap fastener trade:— Male timeworkers 21 years of age and over (other than homeworkers)	Decrease* of 5 per cent. on rates as fixed in February, 1920, leaving such rates subject to a deduction of 25 per cent. Decrease* of 5 per cent. on scheduled rates of May, 1922, leaving such rates subject to a deduction of 15 per cent. Decrease of 15 per cent., leaving wages 125 per cent. above the list of 1912. Decreases in the general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates, fixed under Trade Boards Acts, as follows (see also p. 193 of May GAZETTE):— Decreases in minimum time rates of 2½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 5d.) for those employed as pin makers; of 2d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 3½d.) for those employed as hairpin machinists, hook and eye makers, machine blackers or automatic machinists (including snap fastener machinists); of 2d. per hour (1s. 3d. to 1s. 1d.) for those employed as blackers (other than machine blackers), electro-platers, whiteners or wire straighteners; and 1½d. per hour (11½d. to 10½d.) for all other male workers 21 years of age and over.
Pin, Hook and Eye, etc., Trade	Great Britain	1 May	Male timeworkers under 21 years of age (other than homeworkers) Female timeworkers (other than homeworkers) Female pieceworkers (other than homeworkers)	Decreases in minimum time rates of 1½d. per hour for those 17 years but under 21 years, and of 1½d. per hour for those under 17 years of age. Decreases in minimum time rates of 1½d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.) for charge hands, and of amounts varying (according to age) up to 2d. per hour for other workers. Piecework basis time rate fixed at 7½d. for all workers, resulting in a decrease of 1½d. per hour for those 18 years of age and over.
Spring Manufacture	Sheffield	1st full pay after 18 May	Laminated spring fitters and vicemen, smiths and strikers	Decrease* in flat rate bonus of 1s. per week.
Coloured Cotton and Woollen Goods etc., Manufacture	Glasgow and West of Scotland	1st pay day in May	TEXTILE TRADES. Workpeople employed in the manufacture of shirtings, costume cloths, and other coloured cotton and woollen goods Tenters Warpers, beamers, twistors and drawers	Decrease of 7s. 6d. per week in "set" wage. Decrease of 1½d. per hour for timeworkers, and addition of 5 per cent. to existing rates for pieceworkers withdrawn. Rates after change: warpers' pattern time rate, 1s. 6½d.; others, 1s. 4½d. per hour.
Silk Manufacture	Leek	18 May	Tapedressers Brush beamers Workpeople employed in the silk manufacturing industry	Decrease of 3s. 7d. per week in "set" wage. Decrease of 3s. 3d. per week in "set" wage. Decrease* of 2s. per week for male workers 22 years and over (except braidworkers, for whom the reduction was 1s. 6d.), of 1s. 6d. per week for female workers 18 years and over, and of proportionate amounts for juniors. Rates after change: men 22 years and over — pickers, 47s.; braidworkers, 49s.; fully qualified braid speeders and knitting tacklers, 55s.; millmen, 49s.; weavers, 53s.; women 18 years and over, 27s.
Hosiery Manufacture	Midland†	Pay day in week beginning 28 May	All classes of workpeople (except dyers, trimmers and finishers)	Bonus of 8d. in the shilling on earnings reduced* to 7d. in the shilling.
Carpet Manufacture	Hawick	1st pay day in May	Male and female workers Apprentices	Flat rate bonus of 9s. 9d. per week for men and 7s. 6d. per week for women reduced* to 6s. 6d. and 5s. per week respectively, the bonus of 30 per cent. previously paid on base rates remaining unchanged.
Elastic Web Weaving	Great Britain	Pay preceding 1st pay day in June 28 May	Workpeople employed in carpet manufacture	Flat rate bonus of 3s. 4½d. per week reduced* to 2s. 3d. per week, the bonus of 22½ per cent. on base rates remaining unchanged.
Rope, Twine and Net Trade	Leicester		Elastic web weavers... .. Female workers:— Doffers Other workers	Decrease* of 10 per cent. in percentage advances paid on basis rates, leaving wages 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. above basis rates for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively. Bonus reduced* from 15s. to 14s. in the £. Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1½d. per hour. Minimum† rates after change 4d. and 3½d. (See also p. 193 of May GAZETTE.)
	Northern Ireland	1 May		Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1½d. per hour for those 18 years and over, and of 1½d. per hour for those under 18 years. Minimum† rates after change: hand braiders (nets), house machine minders, spreaders, carders, spinners, twistors, reelers, warpers, plaiters, scourers, polishers, ballers, leeson roll winders, parcellers and sample makers, 6½d. and 5½d.; drawers and rovers, 6d. and 5½d.; winders, spoolers, cop winders, plaiting winders and piecers, 5½d. and 5½d.; layers, 4½d. and 4½d.; all other classes (excluding learners who have had less than 12 months' experience), 4½d. and 4d. (See also p. 193 of May GAZETTE.)

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour retail prices index number.
† Viz.: Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley, and Coventry Districts.

‡ The higher rates quoted apply in each case to workers employed in the County Borough of Belfast; and the lower rate for those employed in all other districts.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE TRADES—(continued).				
Silk Dyeing, etc.	Leek	18 May	Male workers	Decrease* of 2s. per week for those 22 years and over and 1s. per week for those under 22 years. Rates after change: dyers and glossers, 22 years, 51s.; 22½ years, 53s.; adult mixers, 53s. to 61s.
	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 19 May	Male workers	Decreases* of 6d. per week for those 15 to 19½ years of age, of 1s. per week at 20 to 22 years, and of 1s. 1d. per week for those 22½ years and over: the rates for those under 15 remaining unchanged. Rates after change: 14 years, 16s., increasing to 31s. at 18 and under 18½, 44s. 6d. at 21 and under 21½, and 49s. at 22 years; permanent men, 22½ years and over, 50s. 9d.
			Female workers	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week for adults, and of proportionate amounts for juniors. Rate after change at 18 and over, 27s.
Calico Printing	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland, and certain firms in Yorkshire	Pay preceding 1st pay day in June	Machine calico printers	"Cost of living" wage reduced* from 65·45 per cent. to 59·5 per cent. on basic wages, the flat rates bonus of 10s. per week for journeyman, and 9s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham,† Derby, and Hinckley	Pay day in week ending 1 June	Timeworkers	Decrease* of ¾d. per hour for dyers, scourers and trimmers, ½d. per hour for menders and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 years and over, and proportionate decreases for auxiliary workers under 18.† Rates after change: dyers and scourers, 1s. 2½d.; trimmers, 1s. 5½d.; and auxiliary workers—Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley—men, 18 to 21, 9½d.; 21 and over, 1s. 1½d.; women 18 and over, 8½d.; qualified menders, 10½d.
			Pieceworkers:— Trimmers (other than web trimmers and jersey trimmers) Web trimmers and jersey trimmers Dyers, scourers, menders and other pieceworkers	Bonus of 60 per cent. on list prices, previously paid, reduced* to 50 per cent. Bonus of 40 per cent. on list prices, previously paid, reduced* to 32½ per cent. Decrease* of 1s. in the £.
			CLOTHING TRADES.	
Boot and Shoe Industry	Rossendale (including Bacup, Stacksteads, Waterfoot and Rawtenstall)	1 May	Shoe and slipper operatives ...	Decrease* of 3½ per cent. on gross wages.
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trades	Scotland	1 May	Female workers employed in the wholesale manufacturing and all other branches except the retail branch of the dressmaking and women's light clothing trade	Learners: New scale of minimum hourly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from ½d. to 1d. per hour. Other than learners: Decrease in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: time, 6½d., piecework basis time rate, 7½d.
Laundry Trade	Cornwall and North of Scotland‡	28 May	Female workers employed in the laundry trade	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of ½d. per hour in the time rates, in the guaranteed time rates for pieceworkers, and in the piecework basis time rates. Minimum time rates after change: 8s. at under 15 years, increasing to 26s. at 18 and over; guaranteed time rate for pieceworkers: 8s. at under 15 years, increasing to 22s. at 18 and over; minimum piecework basis time rate (all ages), 8d.; casual or emergency workers time rates: under 18, 6½d. 18 and over, 7d.; piecework basis time rate (all ages), 8½d. (See also p. 193 of May GAZETTE.)
Ostrich and Fancy Feather and Artificial Flower Trade	Great Britain ...	1 May	Male workers (except those employed as dyers in the feather trade)	New scale of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases varying from ½d. to 2½d. per hour, and decrease of 2d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate. Minimum time rates after change: 2½d. at under 15 years, increasing to 1s. at 22 and over.
TRANSPORT TRADES.				
Merchant Shipping Service	Great Britain and Ireland	16 May	Sea-going wireless telegraphists	New schedule of rates adopted resulting in decreases of 27s. 6d. per calendar month for those in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year, of 25s. per calendar month for those in 4th, 5th and 6th year, and 22s. 6d. for those in 7th, 8th and 9th year. Rates after change: starting at £7 12s. 6d. per calendar month in first year, and increasing with each year of service to £12 15s. in fifth year, £15 17s. 6d. in seventh year, £17 7s. 6d. in eighth year, and £18 17s. 6d. in ninth year.
Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour	Methil, Burntisland, Bo'ness	1st full pay in May	Shoremen and hoistmen ...	Adoption of a percentage addition of 105 on pre-war tariffs, subject to a minimum wage of £3 per week.
	Leith	4 May	Coal tipplers, shoremen and hoistmen	Addition of 107½ per cent. on pre-war tariffs reduced to 105 per cent. subject to a minimum wage of £3 per week.
	Great Britain ...	1st pay day after 7 May	Workpeople employed in the furniture warehousing and removing industry	Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: warehousemen—London, 62s. 6d.; industrial areas, 57s. 6d.; other areas, 54s. 6d.; porters—London, 52s. 6d.; industrial areas, 48s. 6d.; other areas, 45s. 6d.
Road Transport	Newcastle-on-Tyne	8 May		Decrease of 2s. per week. Rates after change: one horse drivers, 50s.; two-horse drivers, 53s.; petrol wagon drivers (heavy) and steam wagon drivers, 60s.; steam wagon steerers, 54s. per week.
	Bristol	11 May	Workpeople employed in the road transport industry	Decrease of 3s. per week for carters, 2s. per week for motormen, and of 1s. per week for juveniles. Rates after change: one-horse drivers, 56s.; two-horse drivers, 58s. 6d.; heavy wagon drivers, 70s.; steerers, 65s.; loaders, 63s.; stablemen, 56s. per week.
	Bristol	19 May	Coal carters	Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change: one-horse carters, 56s.; two-horse carters, 58s. 6d.
	Cardiff	12 May	Workpeople employed in road transport industry	Decrease of 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change: carters, 52s.; motor lorry drivers, 60s. 6d.

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

† The reduction did not apply to auxiliary workers at Nottingham.

‡ Viz.: The Administrative County of Cornwall and the Counties of Shetland, Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Inverness, Nairn, Moray (Elgin), and Banff.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	
Agriculture	AGRICULTURE AND FISHING.				
	Durham	14 May	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rate of 32s. adopted for adult workers for a week of 52½ hours, with proportionate rates for those under 21*.	
	North Northumberland	12 May	Male workers	Rates adopted up to 11 May, 1924, for a week of 52½ hours of 32s. for adult workers, and for juniors varying from 7s. at under 14 years to 25s. at 18, and to 30s. at 20 years.†	
			Female workers	Rates adopted up to 11 May, 1924, for a week of 52½ hours of 20s. for adult workers, and for juniors varying from 8s. at under 14 years to 18s. at 17.†	
	Cheshire	1 May	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rate of 32s. adopted for adult workers for a week of 54 hours up to 31 October, with proportionate rates for those under 21.†	
	Lancashire ...	1 May	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rates adopted up to 31 October as follows:—Northern Area: 37s. 6d. per week for special classes, and 35s. for other workers; Eastern Area: 40s. per week for special classes, with proportionate rates for other workers; Southern Area: 35s. per week for special classes, and 32s. 6d. for other workers.†	
	Carnarvonshire ...	14 May	Adult male labourers	Rate of 32s. 6d. adopted for a week of 60 hours.†	
	Denbighshire and Flintshire	1 May	Male labourers	Rates adopted up to 30 November for adult workers of 33s. for a week of 61 hours for horsemen and stockmen and of 27s. 1d. for a week of 50 hours for other workers, with proportionate rates for those under 21 years.†	
	Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire	1 May	Adult male agricultural labourers	Rates adopted up to 14 November of 31s. for a week of 60 hours for stockmen and waggoners and of 28s. for a week of 52 hours for ordinary workers.	
	Printing Trades	PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.			
Various towns in England and Wales (except London)‡		Pay day in week ending 5 May	Compositors, composing machine operators (book, jobbing and newspaper), and rotary minders	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: jobbing compositors—Grade I towns,† 77s. 6d.; Grade II, 74s. 6d.; Grade III, 71s. 6d.; Grade IV, 68s. 6d.; Grade V, 65s. 6d.; Grade VI, 62s. 6d.; Linotype operators (jobbing) and monotype operators on daywork—Grade I, 86s.; Grade II, 82s. 6d.; Grade III, 79s.; Grade IV, 75s. 6d.; Grade V, 72s.; Grade VI, 68s. 6d. Compositors on morning and evening newspapers, 12s. and 2s. 6d. respectively more than the rates for jobbing compositors; linotype operators and rotary minders on morning and evening newspapers, 13s. and 2s. 6d. respectively more than the rate for linotype operators in jobbing offices. Monotype operators on night work 9s. more than monotype operators on day work.	
			Printers' assistants (21 years of age and over) employed in newspaper offices:— Brake hands and controller hands	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change for daywork:—Grade I towns,†, 72s. 6d.; Grade II, 69s. 6d.; Grade III, 66s. 6d.; Grade IV, 63s. 6d.; Grade V, 60s. 6d.; Grade VI, 57s. 6d. Men on nightwork receive 6s. more than corresponding grade on daywork.	
			Oilers, strikers, reel hands, reel hoist hands, packers, despatchers, tiers-up, linotype assistants and revisers Flyhands, copyholders and general assistants	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change for daywork:—4s. less than above rates for brake hands and controller hands; men on nightwork receive 6s. more than corresponding grade on daywork.	
Belfast		Pay day in week ending 5 May	Compositors and linotype operators (book, jobbing and newspaper) Electrotypers and stereotypers employed in morning and evening newspaper offices	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: compositors—jobbing, 74s. 6d.; evening news, 77s.; morning news, 86s. 6d.; linotype operators—jobbing, 82s. 6d.; evening news, 85s.; morning news, 95s. 6d. Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: evening news, 77s.; morning news, 86s. 6d.	
Lancaster		26 May	FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES.		
Furniture Manufacture		Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport Districts	1 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, french polishers, machinists and upholsterers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 6d.)
				Furniture trade operatives ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for craftsmen, of 2d. per hour for labourers, ½d. per hour for female workers, and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers, polishers, mattress makers and machinists (after 4 years on machine), 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3d. Glassworkers:—bevellers, silverers and cutters, 1s. 8d., brilliant cutters, 1s. 9d., fitters, 1s. 6d., packers, 1s. 5d.; upholstresses and female polishers, 1s.
		North-East Lancashire and Todmorden	1 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists	Decrease of ½d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.), and a proportionate decrease for apprentices and improvers.
		Birmingham and West Bromwich	Pay day in week ending 11 May	Carpet and blind fitters ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 5d.).
	Derby	26 May	Furniture trade operatives (males)	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).	
	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 26 May	Furniture trade operatives:— Women timeworkers	Decrease of ½d. per hour (10½d. to 10d.).	
Furniture Manufacture	North Staffordshire (including Stoke, Hanley, Newcastle-under-Lyme)	26 May	Labourers Cabinet makers, french polishers and upholsterers	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1½d.). Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).	
	Reading	26 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, french polishers and upholsterers	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: carvers, 1s. 7d., others, 1s. 4d.	

* The rate was not agreed to by the workers' side of the Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the employers' side.
† The rates were agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.

‡ For the list of towns included in the various grades see note * on p. 420 of GAZETTE for October, 1922, and note † on p. 495 of GAZETTE for November, 1922.
§ Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Nelson, Padiham, and Preston.

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

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES—(continued).				
Furniture Manufacture (contd.) Mill Sawing	Edinburgh ...	26 May	Cabinet makers and machinists Upholsterers and french polishers Female polishers and sewers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.). Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 6½d.). Decrease of ½d. per hour (9½d. to 9¼d.).
	Scotland ...	1st pay day in May	Woodcutting machinists ...	Decrease* of ¾d. per hour for journeymen. Minimum rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 4½d.
	Leicester ...	1st pay day in May	Packing case makers ...	Decrease* of ½d. per hour (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 4d.).
Packing Case Making	Scotland (except Aberdeen)	1st pay day in May	Packing case makers and woodcutting machinists employed in packing case shops	Decrease* of ¾d. per hour for journeymen, and ½d. per hour for apprentices. Rates after change: packing case makers: Glasgow, 1s. 4½d.; Edinburgh, Leith, Dunfermline and Dundee, 1s. 3½d.; woodcutting machinists (all districts), 1s. 4½d.
GLASS, BRICK, CHEMICAL, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES.				
Chemical Manufacture Cement Manufacture	Manchester ...	1 May	Plumbers employed in chemical works	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8d.).
	England and Wales (except London†)	26 May	Building trade artisans (including plumbers) employed by chemical manufacturers	Decrease of 1d. per hour.
	Great Britain‡	1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the cement trade (except bricklayers, joiners, and other skilled tradesmen)	Decreases for dayworkers of ½d. per hour for men 18 years and over, and ¼d. per hour for youths under 18 and for women, and proportionate decreases for piece and shift workers.
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Baking and Confectionery Trades	Certain towns in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, including Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Chesterfield, and Pontefract; also Grimsby	Pay day in week beginning 7 May	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trades by co-operative societies	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: foremen, chargemen and singlehands, 69s. 6d.; doughmixers, ovenmen and secondhands, 64s. 6d.; tablehands, 59s. 6d.; allied workers, 51s. 6d.; juniors, 16s. 9d. at 16 to 17, increasing to 26s. at 18 to 19, and to 38s. at 20 to 21; skilled women: 15 years, 13s. 6d., increasing to 22s. 6d. at 18, and to 35s. 6d. at 21 and over; forewomen, 42s. 3d.; unskilled women, 15 years, 10s. 6d., increasing to 19s. at 18 years, and to 31s. at 21 and over.
	Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Keighley, Leeds, Wakefield and York	Pay day in week ending 5 May	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trades by co-operative societies	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week for male adult workers, and of 9d. per week for male juniors and female workers. Rates after change: foremen, chargemen and singlehands, 69s.; doughmixers, ovenmen and secondhands, 64s.; tablehands, 59s.; allied workers, 51s.; male juniors, 17s. at 16 to 17 years, increasing to 26s. 3d. at 18 to 19, and to 38s. 3d. at 20 to 21; female workers: skilled 15 years, 13s. 9d., increasing to 22s. 9d. at 18 years, and to 36s. 8d. at 21 and over; forewomen, 43s.; unskilled, 15 years, 10s. 9d., increasing to 19s. 3d. at 18 years and to 31s. 9d. at 21 and over.
	Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey	21 May	Adult workers ...	Decrease* of 2s. per week (68s. to 66s.).§
	Preston and District	15 April	Adult workers ...	Decrease of 3s. per week for labourers and of 4s. per week for all other workers. Rates after change for daywork and nightwork respectively:—Bread section—foremen, 70s., 81s.; journeymen, 67s., 77s.; tablehands (21 and over), 62s., 72s.; singlehands, 68s., 78s.; confectionery section—foremen, 70s.; 2nd hands, 67s.; tablehands (21 and over), 62s.; bread or confectionery sections' labourers, 52s., 60s.
	Leicester ...	1st pay day after 21 May	Juniors and male apprentices ...	Decrease of 2s. per week for those of 18 years, and of 1s. per week for other workers. Rates after change: daywork, 20s. at 16 years, increasing to 29s. at 18, and to 35s. at 20 years, nightwork, 33s. at 18 years, increasing to 41s. at 20 years.
	Nottingham and District	Pay day in week ending 2 June	Adult workers ...	Decrease* of 3s. per week. Rates after change: ordinary bakers—forehands, 65s.; singlehands and secondhands, 63s.; tablehands, 61s.; factories 5s. per week more in each case.
	Eastbourne ...	28 April	Youths and deliverers under 21	Decrease* of 1s. 9d., 2s. 3d. and 2s. 7d. per week for those of 18, 19 and 20 years respectively. Rates after change: 18 years, 33s. 9d.; 19, 41s. 3d.; 20 years, 49s. 7d.
	Newport, Mon. ...	26 May	Workpeople employed in the baking and confectionery trades	Decrease* of 3s. per week for adult male bakers and confectioners, and proportionate decreases for women and juveniles. Rates after change: adult male workers—forehands, 65s. 6d.; 69s., 70s.; single and secondhands, 63s. 6d.; tablehands, 61s.; (confectioners 2s. per week extra in each case). Adult female workers, skilled 46s., semi-skilled, 41s. 9d.
	Pontypridd and Rhondda Valley	28 April	Adult workers ...	Decrease* of 1s. per week. Minimum rate§ after change, 57s.
	Rhyl ...	24 Mar.	Adult workers ...	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week (62s. 6d. to 60s. §).
	Ayrshire||	1st week in May	Adult workers ...	Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers, and of proportionate amounts for improvers and female workers. Rate after change for daywork, 62s. 6d. §
	Airdrie ...	7 May	Adult workers ...	Decrease of 7s. per week (65s. to 58s. §).
	Clydebank and Coatbridge	12 May	Adult workers ...	Decrease of 6s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.
	Carnoustie ...	19 May	Adult workers ...	Decrease of 6s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 74s.
	Dundee ...	1st week in May	Adult workers ...	Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
				Decrease of 8s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 67s.
				Decrease of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 78s.

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

† The reduction took effect under an agreement arrived at between the Chemical Employers Federation and the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives dated 27th October, 1922, whereby it was arranged that the wages of building trade artisans employed in chemical works should be 1d. per hour less than the current standard building trade rate of the district for the respective crafts.

‡ The reductions took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Cement Manufacturing Industry. Further reductions of similar amounts have been arranged to take effect from first pay day in September. It was recommended by the Council that the full reduction of 1d. per hour for men should not be put into operation if such reduction would reduce the minimum rate to less than 10½d. per hour.

§ The rate quoted refers to tablehands.

|| Including Ayr, Dalmellington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, and Troon.

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

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES—(continued).				
Baking and Confectionery Trades (contd.)	Edinburgh and Leith Glasgow (certain firms) Greenock	May 12 May 1st pay day in May	Adult workers	Decrease of 4s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s. Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s. Decrease of 10s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.
	Hamilton	19 May		Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
	Inverness	7 May		Decrease of 6s. per week.* Minimum rate after change, 66s.
	Kirkcaldy	May		Decrease of 8s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 68s.
	Paisley	19 May		Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
	Perth	30 April		Decrease of 4s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 71s.
	Wick	1st pay day in May		Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 65s.
Brewing	Monmouthshire and East Glamorganshire	Week ending 19 May	Brewery workers	Decrease of 2s. per week for adult male workers and of 1s. per week for women and boys. Rates after change: male workers—under 15 years, 26s. 6d., increasing to 63s. at 18 years and over; female workers, 34s.
Cocoa and Chocolate Confectionery	Great Britain† ...	14 May	Male workers	Decreases for timeworkers of 2s. per week for those 19 years and over, and of 1s. per week for those under 19 years, and proportionate decreases for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 11s., increasing to 29s. at 18 and under 19, and to 53s. at 21 and over.
			Female workers	Decrease of 1s. per week for timeworkers and of proportionate amounts for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change for workers other than learners entering trade for the first time: under 15 years, 11s., increasing to 29s. at 18 and over.
Sugar Confectionery and Fruit Preserving	Great Britain† ...	14 May	Male workers	Decreases for timeworkers of 2s. per week for those 19 years and over, and of 1s. per week for those under 19 years; and proportionate decreases for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 10s., increasing to 28s. at 18 and under 19, and to 51s. 6d. at 21 years and over.
			Female workers	Decrease of 1s. per week for timeworkers, and of proportionate amounts for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change for workers other than learners entering trade for first time, 10s. at under 15 years, increasing to 28s. at 18 and over.
Dairy Trade	Edinburgh and Leith	12 May	Dairy workers	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week (57s. 6d. to 55s.).
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Leather Belt Manufacture	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in May	Timeworkers	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled—London, 1s. 4½d.; provinces, 1s. 3½d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s. 0½d.; provinces, 1s. 0½d.
Leather Manufacture	Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales	1st pay day in May	Pieceworkers	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, reduced† from 78 to 74.
Basket Making	Yorkshire (except Hull and Sheffield)	7 May	Workpeople employed in domestic, persian, and roller leather manufacture	“Cost of living” wage reduced† from 80 per cent. to 75 per cent. on minimum base rates.
Brush and Broom	Great Britain ...	1 May	Basket, skip, and hamper makers	Decrease† of 10 per cent. on Yorkshire list prices, leaving wages 68 per cent. and 83 per cent. above the list for pieceworkers and timeworkers respectively.
			Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:—	Decrease† in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See also p. 194 of May GAZETTE):—
			Male timeworkers 21 years of age and over, with three years' experience in certain operations, and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship in one or more of these operations	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Minimum rate after change, 1s. 1½d.
			All other male timeworkers	Decrease† of ½d. per hour for those of 19 and under 21, 17½ to 18, and 16½ to 17, the rates for other ages remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change: under 14½, 2½d., increasing to 6½d., at 18 and under 19, and to 11d. at 21 years and over.
			Male and female piece workers	Decrease† of 1½ per cent., making a total reduction of 21½ per cent.
Artificial Stone Manufacture	Leicester and other districts in England	Pay day in week ending 1 June	Female pan hands	Decrease† of ½d. per hour for certain classes.
			Females (other than pan hands and learners)	Decrease† of ½d. per hour for those of 17½ to 18, and 16½ to 17 years, the rates for other ages to remain unchanged.
Exhibition Stand Fitting	London	1st pay after 19 May	Female learners (other than pansetting learners)	Decrease† of ½d. per hour during the 3rd and 4th six months of employment for those commencing between 16 and 21 years, and during the 1st, 2nd and 4th three months' employment for those commencing at 21 and over.
Gas Works	Birmingham, Smethwick, Walsall and West Bromwich	24 and 26 May	Workpeople employed in the artificial stone industry	Decrease† in minimum time rates of ½d. per hour for men and ¼d. per hour for youths, with proportionate decreases for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers: labourers and makers, 1s. 2d.; finishers, 1s. 2½d.
			Workpeople employed in the exhibition stand fittings, etc., trade	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled, 1s. 5d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 3d.; unskilled, 1s. 1d.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Gas Works	Birmingham, Smethwick, Walsall and West Bromwich	24 and 26 May	Gas fitters (fully qualified) ...	Decrease† of ½d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 5d.).

* See also under “Changes in Hours of Labour.”

† The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee of the cocoa, chocolate, sugar confectionery and jam industries.

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

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES—(continued.)				
Waterworks	Certain districts in the Home Counties* South Wales and Monmouthshire†	3rd full pay in May 1st full pay in May	Able-bodied male manual workers Adult male workers	Decrease† of 2s. per week. Scheduled minimum rate after change for labourers, 47s. per week.
	North East Coast§	1st full pay in May	Adult male workers	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Scheduled minimum rates after change for labourers: Class I. undertakings, 1s. 1½d.; Class II., 1s. 0½d.; Class III., 11½d. Bonus of 4½ per cent., previously paid on total earnings, withdrawn. Minimum hourly rates after change: general indoor labourers—Zone A, 7.25d.; Zone B, 6.56d.; Zone C, 6.28d.; general outdoor labourers—Zone A, 7.75d.; Zone B, 7.052d.; Zone C, 6.75d.; plus, in each case, 21s. 9d. per week.
	North Western Area||	1 May	All classes of adult male workers	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on total wages. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change: indoor and outdoor labourers respectively, Zone A, 13.5d., 14.04d.; Zone B, 12.85d., 13.44d.; Zone C, 12.57d., 13.16d.; fitters: Zone A, 18.35d.; Zone B, 17.58d.; Zone C, 16.79d.
Electricity Supply	Scotland¶	1 May	Workpeople, excluding electrical fitters, wiremen and engineers	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on total wages at 1 January, 1923. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change for general labourers: Zone A, 1s. 0.82d.; Zone B, 1s. 0.53d.; Zone C, 11.96d.
Tramways	Great Britain	1st full pay in May	Motormen, conductors, etc. ... Youths, under 19 years, employed as parcels, messenger, point and trolley boys	Decrease† of 1s. per week for workpeople 18 years of age and over, and of 6d. per week for those under 18 years.** Decrease† of 3d. per week. Rates after change: 14 to 15 years, 13s. 9d.; 15 to 16 years, 15s. 9d.; 16 to 17 years, 17s. 9d.; 17 to 18 years, 22s. 3d.; 18 to 19 years, 27s. 9d.
	Lancaster	1st full pay in May	Motormen, conductors, etc.	Decrease of 1s. 3d. per week. Rates after change: motormen, 52s. 3d.; conductors and car cleaners, 50s. 3d.; general labourers, 50s. 3d. to 52s. 3d. per week.
	Dundee	Week commencing 3 May 9 May	Motormen, conductors, etc.	Decrease† of 1s. per week. Rates after change: drivers and conductors, 56s. to 59s.; car cleaners, 54s. to 55s. per week.
	Belfast	1st pay following 3 May	Labourers employed in all departments	Decrease† of 1s. per week. Rates after change for motormen and conductors, 53s. to 65s. per week. Uniform rate of 1s. 2d. per hour reduced to 1s. 1d. per hour.
	Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire††	1st pay in May	Manual workers	Decrease† of 1s. per week. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change: Grade A areas, 54s.; B1 areas, 50s.; B2 areas, 47s.; C1 areas, 42s.; C2 areas, 40s.; D areas, 35s.
Non-trading Services of Local Authorities	Bristol	1st pay day in May	Manual workers	Decrease of 6d. per week††. Rate after change for labourers on roads, 61s. 6d.
	Glamorganshire§§	1st full week in May	Able-bodied male manual workers	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Rates after change for labourers, 1s. 1½d. per hour.
	England and Wales	1st pay day after 16 May	Indoor staff employed in Mental Hospitals	Decrease† of ¼th of the total bonus payable on 30th September, 1921 (making a total reduction of 1½ths from bonus).

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MAY, 1923.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
Baking and Confectionery	Ayrshire||| ... ..	1st week in May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Uniform week of 47 hours adopted.¶¶
	Inverness	7 May		Uniform week of 48 hours adopted.¶¶

* The undertakings affected are those which follow the Schedule B. rates of the Home Counties Joint Industrial Council for Waterworks Undertakings, and include the following:—Ashford U.D.C.; Barnet District Gas and Water Co.; East Surrey Water Co. (Redhill); Newhaven and Seaford Water Co.; Sevenoaks Waterworks Co.; South West Suburban Water Co.

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

‡ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry and include the following, which are shown in their respective Classes:—Class I: Aberdare, Barry (water inspectors only), Cardiff, Neath, Newport, Rhymney Valley; Class III: Breconshire (under Cardiff Corporation).

§ The undertakings affected by the reduction include the following:—Zone A: Darlington, Middlesbrough, Newcastle and District Electric Lighting Co., Ltd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd. (partly), South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland, Tyne-mouth, West Hartlepool; Zone B: Skelton and Pritton Electric Supply Undertaking, Ltd., Berwick-on-Tweed Urban Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; Zone C: Northern Counties Electricity Supply Co., Ltd. (Alnwick, Malton, Morpeth and Thirsk), Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd. (partly).

|| The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the North Western Area Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry. The undertakings affected by the reduction are those which follow the wages agreements of the Scottish Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry, and include the following, which are shown in their respective Zones:—Zone A: Cambuslang Electric Supply, Paisley, Edinburgh; Zone C: Alloa, Kirkcaldy, Perth, North Berwick and District Electric Light and Power Co.

¶ The decrease took effect under the sliding scale of the National Joint Council for the Tramways Industry. A complete list of the districts in which the decrease has been put into operation is not available, but it is known that it has not taken effect in the case of the following undertakings:—Camborne and Redruth, Cheltenham, Colchester, Dundee (see above), Glasgow, Lancaster (see above), Rothesay, Scarborough, York, West Ham.

†† The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Joint Industrial Council for Gloucester, Somerset and Wiltshire, and include the following, which are shown in their respective Grades:—Grade A: Bristol (see also above for additional reduction); Grade B 1: Gloucester, Swindon (from 13 June), Taunton; Grade C 1: Radstock (from 15 June); Grade D: Taunton R.D.C.

‡‡ This decrease is the result of a decision of the Corporation to adopt ultimately the rates fixed by the Joint Industrial Council for Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire; it was arranged that the necessary reduction of 7s. 6d. should be made in three instalments of 6d., 1s. 6d., and 1s. 6d. on the first pay days in May, July, and August respectively. This decrease is in addition to any reduction under the sliding scale of the Joint Council (see above).

§§ The Authorities affected are those that follow the recommendations of the Joint Wages Board for Local Authorities in Glamorgan, and include Aberdare, Barry, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Mountain Ash, Neath (from 1 June), Ogmore and Garw, Penarth, Pontypridd and Rhondda.

¶¶ Including Ayr, Dalmellington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock and Troon.

¶¶ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JUNE, 1923.

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

RATES OF WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

Grade.	Craftsmen.		Labourers.		Grade.	Craftsmen.		Labourers.		Grade.	Craftsmen.		Labourers.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
A	1	7	1	2½	B	1	5	1	0½	C	1	3½	1	11½
A1	1	6½	1	2	B1	1	4½	1	0½	C1	1	3	1	11¼
A2	1	6	1	1½	B2	1	4	1	0	C2	1	2½	1	11
A3	1	5½	1	1¼	B3	1	3½	1	11¼	[For London see page 214.]				

GRADING OF TOWNS.

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

NORTH EAST COAST:—

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

YORKSHIRE:—

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

NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES:—

Grade A.—Accrington, Adlington, Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Atherton, Bacup, Barrow, Birkdale, Bispham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Blackrod, Bolton, Broughton (Flints), Burnley, Bury, Carlisle, Chester, Chorley, Church, Cleveleys, Clitheroe, Colne, Connahs Quay, Dalton-in-Furness, Darwen, Denton, Droylsden, Eccles, Farnworth, Fleetwood, Frodsham, Glossop, Great Harwood, Haslingden, Hawarden, Helsby, Heywood, Higher Kinnerton, Horwich, Hyde, Kirkham, Leigh, Leyland, Littleborough, Longridge, Lymm, Lytham, Manchester, Middleton, Mossley, Nelson, Ormskirk, Oswaldtwistle, Oldham, Padiham, Pendlebury, Poulton, Preston, Prestwich, Queensferry, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Rishton, Rochdale, Runcorn, St. Annes-on-the-Sea, St. Helens, Saddleworth, Sale, Salford, Shaw, Shotton, Southport, Stalybridge, Stockport, Swinton, Thornton, Todmorden, Tyldesley, Walkden, Warrington, Westhoughton, Whalley, Whitefield, Widnes, Wigan and Wilmslow. **Grade A2.**—Lancaster and Morecambe. **Grade A3.**—Askam, Broughton-in-Furness, Buxton, Cleator Moor, Congleton, Coniston, Crewe, Distington, Egremont, Grange-over-Sands, Harrington, Kautsford, Macclesfield, Maryport, Market Drayton, Middlewich, Millom, Mold, Nantwich, New Mills, Northwich, Sandbach, Tarporley, Ulverston, Winsford and Over, Whitehaven, Workington and Wrexham. **Grade B1.**—Colwyn Bay, Conway, Holywell, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Mostyn, Prestatyn, Rhos and Rhyl. **Grade B2.**—Bala, Cockermouth, Kendal and Penrith. **Grade B3.**—Ambleside, Bangor, Bowness-on-Windermere, Carnarvon, Grasmere, Holyhead, Langdale and Windermere.

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

MIDLAND COUNTIES:—

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

[NOTE.—The reduction did not apply to plumbers in the Potteries district and at Stafford, where the rate remains at present 1s. 9d. The new rate for plumbers at Leek is reported as 1s. 6½d. and for plumbers at Chesterfield, 1s. 8d.]

EASTERN COUNTIES:—

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

SOUTHERN COUNTIES:—

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

[NOTE.—It is understood that the reduction has not yet been made at Brighton and Hove and Eastbourne, the rates remaining at 1s. 4½d. for tradesmen and 1s. 0½d. for labourers. The new rate for plumbers at Dorking is reported as 1s. 4½d., for labourers at Basingstoke, 11½d., and for labourers at Folkestone, Hythe and Sandgate, 1s.]

SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES:—

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

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE:—

Grade A.—Aberavon, Aberdare, Abertillery, Ammanford, Barry, Bridgend, Briton Ferry, Brynmawr, Cardiff, Chepstow, Dyffryn Valley, Ebbw Vale, East Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire Valleys, Garw Valley, Gorseinon, Llanelli, Maesteg, Merthyr, Mountain Ash, Neath, Newport, Ogmore Vale, Pontardawe, Pontardulais, Pontypool, Pontypridd, Porthcawl, Port Talbot, Rhoada and Rhymney Valleys, Sirhowy Valley, Swansea, and Tredegar. **Grade A2.**—Abergavenny. **Grade B.**—Brecon, Carmarthen, Llandilo and Llandrindod Wells. **Grade B2.**—Fishguard, Hay, Monmouth and Talgarth.

SCOTLAND:—

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

[NOTE.—The rates quoted do not apply to plasterers and painters in Scotland, who are not affiliated to the National Wages and Conditions Council. The new rate for labourers at Leslie, Markinch and Perth is reported as 1s. 2d., and at Arbroath, Bathgate, Irvine and Montrose 1s. 1d. It has been reported that the reduction did not apply to plumbers in the Dumfries, Dundee and Falkirk districts. The reduction has not been put into operation at Aberdeen.]

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

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

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

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 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.
(a) MAY, 1923.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties (666,000)	62,100	14,000	1,600	60,000	16,600	154,300
Yorkshire .. (2,376,000)	379,700	54,800	29,800	72,200	136,800	673,300
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,228,000)	280,300	68,700	39,900	23,500	71,700	484,100
North and West-Midland Counties .. (2,485,000)	418,200	104,900	118,800	48,800	143,500	834,200
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,000)	115,800	4,700	9,000	12,500	12,600	154,600
Outer London* (1,884,000)	586,200	48,000	80,900	57,900	64,600	837,600
South-Eastern Counties (1,012,000)	274,900	4,900	7,300	4,000	87,200	378,300
South-Western Counties (432,000)	73,000	1,000	2,000	21,500	19,300	116,800
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (834,000)	90,200	6,300	2,500	5,600	25,900	130,200
SCOTLAND .. (2,100,000)	137,000	35,400	27,600	61,300	130,300	391,600
Total .. (14,658,000)	2,417,400	342,400	319,400	367,300	708,500	4,155,000

(b) JANUARY TO MAY, 1923.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties (666,000)	319,900	54,900	49,600	75,000	83,500	587,900
Yorkshire .. (2,376,000)	1,472,500	256,700	211,300	289,600	590,500	2,820,600
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,228,000)	1,391,200	237,900	214,300	92,600	289,300	2,225,300
North and West-Midland Counties .. (2,485,000)	1,502,800	312,400	287,900	217,800	504,400	2,825,300
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,000)	793,400	53,800	58,600	38,700	94,600	1,044,100
Outer London* (1,884,000)	2,046,800	151,100	334,400	215,500	277,700	3,025,500
South-Eastern Counties (1,012,000)	1,090,400	26,100	90,200	42,800	356,900	1,606,400
South-Western Counties (432,000)	332,500	6,000	11,900	37,000	66,800	454,200
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (834,000)	384,600	33,600	58,800	50,400	81,100	606,500
SCOTLAND .. (2,100,000)	658,200	169,900	67,200	273,100	847,900	2,016,300
Total .. (14,658,000)	9,997,300	1,302,400	1,382,200	1,332,500	3,197,700	17,212,100

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

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

Destination.	Applica-tions received in May.	Assisted Passages granted in May.	Total Assisted Passages granted.	
			1922.	Jan.-May, 1923.
Australia	10,000†	2,711	7,058	11,866
New Zealand	400	559	1,133	2,191
Ontario	(Not available.)	189	—	1,264

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

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

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

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

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.
Among Operatives engaged in—	
Smelting of Metals .. 6	Mercury Poisoning ... 1
Plumbing and Soldering 2	Phosphorus Poisoning
Printing	Arsenic Poisoning
File Cutting and Hardening	Toxic Jaundice—
Tinning of Metals	Arseniuretted Hydrogen
Other Contact with Molten Lead ... 2	Gas 1
White and Red Lead Works 5	Other
† Pottery 3	Epitheliomatous Ulcera-tion—
Vitreous Enamelling ... 2	Paraffin
Electric Accumulator Works 14	Pitch 2
Paint and Colour Works 3	Tar 1
Indiarubber Works	Chrome Ulceration—
Coach and Car Painting 2	Manufacture of Bichromates
Shipbuilding 2	Dyeing and Finishing 6
Paint used in other In-dustries 1	Chrome Tanning
Other Industries	TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF POISONING 11
TOTAL OF ABOVE... .. 42	(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING 3	Wool
	Handling of Horsehair 3
	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)
	Other Industries
	§ TOTAL ANTHRAX 3

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.||

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

RAILWAY SERVICE.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):
Brakesmen and Goods Guards 5	Boiler Making & Con-structional Engineering 2
Engine Drivers 1	Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... 1
Firemen 1	Other Metal Trades ... 1
Guards (Passenger) 3	Shipbuilding 2
Permanent Way Men 3	Wood 3
Porters 1	Gas
Shunters 1	Electric Generating Sta-tions 2
Mechanics 7	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc.
Labourers 3	Chemicals, etc. 2
Miscellaneous 7	Food and Drink 7
Contractors' Servants ... 1	Paper, Printing, etc. ... 1
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE 21	Tanning, Currying, etc.
	Rubber Trades 1
MINES.	Other Non-Textile Indus-tries 6
Underground 88	TOTAL FOR FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ... 54
Surface 12	Docks, Wharves, etc., s. 104 3
TOTAL, MINES 100	Buildings, s. 105 3
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep 6	Warehouses, s. 104 and Railway Sidings, s. 106 1
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	TOTAL 61
Cotton 6	Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 1
Wool, Worsted, & Shoddy 1	Total (excluding Sea-men) 189
Other Textiles 2	
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing 1	
Metal Extracting and Refining 4	
Metal Conversion, inclu-ding Rolling Mills and Tube Making 8	
Metal Founding 2	
Engineering and Machine Making 2	

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

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

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

As compared with April, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 61,809 (or 6·5 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief was lower by 1,950 (or 1·6 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 59,859 (or 7·2 per cent.). Five districts showed increases, and every other district showed a decrease. The greatest changes were decreases in the Dundee and Dunfermline district (732 per 10,000), in the Sheffield district (122 per 10,000), and an increase in the Newcastle district (121 per 10,000).

As compared with May, 1922, the total number relieved decreased by 216,839 (or 19·5 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 1,604 (or 1·3 per cent.) and the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 218,443 (or 22·0 per cent.). One district showed no change, three districts showed increases, while every other district showed a decrease. The greatest decreases were in the Stockton and Tees district (609 per 10,000), in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (561 per 10,000), in the Birmingham district (476 per 10,000), and in the Sheffield district (416 per 10,000). Seven other districts showed decreases ranging from 106 to 298, and sixteen districts showed decreases ranging from 8 to 99 per 10,000 of the population.

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief on one day* in May, 1923.				Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.‡						
Metropolis.						
West District	9,019	9,455	18,474	227	— 16	— 65
North District	10,126	24,930	35,056	349	— 23	— 29
Central District	2,538	3,114	5,652	425	— 26	— 69
East District	9,869	54,496	64,365	1,015	— 15	..
South District	19,898	83,784	103,682	546	— 35	— 85
TOTAL, Metropolis	51,450	175,779	227,229	507	— 25	— 66
West Ham	4,088	66,294	70,382	955	— 28	— 30
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ..	2,633	35,633	38,266	787	+121	— 155
Stockton and Tees District ..	1,138	21,508	22,646	861	— 36	— 609
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	3,855	7,270	11,125	142	— 2	— 27
Wigan District	1,784	12,253	14,037	323	— 5	— 185
Manchester District ..	8,680	28,183	36,863	385	—120	— 274
Liverpool District ..	9,897	57,189	67,086	567	— 8	— 297
Bradford District ..	1,742	4,265	6,007	164	— 11	— 75
Halifax and Huddersfield	1,217	3,169	4,386	116	— 6	— 66
Leeds District	2,427	10,401	12,828	267	— 12	— 58
Barnsley District ..	911	8,125	9,036	289	— 6	— 106
Sheffield District ..	2,692	42,254	44,946	893	—122	— 416
Hull District	1,767	12,942	14,709	475	— 23	— 114
North Staffordshire ..	2,040	6,171	8,211	203	+ 8	— 99
Nottingham District ..	2,115	9,596	11,711	257	+ 2	— 50
Leicester District ..	1,157	2,647	3,804	162	— 5	— 83
Wolverhampton District	3,186	26,123	29,309	418	— 84	— 298
Birmingham District ..	6,943	45,983	52,926	586	— 84	— 476
Bristol District ..	2,548	13,614	16,162	399	+ 16	— 12
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,361	13,471	15,832	343	— 43	— 57
TOTAL "Other Districts"	59,093	361,797	420,890	417	— 31	— 206
SCOTLAND.‡						
Glasgow District	4,768	118,897	123,665	1,277	+ 32	+ 221
Paisley & Greenock Dist. ..	771	17,595	18,366	959	— 71	+ 162
Edinburgh & Leith Dist. ..	1,547	15,516	17,063	406	— 53	— 8
Dundee and Dunfermline ..	716	3,686	4,402	214	—732	— 27
Aberdeen	513	6,521	7,034	442	— 54	+ 54
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	375	6,628	7,003	650	— 48	— 561
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts }	8,690	168,843	177,533	868	— 82	+ 92
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in May, 1923 }	123,321	772,713	896,034	516	— 36	— 125

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 26th May, and those for Scotland to 12th May.

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

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

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available	
	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.		Rise.	Date.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		1923.
UNITED KINGDOM	109	158	120	80	60		June
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna) .. ..	..	..	9,320†	328,100	1390900		May
Belgium‡ .. ..	..	359	310	281	314		May
Czechoslovakia§ .. ..	..	..	1,246	1,330	826		Mar.
Denmark	112	153	136	84	80		Jan.
Finland .. ..	..	882	1,178	1,005	966		Mar.
France (Paris) §	161	273	206	197	225		May
" (other towns) §	188‡	288‡	250‡	212‡	231		Feb.
Germany .. ..	..	..	1,391	6,736	461,900		May
Holland (The Hague) ..	..	143	113	80	62		Mar.
" (Amsterdam)	110	117	85	44	45		Mar.
Italy (Rome)	106	218	302	359	381		April
" (Milan)	210	345	406	392	399		May
Norway	189	219	195	133	114		May
Poland (Warsaw) .. ..	..	..	45,555	129,711	857,864		Feb.
Sweden §	210	197	132	79	61		May
Switzerland .. ..	..	..	110	57	58		April
United States	86	115	45	39	40		April
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia	47	94	61	48	52		April
Canada	86	127	48	38	40		May
India (Bombay) .. ..	..	88	74	60	50		April
Irish Free State .. ..	..	..	..	87†	81		April
New Zealand	44	67	64	44	43		May
South Africa	39	97	39	16	17		April

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

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.*	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†					Latest figures available	
		July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.		Rise.	Date.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		1923.
UNITED KINGDOM	A, B, C, D, E	105—	152	119	84	69		June
FOREIGN COUNTRIES								
Austria (Vienna)	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	9,700§	264400	1143900		May
Belgium	A, C, D, E	..	353	279	266	313		May
Bulgaria	A, D	..	..	1,512	2,331	2,398		Oct. ‡
Denmark	A, B, C, D, E	111	162	137	99	98		Jan.
Finland	A, B, C, D, E	..	811	1,039	1,018	1,129		Mar.
France (Paris)	A, B, C, D, E	..	263‡	195‡	189‡	224		1st Qtr.
Germany	A, B, C, D	..	..	..	5,282	381,500		May
Italy (Rome)	A, B, C, D, E	105	213	287	329	341		April
" (Milan)	A, B, C, D, E	180	341	394	388	390		May
Luxemburg	A, C, D	..	..	284	259	323		Mar.
Norway	A, B, C, D, E	180	202§	202§	155§	137		May
Poland	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	25,609	78,698	571,125		Feb.
Spain (Madrid)	A, D	74‡	90‡	84	79	78		Mar.
" (Barcelona)	A, D	81‡	91‡	78	73	63		Mar.
Sweden	A, B, C, D, E	157	170	136	90	77		April
Switzerland	A, D	..	..	..	59	60		April
United States	A, B, C, D, E	77§	117§	80‡	67§	69		Mar.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.								
Australia	A, B	33‡	67‡	46‡	43	42		4th Qtr. ‡
"	A, B, C, E	..	..	..	..	40		Nov. ‡
Canada	A, B, D	56	90	52	46	47		May
Egypt (Cairo)	A, D	..	..	93	72	59		Mar.
India (Bombay)	A, B, C, D	..	89	77	65	55		April
Irish Free State	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	..	85§	81		April
New Zealand	A, B, D	32	49	57	44	43		Mar.
South Africa	A, B, D	25	62	30‡	20	20		April

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

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

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

GERMANY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Revised figure.

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in May.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 2nd June was 9,382 (6,443 men and 2,939 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 9,882 (5,342 for men and 4,540 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 27,101 persons (21,349 men and 5,752 women) in situations, and in addition found employment for 2,605 foreign immigrants.

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

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment in March and April.—The most recent figures available are provisional in character and relate to April. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,525 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 626,381, show that 15,305 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The aggregate days of unemployment in April numbered 202,634, as against 218,900 in March.

Revised and final figures are given for March, in which month 1,712 funds, with an aggregate membership of 648,138, reported 4,738 (or 0.7 per cent.) wholly unemployed, and 12,010 partially so on the last working day of the month.

During April 13,350 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 13,505 in March. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 12,549 (13,285 in March). For every 100 situations registered as vacant, there were thus 108 applications, as compared with 102 in March.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in April.—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 30th April was 35,512 (as compared with 44,909 at the end of the preceding month and 81,868 at the end of April, 1922). Of these, 12,279 were employed on relief works, leaving 23,233 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 5,051 normally engaged in the building trades, 4,427 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 4,147 in the watch, clock and jewelry trades, and 3,263 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work, 17,767 were reported as only partially employed, including 7,962 in the textile trades, 2,877 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 2,296 in the building trades, and 1,776 in the watch, clock and jewelry trades. The vacancies offered by employers which remained unfilled at the end of April numbered 3,306.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in May.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 12th May, out of 290,595 members of unemployment funds making returns, 25,611 (or 8.8 per cent.) were totally unemployed, and 6,293 (2.2 per cent.) partially so. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 14th April) the corresponding percentages were 9.3 and 2.4 respectively.

DENMARK.§

Unemployment in May.—Out of a total of 254,697 workpeople covered by returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange, 9.1 per cent were unemployed on 25th May, as compared with 11.5 per cent. on 27th April, and 16.1 per cent. at the end of May, 1922.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in March.—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 March in certain trade unions making returns to the Bureau was 11.9, as compared with 12.4 on 28th Feb., and 21.9 at the end of March, 1922.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in April.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th May, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in the principal industrial districts amounted to 131,884 at the end of April, compared with 154,956 at the end of the preceding month, and 167,415 at the end of February last.

* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 8th June, 1923. Paris.

† *Revue du Travail*, 31st May, 1923. Brussels.

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

§ *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 9th June, 1923.

SWEDEN.*

Unemployment in March.—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions on 31st March was 19·9, as compared with 20·8 at the end of the preceding month and 30·6 on 31st March, 1922. The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns :—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Mar., 1923.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Mar., 1923.	28th Feb., 1923.	31st Mar., 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	129,222	19·9	20·8	30·6
PRINCIPAL UNIONS :—				
Iron and steel	7,658	54·8	51·7	29·6
Moulders	2,521	19·6	25·1	48·2
Engineering	31,616	21·9	24·7	42·8
Electrical workers	2,524	26·0	21·3	31·0
Textile	4,776	2·4	1·8	5·4
Clothing	3,344	11·2	13·5	12·8
Boot, shoe and leather	6,232	7·2	7·9	23·1
Food trade	3,697	12·6	10·8	12·0
Brewery	3,062	7·8	11·2	9·2
Tobacco	2,885	7·9	2·6	2·2
Sawmill	8,149	27·4	16·8	34·2
Woodworking	6,093	31·1	29·3	52·1
Paper	8,072	3·9	5·1	14·2
Municipal workers	4,532	4·8	6·1	4·8
Commercial employees	6,118	9·5	8·3	12·2
General and factory workers .. (trades not specified)	12,253	25·9	28·6	36·3

UNITED STATES.†

Employment in April.—The Federal Department of Labour Statistics at Washington presents reports concerning the volume of employment in April, 1923, from 5,651 representative establishments, covering 2,139,053 employees in forty-three manufacturing industries. A comparison of the figures with those for identical establishments in March, 1923, shows that, on the whole, there was an increase of 0·5 per cent. in the number of persons employed in the later month. Increases are shown in nineteen industries and decreases in twenty-four. The largest increase (12·2 per cent.) was in the brick and tile industry, while carriages and wagons, petroleum refining and automobile manufacture showed increases of 5·4, 4·9 and 4·3 per cent. respectively. Decreases are shown in fertilisers (7·2 per cent.), men's clothing (6·7 per cent.) and women's clothing (3·4 per cent.).

The aggregate wages paid show a net increase of 1·4 per cent. over those of the preceding month. There were increases in twenty-nine industries, brick and tile and carriages and wagons

leading with seasonal increases of 16·7 per cent. and 11·7 per cent. respectively. Increases were also shown in glass (5·2 per cent.), foundry and machine shop products (5·4 per cent.), lumber (sawmills) and lumber (millwork) (5·7 per cent. and 6·6 per cent. respectively), and pottery (7·0 per cent.).

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

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Aggregate Weekly Earnings.		
		Apr., 1922.	Apr., 1923.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−)	Apr., 1922.	Apr., 1923.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−)
Iron and steel ..	115	119,414	145,329	+ 21·7	2,464,839	3,951,552	+ 60·3
Car building and repairing ..	85	38,485	55,530	+ 44·3	1,017,377	1,575,713	+ 54·9
Automobiles ..	45	95,927	143,515	+ 49·6	3,120,525	4,973,041	+ 59·4
Cotton manufacturing ..	53	36,324	55,393	+ 52·5	539,682	1,008,717	+ 86·9
Dyeing and finishing textiles ..	25	12,595	15,887	+ 26·1	252,351	362,810	+ 43·8
Hosiery and knit goods ..	80	31,342	31,655	+ 1·0	514,918	560,363	+ 8·8
Woollen ..	22	16,917	26,634	+ 57·4	378,221	623,142	+ 64·8
Silk ..	35	10,381	12,429	+ 19·7	175,293	270,683	+ 54·4
Men's clothing ..	43	28,231	27,012	− 4·3	633,567	779,866	+ 23·1
Boots and shoes ..	89	58,696	64,078	+ 9·2	1,258,294	1,513,175	+ 20·3
Tobacco, &c. ..	74	14,457	15,349	+ 6·2	232,757	283,475	+ 21·8
Leather ..	40	12,193	13,934	+ 14·3	250,119	327,944	+ 31·1
Paper ..	72	22,134	26,641	+ 20·4	499,979	679,990	+ 36·0

The net increase in the number of persons employed in the thirteen industries was 27 per cent. Twelve industries show increases and one a decrease. Woollen goods, cotton goods, automobiles and car building and repairing show the largest increases (57·4 per cent., 52·5 per cent., 49·6 per cent. and 44·3 per cent. respectively).

All thirteen industries show increases in aggregate earnings, the largest being 86·9 per cent. in cotton goods and 64·8 per cent. in woollen goods).

CANADA.*

Employment in May.—For 1st May, 1923, returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 5,820 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 752,037 workers. On 1st April the same firms reported 720,270. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st May is 91·4, as compared with 87·6 for 1st April and 83·3 for 1st May, 1922.

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

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

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

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

(2) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

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

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

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

(3) Workmen's Compensation.

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

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

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest :—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The applicant appealed to the Umpire.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INSURANCE INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1923.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

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

(a) To have served an apprenticeship to his trade

or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAW MILL LABOURERS, COWLAIRS—GRADING—ASSISTANTS, MATES AND HELPERS.—The Workers' Union *v.* London and North Eastern Railway. The Union claimed that the men should be classified as sawyers' helpers and should be paid a basic rate of 34s. per week. Decision.—On the evidence before them, the Court were of opinion that the men in question did not fall in the class described in Decision No. 728 as "assistants, mates and helpers." Issued 2nd May, 1923. (800.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

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

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

OPERATIVE BAKERS: DUNDEE.—Scottish Operative Bakers' Society v. Dundee Master Bakers' Association. Difference: Proposal to reduce wages by 11s. per week and to increase hours to 48 per week. Agreement: Wages should be reduced by 2s. per week, to a minimum of 78s. per week, as from the first pay week in May, and by three further cuts of 2s. per week in June, July and August. Working hours should be 45 and 46 per week where previously they were 45 and 47. Overtime, holidays, conditions as to apprenticeship and other conditions were fixed. Agreed 1st May, 1923. (I.R. 489/1923.)

BAKERS: CARNOUSTIE.—Carnoustie Branch of the Scottish Union of Operative Bakers and Confectioners v. Carnoustie Master Bakers' Association. Difference: As to the terms affecting the new working agreement for 1923 and 1924. Agreement: On the 19th May, 1923, the wages paid to operative bakers should be reduced to 67s. per week, the hours worked under the existing agreement to continue, viz., 45 hours per week—7½ hours per day; employers employing less than 5 men—47 hours per week. Men should receive an additional 2s. 6d. per week for early start. The Union should waive control of apprentices' wages. The agreement should remain in operation until the last pay day in April, 1924. In the event of either party desiring alteration on the expiry of the agreement one month's notice should be given. A Joint Committee should be appointed to deal with all matters affecting wages and working conditions. Agreed 9th May, 1923. (I.R. 489/1923.)

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

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

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

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

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

General minimum time-rates:—6¾d., 6½d. or 6¼d. per hour, according to occupation, for female workers of 18 years of age and over, with lower rates for younger workers.

Piece-work basis time-rates:—7½d., 7d. or 6¾d. per hour, according to occupation, for all female workers.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (Scotland).

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

The general minimum time rates for learners in their second, third and fourth years of employment are 2½d., 4d. and 5½d. per hour respectively for Area A, and 2d., 3½d. and 5d. per hour respectively for Area B. These areas are defined in the above mentioned Order H.M.S. (13).

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

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order J. (28) and (29), dated 4th June, 1923, confirming (i) a piece-work basis time-rate (as fixed) of 7½d. per hour and overtime rates (as varied) for female weavers in Great Britain outside the areas of Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Carnoustie, Dundee and Tayport; and (ii) general minimum piece-rates (as fixed) and overtime rates (as varied) for female weavers em-

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

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

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

Made-up Textiles Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

Button-making Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

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

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

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

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

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

General minimum time-rates:—

(A) Male Workers.

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

(B) Female Workers.

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

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

General minimum piece-rates:—The rates for repairing and certain items of surgical work set out in the Board's notice D. (21) must be reduced by 12½ per cent., and the rates for making (except the items of surgical work referred to above) set out in the same notice must be reduced by 5 per cent.

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

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

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

General minimum time-rates:—(a) Male workers of 21 years of age and over employed on (i.) certain specified occupations, 1s. 1½d. per hour; (ii.) all other operations, 10¾d. per hour; (b) Female workers, (i.) pan hands (all ages), 6½d., 10d. or 1s. 1½d. per hour, according to nature of work; (ii.) other workers of 21 years of age and over, 6½d. per hour; (c) lower rates for younger male and female workers, learners and apprentices.

Guaranteed time-rates for female learners, 2½d. to 5¾d. per hour, according to age at entry and experience.

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

General minimum piece-rates:—A reduction of 22½ per cent. from the rates specified in the Board's Notice M. (37).

Chain Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

General minimum time-rates:—

(A) *Male Workers.*

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

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

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

Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

General minimum time-rates:—

(A) *Male Workers.*

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

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

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

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).

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

General minimum time-rates:—

(i.) Workers of 21 years of age and over, employed on certain specified operations, rates ranging from 11½d. to 1s. 4¾d. for male workers, and from 7d. to 9½d. for female workers, according to operation and grade of worker.

(ii.) Other workers of 21 and over, 11½d. for male workers and 6¾d. for female workers, with lower rates for younger workers and apprentices.

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

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

REGULATIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STAMPED OR PRESSED METAL WARES TRADE;
PUBLIC ENQUIRY.**

The Minister of Labour has caused a Public Enquiry to be held, under the provisions of the first schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1918, as the result of objections received to the proposals contained in his Notices of Intention and Draft Special Orders amending the Definition of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade and making certain consequential amendments in the Definition of the Button-making Trade for purposes of the Trade Boards Acts. (See LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1923, page 153.)

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

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

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

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED
RELATING TO LABOUR.**

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

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

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

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

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

SAVINGS BANKS.—(1) *Post Office Savings Banks Fund, Fund for the Banks for Savings, Friendly Societies Fund—Accounts showing the interest accrued in respect of securities standing in the names of the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt, 1921.* Treasury. (S.O. publication, price 2d.) (2) *National debt (savings banks and friendly societies). Account, 6th August, 1817, to 20th November, 1919.* Treasury. (H.C. 59: price 3d.)

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

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

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—(1) *Workmen's Compensation (No. 2) Bill. Explanatory memorandum.* (Cmd. 1876: price 2d.) (2) *Employers' Liability Insurance. Undertaking given by the Accident Offices Association on behalf of its constituent insurance offices.* (Cmd. 1891: price 2d.) (See also page 196 of this GAZETTE.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MAY, 1923.

ADMIRALTY.

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

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

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

ADMIRALTY.

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

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

WAR OFFICE.

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

AIR MINISTRY.

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

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

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

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

POST OFFICE.

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