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

EMPLOYMENT.

THE decline in employment, which began in July, continued in August. Among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed was 11·5 at 27th August, compared with 11·3 at 23rd July and with 11·0 at 25th June; at the end of August, 1922, the corresponding percentage was 12·3. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 27th August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 1,266,000, of whom 943,000 were men and 237,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 30th July the total was 1,235,000, of whom 936,000 were men and 223,000 were women. The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions from which returns are received was 11·4 at the end of August, compared with 11·1 at the end of July.

The industries showing most decline included the pig-iron, tinsplate, shipbuilding, wool textile, hosiery, textile bleaching, dyeing, &c., furniture, and pottery trades, and some sections of the clothing trades. On the other hand, there was an improvement in the building trades in some districts. Employment was still good in the tinsplate and steel sheet trades, fairly good in coal mining and in the coachbuilding, brick-making and carpet trades, and fair in the building, tailoring, paper, and printing trades; but in most of the other principal industries it was slack.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected by the Department the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in August resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £24,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 250,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of about £14,000 in the wages of over 180,000 workpeople.

The increases occurred mainly in the iron and steel trades, as the result of recent increases in selling prices. There were increases generally amounting to about 3½ per cent. on current rates in the rates of wages of steel smelters and steel millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, and about 5 per cent. in those of steel sheet millmen and of iron puddlers, and millmen in the Midlands. In other industries the principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in wages included tinsplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, whose current rates were increased by nearly 3½ per cent., and hosiery workers in the Midlands, whose bonus was increased by 1d. on each shilling earned.

There was a decrease of 1s. per week in the wages of tramway workers, under arrangements by which wages are adjusted from time to time in accordance with changes in cost of living. Similar arrangements resulted in reductions also in the wages of furniture trade operatives in London and Manchester, and of workpeople employed in the non-trading services of

local authorities in London. Other large bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced included men employed in flour mills and iron ore miners in Cumberland. Under the Trade Boards Acts there were reductions in the minimum rates of women and girls employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade, and of workpeople employed in the made-up textile trades and the hair, bass and fibre trades.

Since the beginning of 1923 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of over £500,000 in the wages of over 3,200,000 workpeople, and a net increase of over £290,000 in the wages of nearly 1,200,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1922 there was a net reduction of over £3,600,000 in the wages of 7,500,000 workpeople, and a net increase of nearly £3,500 in the wages of 18,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 73 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 71 per cent. at 1st August. For food alone the corresponding percentage was 68 at 1st September, compared with 65 a month earlier. The rise in the index-number was mainly due to increases in the prices of eggs, bacon, butter, and cheese; there was practically no change in the figures for items other than food.

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 results for 1st September reference should be made to the article on page 326.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August, was 45. In addition, 28 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in August (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 68,000, as compared with 95,000 in the previous month and 31,000 in August, 1922. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during August was about 1,200,000 working days, as compared with 1,665,000 days in July, 1923, and 312,000 days in August, 1922.

The principal dispute in progress was that involving members of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders in federated shipyards, which continued throughout August and is still unsettled.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE following is an account of the principal measures which have been taken by the Government during the continuance of the present trade depression to relieve unemployment, to provide alternative employment, and to encourage the development and restoration of foreign trade and of enterprises likely to give employment to workpeople in this country.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

An Unemployment Insurance Act of general scope came into operation on the 8th November, 1920. The Act applied compulsory insurance against unemployment to nearly 12,000,000 persons, as compared with about 4,000,000 previously. Subsequent amending Acts modified the conditions as regards rates of benefit, extended the periods of benefit and increased the contributions. As from November, 1921, the Unemployed Workers' Dependants' (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921, made temporary provision for grants in respect of wives, dependent husbands, and children, and imposed a special levy to provide for these grants. The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922, amalgamated the dependants' grants with unemployment benefit, and the special levy with the unemployment insurance contributions, and extended until June, 1923, the special periods during which benefit might be drawn. The Acts gave authority to borrow money from the Treasury up to £30,000,000. By the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, which came into operation on the 12th April, 1923, the special periods for the payment of benefit have been extended to October, 1923. Special provision has also been made by this Act for the following benefit year, ending in October, 1924.

The payments of unemployment benefit (including benefit in respect of dependants) during the two and a half years from the 8th November, 1920, have been at the rate of about 50 million pounds a year. The moneys required for this purpose have been provided by contributions from employers, employed persons and the State, *plus* the balance in the old fund on the 8th November, 1920, amounting to some £22,000,000, and loans from the Treasury amounting on the 30th June, 1923, to £15,600,000.

EMERGENCY WORKS AND OTHER MEASURES.

One of the first acts of the present Government, in November, 1922, was to appoint a Cabinet Unemployment Committee, in succession to that appointed to advise the previous Administration.

The new Committee decided to continue the various measures which had been taken from the autumn of 1920 onwards to remedy the evils of unemployment. At least 300,000 men have had employment on these schemes at various times, and at the present time over 130,000 are directly employed on such schemes. This estimate takes no account of the increased demand for labour in "auxiliary" occupations (*i.e.*, in providing tools, materials and equipment generally) which cannot be expressed numerically. So, too, the effect of the Export Credits Scheme (referred to below) cannot be reduced to the terms of so many man-hours' work provided.

Trade Stimulation Schemes.

Trade Facilities Acts.—By the Trade Facilities Act, 1921, the Treasury were empowered to guarantee, up to a total of £25,000,000, the payment of interest and principal of loans raised by any public authority or other body of persons for the purpose of carrying out capital undertakings calculated to promote employment in Great Britain and Ireland. The Trade Facilities and Loans Guarantee Act, 1922, sanctioned the increase of the aggregate capital amount of loans which might be guaranteed from £25,000,000 to £50,000,000. The guarantees actually given or sanctioned up to the 13th September, 1923, amounted to a total of £29,469,645.

The *Export Credits Scheme* provides for the granting of credits and the undertaking of insurances for the purpose of re-establishing overseas trade. The guarantee may be as great as 100 per cent. of the cost, with recourse against the exporter for 57½ per cent. only. Credits may be sanctioned up to £26,000,000, and a large proportion of that amount has at one time or another been involved. The credits are, of course, in constant circulation, the completion of one scheme releasing the credit involved for the guaranteeing of another scheme; and on the 10th September the amount of credit actually in use was £11,249,394, leaving an available balance of £14,750,606.

Relief Works.

Ministry of Transport.—Grants up to 50 per cent. of the total cost are made to Local Authorities in respect of approved works for the construction and improvement of roads, in addition to the normal programme of maintenance and repair work.

From the autumn of 1920 to the end of the winter of 1921-22, grants had been sanctioned through the Road Fund in respect of schemes costing in all some £12,000,000.

A sum of £5,300,000 from the Road Fund was also set aside by the late Government for assisting further works of this nature during the winter of 1922-23. Of this sum £1,500,000 was provisionally intended for the Liverpool-Manchester road. The present Government have sanctioned the provision of a further £3,000,000 for entirely new schemes, and also £1,400,000 for extensions of earlier schemes, making a total of £4,400,000.

The total cost of the schemes to which contributions have been offered through the Road Fund during the past three winters is approximately £27,000,000. During the present

financial year it is estimated that the total expenditure on the schemes now in progress will reach £7,500,000, representing approximately a full year's work for 27,000 men.

Two *Light Railway* schemes, costing £325,000, were approved during the winter of 1921-22, towards which the Ministry of Transport undertook to provide half the cost. One of these light railways is not yet completed, and a considerable number of men are still being employed on it.

Unemployment Grants Committee.—Grants to Local Authorities, on the basis of 60 per cent. of the wages bill of works normally defrayed out of revenue, were sanctioned during the winter of 1920-1921 in respect of schemes costing over £10,000,000.

An extension of this scheme was authorised during November, 1922, when the Committee were authorised to make grants to a total of something between £500,000 and £750,000. The Committee have authorised the expenditure so far of nearly £550,000. It is proposed to add £100,000 to the balance remaining, and as a result work to the estimated value of £1,000,000 will be initiated during the coming winter.

Grants to Local Authorities have also been approved on the following bases, in respect of works of public utility financed by way of loan:—

For revenue-producing schemes, grants equal to 50 per cent. of the interest on loans raised for not less than 10 years, grants being paid for 5 years.

For non-revenue-producing schemes, grants equal to 65 per cent. of the interest and sinking fund charges for half the terms of the loans, subject to a maximum of 15 years.

The Government first sanctioned £12,000,000 worth of work to be financed on these bases, and an additional £18,000,000 worth was subsequently approved, making in all £30,000,000. Schemes for practically the whole of this amount have been sanctioned by the Committee.

For the winter of 1923-24, the Government propose to afford further financial assistance to schemes promoted by Local Authorities on the bases last described, and also to increase the grants in respect of work undertaken in connection with, or as part of, revenue-producing undertakings when the competent department is able to say that the works will not themselves directly produce revenue or are not likely to produce revenue for a considerable number of years. Additional financial assistance will also be forthcoming for the purpose of securing the acceleration of revenue-producing works in which a substantial part of the expenditure will take the form of orders for material giving employment in an industry seriously affected, though not necessarily in the area in which the work is to be carried out. Grants in respect of such revenue-producing undertakings will be equal to 50 per cent. of the interest on loans raised for a period of not less than ten years, and will be payable for a period of 15 years or for the period of the loan, whichever is the less.

These extensions will, it is hoped, not only assist Local Authorities to provide employment in their own areas, but will help in the provision of employment in the more depressed industrial centres. Particularly it is hoped that schemes will be promoted which will result in employment being available for skilled workmen in their normal occupations, and thus meet, in part, the objection frequently raised that ordinary relief works do not provide any appreciable volume of employment for skilled workpeople.

A further scheme with a view to stimulating the activities of private corporations and companies in undertaking development work of public utility has recently been announced. In approved cases State assistance will be available up to a maximum of 50 per cent. of the interest on capital raised for development works for a period during which the capital expenditure is not earning revenue.

Full particulars of grants to be made by the Unemployment Grants Committee, and the conditions imposed, can be obtained on application to the Secretary, 23, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W. 1.

Agricultural and kindred schemes.—The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have assisted Drainage Authorities during the winters 1921-1922 and 1922-1923 with land drainage schemes, primarily intended to provide employment for unemployed agricultural workers. The whole of the approved cost in these cases was advanced, and a proportion refunded by the Authorities on the completion of the scheme. Works for the supply or improvements in the supply of water to farms were also assisted; but instead of advancing the whole cost and recovering a proportion from the owners, grants were made to cover part only of the cost.

During the winters of 1921-22 and 1922-23 schemes costing £670,000 have been approved, of which about £177,750 will be repaid. Similar schemes under the Scottish Board of Agriculture have been approved, amounting approximately to £100,000.

The Forestry Commission have assisted works of afforestation during the winters 1921-22 and 1922-23 to the extent of about £200,000 by way of free grants of a fixed sum, amounting approximately to 60 per cent. of the labour bill.

It is proposed during the coming winter to make provision for assisting land drainage and improvement schemes and water supply schemes in England and Wales on the same bases as heretofore. The Forestry Commissioners also propose an increase of their normal programme of planting and preparation, and additional work in Crown woods, on the same lines as last winter. The exact extent of the financial provision in these cases is still under consideration.

Acceleration of Government Contracts.

A considerable amount of work has been accelerated during the past three winters on contracts for Government Departments, with a view to providing employment.

During the coming winter, the Post Office are proposing to lay additional trunk telephone cables at a cost of over £500,000. The Post Office London railway will also be pressed forward at a cost of £500,000, and will secure employment for something like 900 unskilled men for twelve months.

The War Office, the Admiralty, the Air Ministry and the Scottish Office are all considering plans for acceleration. The Admiralty's proposals, to the extent of approximately £500,000, will be nearly all expended in areas where unemployment is particularly severe.

Summary.

The total programme as outlined above will, it is hoped, provide direct employment for at least 200,000 men during the coming winter and for at least a further 100,000 men indirectly.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE Fifty-Fifth Annual Trades Union Congress was held at Plymouth on the 3rd September and the five following days. The President was Mr. J. B. Williams, Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the Statistical Statement compiled by the General Council, was 702; the number of organisations paying affiliation fees to the Congress (including a few organisations, with a membership of about 60,000, who paid such fees but did not appoint delegates) was 167, with a membership of approximately 4,369,000. In the following Table these figures are analysed by groups of unions (the classification adopted being that used by this Department for its annual statistics of membership of trade unions), and corresponding figures are given for 1922. The figures for 1923 are provisional and subject to slight correction; those for 1922 have been revised since their publication in the September, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE.

Group of Organisations	1922.			1923.		
	Number of Organisations	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.
Agriculture	1	8	70,000	1	4	30,000
Mining and Quarrying	7	162	839,902	7	175	784,617
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding..	42	103	847,274	42	96	706,231
Textile	26*	112	544,502	26*	90	417,958
Clothing	10	29	170,512	10	32	164,817
Woodworking and Furnishing ..	8	9	89,298	7	11	73,443
Paper, Printing, etc...	12	36	168,477	13	37	159,806
Building, Decorating, etc.	11	45	396,641	10	28	335,685
Railway Service ..	3	24	464,794	3	28	447,374
Other Transport ..	9	59	407,570	8	67	405,650
Commerce and Finance	7	23	193,000	7	24	168,650
Public Administration	9	21	152,692	10	26	183,264
Miscellaneous ..	19	25	110,976	18	24	89,512
General Labour † ..	7	67	673,010	5	60	402,261
Total	171	723	5,128,648	167	702	4,369,268

The total membership represented at the Congress showed a reduction of 759,000 (or 14·8 per cent.) as compared with 1922. This reduction was due mainly to losses in individual membership, and only to a minor extent to the non-representation in 1923 of unions included in the 1922 figures. More than one-half of the total decrease was accounted for by the General Labour group and the Metal, Engineering, etc., group; and there was a proportionately large decrease in the Agriculture group. The large decrease in the Textile group was partly due to the non-representation at the 1923 Congress of an important organisation which sent delegates in 1922. The only group showing an increase was Public Administration, and in this case the increase was due rather to new affiliations than to increases in the membership of organisations represented at both Congresses.

The subject of unemployment was raised on a resolution expressing deep dissatisfaction with the Government's plans for dealing with unemployment, and calling upon them to formulate adequate and effective measures both to alleviate the grave physical and mental consequences to the unemployed population, and to remedy the serious social distress, and urging the use of State funds to relieve the financial burden of heavily rated districts. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Another resolution expressed "emphatic disapproval" of the recommendations of the Cave Committee‡ on Trade Boards, and called on the Labour Party to resist to the utmost legislation intended to carry these recommendations into effect.

Working hours and other conditions of labour received con-

siderable attention at the Congress. A resolution was passed instructing the General Council to promote a Bill giving effect to the legal establishment of an eight-hour day and a 48-hour week. After some opposition, a resolution declaring that the time had arrived to demand a six-hour working day was also passed by a majority of 2,000,000 votes. It was decided to propose amendments to the Shops Act limiting the hours of distributive employees (wholesale and retail) to a 48-hour week, and in other respects bettering the working conditions. Resolutions were also carried urging the prohibition of night work in bakeries, and suggesting amendments to the Factory Act with a view to improving conditions in trades (tailoring, etc.) carried on in private houses.

The provision of adequate grants to local authorities for housing schemes, to meet the urgent needs of working-class families, was pressed in a resolution, which also demanded continued legal protection against excessive rents.

A resolution opposing the principle of unemployment by industries was debated, and an amendment adopted by a large majority proposing that the General Council should be instructed to examine the question and report to the next Congress.

A considerable part of the earlier sessions of the Congress was taken up with discussions on domestic affairs, notably the "Back to the Unions" campaign, the amalgamation of trade unions, the relations between competing unions in the same industry, the organisation of foremen and supervisors, and the organisation of women workers. The resolution discussed at last year's Congress* regarding joint defence for the preservation of trade union standards by giving greater powers to the General Council was again proposed, and, after discussion, rejected on a card vote by a majority of over 1,600,000.

A recommendation from a sub-committee in support of the principle of giving legal force to voluntary agreements of Joint Industrial Councils, which was left by the General Council to a free vote of the Congress, was defeated by a decisive majority.

The question of workers' education was discussed in the course of the discussion on the report of the General Council, some delegates wishing that such education should be definitely adapted to fit the students to take their part in the class struggle. No vote was taken on this question.

As a result of a delegation from the General Council to the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society a telegram was received during the Congress that the Society agreed to refer all labour disputes to arbitration, in accordance with the finding of the joint committee of trade unionists and co-operators.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to a discussion of the position of the "Daily Herald" newspaper. Finally, a resolution was passed to the effect that, if the amount of £12,500 is raised before the end of September, the General Council is instructed to continue the publication of the paper at least until the end of the present year, and that in the meantime a committee of enquiry is to be set up to examine and report upon any economies that could reasonably be effected.

Among many other topics in regard to which resolutions were passed during the Congress the following may be mentioned:—Old age pensions, pensions for mothers, pensions for the blind, co-partnership, railway fares, the nationalisation of railways, the civil and political freedom of civil servants, the report of the Anderson Committee,† the French occupation of the Ruhr, and the disagreement between Italy and Greece.

An amendment to the Standing Orders was carried by a large majority to the effect that the Secretary of the General Council should give his whole time to his duties; this involved his being ineligible for Parliament. Subsequently Mr. F. Bramley was elected to the post, in succession to Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., who retires under the age limit. The General Council for the ensuing year remains as before.

WOMEN'S TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.

THE Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment have issued a Report‡ upon their work up to 31st December, 1922.

The Committee were originally appointed at the outbreak of war to administer the Queen's Work for Women Fund, a fund raised by public subscription to relieve distress amongst women arising from the war. The Queen's Work for Women Fund became part of the National Relief Fund, and the work of the Central Committee was carried on in collaboration with that body and with the Government Committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress. At the outset the activities of the Committee were mainly concentrated upon the direct prevention and relief of unemployment; but during 1915 the increased demand for women's labour greatly reduced industrial distress, and as a result of the decreased claims upon their funds the Committee had still a balance to their credit at the end of the war.

In 1920, to alleviate the distress amongst women caused by the transition from war to peace conditions, the Minister of Labour re-appointed the Committee, with the following terms of reference:—"To consider, devise, and carry out special schemes of work and training for women unemployed, or women whose earning capacities and opportunities have been injuriously affected as a result of conditions arising out of

* In some of the textile trades, not only are amalgamated associations represented as such, but the branch associations of which they consist send separate delegates. These branch associations have not been reckoned as separate organisations.

† Including general unions of enginemen, etc.

‡ See the May, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, page 200.

* See the September, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, page 362.

† See pages 321-322 of this GAZETTE.

‡ Second Interim Report of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment. H.M. Stationery Office, 1923. Price 6d. net. (For first interim report, see Cd. 7848, H.M. Stationery Office, 1915. Price 4½d.)

the war," and on 8th April, 1921, an addition was made to the terms of reference to enable the Committee to undertake the provision of equipment to candidates trained by the Committee who were unable to set up in trade owing to the lack of necessary appliances; and the provision of equipment for women who did not require assistance from the Committee to enable them to train, but who, without equipment, were unable to obtain employment.

Under the new terms of reference the Committee employed their funds, augmented by grants from the National Relief Fund and the Ministry of Labour, mainly for training women for suitable occupations under various schemes, as follows:—

Scholarship Scheme.—Under this scheme grants were made to selected candidates to enable them to receive training in non-industrial occupations, such as teaching, massage, nursery nursing, midwifery, cookery, etc., assistance being given in the form of scholarship grants to cover the cost of fees at recognised training schools, and, where necessary, maintenance during training. On the 1st January, 1923, 2,511 women had completed training under this scheme, of whom 1,567 were known to have obtained posts in the occupation for which they were trained, while 1,333 were in training or awaiting training.

Home Crafts Scheme.—This scheme has provided training (with maintenance) in domestic subjects for over 10,000 unemployed women undertaking to enter resident domestic service. During the period May, 1921, to 31st December, 1922, 214 courses were provided.

Domestic Outfits Scheme.—Under this scheme 2,538 outfits of clothing were given to women who were qualified for and willing to enter domestic service without further training, but were unable to accept suitable employment owing to the lack of an adequate outfit, at an average cost of £3 12s. 3d.

Homemakers Scheme.—This scheme has provided training (with maintenance) in domestic subjects for 1,560 unemployed women, who were awaiting the opportunity to return to their own trades. It thus differs from the Home Crafts scheme described above, which is intended to train women for resident domestic service. The curriculum was designed with a view to assisting women with the domestic work of their own homes, and the syllabus was modified in various respects from that laid down for the Homecraft Centres.

Present Position.

The Committee decided, early in 1922, in view of the prospect of their funds coming to an end, and of the industrial distress still being acute, to concentrate upon the Homecrafts and Homemakers' courses; and the 1st March, 1922, was appointed as the final date for the receipt of applications for training under the Scholarships scheme. With the aid of a further grant from the Ministry of Labour in 1922, the Committee were able to continue the Homecraft courses throughout the whole of that year, and they hope to maintain this branch of their work so long as unemployment among women remains abnormal.

OUTWORKERS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

THE Report of the Committee appointed by Dr. Macnamara when Minister of Labour, "to consider and report whether the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Acts should be extended to cover any classes of out-workers, not employed under a contract of service," has been issued.*

The Report refers to measures taken to provide for the inclusion of out-workers in the benefits of Part. I. (Health Insurance) of the National Insurance Act; but it states that the problem is considerably more complex in the case of unemployment insurance. Further, the results obtained from the issue of circular letters to various Trade Boards, Joint Industrial Councils, and employers' and workpeople's organisations requesting their views as to the desirability and practicability of the proposal showed both by the tardiness and the nature of the replies received that the demand for the inclusion of out-workers was not clamant. The Report adds that this apparent apathy was no doubt partly due to the fact that out-workers are, to a considerable extent, unorganised.

The Committee point out that the cardinal difficulty is control, and unless this can be overcome no unemployment scheme worked on the principles of insurance is possible. They discuss the difficulties attending satisfactory proof of the fulfilment of the statutory conditions for the receipt of benefit, and particularly the evidence of unemployment. They continue: "We have already pointed out that unless this initial difficulty can be overcome within the limits of the administrative machinery likely to be available, extension of the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Acts to out-workers not under a contract of service, however desirable from a social standpoint, cannot be countenanced. Any serious contemplation of such a step could be justified only on the grounds of the strongest evidence that there was pressing need for such action, and that acute hardship would be entailed were it not taken. In our view there is almost, if not quite, complete absence of any such evidence."

In their recommendations the Committee state that they do not regard the inclusion of out-workers in the present scheme of unemployment insurance as a practicable business proposition; such workers are not, in their opinion, an insurable risk. They assume that the class of out-workers whom Dr. Macnamara had in mind were those who in normal times are regularly employed

for the whole of every day, just as "in-workers" are; but they add: "Even supposing a workable scheme for whole-time out-workers could be devised, the smallness of their numbers would in itself rule out all possibility of administration at a reasonable cost. The system of administration of the national unemployment insurance scheme is already sufficiently involved, and greatly to complicate it, by the introduction of a special scheme for a very small class of workpeople who would be controllable only at great cost, would in our opinion be unjustifiable in any event. We are of opinion that the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Acts should not be extended to cover any class of out-workers not employed under a contract of service, and we recommend accordingly."

PROFIT-SHARING AND CO-PARTNERSHIP IN 1922.

THE *Report on Profit-sharing and Labour Co-Partnership in the United Kingdom**, prepared by the Ministry of Labour in 1919, gave an account of the progress of the Profit-sharing and Labour Co-Partnership movement up to that date, together with statistics showing the results of the operation of profit-sharing and co-partnership schemes up to and including the year 1918. In the issues of this GAZETTE for July, 1920, September, 1921, and October, 1922, supplementary statistics were given relating to the operation of schemes (other than schemes in Co-operative Societies) in 1919, 1920, and 1921 respectively. Enquiries have now been made as to the progress of this movement in 1922, and the information collected is summarised below. The figures relate only to schemes providing for the allotment to employees of a definite share of profits, determined on a pre-arranged basis.

For a period of about two years immediately following the war—a period of great industrial activity—there was a marked advance in the profit-sharing movement; but this advance received a severe check in the succeeding period of industrial depression. Thus in 1919, the number of schemes known to have been introduced was 48, and in 1920 a further 47 schemes were started; only 12 schemes, however, have been brought to the notice of the Department as coming into existence in 1921, and only six schemes in 1922. The schemes abandoned numbered 9 in 1919, 12 in 1920, 9 in 1921, and 4 in 1922.

SCHEMES IN OPERATION IN 1922.

According to the returns received in connection with the enquiries made this year, 220 firms, with 288,043 workpeople in their constant employment, were known to be practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of 1922. Five of these firms had each two separate schemes in operation, so that the total number of schemes was 225. Five other schemes were in abeyance, though not abandoned, at the end of 1922; and in addition there were six schemes as to which no particulars could be obtained.

Of the 220 firms known to have been actively practising profit-sharing at the end of 1922, 34 (employing 36,963 workpeople) were gas companies, 30 (employing 59,866 workpeople) were in the engineering, shipbuilding and other metal trades, 25 (employing 41,431 workpeople) were textile manufacturing firms, and 35 (employing 30,235 workpeople) were merchants, warehousemen, retail traders, &c. The remaining firms were distributed among a variety of different trades.

Profit-sharing and co-partnership schemes appear to have achieved their largest measure of success when practised by gas companies. In other industries the number of abandoned schemes frequently equals or exceeds the number of schemes still in existence; and the proportion of businesses which have adopted schemes is usually too small to provide any sound indication as to the extent to which conditions in the industry favour profit-sharing arrangements. In the gas industry, however, a large proportion of the principal company-owned undertakings have adopted profit-sharing arrangements, and very few abandonments have been reported. The type of scheme which is almost invariably adopted in connection with this industry provides for a bonus on the employees' wages at a rate varying inversely with the price charged for gas.

Somewhat less than one-half of all the schemes in operation in 1922 provided for the payment to the employees of a proportion of the profits, either in cash, or in sums credited to a savings or deposit account from which amounts may be withdrawn at short notice. In a much smaller number of schemes (although this is the normal type of scheme in the gas industry), a proportion of the profits is partly or wholly retained for investment, on behalf of the employees, in the capital of the undertaking, or is set aside for provident purposes, superannuation, &c. A type of scheme which has become prominent in recent years consists in the issue of employees' shares, either free, or on specially favourable terms as to price or dividend; over forty such schemes are at present in operation. A further twenty schemes are based on arrangements for the payment of interest, at a rate varying with the profits, on money deposited with the firm by its employees.

BONUS PAID.

In the following Table particulars are given, as regards those schemes for which such information is available, of the bonuses paid or credited in 1922. For a considerable number of schemes the Department has been unable to obtain detailed particulars of this nature, owing in some cases to the firms' inability to

* Report of the Committee appointed to consider the position of out-workers in relation to Unemployment Insurance. H.M. Stationery Office, 1923. Price 6d. net.

furnish the required figures, and in others to the nature of the scheme itself, which makes it impossible to state the amount of the bonus and the proportion which it bears to earnings. There are also certain schemes of recent introduction in which the first bonus did not become payable in 1922. The particulars given in the Table, therefore, relate only to 173 out of the total of 225 schemes in operation at the end of 1922.

NOTE.—In a number of schemes included in these statistics the "bonus" consists of interest, at a rate varying with the profits, paid on sums deposited with the firm by its employees; and the amount of the bonus in such cases is therefore limited by the extent to which employees use the deposit fund. The figures italicised in this and in the succeeding Table show the result of excluding such schemes from the statistics.

Ratio of Bonus to Earnings.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Average Number of Employees in Constant Employment*	Number of Employees Participating† in 1922.	Amount of Bonus paid (or credited) in 1922.
Nil	{ 71 63	54,426 26,458	26,007† 23,665†	£ Nil. Nil.
Under 2 per cent. ..	{ 13 9	28,945 5,034	8,715 4,925	8,053 5,745
2 & under 4 per cent.	17	28,715	24,622	133,837
4 " 6 "	17	12,463	11,210	72,058
6 " 8 "	13	6,372	5,330	50,610
8 " 10 "	5	2,000	1,202	32,451
10 " 12 "	8	4,335	3,380	50,777
12 " 16 "	3	1,190	114	3,763
16 " 20 "	4	1,233	703	29,256
20 per cent. or over ..	6	4,156	3,684	109,506
Ratio not stated ..	{ 16 9	68,167 33,495	31,474 26,289	234,576 230,148
TOTAL	{ 173 154	212,002 125,451	116,441† 105,024†	724,887 718,151

The following Table shows the results of these same schemes classified according to the industry or business in which the firms are engaged :—

Industry or Business.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Number of Employees participating in 1922.‡	Average Amount of Bonus per head.§	Average Ratio of Bonus to Earnings.||
Agriculture	{ 7 6	307 207	£ s. d. 1 19 1 2 18 0	Per cent. 0.8 1.2
Engineering, Shipbuilding and other metal	{ 20 12	13,089 7,665	1 1 7 1 10 10	0.7 1.0
Food and Drink (Manufacture)	{ 13 10	5,271 4,484	17 16 3 20 13 4	14.6 15.7
Textile	{ 21 18	11,842 10,221	6 15 3 7 13 5	4.9 5.6
Paper, Printing, Book-binding, Publishing, &c. ..	{ 16 15	5,511 5,360	5 17 11 6 1 2	4.1 4.2
Chemical, Soap, Oil, Paint, &c. ..	{ 10 9	18,255 18,148	10 8 6 10 9 9	2.7 2.8
Gas Supply	30	28,780	4 4 10	2.4
Insurance	2	13,814	3 15 3	13.0
Merchants, Warehousemen and Retail Traders	26	5,570	10 15 4	5.7
Other Businesses ..	{ 28 26	14,002 10,775	5 13 6 7 4 7	5.0 5.0
TOTAL	{ 173 154	116,441 105,024	6 4 6 6 16 9	3.8 4.1

In a number of schemes profit-sharing is restricted to certain classes of employees, or is available only to those who are able and willing to deposit savings with the firm; and in most schemes employees have to fulfil certain conditions, such as serving for a minimum period, in order to qualify for benefit. Thus it will be seen, from the foregoing Tables, that of the total number of workpeople employed by profit-sharing firms the proportion entitled to participate in any bonus distributed was rather more than one-half. Of those entitled to participate, nearly 80 per cent. received a bonus in 1922, the remainder, who received no bonus, being employed by firms whose profits did not admit of any distribution to employees under the schemes in that year.

The effects of depression in trade are again reflected in the statistics of bonuses paid in 1922. In the schemes included in the above Tables the average amount paid per head was £6 4s. 6d., as compared with £6 14s. 0d. in 1921, and with £9 18s. 6d. in 1920. Excluding the cases in which the ratio of bonus to earnings was not known, the bonuses paid in 1922 and in 1921 represented an average addition to ordinary earnings of 3.8 per cent. and of 3.5 per cent., respectively. In 1920 the bonuses

averaged 6.4 per cent. on earnings. In calculating these averages allowance has been made for schemes which failed to pay a bonus, numbering 71 in 1922, as compared with 64 in 1921, and with 32 in 1920.

As was the case in 1921, a very high rate of bonus was paid in 1922 by firms engaged in food and drink manufacture—viz., 14.6 per cent., or nearly £18 per head. Among firms manufacturing chemicals, soap, oils, paints, etc., an average of over £10 per head was paid in 1922, compared with about £16 per head in 1921. One very large undertaking in this group, although able to state the total bonus paid to employees, is not able to express this as a percentage on earnings; as this firm pays relatively high bonuses, the average ratio of bonus to earnings for this group, as shown in the Table, therefore, is lower than would be the case if figures for this firm were included. On the other hand, owing to the impossibility of expressing, in the form of a percentage on earnings, the bonus paid by one large insurance company, the average ratio of bonus to earnings among insurance companies, as given in the Table, is too high.

Groups which paid a noticeably low rate of bonus in 1922 were engineering, shipbuilding and other metal firms (0.7 per cent.) and the agricultural group (0.8 per cent.). Only one scheme in agriculture is known to have paid a bonus. Gas companies showed some recovery from the low average rate of bonus which had been paid for several years past, though the average addition to earnings in 1922 was still only at the rate of 2.4 per cent.

NEW SCHEMES IN 1922.

In the following Table the main features of the six new schemes known to have been started in 1922 are briefly summarised :—

Industry.	Approximate number in constant employment.	Type of Scheme.
Confectionery manufacture	600	Bonus on employees' wages or salaries at same rate as dividend on the company's ordinary shares, conditional upon the dividend being at a rate of not less than 10 per cent. Bonus paid in weekly portions in cash.
Gas Works ..	295	Bonus on wages and salaries according to decreases in the price charged for gas, until the rate of bonus equals the rate of dividend on the company's new ordinary "B" stock; and thereafter rising and falling with such rate of dividend. Two-thirds of the bonus is retained for investment in the company's ordinary or preference stock and the remaining third accumulates at interest being withdrawable in special circumstances. Whenever the price of gas falls below a certain "basic rate," one sixth of the difference between the total realised by selling at the price actually charged and the total which would have been realised had the "basic rate" been charged is divided among the employees. One half of the bonus is paid to a stock account and the remaining half to a cash account.
Gas Works ..	1,000	Provided the turnover and gross profit reach a certain figure, a fixed percentage of the net profits is distributed among employees in cash, being divided in proportion to wages, but with variations in respect of the recipients' efficiency, punctuality, etc.
Drapery and Furnishing	180	A bonus, distributed in cash, is paid on the salaries or wages of the staff at the same rate as the dividend paid to shareholders.
Metal and Ore Merchants	90	After payment of the fixed dividend on preference shares and of a cumulative dividend of 10 per cent. on ordinary shares, one half of the balance of the certified annual profits is allocated to employees. The amount thus allocated is divided among employees in proportion to wages, and is credited to savings bank accounts, where, unless withdrawn, it receives interest at 7 per cent. per annum.
Printing, Publishing, &c.	130	

SCHEMES ABANDONED IN 1922.

The four schemes abandoned in 1922 had been in operation for twenty, thirteen, ten and six years respectively. In the first of these cases—a firm of grocers, provision merchants, bakers, etc., with about 300 employees—the sharing of profits with employees (other than the manager and heads of departments) was discontinued owing, as stated by the firm, to strikes of the employees. In the second case—a gas company with about 300 workpeople—the business has ceased to exist as a separate concern, having amalgamated with another undertaking also practising profit-sharing. The third scheme was in a small printing business employing about eight workpeople, and was dropped after these employees had stopped work in connection with a trade dispute. In the fourth case, that of a firm of millers, corn merchants, etc., two schemes were in operation, and one of these has now been abandoned with a view to its replacement by a new scheme now under preparation. About 950 employees were covered by the abandoned scheme in this case.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

The following Table shows the total number of firms known to have been practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of each of the past ten years and the total number of schemes in operation in connection with these firms, and also gives particulars, so far as available, of the average bonus paid. As explained above, it is not possible, in the case of a number of schemes, to obtain statistics of bonuses paid, and the figures

* Casual or seasonal workers are rarely eligible for profit-sharing, except in some gas companies' schemes, and then only under certain conditions. The aggregate maximum number of casual workers employed by the firms to which the Table relates was 2,816.

† This was the number entitled to participate if any bonus had been paid.

‡ Including those entitled to participate, in cases where the bonus was nil.

§ Calculated on the number of employees participating, including, where the bonus was nil, the number entitled to participate.

|| Taking into account the schemes in which the bonus was nil, but excluding (necessarily) those in which the ratio of bonus to earnings could not be stated.

given in the last two columns, therefore, relate only to those schemes for which this information is available :—

Year.	No. of Firms.*	No. of Schemes.*	Bonuses Paid.	
			Amount per Head.†	Percentage addition to Earnings.†
			£ s. d.	Per Cent.
1913	140	142	5 6 0	5.9
1914	151	155	5 4 9	6.7
1915	150	154	3 18 0	5.5
1916	142	147	3 4 3	4.6
1917	145	151	3 15 2	5.3
1918	149	154	3 13 9	5.1
1919	189	193	5 0 7	4.9
1920	222	228	9 18 6	6.4
1921	222	228	6 14 0	3.5
1922	226	231	6 4 6	3.8

The total number of employees of the 140 firms practising profit-sharing at the end of 1913 was approximately 110,000. In 1922 the total number of employees of the 226 firms with profit-sharing schemes in operation was approximately 300,000.

Of a total of 467 schemes of profit-sharing that are known to have been adopted at any time in this country, slightly under one-half are still in operation. Although the majority of existing schemes are of comparatively recent origin a few have been in continuous operation for over 40 years and nearly one-half date from before the war.

The following Table shows the total numbers of schemes started in various periods, the numbers of such schemes no longer in existence, and the numbers still in operation at the end of 1922 :—

Period in which started.	Total Schemes started.	Schemes abandoned by the end of 1922.	Schemes suspended at the end of 1922.	Schemes still in operation at end of 1922.‡
Up to 1880	35	29	—	6
1881-90	79	67	1	11
1891-1900	76	63	—	13
1901-05	25	18	—	7
1906-10	54	21	1	32
1911-15	63	20	—	43
1916-18	22	4	1	1
1919-20	95	9	2	84
1921-22	18	—	—	18
Total	467	231	5	231

SCOPE OF THE STAMPED OR PRESSED METAL-WARES TRADE BOARD AND THE BUTTON-MAKING TRADE BOARD: REPORT OF INQUIRY.

REPORTS, dated 26th July, 1923, have been made by Sir William Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C., on the Public Inquiry held by him on 6th and 7th June, 1923, in London, and on 19th and 20th June, 1923, in Birmingham, with regard to the scope of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board and the Button-Making Trade Board. The Inquiry was held on the direction of the Minister of Labour as the result of objections received by him to his Notices of Intention dated 28th March, 1923, to vary the definition of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade, and to make certain consequential variations in the definition of the Button-Making Trade for the purposes of the Trade Boards Acts.

The principal Report deals with the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board. After briefly indicating the circumstances which led to the Inquiry, the Report records for the Minister's consideration certain objections to the proposed variation of definition which were lodged on general grounds. These are, briefly, that the present moment is inopportune for any amendment or extension of scope in view of the fact that further Trade Board legislation is pending, and that the Minister's powers under the new Act may be more limited than now, and the considerations to be taken into account in extending the scope of a Trade Board may be different. On behalf of the Trade Board it was urged that amendment was a pressing and urgent necessity and that it should be dealt with under the 1918 Act.

The Report outlines the history and growth of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade and arrives at the conclusion that the trade "primarily consists of the general stamper and presser or piercer who makes stampings and pressings for the trade, that is, sells the product of his manufacture to the wholesaler or retailer or to the manufacturer of a composite article for the purpose of being assembled or worked into such composite article." A manufacturer stamping or pressing parts for his own use, where the operations of stamping or pressing are merely incidental to the main operations on the completed pro-

* The figures exclude a few schemes temporarily suspended, though not abandoned, but include schemes as to which no recent particulars have been received.

† The amount per head and the percentage addition to earnings are calculated on the basis of the numbers and earnings of those participating, including those entitled to participate in cases where, owing to insufficient profits, the bonus was nil.

‡ The figures as to schemes still in operation at the end of 1922 include 6 schemes as to which no recent particulars have been received.

duct and where this final product is only to a small extent stamped or pressed, is outside the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade: for example, the manufacture of bedsteads for which the mounts are stamped or pressed, or of umbrella frames which the fittings are stamped or pressed. If, however, a composite article is mainly composed of stamped or pressed parts, the manufacture of such an article is part of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade; and the manufacturer who, though stamping or pressing parts incidentally to the main operations on the completed product, also sells stamped or pressed parts or articles in the open market is, to the extent to which he sells such parts or articles, engaged in the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade.

The Report then deals with specific claims for exclusion from the definition made either by (1) manufacturers who, while manufacturing articles wholly or mainly stamped or pressed, claim to be in a well-defined trade distinct from that of the general stamper or presser, or by (2) manufacturers who are mainly engaged in other processes of manufacture and whose output of stamped or pressed goods is small. Each such claim for exclusion is considered on its individual merits in the light of the conclusions already reached with regard to what constitutes the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade as a whole, and recommendations are made accordingly; some general considerations which should be taken into account in considering claims for exclusion are also set out, e.g., in the case of manufacturers who claim to be in a distinct trade or branch of trade, rates of wages and conditions of service, nature of any wage-regulating machinery, organisation of employers and workers, effect of exclusion upon other employers and workers manufacturing the same class of article; in the case of manufacturers who claim to be mainly engaged on some other manufacture, the proportion of output of stamped or pressed articles; and in both classes of case the factor of competing jurisdiction, in one workshop, of a Trade Board and trade organisations.

The Report deals with the objection that the work covered by the Minister's Order does not constitute a trade at all but a conglomeration of trades, and concludes that in the light of the evidence given there is such a trade as the general Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares trade, although, like many other trades, it has numerous branches.

After dealing with various suggestions for minor and drafting amendments of the definition which was the subject of the Inquiry, the Report concludes by recommending the re-drafting of the proposed Definition along simpler lines and so as to incorporate the other recommendations arising from the Inquiry. Such modifications, together with a sympathetic administration of the Order, should, in the view of the Commissioner holding the Inquiry, go far towards removing the difficulties which have hitherto beset the operations of the Trade Board.

The Report on the Button-Making Trade Board enumerates the circumstances which led to the Inquiry and records the fact that the alterations in the definition of the trade are necessitated by and consequential upon the amendments made in the definition of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The Ministry of Health have issued their fourth Annual Report, relating to the year ended on 31st March, 1923.*

ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR LAW, ETC.

Persons in receipt of relief.—The average of the weekly number of persons in receipt of relief in England and Wales during the year under review was 1,499,937, compared with 1,244,726 during 1921-22.† The number at no time during the year fell below 1,300,000, a number which had never been attained before July, 1921. On the 1st April, 1922, the number of persons in receipt of relief was 1,475,187 (equivalent to 1 in 26 of a total population of 37,885,000), and this number increased continuously to 1,668,348 on the 29th April. Throughout this period unemployed insurance benefit, both "covenanted" and "uncovenanted," was paid; and the increase was presumably due largely to the disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades which had begun in March. A slight decrease to 1,603,308 on the 13th May followed the end of the dispute in the shipbuilding trade on the 8th May. About the 11th May the first "gap" of five weeks in the payment of "uncovenanted" benefit began; and the dispute in the engineering trade extended on the 3rd May to other trade unions. A further continuous increase in the numbers in receipt of relief began on the 13th May, which terminated with the beginning of the second period of "uncovenanted benefit" in the record figure of 1,837,980 (equivalent to 1 in 21 of the total population) on the 17th June. On the 1st July the number of persons in receipt of relief had exceeded 1,600,000 for eleven successive weeks. The engineering dispute ended gradually during the period between the 6th and 21st June, and by the 24th June the number of persons in receipt of relief had decreased by 68,593. This improvement was maintained throughout July and August. The period of the "gap" during these and the two following months was by the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1922, reduced from five weeks to one week only. The bottom of the curve (1,416,193) was reached on the 2nd September; and an increase began which, interrupted only by a decrease from 1,459,295 to

* Cmd. 1944 H.M. Stationery Office. Price 4s. net.

† These figures exclude (a) lunatics in county and borough asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses; (b) casuals; and (c) persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only. The numbers of these persons were approximately 111,000.

1,448,331 between the 23rd September and the 7th October, brought the total figure to 1,518,034 on the 4th November. Thence a decrease, continuous except for a seasonal rise at Christmas, led to the figure of 1,345,634 at the end of March.

Returns obtained as to the average weekly number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in the months of June, September, December, and March, show that the proportions which belonged to families whose heads were insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts were 61·5 per cent., 52·7 per cent., 49·5 per cent., and 46·7 per cent. respectively; and the Report adds that "there is in these returns some prima-facie evidence of the effect of the incidence of unemployment benefit upon Poor Law statistics, and a demonstration that the burden of the ratepayer would have been substantially heavier but for the existence of the insurance scheme."

The figures relating to out-door relief during the year are analysed on a new basis, which it is stated must be accepted with caution owing to uncertainty whether the returns have been rendered with exact uniformity. Subject to this reservation, the Report states that the number of unemployed insured persons (and their dependants) receiving relief varied during the year from 1,090,525 (in June, 1922) to 636,048 (in March, 1923), the mean figure for the year being 798,708. A second class, for whom separate numbers are now available, is that for uninsured persons who are ordinarily employed. The number of such persons receiving relief is not large, the total at the end of the year being only 66,314, slightly more than the number (65,281) at the beginning of the year. The third class, covering all other persons in receipt of outdoor relief, is a more substantial one, and increased, except for a slight break in July, from the beginning to the end of the year, the numbers being in April, 1922, 395,165, and in March, 1923, 438,380. The Report states that it must be assumed that these figures include persons who would, in less trying times, have been assisted by relatives, and these persons, until their relatives have an opportunity of re-establishing their position, will remain as a permanent charge on the Poor Rate.

Very wide variations were shown in the proportion borne by the number of persons relieved to the population of the several Unions, the highest ratio being 1 in 5, which was reached at least once in the course of the year by Poplar, Sheffield, Bootle (Cumberland), Middlesbrough, Crickhowell and Guisborough. Other areas which reached a high proportion (from 1 in 6 to 1 in 10 inclusive) during the year were:—Bermondsey, Greenwich, Limehouse, West Ham; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, South Shields, Stockton, Hartlepool, Durham, Auckland; Birmingham, Coventry, West Bromwich, Walsall, Stourbridge; Barrow-in-Furness, Bedwellty, Clutton, Dartford, Derby, Ecclesall Bierlow (Sheffield), Lincoln, Neath, Redruth, West Derby (Liverpool).

The amount raised by rates to meet expenses of Poor Law Authorities in the year 1922-23 is estimated to be £38,100,000, as compared with £12,078,000 in the year before the war, and with approximately £36,250,000 in the year 1921-22. As in the previous year, Boards of Guardians borrowed considerable sums under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Financial Provisions) Act, 1921, and legislation extending certain of these provisions to loans borrowed in the course of the year 1923-24 has been enacted. The maximum number of Unions at any one time during the year in possession of authority to borrow under the Act was 104. The highest total sum authorised to be borrowed at any time during the year was £8,032,076, as compared with £5,819,258 in 1921-22. At the end of the year the number of Unions dropped to 54, and the total sum to £5,714,000. The total amount actually borrowed at any time during the year was very considerably below the total sum authorised, and probably not more than half the Unions holding sanctions utilised them to the full at any one time.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Out of about £24,000,000 which Local Authorities were authorised to borrow for expenditure on public works during the year, over £8,400,000 was for works certified to have been undertaken with a view to the provision of employment; and grants were made by the Unemployment Grants Committee in aid of schemes of local authorities in England and Wales of the estimated total cost of £14,794,808.*

By the Expiring Laws Act, 1922, the operation of the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, has been indefinitely extended. The principal activity of bodies acting under the Act has been the use of farm colonies for the reception, maintenance and training of able-bodied men in receipt of Poor Law relief. Nineteen Metropolitan Unions have taken advantage of the Hollesley Bay colony, belonging to the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, and large numbers of men have been sent to the colony for varying periods. In August, 1922, the number of men in training reached 348. There was a seasonal decrease to 180 on the 1st January, but by the 31st March, 1923, the number had again risen to 351.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The total number of pensions payable in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the 30th March, 1923, was 936,953, of which 331,146 were payable to men and 605,807 to women; the total included 12,355 pensions awarded under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. Of the total number of pensions payable, 872,912, or 93·2 per cent., were at the maximum rate of 10s. a week. As compared with the 31st March, 1922, the number of pensioners in England shows an increase of 4·4 per cent., in Wales an increase of 4·8 per cent., and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland an increase of 4·2 per cent.

* See also the August issue of this GAZETTE, page 277, and the article on page 316 of this issue.

HOUSING.

On the 31st March, 1923, the assisted scheme authorised by the Housing Act of 1919, which the Government decided in 1921 to limit to 176,000 houses, was almost complete. Less than 17,000 houses remained to be erected under it by Local Authorities and Public Utility Societies; tenders had been approved for over 13,000 of these, and 9,435 had been started. Since the original scheme came into operation over 159,000 houses have been completed by Local Authorities and Public Utility Societies under it. The total capital cost of assisted housing schemes will be about £190,000,000, or about £1,080 per house. The amount which Parliament will be asked to vote as a grant in aid of the deficit on housing schemes during 1923-24 is £8,710,000, nearly £1,000,000 less than in the preceding year.

Loans to local authorities amounting to £100,361 were sanctioned under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 and 1919, to assist the purchase by occupiers of houses not exceeding £800 in value. The loans sanctioned under these Acts since the Act of 1899 was passed amount to £836,127, the loans being sanctioned to 62 Local Authorities.

OTHER SUBJECTS.

Among the other subjects dealt with in the Report are:—Public Health (infectious diseases, maternity and child welfare, welfare of the blind, inspection and supervision of food, general health questions, sanitary administration, town planning); Local Government and Local Finance; National Health Insurance. There is a special section dealing with the Welsh Board of Health. Various statistical and other appendices are added to the Report.

PAY, ETC., OF STATE SERVANTS : REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

THE Committee appointed* in March last "to enquire into the present standard of remuneration and other conditions of employment of the various classes of State servants employed in the Civil Service and in the three Fighting Services, and to make recommendations thereon," have issued their Report.†

In discussing the factors governing rates of pay in these Services the Committee express the view that "there is only one principle in which all the factors of responsibility, cost of living, marriage, children, social position, etc., are included—the employer should pay what is necessary to recruit and retain an efficient staff." They also lay down two general considerations in regard to the pay of State servants; (i) that the State should hold the scales even between its own servants and those through whose enterprise its servants are paid; and (ii) that employees of the Crown would have a real ground for complaint if their pay were related to wages in industry only in the time of low wages. "If they do not get pay relative to the boom, they must be spared the full severity of the slump. The State as a model employer offers security, a pension, a dignified service, and a moderate wage, in exchange for the excitement and possibilities of private employment."

The Report contains a series of graphs showing the course of wages between the years 1919 and 1923 in a number of industries which are subject to world competition (cotton, coal mining, iron and steel, mercantile marine and agriculture), and in certain "sheltered" trades, i.e., trades not exposed to world competition (bricklayers, dock labourers, gas stokers, and labourers employed in the non-trading services of local authorities). The Committee find that in the "competitive" trades the level of wages at the present time shows a reduction ranging from about 10 per cent. to 40 per cent. on the amounts paid in 1919; while in the "sheltered" trades the reduction is only from 5 to 15 per cent.

As regards the *Fighting Services* the Committee refer with approval to a scheme which was laid before them by the Army Council for a reduction in the pay of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Army. They consider that the pay of naval ratings is now too high, and should be reduced parallel with reductions in the pay of the rank and file of the Army. They also suggest certain reductions in the pay of junior officers in the Army and in the Navy, but not in that of the higher ranks of officers. Substantial reductions might also, in their opinion, be made in the rates of pay of junior officers and of men in the Air Force.

As regards the *Civil Service*, they point to the great increase in the total cost, owing to the increase in duties since 1914. The increase in cost per head, on the other hand, is less than that in the Army or in the Navy.

The Committee have divided Civil Servants into eight large groups, as follows:—

		Cost in 1923 expressed as percentage of cost in 1914.	
		Total cost.	Cost per head.
		(1914 = 100).	(1914 = 100).
Mainly salaried staff:—			
Administrative	206	139	
Professional, scientific and technical	243	179	
Inspectorate	215	193	
Executive and clerical	402	170	
Mainly wages staff:—			
Writing assistants and typing	728	197	
Manipulative (mainly Post Office)	208	220	
Messengers, charwomen, etc.	300	203	
Industrial	199	176	

* See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1923, page 153.
† Report of Committee on Pay, &c., of State Servants. H.M. Stationery Office Price 6d. net.

The Committee deal with each of these classes in turn, and make various suggestions as to their remuneration. In most cases they do not recommend any change in the present rates of pay; but the following recommendations of the Committee may be noticed:—

The rates of pay of the *inspectorate* class should be examined in detail in the near future. The Government should limit as much as possible the number of Ministries which have to interfere with each industry, in view of the indirect, as well as the direct, burden of inspections upon industry.

For the routine clerical classes the normal attendance should be eight hours, with three-quarters of an hour off for lunch.

The Post Office should consider whether such high maximum rates as are now paid [to postmen and other "manipulative" grades] are necessary.

The increase in staff [in the Civil Service generally] is fully accounted for by the extra work which has been thrown on the Civil Service since 1914, and the average individual output is not less than in 1914.

Young women should be recruited for administrative, executive and clerical grades at a lower rate than young men; a woman's value is lower owing to the prospect of marriage, and the consequent doubt whether the woman will be able to give continuity of employment.

On the general question of the *total* increase in cost of staff (which, as stated above, is a distinct question from that of increase in cost per head), the Committee say that they were furnished with information which convinced them that "no power except Parliament can materially reduce the load. . . . Our public business is so huge that no one except Parliament can order reform; and, till Parliament gives the word, duties which need never have been imposed or have long since lost their value employ the staff who still have to be paid."

EX-SERVICE MEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

A COMMITTEE was appointed by Mr. Stanley Baldwin (then Chancellor of the Exchequer) on the 2nd May last, to enquire into the action taken throughout the Civil Service in consequence of the Report of the Lytton Committee* in regard to the appointment of ex-Service men to posts in the Civil Service; and to consider the initial rates of remuneration of such men, etc. The Committee, which meets under the chairmanship of Lord Southborough, has presented two interim Reports.†

In the first Report the Committee recommend that, "with effect from 1st April, 1923, or the date of permanent appointment, if later, a basic increase of £20, making with present cost of living bonus‡ slightly over £32 per annum inclusive, or approximately 12s. 6d. per week, should be granted to successful candidates, both male and female, who, under existing arrangements, enter either the London scale for the clerical class at the basic rate of £80 per annum (*i.e.*, £144 inclusive of bonus‡), or the scales laid down for the provincial clerical and departmental classes at the corresponding incremental points." Basic increases for those entering at £90 and at £100 (or the provincial clerical and departmental class scales at corresponding incremental points) were also recommended, as follows:—Basic rate £90, making with bonus‡ £162, — a basic increase of £15 (or including bonus‡ slightly over £21); basic rate £100, making with bonus‡ £176, — a basic increase of £10 (or, including bonus‡, slightly under £14).

These recommendations were subject to the proviso that in no case should an officer, under the Committee's proposals, become entitled to a rate in excess of that which would be received by an officer of the same age, recruited at the normal age at the minimum of the clerical or of the departmental class scale, as the case might be.

The second interim Report deals with the general question of the action taken by the various Government Departments in pursuance of the recommendations of the Lytton Committee as to substitution and the employment of ex-Service men in a temporary capacity in the Civil Service.

The following figures, given in the Report, show how the proportion of ex-Service men has increased among the temporary staff in the Government service during the last four years:—

	1st July 1919.	1st July 1920.*	1st July 1923.
Ex-Service men ...	24,271	42,919	39,218
Non-Service men ...	34,163	16,564	2,882
Women ...	115,680	62,432	19,517
Total ...	174,114	121,915	61,617

No fewer than 16,301 of the ex-Service temporary personnel at present employed are disabled men, who thus comprise slightly over one-quarter of the total temporary staff.

In view of these figures the Committee consider that "a very genuine endeavour has been made to give full effect to the recommendations of the Lytton Committee, and to the Govern-

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1920, page 481, and for August, 1921, p. 293.

† The initial salary of "Lytton entrants," and the appointment of ex-Service men to posts in the Civil Service; Interim Report and Second Interim Report. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d. net, each.

‡ The Report is dated 20th June, 1923; the cost of living bonus throughout the Civil Service was reduced as from the 1st September.

"ment's policy of according to ex-Service men preference in the matter of employment in the Civil Service."

Of the women temporarily employed on the 1st July, 1923, approximately 1,700 were ex-Service women; and slightly over 10,000 were typists, telegraphists, nurses, charwomen, etc. Of the remainder, approximately 2,500 were employed in the Ministry of Pensions, and nearly 4,000 were employed on work appropriate to or normally performed by women. (In the Ministry of Pensions, two successive Ministers have given definite pledges that a portion of the work of the Department should be reserved for women. The proportion of non-service personnel in the substitutable grades has already been reduced far below the proportion—33½ per cent.—recommended by the Lytton Committee; and further large discharges of women are to take place during the course of the financial year.)

After making these allowances, there remain not more than 1,200 women at most to be accounted for. A small percentage of these have qualified for permanent appointments; and a large proportion of the remainder will be discharged by the Inland Revenue Department, in which they are employed, at the end of the financial year in March next.

The non-Service men now temporarily employed number 2,882; and this includes a considerable body of technical and professional officers, and also an appreciable number of part-time staff, both urban and rural.

The Committee consider that, generally speaking, the Departmental Substitution Committees have discharged adequately the task assigned to them; though recently, as the number of cases has grown less and less, it has become increasingly difficult to reach agreement between the interested parties.

The Committee have also received testimony to the value of the work done by the Joint Substitution Board. They suggest an alteration in the constitution of the Board, by the addition of a third member (the other two representing, as now, the Treasury and the Ministry of Labour), who should be "a person of standing, a man of affairs, not in the Civil Service, nor representative of any particular interest affected." They consider, however, that the Board should have only advisory functions, and that the final responsibility should remain, as at present, with the Minister at the head of each Department.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 28th August, 1923, the number of men in training was 11,934, and the number awaiting training 6,965. Since 1st August, 1919, 75,476 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to the 5th September, 1923, 44,706 apprentices had been accepted for training with 17,859 employers. The apprentices rejected up to the 5th September, 1923, numbered 2,179. Of those accepted 43,315 had terminated their training and 1,391 were still in training. The number of men who have received institutional training is 2,313.

NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

On the 31st August, 1923, the names of 27,851 employers were entered upon the King's National Roll.

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

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES IN AUGUST.

DURING the five weeks ended 1st September there were reported to the Ministry of Labour one meeting of a Joint Industrial Council, one of an Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee and one of a District Council.

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

A STATISTICAL Summary* of output, and of the costs of production, proceeds, and profits of the coal-mining industry for the quarter ended 31st March, 1923, has been prepared by the Mines Department in continuation of similar quarterly statements previously published for earlier dates.

The Summary shows that at undertakings which produced about 95 per cent. of the total quantity of saleable coal raised during the quarter, 67,077,543 tons of coal were raised, and that after deducting 4,073,982 tons used at the mines and 1,667,669 tons supplied to the miners, the quantity disposable commercially was 61,335,892 tons. According to the Monthly Trade and Navigation Accounts the total quantity of coal shipped for export and foreign bunkers during the quarter was 23,262,722 tons.

* Cmd. 1949. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2d.

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

	Amount.	Per ton disposable commercially.	
	£	s.	d.
Wages	35,441,768	11	6·68
Stores and Timber	6,358,536	2	0·88
Other Costs (management, salaries, insurances, repairs, office and general expenses, depreciation, etc.)	7,331,354	2	4·69
Miners' Welfare Fund contributions	279,453	0	1·09
Royalties (including the rental value of freehold minerals where worked by the proprietor)	1,613,156	0	6·31
Total Costs	51,024,267	16	7·65
Deduct proceeds of miners' coal	361,064	0	1·41
Net Costs	50,663,203	16	6·24

The proceeds of commercial disposals were £58,156,716, equivalent to 18s. 11·56d. per ton, leaving a credit balance of £7,493,513, or 2s. 5·32d. per ton. In the quarter ended 31st December, 1922, there was a credit balance of 1s. 6·39d. per ton.

An analysis by 13 districts shows that in South Staffs and Salop, Cumberland, Bristol and Kent there were debit balances ranging from 2·82d. to 1s. 2·97d. per ton, and in other districts credit balances ranging from 5·96d. to 3s. 2·96d. per ton.

The number of workpeople employed was 1,087,733, the number of man-shifts worked was 73,504,058, and the number of man-shifts lost that could have been worked was 6,163,833. The average output per man-shift worked, based on the tonnage of saleable coal raised, was 18·25 cwt. This figure compares with 18·10 cwt. in the previous quarter. The average earnings per man-shift worked were 9s. 7·72d., this figure being calculated on the number of man-shifts worked by workers of all ages employed both above and below ground. In the December quarter the corresponding average was 9s. 5·23d.

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

District.	Per ton disposable commercially.			Per man-shift worked.	
	Net Costs.*	Proceeds.	Wages.†	Output.	Earnings.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Cwts.	s. d.
Scotland	15 11·18	19 2·14	11 4·28	19·63	9 11·86
Northumberland	16 9·80	19 11·80	11 4·88	17·31	8 11·56
Durham	17 0·05	19 11·93	11 2·16	17·68	9 2·03
S. Wales and Mon.	18 2·73	20 5·65	12 3·63	16·91	9 6·51
Yorks and E. Mids.†	14 11·43	17 6·78	10 10·86	20·84	10 5·70
Lancs, N. Staffs and Cheshire	18 0·25	18 11·26	12 9·95	15·05	8 8·81
N. Wales	17 7·25	18 1·21	13 3·00	13·95	8 0·81
S. Staffs and Salop... ..	15 0·92	14 10·10	9 3·98	18·36	7 7·48
Cumberland... ..	21 2·77	19 11·80	14 8·82	14·10	9 4·99
Bristol	21 5·55	20 8·13	15 4·17	11·43	7 10·84
Forest of Dean	17 1·74	18 0·54	12 6·40	14·68	7 10·60
Somerset	17 3·74	18 9·57	12 0·99	14·06	7 6·81
Kent	18 10·46	18 2·31	13 8·41	21·53	12 9·91
Great Britain	16 6·24	18 11·56	11 6·68	18·25	9 7·72

HOURS OF LABOUR OF COAL TIPPERS AND TRIMMERS IN SOUTH WALES.

REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY

AN Interim Report of the Court of Inquiry appointed by the Minister of Labour on the 20th March, 1923,§ to enquire into the necessity of putting on a third shift for coal tippers and trimmers in the South Wales coal-exporting district, has been issued.¶

The Court first met on the 23rd March, and sat for the hearing of evidence, at Cardiff, on the 9th, 10th and 11th April. After the employers' case had been closed the Court, at the request of both parties, adjourned the further hearing; and, in the meantime, in the capacity of mediators, discussed with both sides the practicability of a settlement by agreement. A provisional agreement was concluded on the 12th April, and, after further negotiations, in which the members of the Court again acted as mediators, a further supplementary agreement was concluded on the 12th May. The texts of the agreement are appended to the Report.

The general effect of these agreements was to provide for the institution of a partial third shift, for an experimental period of six months, and for steps to be taken to stabilise tariffs until the 30th June, 1924, or for such shorter period as the third shift continued to operate.

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

§ See the April issue of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, page 153.
¶ Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning Hours of Labour of Coal Tippers and Trimmers in South Wales. Cmd. 1948. H.M. Stationery Office, 1923. Price 3d. net.

The agreements also provided for the establishment of a Consultative Joint Committee at each port, to meet once a month, for the purpose of considering any suggestions from either side for the furtherance of the work and promotion of efficiency.

It was considered that it would not be necessary, during the provisional period, to work more than one-third of the tips on the third shift; if the employers at any time during the six months considered the trade warranted the working of a larger number the matter was to be referred to the above-mentioned Consultative Committee.

The Court state that they have thought it best in the meantime to adjourn the further hearing of the case *sine die* in the hope that these agreements will form the basis of a permanent settlement, which will obviate the necessity of further inquiry.

MINERS' WELFARE FUND: REPORT FOR 1921-1922.

SECTION 20 of the Mining Industry Act, 1920, provides for the institution of a fund "to be applied for such purposes connected with the social well-being, recreation, and conditions of living of workers in or about coal mines, and with mining education and research, as the Board of Trade, after consultation with any Government Department concerned, may approve."

The fund is provided by a levy of a penny a ton on the output of every mine, for a period of five and a half years. Four-fifths of the levy must be allocated to the districts in which the levy was raised—not necessarily, of course, to any individual collieries or villages therein—and one-fifth is not subject to any such restriction. This latter sum has been mainly allocated for mining education, or for research regarding health and safety problems of coal mining.

The allocation of the fund is vested in a Committee of five persons appointed by the Board of Trade; and the first Report of this Committee (which is called the Miners' Welfare Committee), covering the years 1921 and 1922, has now been published.*

In allocating the fund, the Committee have allowed great freedom as regards choice of objects, and as regards details of procedure. They have allowed "the largest possible measure of self-determination" to the District Welfare Committees, with whom they have worked in close co-operation throughout. One of the very few schemes proposed to them to which they have not been able to assent, as being contrary to the intentions of the Act, was that put forward by the District Welfare Committee for Lancashire and Cheshire, which involved the utilisation of the fund for the augmentation of the wages of miners working on short time.

The financial position of the fund on 31st December, 1922, was as follows:—

District.	Four-fifths of total contributions received.†	Total Allocated.	Total paid on account of allocations.
	£	£	£
Fife and Clackmannan	28,488	11,595	1,964
Lothians	14,714	—	—
Lanarkshire	70,162	49,635	1,024
Ayrshire	15,518	50,000	12,000
Northumberland	46,907	28,815	3,380
Durham	126,526	—	—
Cumberland	7,156	—	—
Lancashire and Cheshire	76,568	—	—
North Wales	10,770	3,250	—
South Yorkshire	102,807	86,522	7,667
West Yorkshire... ..	55,958	34,558	1,728
Nottinghamshire	51,221	49,528	9,903
Derbyshire	55,222	67,777	17,089
South Derbyshire	7,790	2,220	1,420
North Staffordshire	24,076	50	60
Cannock Chase	21,414	6,000	2,800
South Staffordshire	6,441	—	—
Leicestershire	9,694	3,000	—
Warwickshire	18,880	17,369	6,018
South Wales	179,805	87,500	46,294
Minor Districts‡	14,929	11,622	7,133
Total earmarked for District Funds†	945,046	509,441	118,470
General Fund	236,949	14,570	3,828
Total	1,181,995	524,011	122,298

It will be observed that in two districts (Ayrshire and Derbyshire) the sums allocated exceed the contributions levied. In these districts, and in Nottinghamshire and in West Yorkshire, allocations have been made in advance of contributions, the money, in many cases, having been advanced by colliery companies, on account of subsequent instalments. In Ayrshire a mansion standing in large gardens, with various subsidiary buildings, has been bought and equipped for use as a convalescent home for miners and their wives; the purchase price and alterations amounted to £20,000, and the remaining £30,000 is to be invested to provide partial endowment, while the miners will pay a levy of a penny a week to provide the rest of the cost of maintenance.

The sums allocated to district funds (as given in the Table above) amount to £509,441. This includes £3,937 allocated and

* Miners' Welfare Fund. First Report. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1s. 6d. net.
† Four-fifths of the contributions of each district are earmarked for allocation to that district.
‡ Shropshire, Forest of Dean, Somerset, Bristol, and Kent.

paid for administration expenses; the remaining £505,504 was distributed as follows:—

	No. of Schemes.	Total Allocated. £
Recreation grounds, playing fields, swimming pools, etc. ...	125	311,175
Institutes, clubs, libraries, etc. (including small grants for purchases of books) ...	99	78,665
Pit-head baths and drying-rooms, slipper baths, wash-houses, etc. ...	4	29,500
Hospitals (structural additions, equipment, or endowment for existing public institutions) ...	16	12,190
Convalescent home ...	1	50,000
District nursing services ...	4	8,000
Ambulance services ...	4	2,170
Mining education (lectures, scholarships, structural additions to existing public buildings, etc.) ...	*5	*12,604
Colliery bands, pit-head shelters ...	3	1,200
	261	505,504

The Committee have laid it down that allocations will normally be made for purposes of capital expenditure only, as opposed to casual outlay in aid of recurrent maintenance expenses; also that allocations must be for the provision of *new* welfare facilities, and not for the relief of already existing schemes; this involves, as a corollary, that the fund shall not be used in relief of existing charges which fall either upon local rates or upon the national exchequer. Thirdly, safeguards must normally be provided, usually in the form of a trust deed.

Allocations from the "general" fund (*i.e.*, the one-fifth not earmarked for separate districts) for research purposes are normally administered, through the Secretary for Mines, by the Safety in Mines Research Board, and are accompanied by similar conditions and safeguards.

MINERS' BLINDNESS (NYSTAGMUS.)

THE Committee appointed by the Medical Research Council to enquire into the causation and means of prevention of miners' nystagmus have issued a second Report.[†] Since the date of the first Report[‡] the Home Office and the Secretary for Mines especially invited the attention of the committee to the great increase that was taking place in claims for compensation, and in the first section of the present Report the incapacity that results from the disease is treated in detail, with special reference to its relation to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The results of the Committee's investigations are summarised in the Report as follows:—

A large proportion of underground miners exhibit signs which, *if complained of*, might establish a claim for compensation.

Consideration of the records for compensation claims in other countries as well as in this country, and of the factors which have been at work influencing these claims, leads to the conclusion that there is no sound evidence of increase in the clinical entity, miners' nystagmus.

The standard of incapacity in this country is governed by the nomenclature of the disease in the schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Act. This standard differs from, and is decidedly less stringent than, that adopted on the Continent.

The nomenclature which determines the standard of incapacity has an important influence upon the duration of incapacity. Hence we find that the duration of incapacity is unreasonably extended in this country as compared with the Continent.

The standard of physical signs which is in vogue in this country for deciding whether any case should be certified as suffering from miners' nystagmus too readily admits psychoneurotic cases to whom harm and not benefit accrues from compensation. A stricter standard based on physical signs should be adopted.

Impartial assessment of the amount of incapacity found in cases in receipt of compensation points to a need for periodic reassessment.

The Committee have therefore reached the following conclusions:—

The official figures show an apparent increase in the disease.

The cases, however, fall into two groups:—(i) Severe cases of the type recognised as incapacitating in France and Belgium. This group has not increased in these countries in recent years, and appears even to have diminished as the safety lamps have improved. (ii) Cases in which the psychological element largely predominates, owing to the wide interpretation placed upon the definition of the disease in the schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Act. This group is the one which has increased the reported cases.

The decision as to whether any given case belongs to Group 1 or Group 2 is purely a medical question, and should

be left to medical men who have had special experience of the disease.

Most cases of miners' nystagmus are only partially incapacitated; they benefit physically and psychologically by work. Some require work above ground; others are fit for suitable work below ground. All men in this group should receive every encouragement to start work as soon as possible.

A few exceptional cases with short mining experience should never return to work below ground; these men should in their own interests be drafted out of the industry immediately.

The second section of the Report deals with the relative importance of errors of refraction in the incidence of the disease.

DUNDEE JUTE WORKERS' DISPUTE.

THE dispute in the jute industry in Dundee, which had been in progress since February, terminated on 29th August.

As has been reported in previous issues of this GAZETTE,* the dispute arose out of a difference between a firm and their workpeople respecting the number of spinners to be employed at certain spinning frames; and the initial stoppage of work occurred on 23rd February, involving about 1,800 workpeople employed by the firm in question. Subsequently the stoppage extended to other works belonging to the company of which the firm originally affected was a branch, and by 13th March about 11,000 workpeople were involved in the dispute. This led to a general lock-out on 23rd March, affecting nearly all the jute spinning and weaving factories in Dundee, the total number of workpeople involved in the dispute being about 29,000. On 18th April the lock-out was raised, pending examination of the facts by a Joint Committee and conferences, and the whole of the workpeople resumed work, except about 300, the proposed change in whose working conditions had been the cause of the original strike.

Attempts to secure a settlement having failed, the general lock-out of about 29,000 workpeople was re-imposed on 1st June, but all the works were re-opened on 8th June, except those in which the dispute originated, at which about 1,800 workpeople continued to be involved. These works were re-opened on 9th July, and there was some resumption of work during July and August until, on 29th August, the strike was declared at an end, and work was generally resumed on the following day. By the terms of the settlement the assistance of a number of *orra* spinners is to be given in certain of the spinning flats.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY.

IN recent issues of this GAZETTE[†] reference has been made to negotiations and settlements in regard to wages, hours and other conditions in the building industry. On the question of hours the Award of the Arbitrator, Sir Hugh Fraser, was issued on 20th August. The Award provides that the existing rule whereby 41½ hours per week are worked during December and January shall be rescinded, and that the working time of 44 hours per week shall proceed throughout the year, except during the period of summer-time as determined by statute, when the working time shall be extended to 46½ hours per week. Provision is also made that in December and January the interval of one hour for dinner may be reduced to half an hour on works where artificial light cannot be reasonably supplied, so that work may terminate at 4.30 p.m. If, however, on any such work the majority of the operatives request that the interval of one hour for dinner may still be maintained and the weekly hours consequently reduced to 41½, the employer shall be at liberty to arrange accordingly. Nothing in the Award is to prevent employers and operatives in any town or area from maintaining, by mutual consent, the 44-hour week throughout the year. The Award became operative on 17th September, 1923.

MIGRATION OF POOR PERSONS AT THE COST OF THE POOR RATES.

A CIRCULAR[‡] has been issued to Boards of Guardians by the Ministry of Health setting out the conditions upon which money raised from the poor rates may, with the consent of the Minister of Health, be expended on the migration of (1) any orphan or deserted child under 16 chargeable to the Union who has consented thereto before Justices in Petty Sessions, and (2) any other poor persons residing in the Union, whether in receipt of relief or not.

The Empire Settlement Act, 1922, provides for the establishment of schemes under which His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Dominion concerned may co-operate in the promotion of migration from the United Kingdom to the Dominions, and the Circular states that it is obviously desirable that the migration of persons at the cost of the poor rates should be brought into co-ordination with those schemes. Up to the present time the only suitable schemes brought into operation are for assisted passages for adults (with or without families)

* See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTES for April, p. 123, May, p. 159, and June, p. 199.

† April 1923, page 122; June, 1923, page 198, and August, 1923, page 280.

‡ Empire Settlement Act, 1922: Ministry of Health Circular No. 409 to Boards of Guardians, 28th July, 1923. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d. net.

* These are *additional* to any grants that may be made from the "general fund in aid of mining education or research."

† Second Report of the Miners' Nystagmus Committee. H.M. Stationery Office, 1923. Price 9d. net. Miners' nystagmus is an occupational disease peculiar to miners, the chief symptom and physical sign of which is a rotatory oscillation of the eyeballs.

‡ See the May, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, page 204.

to Australia, and for children and certain juveniles to Canada; and details of these schemes are embodied in the Circular, with special reference to the cost of assistance in each case to the Guardians.

It is pointed out that the Minister of Health and the Oversea Settlement Department are agreed that the settlement of juveniles and children, under proper supervision, is the most beneficial and successful form of migration. It is felt that more general action could with advantage be taken in this direction, and the Minister wishes to commend the subject to the special consideration of every Board of Guardians. At the same time, it is regarded as most important, with a view to preventing increased inequality of sex distribution, to endeavour as far as possible to ensure that the girls who proceed overseas should not be fewer in number than the boys.

Appended to the Circular are two memoranda, the first dealing with the procedure to be followed by Boards of Guardians in cases where they consider migration to be desirable, and the second giving details (supplied by the Superintendent of Immigration for Canada) of the system which has been in operation since 1888 for the settlement in Canada of Poor Law and other suitable children from the United Kingdom.

UNITED STATES COAL COMMISSION: SECOND REPORT.*

THE second Report of the United States Coal Commission† was issued on 8th July, and is concerned with the anthracite branch of the coal industry. The first Report, which dealt with the bituminous branch, was noticed in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1923, page 127. The final Report will contain recommendations for both branches.

The chief recommendations made by the Commission to Congress are stated to be as follows:—

(1) Congress shall give the President authority in the event of a cessation of operations in the industry to declare an emergency, take charge of mines, fix wages and the compensation to be paid to the owner, subject to review by the courts, and distribute the product as he deems wise and just.

(2) The Commission is opposed to Government ownership of coal mines, but considers that coal is as much a public utility as gas or any other service or commodity that has been brought under public regulation. In the operation of coal mines as in the operation of railroads, telephones, water companies or banks, the public interest must be respected and served.

(3) But there is not yet sufficient basis in knowledge or experience to determine what form of regulation will ultimately be most advantageous. It may be that the principle of individual or corporate responsibility should be maintained as most likely to insure economical and efficient management of the industry, and that the public interest may be adequately safeguarded by the creation of a Governmental authority with power to require financial and operating reports, to prescribe uniform methods of cost accounting and to determine the conditions on which coal may be shifted in interstate commerce.

(4) The Commission is convinced that publicity as to costs, prices and profits is necessary to protect the interests of the public.

(5) As freight charges alone take from 16 to 30 cents. of each dollar paid by the anthracite consumer, the Commission urges the Interstate Commerce Commission to re-examine the reasonableness of freight rates.

(6) Re-adjustment of the royalties paid to owners of leased coal lands.

The *Survey*, commenting on these recommendations, considers that the first is neither new nor very important, and that the President probably already has power to seize the mines in a national emergency.

The opinion that the time has come for coal mining to be recognised as a public utility is also criticised as not being new. It was suggested by the Anthracite Strike Commission in 1902-03. Also the Commission appears to have ignored recent judicial decisions which would effectively prevent the recognition of coal mining as a public utility. Attention is drawn especially to the decision of the United States Supreme Court on the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations in which it is expressly stated that "it has never been supposed since the adoption of the Constitution that the business of the butcher or the baker, the tailor, the woodchopper, the mining operator or the miner, was clothed with such public interest that the price of his product or his wages could be fixed by State regulations." Labour journals also emphasise the ignoring by the Commission of recent judicial decisions.

The same is held to apply to the recommendation that a Governmental authority should determine the conditions on which coal may be shipped in interstate commerce. Congress on a previous occasion authorised the Federal Trade Commission to attempt this and voted funds for the purpose. But the Courts laid it down that the "mere act of production is not commerce"; and that the production of coal, like the production of steel, is not so related to interstate commerce as to justify its regulation by the Federal Government.

A second set of recommendations, more concrete and explicit, is addressed not to Congress but to the coal owners and miners who were attempting to conclude a new agreement to take the place of the one which expired at the end of August. These aim at strengthening the conciliation machinery and making it possible for differences to be settled within the industry itself without outside interference.

The Commission "awaits with interest whether the new agreement shall show a co-operative spirit, a clear idea of partnership on the part of all concerned in it, and a proper conception of the rights of the American people."

The Report also includes elaborate data on wages, cost of living prices, cost of production, etc.

"PEACEFUL PICKETING" ILLEGAL ON U.S. RAILWAYS.*

DURING the strike of railway shopmen in the United States last year [See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1922, page 289, and October, 1922, page 404] a temporary Federal injunction was issued on 5th October restraining the striking railway shopmen from interfering in any way with the operation of the railways. The reasons stated for its issue were the acts of violence committed by the strikers, which in some cases had resulted in loss of life and considerable damage to property. The injunction made the officials of the Union concerned liable to arrest and imprisonment in the event of further illegal action on the part of the strikers. Theoretically the strike is still in force, as no general settlement was reached; practically it is over, and the vast majority of the men have either returned to their former work or been re-engaged.

The temporary injunction was made permanent by the Federal District Court of Chicago on 12th July last. It not only prohibits all interference with the operation of the railways, but renders peaceful picketing illegal and ties up the funds of the Unions in so far as their use for strike purposes is concerned. It prohibits Union officials from publishing any statements in connection with the strike and from holding meetings or processions. The injunction is made applicable to the leading officials of the various Unions concerned, who are mentioned by name.

TRADE BOARDS IN NORWAY: EXTENSION OF ACT.†

THE Norwegian provisional Act on Industrial Outwork, of which a full account was given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1918, page 265, was extended by an Act of 6th July, for a further period of five years, till 30th June, 1928. The amendments introduced in the new Act are unimportant. The general supervision of the carrying out of the Act is to be in the hands of the Board of Health, while previously it was largely in the hands of the Outwork Board, and both these Boards, as well as the Wages Board, are in future to have access to wage lists and workers' wage books, and may take copies of lists of workers and wage lists.

REDUCTION OF WAGES IN SWEDEN BETWEEN 1920 AND 1922.‡

A REPORT on Collective Agreements in 1922, issued by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs, gives certain particulars of the percentage reductions in the "peak" wage-rates of 1920 which had been effected by the end of 1922. (For a general summary of this Report see the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1923, page 163). The following Table shows the reductions effected in individual industries:—

Industry.	Percentage reduction in wages in 1922 as compared with 1920.	Industry.	Percentage reduction in wages in 1922 as compared with 1920.
Ore Mines:		Baking	25
(Central Sweden) ..	40	Sugar Manufacture ..	47-50
(Northern Sweden) ..	25	Breweries (Stockholm) ..	35
Coal Mines	43	Slaughterhouses ..	20
Building Materials ..	45-50	Boot and Shoemaking ..	35
Small Glass Manufacture	45	Rubber Goods Manufacture ..	45
Bottle Glass Manufacture	39	Artificial Manures ..	39
Saw Milling	43	Match Manufacture ..	34
Woodwork and Cabinet Making	30	Building Trades:—	
Wood Pulp Manufacture	48	Bricklayers and Carpenters	43§
Paper making	52-54	Plumbers	36
Bookbinding	35	Unskilled Labourers ..	45§
Printing	30	Commercial and Shop Assistants, &c. (Stockholm)	38
Flour milling	40	Dock Labour	33‡
Electric Fitting	33-40	Seamen	44-50
Telegraph Linesmen ..	40	Agriculture	40-45
Textile Mills	30		
Clothing	33		
Tanning			

* Despatch from H.M. Embassy at Washington, dated 20th July.

† Norsk Lovtidende, 9th July, 1923.

‡ Sociala Meddelanden, No. 5, 1923, and a despatch from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Stockholm dated 1st June, 1923.

§ The reduction in the case of piece workers was about 40 per cent.

* *Survey*, 1st August; *Literary Digest*, 21st July, and *American Federationist*, August, 1923.

† The appointment of this Commission was reported in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1922, page 479.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	73%
Food only	...	...	...	68%

FOOD.

AT 1st September the average increase in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary, as shown by the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour, was 68 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. at 1st August. The retail prices of eggs, bacon, butter and cheese rose considerably during the month, and milk and fish were also somewhat dearer, on the average, on 1st September than a month earlier. On the other hand, there was a considerable fall in the prices of potatoes, and sugar and British mutton were also cheaper on 1st September than on 1st August.

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

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

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Sept., 1923, as compared with July, 1914.			Corre- sponding figure for 1st August, 1923.
	Large Towns (Popula- tions over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	82	76	79	79
Thin Flank	54	55	54	56
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	41	38	40	40
Thin Flank	12	18	15	16
Mutton, British				
Legs	94	92	93	95
Breast	76	70	73	75
Mutton, Frozen				
Legs	86	72	79	78
Breast	28	29	28	29
Bacon (streaky)* ..	73	63	68	54
Fish	117	96	107	103
Flour	45	47	46	47
Bread	54	49	52	52
Tea	66	68	67	67
Sugar (granulated) ..	226	207	217	228
Milk	57	65	61	58
Butter—				
Fresh	51	58	54	43
Salt	47	49	48	39
Cheese†	61	63	62	51
Margarine	— 5	— 7	— 6	— 6
Eggs (fresh)	96	98	98	51
Potatoes	95	67	81	108
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	70	66	68	65

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

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st September, 1923, was approximately 47 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 September the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, was about the same as a month earlier and approximately 120 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the retail prices of coal at 1st September showed little change on those of a month earlier, and averaged approximately 85 per cent. above those of July, 1914. The prices of gas and lamp oil remained at about 60 per cent., and those of candles at about 35 per cent., above the pre-war level. The prices of matches, also, showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st September, as compared with July, 1914, was about 80 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 85 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st September is approximately 73 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 71 per cent. for 1st August.

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

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1923.

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

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

Month (beginning of).	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	161	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	69
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73
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.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE decline in employment, which began in July, continued in August. The industries principally affected included the pig-iron, tinplate, shipbuilding, wool textile, hosiery, textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., furniture and pottery trades. On the other hand there was an improvement in the building trades in some districts. Employment was still good in the tinplate trade, fairly good in coal mining, coachbuilding, brick-making, and the carpet trade, and fair in building, tailoring, paper and printing trades; but in most of the other principal industries it was slack.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.*

Among 1,149,588 members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 11·4 at the end of August, compared with 11·1 at the end of July, and with 14·4 at the end of August, 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 27th August was 11·5, compared with 11·3 at 23rd July and 12·3 at the end of August, 1922. For males alone the percentage was 12·3 at the 27th August, as compared with 12·2 at 23rd July; for females the corresponding figures were 9·4 and 8·8. The number of workpeople on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges at 27th August was approximately 1,266,000, of whom men numbered 943,000 and women 237,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 30th July was 1,235,000, of whom 936,000 were men and 223,000 women. (It should be noted that some unemployed persons, e.g., some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and the Live Register figures, therefore, do not indicate the total number unemployed.)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—At coal mines employment continued fairly good on the whole. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th August was 1,165,787, an increase of 0·2 per cent. as compared with July, 1923, and of 6·4 per cent. as compared with August, 1922. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 25th August was 5·14, as compared with 4·89 in July and 5·33 in August, 1922.

At iron mines employment showed little general change as compared with the previous month; in the Cleveland district it continued bad. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 0·8 per cent. in the number employed, as compared with July, and an increase of 47·8 per cent. over the numbers employed in August, 1922. The average number of days worked per week by the mines was 5·32, as compared with 5·29 in July and in August, 1922. At shale mines employment continued fair. At limestone quarries it declined to fair in the Buxton district; it was slack in the Weardale district and bad in the Clitheroe district. At slate quarries employment was fair generally, and showed a further improvement. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland, and at grindstone and building stone quarries in the Stanton-in-Peak and Rowsley districts employment was moderate. At the Clee Hill quarries employment declined and was bad, with much short time. At china clay quarries employment continued good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—Employment in the pig iron industry showed a further decline during August and was slack. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of August was 196, as compared with 206 at the end of July, and 126 at the end of August, 1922. The numbers employed showed an increase of nearly 20 per cent. as compared with August, 1922. At iron and steel works employment was, generally speaking, moderate; it showed little change compared with the previous month, but was considerably better than in August, 1922. In the tinplate and sheet steel trades employment continued good on the whole, but there was a further decline in the tinplate section. At the end of August 518 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 523 in July, and 486 in August, 1922.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.—In the engineering trade employment continued bad. At many works the normal holidays were extended. The textile machinery and marine engineering sections were still very depressed, and there was a further seasonal decline in the motor section. At railway works employment on the whole continued fairly good. In the shipbuilding and ship repairing trades employment continued very bad; there was some improvement on repair work, but on new work employment was affected by the boilermakers' dispute and showed a decline. It was fair in the brasswork, wire, sheet-metal, stove-grate and hollow-ware trades, but bad in the bedstead, lock and latch, nut, bolt and nail, cutlery, file, needle, tube, chain and anchor, and jewellery and plated ware trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment continued depressed in all sections of the cotton industry, except in the branch engaged in spinning Egyptian cotton, which was still well employed. In many

cases annual holidays were extended, and production was also greatly curtailed by short time and other means. In the woollen and worsted trades employment continued bad, and in the worsted trade a further decline was reported. In many cases annual holidays were extended. In the hosiery trade employment declined and was bad, with much short time.

In the silk trade it was moderate in the Eastern Counties; in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district it continued slack. In the lace trade employment continued bad on the whole, with much short time. Employment in the carpet trade was fairly good; in the jute trade it declined considerably at the end of August. In the linen trade employment continued very slack, and in Ireland a decline was reported. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment continued slack on the whole, and short time was general. A further decline was reported with silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek and with hosiery trimmers and finishers at Leicester and Basford.

Clothing Trades.—In the tailoring trade employment declined, but was fair on the whole; at Bristol, Nottingham, Liverpool and Glasgow it was slack. In the dressmaking and women's light clothing trades employment declined and, on the whole, was only fair, while in some districts it was reported as slack. In the felt hat trade employment was fair on the whole, but was not so good as in July. With corset makers the usual seasonal slackness continued. In the boot and shoe trades employment continued slack on the whole, with much short time and extended holidays. Employment in the leather trades was fair generally in the tanning and currying section, and in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections; with saddle and harness makers it was bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a further improvement in some districts, and was fair on the whole. It was generally good with bricklayers and masons, fairly good with carpenters and joiners, and fair with plasterers. A shortage of skilled workmen, particularly bricklayers, was again reported. Employment with painters declined, and it continued bad with builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works. In the brick trade employment continued fairly good, on the whole, and at Peterborough and Oxford it was very good.

In the furnishing trades employment showed a further decline and was only moderate to fair. It also declined with coach-builders, but was still fairly good. With millsawyers and wood-cutting machinists employment was bad, except in London, Birmingham and the Eastern Counties, where it continued fair to good. With coopers it was fair, except in Liverpool and Manchester, where it continued bad; with brush, basket and packing case makers employment was slack, and showed a decline on the previous month.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade was fair, but not so good, on the whole, as in the previous month. With letterpress printers it continued fair generally, and with readers, electrotypers and stereotypers in London it was good. At Newcastle, Manchester and Birmingham and with compositors in London it was slack. In the lithographic printing trade employment was fair, on the whole, and better than in July. Employment in the bookbinding trade remained generally slack.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade employment continued slack, and a decline from the previous month was reported; in the sanitary earthenware and tile sections, however, employment was good. In the glass trades it continued bad on the whole.

Agriculture and Fishery.—In agriculture the supply of labour was generally sufficient, and casual labour for haymaking and the corn harvest was readily obtainable in practically all districts. In the fishing industry employment continued fair on the whole.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment among dock labourers was moderate, on the whole.

With seamen employment continued moderate, and showed a slight improvement on the previous month, but at the majority of ports large numbers of men failed to obtain engagements.

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

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.
1922.		
August	14·4	12·3
September	14·6	12·2
October	14·0	12·3
November	14·2	12·6
December	14·0	12·4
1923.		
January	13·7	13·0
February	13·1	12·1
March	12·3	11·4
April	11·3	11·2
May	11·3	11·0
June	11·1	11·0
July	11·1	11·3
August	11·4	11·5

Further details and statistics as to the state of employment in a number of the principal industries are given on pages 329 to 333.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED

TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 1,149,588 reported 131,486 (or 11·4 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of August, 1923, compared with 11·1 per cent. at the end of July, 1923, and 14·4 per cent. at the end of August, 1922.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of Aug., 1923.	Unemployed at end of Aug., 1923.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	118,143	5,969	5·1	—	— 1·8
Coal Mining	133,887	1,429	1·1	— 0·4	— 8·8
Engineering and Ship-building	383,864	86,744	22·6	+ 0·4	— 4·9
Miscellaneous Metal ..	54,058	5,016	9·3	+ 0·5	— 2·8
Textiles:—					
Cotton	60,076	5,408	9·0	— 0·6	+ 4·7
Woolen and Worsted ..	12,232	581	4·7	+ 0·9	+ 3·6
Other	58,500	2,329	4·0	..	— 0·2
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	93,019	4,563	5·0	+ 0·6	— 1·5
Furnishing	26,053	1,870	7·2	— 0·2	+ 2·1
Woodworking	44,332	2,515	5·7	+ 0·6	— 2·3
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe.. ..	75,420	4,513	6·0	+ 0·8	+ 1·9
Other Clothing	44,066	867	2·0	— 0·3	..
Leather	5,978	607	10·2	+ 1·8	+ 0·6
Glass	1,230	30	2·4	+ 0·4	— 2·4
Pottery	28,000	7,400	26·4	+ 9·3	+ 2·8
Tobacco‡	4,720	1,245	26·3	— 0·4	— 24·8
Total	1,149,588	131,486	11·4	+ 0·3	— 3·0

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·5 per cent. (males 12·3 per cent., females 9·4 per cent.) at 27th August, as compared with 11·3 per cent. (males 12·2 per cent., females 8·8 per cent.) at 23rd July. A Table showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 335.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in August, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 329 to 333.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for August, 1923.	August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	1,165,787	Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Iron "	8,241	5·14	+ 0·25	0·19
Shale "	4,319	5·32	+ 0·03	+ 0·03
		5·94	+ 0·05	+ 0·01
Pig Iron	—	Furnaces in Blast 196	Number.	Number.
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ..	—	Mills Working 518	— 10	+ 70
Iron and Steel	69,389	Shifts Worked (one week). 366,872	— 5	+ 32
			Per cent.	Per cent.
			+ 0·0	+ 23·1

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.¶
Textiles:—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton	79,537	— 0·9	— 9·6	138,864	+ 1·5	— 17·2
Woolen	15,298	— 1·7	+ 0·5	31,096	— 0·4	— 3·4
Worsted	29,314	+ 0·5	— 1·7	50,697	— 4·5	— 14·2
Boot and Shoe ..	50,871	+ 0·2	— 0·8	109,803	+ 0·2	— 6·4
Pottery	11,595	— 1·4	+ 6·2	20,482	— 6·4	+ 5·5
Brick	6,888	+ 1·0	+ 25·6	16,153	+ 2·4	+ 23·8
Total	193,504	— 0·4	— 3·6	367,095	— 0·3	— 10·2

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

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

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

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

¶ These figures include a due proportion of claimants to benefit in respect of systematic short time.

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

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

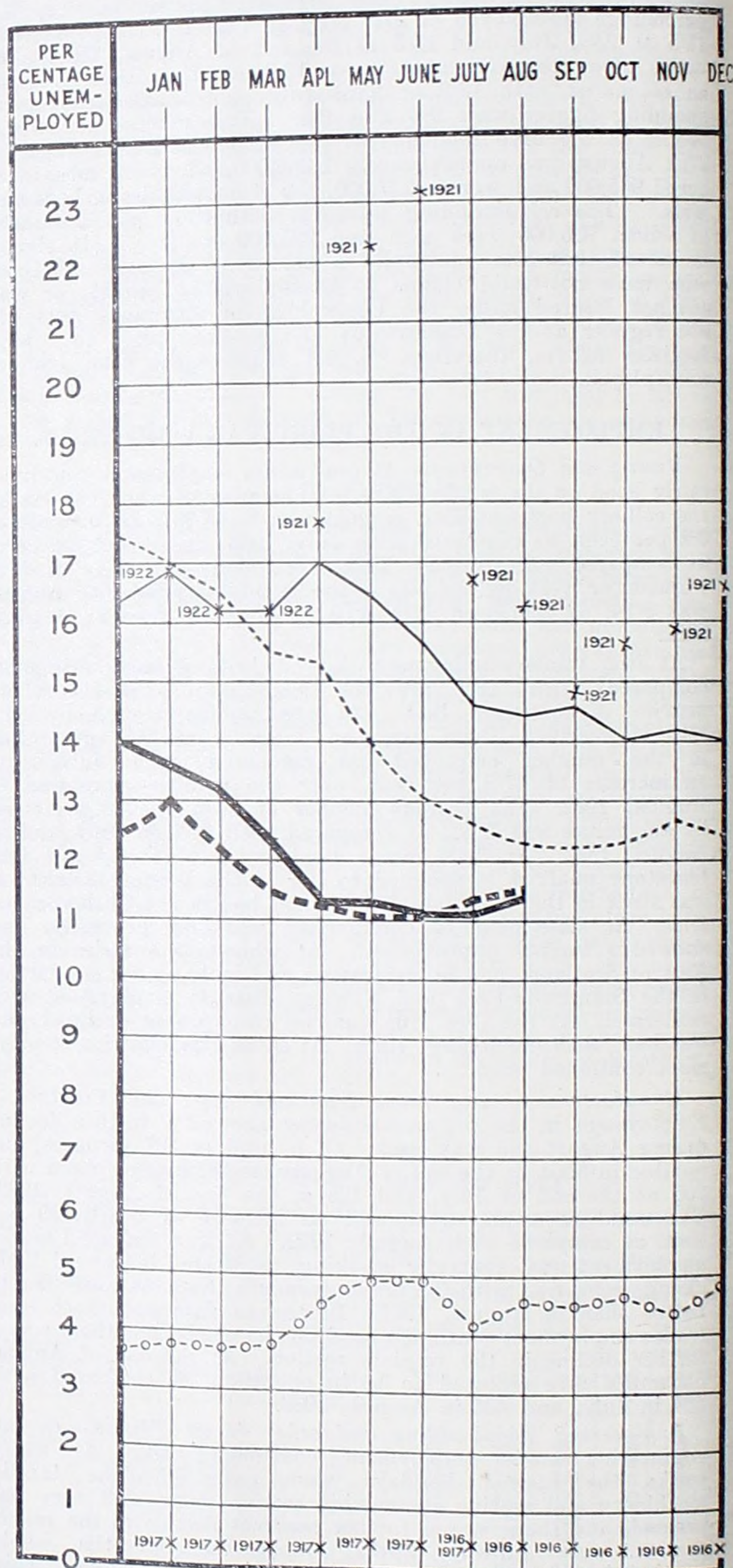
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve ————— = 1923.
Thin Curve ————— = 1922.
Chain Curve - - - - - = 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 figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trade Union returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.

The figures for insured workpeople include a due proportion of claimants to benefit in respect of short-time working. Detailed figures for July and August, 1923, are given on page 335.

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 August remained fairly good. In Scotland there was a slight improvement in the numbers employed, while the average time worked showed a marked increase compared with the average for July, due to the latter having been affected by holidays. In England and Wales, taken as a whole, there was little change. In North Wales and in parts of the Midlands improvements were reported. Employment declined, however, in Northumberland and Durham, where more time was lost on account of want of trade and transport difficulties, but in the case of Durham this was counterbalanced by a decrease in the time lost on account of holidays. The increase in the average time lost at pits in South Yorkshire was almost entirely due to holidays. In the remaining districts, except Cumberland and Westmorland, where employment was again affected by a dispute, the chief factors responsible for loss of time were want of trade, and, to a smaller extent, transport difficulties. Compared with a year ago, employment both in England and Wales and in Scotland showed an improvement in the numbers employed, but a slight decline in the average time worked.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books, and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 25th August, 1923, as indicated by the returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals :—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*				
	25th August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 25th August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a		Days.	Days.
		Month ago.	Year ago.			Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES :		Per cent.	Per cent.			Days.	Days.
Northumberland ..	62,816	+ 0.4	+ 6.3	4.98	— 0.31	— 0.46	
Durham ..	171,135	— 0.3	+ 8.4	4.97	— 0.04	— 0.24	
Cumberland and Westmorland ..	12,116	+ 0.1	+ 7.6	4.39	— 0.02	— 1.04	
South Yorkshire ..	111,865	+ 0.3	+ 9.1	5.00	— 0.13	— 0.10	
West Yorkshire ..	68,023	+ 0.4	+ 6.2	4.93	— 0.21	—	
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	104,102	— 0.5	+ 1.1	4.63	+ 0.15	— 0.13	
Derbyshire ..	64,746	—	+ 4.4	4.80	+ 0.01	— 0.55	
Notts. and Leicester ..	65,239	+ 0.5	+ 4.9	4.79	+ 0.21	— 0.56	
Warwick ..	21,662	— 0.1	+ 3.6	5.74	+ 0.36	+ 0.04	
North Staffordshire ..	34,655	— 0.6	+ 4.6	5.22	+ 0.17	+ 0.17	
South Staffs.,† Worc. and Salop ..	35,239	— 0.3	+ 5.4	5.20	+ 0.67	— 0.20	
Glouc. and Somerset ..	14,709	— 0.8	+ 4.2	5.34	+ 0.21	+ 0.50	
Kent ..	1,878	+ 1.6	+ 11.5	5.63	— 0.01	+ 1.27	
North Wales ..	17,824	—	+ 5.7	5.36	+ 0.54	— 0.38	
South Wales and Mon. ..	240,841	+ 0.1	+ 6.5	5.80	+ 0.05	+ 0.02	
England and Wales	1,025,850	—	+ 6.1	5.14	+ 0.03	— 0.18	
SCOTLAND :							
Mid & East Lothians ..	15,715	+ 1.1	+ 6.9	5.08	+ 1.12	— 0.43	
Fife and Clackmannan ..	30,331	+ 0.2	+ 6.6	4.93	+ 2.13	— 0.58	
Rest of Scotland ..	92,891	+ 1.9	+ 9.9	5.18	+ 1.95	— 0.28	
Scotland ..	138,937	+ 1.4	+ 8.8	5.12	+ 1.90	— 0.36	
Great Britain ..	1,165,787	+ 0.2	+ 6.4	5.14	+ 0.25	— 0.19	

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed was 44,306 at 27th August, 1923, compared with 37,706 at 23rd July, 1923.

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by all pits in the fortnight ended 25th August was 0.62 of a day, of which 0.51 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, the corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 28th July being 0.88 of a day and 0.45 of a day respectively. For the fortnight ended 26th August, 1922, the average weekly number of coal-winding days lost was 0.44 of a day, of which 0.33 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The non-winding time in each of these three periods averaged about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 25th August, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 19,107,800 tons, compared with 20,060,400 in the four weeks ended 28th July, 1923, and with 19,051,200 tons in the four weeks ended 26th August, 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 August to 8,758,217 tons, or 1,774 tons less than in July.

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

† Including Cannock Chase.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

ALTHOUGH a slight increase was shown in the number of workpeople employed, chiefly in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, there was no appreciable improvement in employment during August. In the Cleveland district it was still bad. Comparison with a year ago, however, shows very considerable improvement.

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 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as com- pared with a		Fort- night ended 25th Aug., 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	3,489	+ 0.5	+ 64.4	5.18	+ 0.31	+ 0.27	
Cumberland and Lanca- shire.. ..	3,402	+ 3.0	+ 49.3	5.53	— 0.02	— 0.04	
Other Districts	1,350	— 3.7	+ 14.8	5.17	— 0.53	— 0.28	
All Districts	8,241	+ 0.8	+ 47.8	5.32	+ 0.03	+ 0.03	

SHALE MINING.

Employment continued fair. At mines employing 4,319 workpeople in the fortnight ended 25th August practically no change was shown in the total number employed, as compared with the previous month, but there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent. as compared with August, 1922. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.94 in August, 1923, 5.89 in July, 1923, and 5.93 in August, 1922.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed a further decline, and was slack. It was much better, however, than a year ago.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of August, as shown by returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 196, compared with 206 at the end of July and 126 at the end of August, 1922.

Returns received by the Federation from 83 firms, employing 20,379 workpeople at the end of August, showed a decrease of 6.7 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of July, but an increase of 19.5 per cent. compared with August, 1922.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of August, 1923, July, 1923, and August, 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 Aug., on a	
		Aug. 1923.	July, 1923.	Aug. 1922.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES :—						
Durham and Cleveland ..	115	42	47	28	— 5	+ 14
Cumberland and W. Lancs. ..	46	12	12	9	..	+ 3
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield ..	38	17	17	12	..	+ 5
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants. ..	73	38	39	25	— 1	+ 13
Lincolnshire ..	22	17	19	9	— 2	+ 8
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ..	58	16	19	13	— 3	+ 3
South Wales and Monmouth ..	33	9	10	10	— 1	— 1
Total (England and Wales) }	385	151	163	106	— 12	+ 45
SCOTLAND ..	102	45	43	20	+ 2	+ 5
TOTAL ..	487	196	206	126	— 10	+ 70

The production of pig iron in August amounted to 599,800 tons, as compared with 655,100 tons in July and 411,700 tons in August, 1922.

* See footnote in previous column.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in iron and steel works during August was generally speaking moderate and was considerably better than a year ago. On the North-East Coast it remained slack, being affected adversely by the boilermakers' dispute. In Staffordshire and at Sheffield there was also a decline. The large increase in employment over last month recorded in Scotland is due in part to the fact that many firms which had shut down for extended holidays during July reopened during August.

According to returns received from firms employing 69,389 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 25th August (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) was equal to that of the previous month, and showed an increase of 23.1 per cent., as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open in the week ended 25th August was 5.3, the same as in the corresponding weeks for May, June and July, but an increase of 0.3 as compared with August, 1922.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*			
	Week ended 25th August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Week ended 25th August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
					Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ..	7,866	+ 2.4	44,463	+ 2.5	+ 44.0	
Crucible Furnaces ..	314	- 7.9	1,395	- 10.2	+ 63.7	
Bessemer Converters ..	601	- 1.0	2,821	- 0.2	- 16.2	
Puddling Forges ..	3,149	+ 7.1	13,635	+ 1.1	- 9.3	
Rolling Mills ..	24,777	+ 2.2	123,388	+ 2.7	+ 32.0	
Forging and Pressing ..	3,183	- 0.5	16,591	- 2.3	+ 31.6	
Founding ..	8,421	+ 4.4	46,704	+ 3.9	+ 19.8	
Other Departments ..	5,232	- 2.0	27,712	- 6.9	+ 28.4	
Mechanics, Labourers..	15,846	- 3.1	90,163	- 3.8	+ 11.0	
Total ..	69,389	+ 0.9	366,872	+ 0.0	+ 23.1	
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland and Durham ..	5,697	- 3.3	30,201	- 1.5	+ 14.6	
Cleveland ..	5,623	- 25.5	30,524	- 28.0	+ 67.4	
Sheffield and Rotherham ..	19,458	- 3.9	101,878	- 5.3	+ 22.4	
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,690	+ 1.1	13,778	- 5.5	+ 41.2	
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ..	7,919	+ 2.9	41,941	+ 5.1	+ 15.5	
Staffordshire ..	7,661	- 7.0	39,623	- 8.9	+ 23.8	
Other Midland Counties ..	4,030	+ 5.0	21,416	+ 4.1	+ 25.3	
Wales and Monmouth..	9,551	+ 1.9	52,554	+ 1.3	+ 20.1	
Total, England and Wales ..	62,629	- 4.4	331,915	- 5.5	+ 24.4	
Scotland ..	6,760	+106.2	34,957	+121.4	+ 11.8	
Total ..	69,389	+ 0.9	366,872	+ 0.0	+ 23.1	

The production of steel ingots and castings in August, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 582,700 tons, compared with 624,300 tons in July, and with 520,800 tons in August, 1922.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good, on the whole, during August, but showed a further decline in the tinplate section. At the end of the month 518 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 523 at the end of July and 486 at the end of August, 1922.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed was 1,681 at 27th August, 1923, compared with 1,066 at 23rd July, 1923.

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

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation			
	At end of August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	At end of August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
					Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ..	75		395	- 10		+ 26
Steel Sheet ..	13	+ 1	123	+ 5		+ 6
TOTAL ..	88	+ 1	518	- 5		+ 32

* 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, &c., and it is not implied that the number of shifts shown was actually worked by all the men employed.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in August, 1923, amounted to 83,585 tons, or 3,065 tons more than in July, 1923, but 636 tons less than in August, 1922.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry remained bad during August. At many works the normal holiday periods were extended. The textile machinery and marine engineering sections were still very depressed, and the seasonal decline in the motor section continued. At railway works, however, employment continued fairly good generally, though it showed a decline in some cases. In constructional engineering and electrical engineering, also, employment at some centres was fairly good.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 27th August, 1923. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures, see page 335.

Divisions.	Number of Insured Contributors Unemployed 27th August, 1923.						Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as com- pared with 23rd July, 1923.
	Engi- neering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding.	Stove, Grate, Pipe, &c., and General Iron Founding	Electri- cal Engi- neering.	Marine Engi- neering and Marine Boiler Making.	Con- struc- tional Engi- neering.	TOTAL.	
London	14,492	473	482	113	150	15,710	- 235
South Eastern..	6,358	287	266	182	51	7,144	- 185
South Western	3,923	178	94	975	82	5,252	+ 313
Midlands	17,597	5,391	1,299	71	474	24,832	- 245
North Eastern..	32,661	3,279	477	10,045	934	47,396	+ 1,691
North Western	35,365	1,600	1,160	555	134	38,814	+ 94
Scotland	22,813	3,452	206	4,719	586	31,776	- 534
Wales	858	296	20	11	6	1,191	+ 157
Northern Ireland	1,978	384	5	104	8	2,479	- 121
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	136,045	15,340	4,009	16,775	2,425	174,594	+ 935
Males	133,504	14,500	3,451	16,735	2,390	170,580	+ 652
Females	2,541	840	558	40	35	4,014	+ 283

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad, no general improvement being reported. Large numbers of men were unemployed or on short time, especially in the marine engineering section, which showed a further decline in consequence of the shipbuilding dispute. Some improvement was reported, however, on repair work in the Tyne district. Employment in the locomotive section was not so good as in the previous month. In the electrical and motor sections on the Tyne and at constructional engineering works on the Tees it continued fair. In Lancashire and Cheshire there was little general change. The textile machinery section remained very depressed, and much short time was still worked. Railway works at Crewe continued well employed, but at Horwich a decline was reported. In the electrical engineering section employment improved slightly at some centres. In Yorkshire employment continued bad, except at Otley, where printing machinery makers remained well employed, and at York, where employment was fair on the whole.

At Nottingham conditions were still quiet, and showed little general change; in Lincolnshire a decline was reported at some centres. At Derby the railway works remained busy, and in the motor section employment was fairly good, but in general engineering it was bad. The improvement with iron foundries at Leicester was maintained, but employment generally showed a tendency to decline. The seasonal decline in the motor car industry at Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton was not quite so severe as was expected, and there was some slight improvement in this district in general engineering. Employment continued fair at Rugby, but at Stafford it was bad, and worse than in the previous month.

At Norwich and Chelmsford employment remained fair, and there was some improvement at Ipswich, but at other centres in the Eastern Counties conditions were still slack. There was considerable variation in the London area, but conditions showed little change on the whole. The motor section showed signs of slackening, and the wireless section continued to be depressed; employment on aircraft work, however, was reported to have improved. There was a further slight improvement in the Southern and South-Western Counties, employment at Swindon remaining fairly good. In South Wales employment continued quiet, but the improvement previously reported was maintained.

In Scotland conditions remained very unfavourable, and in the marine engineering section employment was worse than in the previous month, partly owing to the continuance of the dispute in the shipbuilding industry. At Belfast employment remained bad generally.

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries continued very bad during August. There was some improvement on repair work, but on new work employment showed a decline. The lock-out of boilermakers at the yards of members

of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation continued throughout the month, and the number of other workpeople rendered idle by the dispute further increased (see p. 336), some yards being entirely closed and others almost at a standstill.

In districts not involved in the dispute employment on repair work was moderate on the whole. On the Mersey it remained fair. At the Bristol Channel ports it continued to improve, but was still unsatisfactory. At Falmouth it declined to slack. At Southampton there was a temporary improvement at the beginning of the month. On the Thames employment slightly improved, except with barge repairers, who reported a decline.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 27th August, 1923. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures see p. 335.

Divisions.	Total number of insured contributors unemployed 27th August, 1923.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with 23rd July, 1923.
London	3,481	— 219
South Eastern	1,307	+ 50
South Western	7,783	— 223
Midlands	264	+ 98
North Eastern	41,039	+ 129
North Western	14,842	+ 1,468
Scotland	40,761	+ 1,635
Wales	4,236	— 393
Northern Ireland	6,133	— 341
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	119,846	+ 2,204
<i>Males</i>	<i>119,506</i>	<i>+ 2,220</i>
<i>Females</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>— 16</i>

COTTON TRADE.

DURING August employment continued very depressed in all sections of the industry, except in that portion of the spinning section in which Egyptian cotton is used, which continued to be well employed. The annual holidays were in many cases extended, and production was also greatly curtailed by short time and other means. The American section of the general committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations decided, on 10th August, to recommend the continuance of short-time working during September by a curtailment of 50 per cent. in production, exclusive of the annual holidays.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 123,916 at 27th August, compared with 122,895 at 23rd July, 1923.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a
		Month ago. Year ago.		Month ago. Year ago.*
		Per cent. Per cent.	£	Per cent. Per cent.
Preparing	10,582	— 3·2 — 10·7	17,112	+ 4·4 — 17·6
Spinning	19,951	— 2·5 — 10·4	32,811	+ 1·7 — 17·5
Weaving	33,410	+ 0·4 — 10·8	55,189	— 0·7 — 19·6
Other	7,986	+ 1·6 — 4·9	18,158	+ 1·9 — 13·5
Not specified	7,608	— 1·5 — 5·1	15,594	+ 5·7 — 11·2
Total	79,537	— 0·9 — 9·6	138,864	+ 1·5 — 17·2
DISTRICTS.				
Ashton	3,956	— 1·7 — 2·9	7,099	+ 7·3 — 5·6
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	5,055	+ 3·0 — 9·4	7,578	— 0·6 — 13·2
Oldham	8,209	— 4·1 — 16·8	14,689	+ 16·5 — 26·5
Bolton and Leigh	14,078	— 0·2 — 0·5	24,615	+ 0·9 — 5·5
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	6,972	+ 3·5 — 10·1	10,624	+ 10·6 — 17·6
Manchester	5,629	— 9·2 — 18·0	9,399	— 4·3 — 21·3
Preston and Chorley	5,942	— 0·1 — 3·3	9,885	— 5·0 — 14·2
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	8,721	+ 3·7 — 15·5	16,599	— 2·6 — 23·9
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	11,162	+ 1·9 — 4·5	22,251	— 1·5 — 18·3
Other Lancashire Towns	2,762	— 13·3 — 26·4	4,447	— 13·3 — 35·7
Yorkshire Towns	3,604	— 2·1 — 7·0	5,798	— 6·9 — 20·3
Other Districts	3,447	— 3·6 — 12·0	5,880	+ 24·3 — 0·3
Total	79,537	— 0·9 — 9·6	138,864	+ 1·5 — 17·2

Returns from firms employing 8,893 workpeople in the Oldham district showed that, during the four weeks ended 25th August, nearly one-half of these workpeople were on full time, about a quarter were working half time, and the remainder were losing time in various other forms, some more and some less than half time. In the other districts, taken collectively, about 26 per cent. of the workpeople reported on were on short time, to the extent of about fifteen hours a week on the average, in the week ended 25th August. The districts most affected were again Bury and Rochdale, where 66 per cent. were on short time, to the extent of fifteen hours a week on the average; and Stockport, where

57 per cent. were on short time, to the extent of thirteen hours a week on the average.

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts employment in the spinning section continued very bad, although there was some improvement in Oldham and Ashton as compared with July; extended stoppages for the holidays took place. In the manufacturing section employment continued bad. At Bolton and Leigh employment with spinners continued good, but with weavers in the Bolton district it was reported as bad. In the Bury and Rochdale districts there was some improvement as compared with July, but employment was still very bad, and several firms extended their holiday stoppage.

In all the principal weaving districts, including Blackburn, Burnley, Preston and Darwen, employment continued very bad. There was much short time and unemployment, and some of those who were still working were engaged upon less than the normal number of looms. The annual trade holidays at Preston were extended, in many cases, to a fortnight or even more.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 46,470,900 lbs. in August, 1923, compared with 35,385,500 lbs. in the previous month and with 74,876,300 lbs. in August, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 12,802,800 lbs. in August, 1923, compared with 9,514,400 lbs. in July, 1923, and 15,408,500 lbs. in August, 1922.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 329,945,600 square yards, as compared with 316,083,600 square yards in the previous month and with 377,985,000 square yards in August, 1922.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

DURING August employment continued bad, and on the whole was worse than in July. It showed no improvement in the woollen trade, and a further decline in the worsted trade. The usual trade holidays (six days) were extended in many cases; in the Shipley, Bingley, and Keighley districts a large number of firms closed down for a full fortnight, and in the Bradford district the normal six days were in many instances extended to nine or twelve days. Overtime working has almost entirely ceased.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 30,506 on the 27th August, compared with 25,536 on the 23rd July, 1923.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

Employment continued bad. In the Huddersfield district one or two firms were busy at the end of the month, getting out orders before the holidays, but most of the works were on short time; in one part of the district, where the trade holidays fell in August, they were extended from the usual week to a fortnight. In the heavy woollen trade in the Dewsbury and Batley district employment was bad, and showed a decline on the whole; though some firms were temporarily busy on urgent orders. In the rag and shoddy trade employment continued bad. In the blanket and rug trade it was fair, and some firms were able to run their machinery at full pressure. At Leeds much under-employment was reported, and in addition a number of piecers and weavers were totally unemployed. Employment with flannel workers continued to be fairly good; though the depression was beginning to be felt in the flannel and blanket trades, which have hitherto largely escaped: some short time was worked, and a few firms extended the trade holidays from a week to a fortnight or even longer.

In Scotland the position varied greatly from one firm to another; on the whole there was a further decline, and the output was much below the normal.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a
		Month ago. Year ago.		Month ago. Year ago.*
		Per cent. Per cent.	£	Per cent. Per cent.
Wool Sorting	342	+ 1·2 + 5·6	800	+ 3·4 + 0·6
Spinning	3,688	— 1·2 + 1·7	7,499	+ 1·0 — 3·1
Weaving	5,971	— 0·8 + 1·3	10,758	+ 1·1 — 2·2
Other Departments	4,443	— 4·2 — 1·1	10,057	— 3·3 — 4·5
Not Specified	854	+ 2·3 — 3·6	1,982	— 0·1 — 7·2
TOTAL	15,298	— 1·7 + 0·5	31,096	— 0·4 — 3·4
Districts.				
Huddersfield District	1,270	— 0·9 — 0·5	3,258	+ 3·0 — 2·5
Leeds District	1,597	— 5·3 — 0·7	3,446	— 3·7 + 0·0
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,630	+ 1·9 + 10·7	3,649	— 4·7 + 8·8
Other Parts of West Riding	1,956	— 5·8 — 3·4	4,432	+ 0·4 — 1·6
Total, West Riding	6,453	— 2·9 + 1·1	14,785	— 1·3 + 1·0
Scotland	4,087	— 1·5 — 3·8	7,501	— 3·1 — 16·7
Other Districts	4,758	— 0·3 + 3·5	8,810	+ 3·7 + 3·1
TOTAL	15,298	— 1·7 + 0·5	31,096	— 0·4 — 3·4

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

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

Returns from firms employing 14,652 workpeople in the week ended August 25th showed that about 31 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time to the extent of about 12 hours a week on the average.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment was bad, and showed a further decline in all the principal departments. Much short time was reported.

With wool sorters and combers employment was bad, worse than a month earlier, and much worse than in August of last year; practically all the mills were running short time. There was also a decline in the spinning and in the weaving department; spinners of the finest ("botany") wool, and workpeople engaged in weaving departments making fine cloths were particularly slack.

In the Bradford district there was more unemployment and slack time in August than in July. There was also a further marked decline in the Huddersfield district: the worsted trade (and especially the fine worsted trade) in this district was in a much worse position than the woollen trade. Short time was also general in the weaving department at Halifax.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,334	+ 1.2	- 5.6	9,587	- 5.1	- 24.4
Spinning	14,773	+ 0.9	- 0.7	21,083	- 4.4	- 11.9
Weaving	4,846	- 1.2	- 7.9	9,180	- 4.7	- 15.2
Other Departments ..	3,039	- 1.1	+ 6.9	7,157	- 3.3	- 2.0
Not specified	2,322	+ 3.1	+ 3.2	3,690	- 4.8	- 15.6
TOTAL	29,314	+ 0.5	- 1.7	50,697	- 4.5	- 14.2
Districts.						
Bradford District ..	14,942	+ 0.2	- 2.5	27,321	- 5.0	- 13.8
Keighley District ..	4,618	+ 0.4	- 3.6	8,503	+ 2.4	- 6.4
Halifax District ..	2,735	+ 1.1	- 2.6	4,178	- 0.9	- 18.8
Huddersfield District ..	3,130	+ 1.3	- 1.4	4,619	- 13.0	- 27.2
Other Parts of West Riding	2,417	- 0.1	+ 6.4	3,621	- 8.9	- 13.7
Total, West Riding ..	27,842	+ 0.4	- 1.8	48,242	- 4.6	- 14.5
Other Districts	1,472	+ 2.7	+ 0.8	2,455	- 1.7	- 7.1
TOTAL	29,314	+ 0.5	- 1.7	50,697	- 4.5	- 14.2

Returns from firms employing 25,882 workpeople in the week ended August 25th showed that about 33 per cent. of these workpeople were working short time to the extent of about 16 hours a week on the average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 13,182,100 lbs. in August, 1923, compared with 10,709,000 lbs. in July, 1923, and 70,167,700 lbs. in August, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,004,800 lbs., compared with 3,796,200 lbs. in July, 1923, and 4,333,800 lbs. in August, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 19,016,400 square yards, compared with 20,236,600 square yards in July, 1923, and 17,525,900 square yards in August, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 116,984 pairs, 88,443 pairs and 61,457 pairs in August, 1923, July, 1923, and August, 1922, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed little general change in August, and was very slack on the whole, with much short time. During the first few days of the month there was some increased activity in a few districts, resulting from orders due to the holiday season; but the ensuing holidays were very frequently extended to ten days or even longer.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 15,644 on the 27th August, as compared with 15,047 on the 23rd July, 1923.

Employment in London showed a further decline, and was much worse than last year. At Leicester employment was slack, and about the same as in July; extended holidays were common. At Hinckley a slight improvement was recorded. There was little change at Northampton; short time working was fairly general, and the holidays were extended in many cases. Employment was poor at Kettering and at Wellingborough; few of the factories at Kettering were on full time. In the Higham and Rushden and Irthlingborough districts the holidays were extended to ten days, or in some cases a fortnight. At Leeds there was a decline, and employment was bad on the whole, though some firms engaged in the heavy boot trade were well employed. At Norwich employment improved in some sections of the trade and declined in others; on the whole it was slack, with 50 per cent. of the workpeople losing from one-quarter to one-half time; the trade holidays were extended in many cases. Employment at Stafford remained slack. In the Bristol and Kingswood district it showed a further improvement, but most of the factories were still working only a little more than half time.

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

Employment at Arbroath was bad, and worse than in July; while at Glasgow and at Kilmarnock there was also a decline. There was no change at Ayr and at Edinburgh, but an improvement at Maybole.

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

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
England and Wales:—						
London	1,985	- 0.8	- 10.2	4,345	- 2.1	- 17.9
Leicester	8,756	- 1.8	- 0.9	10,322	+ 2.9	- 6.6
Leicester Country District	2,330	+ 0.5	- 4.2	4,858	- 1.9	- 13.3
Northampton	6,915	+ 1.4	- 4.3	16,193	- 1.6	- 6.5
Northampton Country District	7,711	+ 0.7	+ 3.0	17,151	+ 2.5	- 0.7
Kettering	3,426	+ 1.5	+ 6.5	8,667	+ 0.1	+ 5.9
Stafford and District ..	2,514	- 0.8	+ 2.1	5,049	- 3.3	- 2.0
Norwich and District ..	3,817	+ 1.8	- 10.2	7,371	+ 2.6	- 17.0
Bristol, Kingswood and District	2,262	+ 0.8	+ 4.9	4,454	+ 4.4	- 8.9
Leeds and District ..	1,852	+ 2.5	- 6.3	3,911	- 0.4	- 12.8
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ..	4,372	- 1.1	+ 5.6	8,954	- 6.8	- 7.0
Birmingham and District	1,006	+ 0.7	-	1,871	- 6.1	- 7.5
Other parts of England and Wales	1,391	- 0.6	+ 2.1	2,324	- 0.9	- 12.0
England and Wales	48,337	+ 0.2	- 0.9	104,470	- 0.1	- 6.8
Scotland	2,534	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	5,333	+ 5.9	+ 2.0
United Kingdom	50,871	+ 0.2	- 0.8	109,803	+ 0.2	- 6.4

Returns from firms employing 40,172 workpeople in the week ended 25th August, 1923, showed that about 43 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time in that week to the extent of thirteen hours each on an average.

The exports of boots and shoes in August, 1923, amounted to 99,411 dozen pairs, or 2,004 dozen pairs more than in July, 1923, and 24,461 dozen pairs more than in August, 1922.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, taken as a whole, was generally fair during August, and again showed an improvement in a number of districts, particularly in London. It was reported as very good in certain districts, including Harrogate, Huddersfield, Mansfield, Oxford, West Middlesex, North-West Surrey, Eastbourne, Bournemouth and Exeter, and a little overtime was worked at some centres; on the other hand, it was reported as bad or very slack in some districts, including Grimsby, Carlisle and Chatham, and slack or quiet at certain other centres, short time being worked in a few cases.

Employment showed some improvement, on the whole, with each of the skilled classes of operatives except painters, and in a number of districts a shortage of skilled labour, particularly bricklayers, was again reported. Employment was good in most districts with bricklayers and masons, fairly good with carpenters and joiners, and generally fair with plasterers; it declined a little with painters, but continued fair in most districts; with plumbers it was generally moderate, and it continued bad with builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 27th August, 1923, and the increase or decrease in the numbers as compared with 23rd July. For an explanation of the method of compiling the figures, see page 335.

Divisions.	Number of Insured Contributors Unemployed at 27th August, 1923.			
	Building.	Construction of Works.	Total.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 23rd July, 1923.
London	20,105	3,241	23,346	- 4,913
South Eastern	9,150	2,344	11,494	+ 1,322
South Western	8,223	3,088	11,311	+ 310
Midlands	9,874	3,120	12,994	- 567
North Eastern	10,072	3,731	13,803	- 386
North Western	12,178	2,882	15,060	- 72
Scotland	7,757	2,991	10,748	+ 705
Wales	2,626	1,843	4,469	+ 37
Northern Ireland	2,615	462	3,077	+ 19
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	82,600	23,702	106,302	- 4,545
Males	52,391	23,689	76,080	- 4,571
Females	30,209	20,013	50,222	+ 26

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

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during August continued fairly good on the whole; there was little change as compared with the previous month, but a considerable improvement on a year ago. It was reported as very good at Peterborough and Oxford, and as good generally in the East Midland and Eastern Counties, but as very slack at Brierley Hill.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number registered as unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades was 4,517 at 27th August, 1923, compared with 4,655 at 23rd July, 1923.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Aug., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,240	Per cent. + 0.5	Per cent. + 9.8	£ 3,005	Per cent. + 5.6	Per cent. + 6.4
Midlands and Eastern Counties	4,300	+ 1.5	+ 37.7	9,975	+ 2.9	+ 36.7
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,138	+ 1.4	+ 10.7	2,696	- 0.8	+ 10.8
Other Districts	210	- 6.7	+ 1.4	477	- 8.8	- 2.7
TOTAL	6,888	+ 1.0	+ 25.6	16,153	+ 2.4	+ 23.8

Returns from firms employing 6,104 workpeople show that only about 3 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 11 hours on the average, during the week ended 25th August.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades continued slack generally during August, and a decline was reported as compared with the previous month. In the sanitary earthenware and tile sections of the trade, however, it was good. At Poole employment was reported as exceptionally good, at Derby and Worcester as fairly good, and at Bristol as fair.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts the number registered as unemployed was 10,541 at 27th August, 1923, compared with 9,520 at 23rd July, 1923.

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

Branches.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
China Manufacture	1,326	- 0.2	- 11.5	2,359	- 12.3	+ 13.2
Earthenware Manufacture	8,557	- 1.7	+ 9.0	15,041	- 6.6	+ 9.1
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,713	- 0.6	+ 9.1	3,082	- 0.5	- 13.3
TOTAL	11,596	- 1.4	+ 6.2	20,482	- 6.4	+ 5.5
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	8,846	- 1.9	+ 7.8	15,068	- 6.2	+ 8.0
Other Districts	2,750	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	5,414	- 7.2	- 0.9
TOTAL	11,596	- 1.4	+ 6.2	20,482	- 6.4	+ 5.5

Returns from employers relating to short time working showed that of 10,890 workpeople employed, 29 per cent. were working, on an average, about 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th August, 1923.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during August was moderate on the whole. It showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, but at the majority of the ports large numbers of men still failed to obtain engagements.

On the Thames the demand for men was quiet during the first half of August, and brisk afterwards. Employment was very quiet on the Tyne and on the Wear. It was fair at Hull and at Southampton. The demand at Bristol and Avonmouth remained quiet. At Newport it declined, and was reported as quiet at the end of the month. It was fair at Cardiff early in August, but fell off subsequently. Employment at Swansea declined, and was moderate at the end of the month. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey it was moderate.

On the Clyde there was a decline early in the month, but employment showed a considerable improvement afterwards. At the end of the month employment was very quiet at Leith and Belfast.

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 August :—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	August, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Eight months ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	August, 1923.	August, 1922.
ENGLAND & WALES :					
<i>East Coast—</i>					
Tyne Ports..	908	— 379	— 1,310	9 719	13 766
Sunderland	192	— 91	— 78	1,428	1,416
Middlesbrough	457	+ 298	— 21	3,005	2,987
Hull	2,206	+ 1,546	+ 622	11,754	10,198
Grimsby	57	+ 35	+ 29	136	193
<i>Bristol Channel—</i>					
Bristol†	1,141	+ 119	— 80	8,122	8 427
Newport, Mon.	712	— 287	+ 85	7,743	7 307
Cardiff†	2,127	— 1,042	— 1,116	22,106	24,764
Swansea	773	— 257	+ 109	6,469	5,130
<i>Other Ports—</i>					
Liverpool	15,207	+ 486	— 46	102,438	92 886
London	7,221	+ 2,119	— 350	56 223	66 812
Southampton	11,451	+ 1,659	— 45	74,692	69 705
SCOTLAND :					
Leith	346	— 72	— 13	2,989	2,852
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	88	— 328	— 202	1,927	1,956
Glasgow	3,580	+ 61	+ 182	23,105	18 370
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast	483	+ 220	+ 199	2,014	2 115
TOTAL	46,949	+ 4,087	— 2,035	333,870	318,874

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

London.—In London employment was affected by the strike during the first half of the month. 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—					
4th July, 1923 ..	2,554	283	2,837	5,190	8,027§
11th " ..	2,652	279	2,931	5,915	8,846§
18th " ..	3,135	1,670	4,805	6,831	11,636§
25th " ..	5,530	3,472	9,002	7,565	16,567
Average for 4 weeks ended 25th Aug., 1923 ..	3,503	1,476	4,979	6,395	11,374
Average for July, 1923	3,286	1,401	4,687	5,534	10,221§
Average for Aug., 1922	4,744	2,535	7,279	7,381	14,660

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in August was 1,949, as compared with 943 in the previous month, and with 922 in August, 1922.

East Coast.—With coal trimmers on the Tyne and Wear and at Blyth employment continued good; with other classes of workers it was fair on the whole, and better than in July. At Middlesbrough a further decline occurred, but at Hartlepool employment continued good. At other East Coast ports it was fair generally.

Western and Southern Ports.—At Liverpool employment was fair, and somewhat better than in the previous month. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme, as employed in the four weeks ended 27th August, was 15,049, compared with 14,788 in the five weeks ended 30th July, and with 13,928 in the corresponding period of last year.

At Manchester employment was fairly active on account of the arrears of work accumulated after the dispute.

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

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was moderate. It was fair and better than in July at Dundee and Belfast.

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

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

§ These figures were affected by the strike of dock workers.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from work—at 27th August, 1923, was 1,266,128†, of whom 942,513 people—men, 44,903 boys, 237,107 women, and 41,605 girls. Compared with 30th July, there was an increase of 31,611, which was distributed as follows: Men, 6,340; women, 14,491; and juveniles, 10,780.

During the four weeks ended 27th August the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 59,464, of which 34,690 were for men, 14,991 for women, and 9,783 for juveniles.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 27th August, 1923:—

Week ended	Applica- tions by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople (Live Registers.) †	From Employers.
30th July, 1923	18,847	16,647	1,234,517	18,346
6th August, 1923	15,523	13,937	1,230,222	16,891
13th " " " " " "	18,279	14,538	1,250,584	17,647
20th " " " " " "	19,362	16,195	1,261,461	17,471
27th " " " " " "	17,047	14,794	1,266,128	16,114
Total (4 weeks)	70,211	59,464	—	—

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraphs is not yet available, but statistics for the five weeks ended 6th August are dealt with below:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of 677,143 applications from workpeople during the five weeks ended 6th August showed a daily average of 23,350—a decrease of 3.3 per cent., compared with the daily average of the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 14,777, women for 6,063, and juveniles for 2,510—a decrease of 3.6 per cent. and 8.6 per cent. respectively in the case of men and women, and an increase of 15.5 per cent. in the case of juveniles, compared with the previous month.

Vacancies Notified.—During the five weeks ended 6th August there were 95,496 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,293, as compared with 3,157 during the preceding period. Of this daily average, 1,708 were for men, 1,027 for women, and 558 for juveniles. Compared with the previous month, the daily average number of vacancies notified for men remained about the same, while in the case of women and juveniles there were increases of 11.1 per cent. and 7.1 per cent. respectively.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 80,643—a daily average of 2,781, as compared with 2,621 during the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,533, women for 765, and juveniles for 483. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 1,517; women, 659; and juveniles, 445.

Juveniles.—During the period, 35,819 applications were received from boys, and 36,974 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 8,351, and 7,271 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 7,811 vacancies were notified, and 6,745 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 18.4 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

Statistics relating to *Building Trades* (men) and to *Domestic Service* occupations (women) for the five weeks ended 6th August have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below:—

In the building trades 10,362 vacancies were notified for men and 8,707 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were: Carpenters, 2,369 vacancies notified and 2,054 filled; bricklayers, 1,520 vacancies notified and 1,000 filled; painters, 2,464 vacancies notified and 2,181 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,540 vacancies and 1,454 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 66,752† at 6th August, compared with 75,495† at 2nd July.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the five weeks ended 6th August was 17,677. Of this number, 7,266 were for resident domestic servants, 3,697 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,432 for charwomen, and 2,232 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 1,050.

Of the 12,314 vacancies filled, 3,952 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,770 as non-resident, 3,051 as charwomen, and 1,798 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 6th August for work in domestic services was 26,783, compared with 30,257 on 2nd July.

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 five weeks ended 6th August was 2,758.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 27th August, 1923, there were on the Live Registers 916,800 men, 225,800 women, and 85,600 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 27th August, 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 27th August, 1923.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as compared with 30th July, 1923.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London	137,495	31,796	17,374	186,665	– 7,763
South Eastern Division..	46,915	7,904	4,723	59,547	+ 1,530
Brighton	2,567	302	354	3,223	+ 249
Chatham	3,331	430	437	4,198	+ 274
Ipswich	3,102	367	337	3,806	– 104
Norwich	4,227	727	405	5,359	+ 462
Rest of South Eastern	33,688	6,078	3,195	42,961	+ 649
South Western Division..	55,643	9,996	6,022	71,661	+ 1,937
Bristol	11,692	3,692	1,612	16,996	+ 1,351
Plymouth	5,293	753	424	6,470	+ 21
Portsmouth	7,288	669	618	8,575	+ 99
Reading	1,323	139	291	1,753	+ 183
Southampton	5,290	551	375	6,216	– 723
Swindon	742	105	273	1,120	+ 135
Rest of South Western	24,015	4,087	2,429	30,531	+ 871
Midlands Division	123,707	35,589	10,436	169,732	+ 10,630
Birmingham	29,947	9,050	2,170	41,167	+ 2,473
Coventry	4,723	624	352	5,699	+ 957
Cradley Heath	4,031	906	167	5,104	+ 386
Derby	1,840	645	294	2,779	– 292
Leicester	3,341	1,558	260	5,159	+ 1,016
Northampton	1,441	398	159	1,998	+ 77
Nottingham	7,099	2,072	420	9,591	+ 612
Smethwick	3,815	1,130	418	5,363	+ 129
Stoke-on-Trent	8,578	4,697	641	13,916	– 1,632
Walsall	4,756	751	695	6,402	+ 350
West Bromwich	3,165	484	177	3,826	+ 76
Wolverhampton	5,955	1,842	354	8,151	+ 57
Rest of Midlands	45,016	11,432	4,129	60,577	+ 3,157
North Eastern Division..	192,636	27,298	13,254	233,188	+ 11,552
Barnsley	1,082	225	98	1,405	+ 157
Bradford	6,629	3,212	294	10,135	+ 1,706
Darlington	2,268	145	159	2,572	+ 370
Dewsbury	1,024	254	80	1,358	+ 139
Doncaster	218	176	182	576	+ 128
Gateshead	5,866	479	589	6,934	– 40
Grimsby	1,483	160	153	1,796	– 156
Halifax	2,148	1,525	169	3,842	+ 513
Hartlepool	6,915	220	276	7,411	+ 375
Huddersfield	3,048	1,752	238	5,038	+ 737
Hull	8,158	894	1,010	10,062	– 2,784
Leeds	13,255	3,510	1,107	17,872	+ 1,450
Lincoln	3,022	358	207	3,587	+ 268
Middlesbrough	9,224	250	243	9,717	+ 9
Newcastle-on-Tyne	18,411	1,071	1,359	20,841	+ 671
Rotherham	2,445	135	315	2,895	+ 761
Sheffield	21,842	2,178	1,646	25,666	+ 75
South Shields	6,552	343	409	7,304	+ 378
Stockton-on-Tees	8,110	157	392	8,659	+ 998
Sunderland	15,559	821	860	17,240	+ 1,314
York	1,588	292	549	2,429	+ 2
Rest of North Eastern	53,789	9,141	2,919	65,849	+ 4,499
North Western Division	192,542	88,332	21,202	302,076	+ 13,181
Accrington	2,327	1,551	211	4,089	– 185
Ashton-under-Lyne	3,231	2,135	326	5,692	+ 13
Barrow	6,401	312	536	7,249	– 156
Birkenhead	6,707	423	1,168	8,298	+ 1,064
Blackburn	4,181	3,877	543	8,601	– 1,385
Blackpool	433	201	28	662	– 103
Bolton	5,817	1,811	505	8,133	– 31
Burnley	4,221	5,219	552	9,992	+ 56
Bury	1,762	1,815	259	3,836	– 136
Chorley	1,157	427	112	1,696	– 291
Liverpool	42,792	5,922	3,670	52,384	+ 704
Manchester	22,626	6,521	2,390	31,537	+ 643
Nelson	1,162	704	40	1,906	+ 418
Oldham	15,196	11,574	1,341	28,111	+ 7,077
Preston	3,249	2,306	277	5,832	– 997
Rochdale	5,854	4,842	766	11,462	+ 2,963
St. Helens	2,275	280	364	2,919	+ 494
Salford	7,860	4,121	1,791	13,772	– 494
Stockport	3,621	3,092	442	7,155	– 412
Warrington	2,710	408	203	3,321	+ 201
Wigan	2,174	3,932	737	6,843	+ 83
Rest of North Western	46,786	26,859	4,941	78,586	+ 3,655
Scotland Division	138,274	22,474	10,346	171,094	+ 800
Aberdeen	5,301	785	248	6,334	+ 295
Clydebank	4,192	224	309	4,725	+ 149
Dundee	6,261	2,114	326	8,701	– 223
Edinburgh	9,772	1,685	1,003	12,460	+ 589
Glasgow	61,771	9,351	4,805	75,927	– 821
Greenock	10,854	687	428	11,969	+ 420
Motherwell	1,762	164	142	2,068	– 452
Paisley	5,658	746	566	6,970	+ 58
Rest of Scotland	32,703	6,718	2,519	41,940	+ 755
Wales Division	29,602	2,356	2,249	34,207	+ 809
Cardiff	5,279	588	646	6,513	+ 305
Llanelli	399	98	73	570	– 211
Newport	2,306	191	186	2,683	– 58
Swansea	2,549	182	175	2,906	+ 258
Rest of Wales	19,069	1,297	1,169	21,535	+ 515
Northern Ireland	25,699	11,362	897	37,958	– 1,065
Belfast	15,618	7,325	544	23,487	– 825
Londonderry	2,143	671	60	2,874	– 49
Lurgan	376	122	7	505	– 165
Lisburn	597	669	48	1,314	+ 329
Newry	828	300	26	1,154	+ 120
Rest of Northern Ireland	6,137	2,275	212	8,624	– 475
Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland	942,513	237,107	86,508	1,266,128	+ 31,611

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT 27th AUGUST, 1923.

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 exempted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under 16 years of age. An applicant for unemployment benefit must, *inter alia*, prove continuous unemployment, and it is provided that for this purpose any three days of unemployment within a period of six consecutive days shall be treated as a continuous period of unemployment, and any two such continuous periods separated by a period of less than three weeks shall be treated as one continuous period of unemployment. Persons employed in establishments where, owing to trade depression, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis in such a manner as to fall within the above provision are accordingly eligible for benefit. Payment of unemployment benefit is subject to certain statutory conditions and disqualifications. Concurrently with the exchange of Insurance Books in the middle of July opportunity has been taken to revise the classification of insured workpeople so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 Census of population. Since the composition of the several industrial groups has undergone

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

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

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

INDUSTRY.	MEN.	WOMEN.	JUVE- NILES.	TOTAL.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 23rd July, 1923.	INDUSTRY.	MEN.	WOMEN.	JUVE- NILES.	TOTAL.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 23rd July, 1923.
Building	81,209	188	1,203	82,600	- 4,619	Commercial, Banking, Insurance, Finance.. .. .	5,746	1,157	345	7,248	+ 5
Construction of Works	23,529	20	153	23,702	+ 74	Railway Service	10,380	250	124	10,754	- 739
Electrical Wiring and Contracting Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	1,609 117,704	24 324	73 1,808	1,606 119,846	- 380 + 2,204	Tramway and Omnibus Service	3,140	95	48	3,283	- 93
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	131,436	2,368	2,241	136,045	- 955	Other Road Transport	25,202	83	357	25,642	- 131
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., Making and General Iron Founding	14,126	770	444	15,340	+ 346	Fishing	2,987	61	75	3,123	+ 161
Electrical Engineering	3,320	481	208	4,009	- 464	Shipping Service	20,758	335	352	21,445	- 527
Marine Engineering and Marine Boiler Making	16,511	38	226	16,775	+ 1,931	Canal, River, Dock, Harbour Service	45,553	113	147	45,813	- 6,640
Constructional Engineering	2,353	35	37	2,425	+ 77	Other Transport and Communica- tion and Storage	4,660	397	84	5,141	- 150
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft	18,911	1,480	864	21,255	+ 2,557	Coal Mining	42,720	441	1,145	44,306	+ 6,600
Construction and Repair of Car- riages, Carts, etc.	3,700	217	112	4,029	+ 288	Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	4,383	3	65	4,451	- 121
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tramcar Building	2,314	35	37	2,386	- 115	Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	1,091	6	7	1,104	- 20
Saw Milling and Machined Wood work	6,204	199	330	6,733	+ 95	Stone Quarrying and Mining	1,651	15	25	1,691	+ 345
Furniture M'kg, Upholstering, etc. Wood Box and Packing Case M'kg	6,880 1,798	1,168 241	425 112	8,473 2,151	+ 1,168 - 35	Slate Quarrying and Mining	141	-	-	141	- 56
Other Woodworking	2,947	1,110	214	4,271	+ 370	Other Mining and Quarrying	1,602	183	35	1,820	+ 7
Explosives Manufacture	1,487	464	52	2,003	- 406	Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	674	34	8	716	+ 90
Chemicals Manufacture	10,103	1,582	392	12,077	- 206	Paper and Paper Board Making	3,083	977	213	4,273	- 339
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	5,048	1,419	341	6,808	- 780	Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery	1,085	2,760	304	4,149	- 79
Coke Ovens and By-product Works Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture.. .. .	897 445	26 127	8 44	931 616	- 128 + 38	Printing, Publishing and Book- binding	8,633	3,818	755	13,206	+ 333
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	3,917	8	29	3,954	+ 1,027	Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining	138	69	16	223	+ 13
Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills	44,936	376	1,159	46,471	+ 1,668	Stationery and Typewriter Requi- sites (Not Paper)	104	149	44	297	+ 38
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	6,182	503	172	6,857	+ 94	Cotton Industry	40,511	75,789	7,616	123,916	+ 1,021
Manufacture of Tin Plates	1,347	229	105	1,681	+ 615	Woollen and Worsted Industry	12,769	16,284	1,453	30,506	+ 4,970
Electrical Cable, Wire & Electric Lamp Manufacture.. .. .	4,525	2,138	556	7,219	- 127	Silk Industry	1,028	1,920	185	3,133	+ 577
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File M'kg Iron and Steel Tube Making	3,813 3,921	886 253	229 75	4,928 4,249	- 335 - 801	Linen Industry.. .. .	4,544	10,533	813	15,890	- 308
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	2,123	309	163	2,595	+ 180	Jute Industry	1,734	2,650	74	4,458	- 78
Bolt, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	3,077	1,926	251	5,254	+ 130	Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	868	1,885	221	2,974	- 15
Heating and Ventilating Engin- eering	291	13	11	315	- 66	Hosiery Industry	1,682	5,714	769	8,165	+ 1,106
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	4,322	2,320	261	6,903	+ 206	Lace Industry	2,963	2,173	164	5,300	- 109
Other Metal Industries	12,030	6,764	1,121	19,915	+ 931	Carpet Industry	620	762	74	1,456	+ 146
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	4,271	2,058	168	6,497	- 260	Other Textile Industries	1,471	4,685	506	6,662	+ 470
Musical Instrument Making	1,046	128	58	1,232	- 205	Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dye- ing, etc.. .. .	11,735	3,742	588	16,065	+ 2,413
Scientific and Photographic In- strument and Apparatus Manu- facture	685	156	52	893	- 33	Tailoring	6,962	10,525	1,363	18,850	+ 6,324
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites Manufacture	593	587	113	1,293	+ 77	Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	937	7,324	1,284	9,545	+ 2,219
Rubber Manufacture	4,008	2,480	299	6,787	+ 402	Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture.. .. .	1,139	1,730	176	3,045	+ 221
Tanning, Currying and Leather Dressing	4,029	946	183	5,158	+ 388	Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Under- clothing, etc., Making	339	4,304	417	5,060	+ 65
Saddlery, Harness & other Leather Goods Manufacture	1,968	1,146	162	3,276	- 32	Other Dress Industries	1,290	2,749	334	4,373	+ 465
Bricks, Pipes, Tiles, Fireclay Goods Manufacture	3,520	860	137	4,517	- 138	Boot, Shoe, Slippers and Clog Trades	11,229	3,710	705	15,644	+ 597
Manufacture of Pottery, Earthen- ware, China, Porcelain	4,426	5,663	542	10,541	+ 1,021	Bread, Biscuit, Cake, &c., Making	11,025	3,366	990	15,381	- 473
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	1,798	25	35	1,858	+ 78	Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture.. .. .	1,094	2,026	183	3,303	+ 159
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	1,470	80	22	1,572	+ 49	Grain Milling	1,427	243	38	1,708	- 113
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical & Scientific Glass) Manufacture	3,379	343	166	3,888	- 403	Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Con- fectionery	1,868	4,518	1,108	7,494	- 538
Glass Bottle Making	3,191	149	254	3,594	- 182	Other Food Industries	3,602	6,333	682	10,617	+ 1,603
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	10,631	14,424	959	26,014	+ 702	Drink Industries	4,893	1,934	240	7,067	+ 618
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Clean- ing	1,062	4,575	344	5,981	+ 632	Gas, Water, and Electricity Supply Industries	11,874	333	92	12,299	- 147
						Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufac- ture	436	98	11	545	- 266
						Brush and Broom Making	481	487	54	1,022	+ 15
						Distributive Trades	50,131	20,708	7,007	77,846	+ 3,338
						National Government	17,308	2,070	216	19,594	- 468
						Local Government	14,100	410	74	14,584	+ 126
						Professional Services	2,990	1,219	213	4,422	- 58
						Entertainments and Sport	5,398	2,214	245	7,857	- 510
						Other Industries and Services	26,097	2,876	637	29,610	+ 1,504
						Totals*	1,027,278	277,831	49,641	1,354,750	+ 30,249

* The number of insured contributors claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time at 27th August was 72,067, of whom 37,384 were men, 29,515 women, and 5,168 juveniles. Of these, about one-half may be assumed to have been unemployed at the date of the return, and these have been included in the figures.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 45, as compared with 37 in the previous month and 32 in August, 1922. In these new disputes, approximately 6,700 workpeople were directly involved, and 2,300 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 59,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 28 disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 73, involving approximately 68,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during August of about 1,200,000 working days. The dispute involving members of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders in federated shipyards, which began on 30th April, continued throughout August. The strike of dock workers which began in July and was still in progress in London at the beginning of August, was settled on 20th August. A settlement was also affected in the case of the protracted dispute in the Dundee jute industry.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in August by groups of industries:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in August.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in August.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in August.
	Started before 1st August.	Started in August.	Total.		
Building	5	5	10	1,000	16,000
Mining & Quarrying ..	2	7	9	8,000	80,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	7	6	13	37,000	856,000
Textile	1	5	6	1,000	14,000
Transport	2	6	8	19,000	214,000
Other Trades	11	16	27	2,000	20,000
Total, August, 1923	28	45	73	68,000	1,200,000
Total, July, 1923 ..	37	37	74	95,000	1,665,000
Total, August, 1922 ..	35	32	67	51,000	512,000

Causes.—Of the 45 disputes beginning in August, 11, directly involving 1,500 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in

wages; 17, directly involving 1,400 workpeople, on other wages questions; 7, directly involving 600 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 4, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, on questions of unionism and non-unionism; and 6, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected during August in the case of 28 new disputes, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, and 14 old disputes, directly involving 23,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 11, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 12, directly involving 19,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 19, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 4 disputes, directly involving 300 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1922 AND 1923.†

Groups of Industries.	January to August, 1922.			January to August, 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	49	8,000	143,000	43	18,000	347,000
Mining and Quarrying ..	116	104,000	1,217,000	114	142,000	1,004,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding	45	356,000†	17,122,000†	39	42,000	2,908,000
Other Metal	42	10,000	250,000	30	5,000	64,000
Textile	14	4,000	56,000	23	35,000	1,213,000
Clothing	18	3,000	45,000	18	4,000	28,000
Transport	30	5,000	49,000	39	56,000	972,000
Agriculture and Fishing ..	3	2,000	53,000	7	9,000	248,000
Printing, Paper, &c., Trades	9	19,000	318,000	12	6,000	169,000
Woodworking and Furnishing	16	1,000	35,000	18	2,000	34,000
Chemical, Brick, Glass, Pottery, etc.	9	1,000	25,000	22	3,000	67,000
Food, &c., etc.	14	4,000	61,000	17	2,000	154,000
Other Trades	18	2,000	25,000	33	3,000	13,000
Employees of Public Authorities	26	4,000	89,000	25	4,000	58,000
Total	409	523,000	19,488,000	440	338,000	7,279,000

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING AUGUST, 1923.

Occupations and Locality. §	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. §	Result. §
	Directly.	Indirectly. §	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:—			1923.	1923.		
Coal miners, etc.—Whitehaven (near).	2,423		15 May	6 Sept.	Dispute as to proposed change in method of working and alterations in rates of wages of hewers.	Work resumed pending arbitration.
Coal miners, etc.—Newcastle-on-Tyne (near)	1,300		11 June	10 Aug.	Refusal to work with certain men who had left the Miners' Association and joined the Deputies' Association.	Some of the men in question re-joined the Miners' Association. Subsequently the miners decided to resume work so far as working places remained available.
Coal miners, etc.—Cardiff (near) .	2,000		2 Aug.	4 Aug.	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	Non-members joined the Federation.
METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIPBUILDING:—						
Platers, riveters, caulkers, etc. (shipbuilding and repairing) and other workpeople—Federated Districts. ||	10,000¶	24,000¶	30 April	..	Lock-out to enforce acceptance of an Agreement governing overtime and night-shift working made between the Employers' Federation and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.	No settlement reported.
Patternmakers (light castings manufacture) — Falkirk and other centres.	350	..	30 July	29 Aug.	Strike in Falkirk and Luton districts against proposed reduction in wages, followed by lock-out of members of the United Patternmakers' Association employed at other centres by firms affiliated to the National Light Castings Ironfounders' Federation.	Reduction in wages in Falkirk and Luton districts to take effect by two instalments.
TEXTILE TRADES:—						
Jute workers—Dundee.	900**	..	23 Feb.	29 Aug.	Dispute respecting the number of spinners to be employed on certain frames at one establishment.	(See page 324.)
TRANSPORT:—						
Dock labourers, lightermen, etc.—London††	18,000‡‡	..	3 July	20 Aug.	Against reduction in minimum wage of 1s. per day, with corresponding reduction in piece-work rates, in accordance with terms of national agreement of September, 1922. (See page 239 of July GAZETTE and page 280 of August GAZETTE.)	Work resumed on terms of the national agreement.
Canal boatmen, carters, warehousemen, and other workpeople.—Birmingham, Midlands, London, Ellesmere Port, etc.	617	67	13 Aug.	..	Against proposed reduction in wages of canal boatmen.	No settlement reported.
OTHER TRADES:—						
Sawyers, wood-cutting machinists and labourers.—Belfast.	300	..	6 Aug.	11 Aug.	For advance in wages	Modified advance granted.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

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

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

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

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

¶ Estimated numbers involved by the end of August, exclusive of workpeople unemployed when the stoppage began.

** Estimated number involved in August. For numbers involved at earlier dates see the article on page 324.

†† In July other ports were also involved (see GAZETTES for July and August).

‡‡ Estimated number.

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 August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £24,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 250,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £14,000 in the weekly wages of over 180,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected are as follows:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Iron and Steel	147,000	350	£ 16,300	£ 35
Other Metal	31,000	13,750	2,500	1,050
Textile	56,000	250	3,900	10
Public Utility Services ..	—	96,000	—	6,000
Other	15,000	72,500	1,200	6,900
Total	249,000	182,850	23,900	13,995

In the iron and steel group, steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland had their wages increased by 5 per cent. on standard rates (generally equivalent to an increase of about $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on current rates), and in consequence of this change there were also increases in the wages of a large number of subsidiary workers in iron and steel works. The current rates of iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands and of steel sheet millmen generally were increased by about 5 per cent., while there was an increase of 5 per cent. on the standard rates of Siemens steel workers in South and West Wales (equivalent to nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates in the case of the lower-paid men).

In the other metal group there was an increase of nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates in the wages of tinplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. There were decreases of varying amounts in the wages of certain classes of workpeople in the Thames ship repairing industry, and in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for women and girls in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade.

The principal change in the textile group was an increase of 1d. on each shilling earned in the bonus of hosiery workers in the Midlands. There were also increases in the wages of hosiery bleachers, dyers, etc., amounting in the case of adult time-workers to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour.

In the public utility services there was a decrease of 1s. per week in the wages of tramway workers in most of the principal towns in Great Britain. Workpeople employed in the non-trading departments of various local authorities in the London district had their bonuses reduced, and reductions in wages were also sustained by similar classes in Northumberland and Durham, and by employees of electricity supply undertakings in the North-Western Counties of England, and in Scotland.

In trades other than the above the principal reductions affected men employed in flour mills, iron ore miners in Cumberland, heavy chemical workers in Scotland, leather belt makers, and furniture trade operatives in London and at Manchester. Furniture trade operatives at High Wycombe received an increase in wages.

Under the Trade Boards Acts there were decreases (in addition to those mentioned above) in the minimum rates fixed for workpeople in the hair, bass and fibre and the made-up textile trades in Great Britain and for certain classes in the dress-making and women's light clothing trade in Scotland and the hat, cap and millinery trade in Northern Ireland.

Of the decreases taking effect in August, twenty-four, amounting to nearly £9,100 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; thirteen, amounting to £6,700 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including £6,350 under cost of living sliding scales, incorporated above); five, amounting to £2,700 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders; two, amounting to £500 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; six, amounting to £130 per week, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining eighteen cases, amounting to £1,230 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties, or by individual action on the part of employers. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppages of work accounted for less than £120 per week. Of the increases in wages, fifty, amounting to £19,300 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry; eight, amounting to over £4,400 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; and the remaining six were arranged by direct negotiation or by a joint standing body.

Summary of Changes in January—August, 1923.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople† affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building	2,900	464,000	£ 590	£ 74,900
Mining and Quarrying ..	928,000	16,000	257,300	2,500
Iron and Steel	145,000	5,000	32,000	1,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding	5,000	155,000	550	27,300
Other Metal	29,000	143,000	3,000	26,600
Textile	300	190,000	60	17,900
Clothing	1,000	541,000	30	85,800
Transport	2,750	730,000	275	120,700
Paper, Printing, &c. ..	—	163,000	—	19,000
Furniture and Woodworking	100	54,000	15	11,400
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c. ..	230	123,000	30	20,500
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	100	239,000	10	32,600
Public Utility Services ..	1,850	299,000	200	48,000
Other	—	107,000	—	14,600
Total	1,116,200	3,229,000	294,060	502,800

In the corresponding eight months of 1922 there was a net reduction of over £3,600,000 in the weekly wages of 7,500,000 workpeople, and a net increase of nearly £3,500 in the wages of 18,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in August.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
Building	Gravesend, Northfleet and District	23 Aug.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5½d.) and ½d. per hour for labourers (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1½d.).
	Aberystwyth ...	1 Aug.	Building trade operatives ...	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4d.; labourers, 1s.
	Aberdeen ...	21 Aug.	Plumbers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Dundee and District	16 July	Plumbers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.). (See Decision No. 837 on p. 349).
	Douglas and District (Isle of Man)	1st pay day in Aug.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, plasterers and painters	Decrease† of ½d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3½d.).
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Radstock ...	30 Aug.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 0.64 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 36.52 per cent. above the standard of 1918.

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

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of 120,000 workpeople (mainly in the iron and steel and textile trades) whose wages have been both increased and reduced during the year.

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

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Coke and By-products Manufacture	West Yorkshire ...	1 Aug.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase* of 10·25 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 60·60 per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: coke fillers, 6s. 2d. per day; rammen and pipe fitters, 6s.; trammers, daubers, winchmen, coke screeners, scrubbers, 5s. 9d.; pug mill men and labourers, 5s. 4d., plus in each case 60·60 per cent.
	South Wales ...	1 Aug.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard base rates of 1916 and 1917, making wages 25 to 35 per cent. above the standard.†
Iron Mining	Cumberland ...	20 Aug.	Iron ore miners ... Winding enginemen ... Other underground and surface workers	Decrease* of 6d. per shift in the bargain price (11s. 5d. to 10s. 11d.), and of 6d. per shift in the minimum wage (8s. 9d. to 8s. 3d.). Decrease* of 4½d. per shift (9s. 9½d. to 9s. 5d.). Decrease* of 3d. per shift for men and of 1½d. per shift for boys under 16 years of age. Rates after change: underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 10d. per shift; blacksmiths, 9s. 7d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire	5 Aug.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 50½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
Quarrying	West Cumberland	13 Aug.	Limestone quarrymen ...	Decrease* of 3d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 4½d. per shift for other men, and of 2½d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: day borers (1st class), 8s. 9½d.; day labourers, 8s. 1½d.; ruddmen, 7s. 7½d. per shift.
	South-West of England†	1st pay in June	Roadstone quarryworkers ...	Decrease§ of ½d. per hour. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 11d. per hour.
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	North Lincolnshire	5 Aug.	Blastfurnacemen ... Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at ironstone mines, at blast-furnaces, and in steel works	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 50½ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 50½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Increase* of 4 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 35½ per cent. above the standard plus a tonnage bonus. Rates after change: patternmakers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 42s.; machinemen (millers, borers, planers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers (after one year's service), 32s. 6d.; plus, in each case, 35½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
	England and West of Scotland||	5 Aug.	Men employed in steel smelting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers Semi-skilled workers and labourers:— Men on 8-hour shifts¶ ... Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week¶	Increase* under sliding scale, of 5 per cent. on the standard of 1905, making wages 38½ per cent. (basic process) and 13½ per cent. (acid process) above the standard. Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates of 1921, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	England and West of Scotland	5 Aug.	Roll turners ...	Increase* of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
	England and Wales	6 Aug.	Steel sheet millmen ...	Increase* of 8 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 70 per cent. above the standard of 1891.
	Certain districts in England**	5 Aug.	Bricklayers employed at blast-furnaces and in iron and steel works Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills:— Men on 8-hour shifts¶ ... Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week¶	Increase* of 5 per cent. on basis rate, making wages 11·375d. per hour, plus 38½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus. Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
	North of England	5 Aug.	Engineers, electricians, strikers, motor attendants, arc lamp trimmers, boilermakers, patternmakers, employed at blast-furnaces and in iron and steel works Bricklayers' labourers at blast-furnaces and in iron and steel works	Increase* of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
	Tees-side (certain works)	5 Aug.	Men employed on direct production in steel rolling mills Steel millmen, engineers' labourers and general labourers	Increase* of 0·40d. per hour (9·85d. to 10·25d.). Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard.
	Workington ...	5 Aug.	Engineers employed at steel works	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	6 Aug.	Wire and hoop millmen ...	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rate, making rate 42s. per week, plus 38½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
	Shotton ...	5 Aug.	Steel melters, gas producermen, steel rolling mill workers, etc., and semi-skilled and unskilled workmen	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 57½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 28½ per cent. above the standard, plus an additional 20 per cent. to those with a base rate 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.

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

† The above increase was given under the terms of an agreement by which it was decided that two reductions totalling 17½ per cent. which were made in December, 1921, and May, 1922, should be 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, 1923.

‡ Including Berkshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, Somerset, and Wiltshire.

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

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

¶ The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowance or extra payment mentioned.

** The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, the West Coast Ironmasters' Association, and the Lincolnshire Ironmasters' Association with the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE —(continued).				
Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.)	Scunthorpe ...	5 Aug.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers and general labourers, etc.	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard.
	Midlands (including parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire)	6 Aug.	Bricklayers' labourers and joiners' labourers	Increase* of 0·48d. per hour (9·86d. to 10·34d.).
		30 July	Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen	Increase* of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 57½ per cent. above the standard.
		5 Aug.	Non-scale workers (chiefly labourers, etc.)	War bonus increased* by 1s. 6d. per week for men, 9d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years of age, and 4½d. per week for boys under 18.
	South and West Wales	6 Aug.	Locomotive drivers and shunters in Siemens steel works	Increase to a uniform basis rate of 8s. per shift for locomotive drivers and to 7s. for shunters.
			Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) engaged in Siemens steel manufacture	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 28½ per cent. above the standard, plus an additional 20 per cent. to those with a base rate 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, and an additional 3d. per shift for boys under 18 years of age.
Engineering, etc.	West of Scotland...	5 Aug.	Lower paid labourers in Siemens steel works	Basis rate increased from 7·33d. per hour to 7·66d. per hour (plus the percentage and other additions mentioned above).
			Men employed in steel rolling mills:— Millmen, gas producemen, enginemen, cranimen, firemen, etc.	Increase* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 38½ per cent. above the standard.
			Semi-skilled workers and labourers	Increase* of ¼ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease in such advance since 1st May, 1921, about 80 per cent.
	Gravesend, Maidstone, Northfleet and Rochester†	1st pay after 18 Aug.	Bricklayers in steel works ... Bricklayers' labourers in steel works	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.).† Increase* of 0·36d. per hour (9·13d. to 9·49d.).
	London District §	1st pay after 18 Aug.	ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, ETC.	
	Burton-on-Trent ...	1 July	Skilled millwrights ...	Basis rate fixed at ¼d. per hour above the basis rate for fitters and turners during the first six months of employment as a millwright, and at 1d. per hour above the rate for fitters and turners after serving continuously for six months as a millwright.
Ship Repairing			Skilled moulders ...	Rate adopted for a 47-hour week of 1s. 1d. per hour, plus a war bonus of 10s. per week.
			Ironmoulders and pattern-makers	See footnote below.
	Thames District ...	1 Aug.	Shipwrights, blacksmiths, joiners, painters, sheet metal workers, french polishers, electricians' assistants, rivet heaters under 18 years, galley-men and tilers	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: shipwrights and blacksmiths, 63s. 6d.; painters, joiners and sheet metal workers, 65s.; french polishers, 64s. 6d.; electricians' assistants, 50s.; rivet heaters under 18 years, 27s. 9d.; galley-men and tilers, 58s. 6d.
Tinplate Manufacture			Riggers ...	Decrease of 2½d. per day (except Saturday). Rate after change: Saturday, 7s. 9d.; other weekdays, 11s. 2d.
			Hammermen ...	Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week (54s. 6d. to 53s. 4d.).
			Platers, rivetters, burners, welders and holders-up	Decrease of 1s. per week for platers, rivetters, burners and welders, and of 10d. per week for holders-up. Rates after change: platers, 82s. 10d.; rivetters, 75s. 7d.; burners, 89s. 6d.; welders, 94s.; holders-up, 69s. 1d.¶
Galvanising Iron and Steel Sheets	South Wales and Monmouthshire	5 Aug.	OTHER METAL TRADES.	
			Workpeople employed in tinplate manufacture (except maintenance craftsmen)	Increase* of 3½ per cent. on weekly base earnings, making, with the special temporary allowance of 7½ per cent. previously paid (which is to be continued), 11½ per cent. on weekly base earnings (which include 25 per cent. special bonus consolidated in 1920).
	England and Wales (certain firms**)	6 Aug.	Workpeople employed in galvanising departments (excluding process of annealing)	Increase* of 8 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 70 per cent. above the standard.
Cable Making	North-Western District of England††	1 Aug.	Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable making industry	Decreases varying according to Zone of from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per week for plumber-jointers and jointers, and of 1s. 6d. or 1s. 5d. per week for jointers' mates.
	Scotland†† ...			Decreases varying according to Zone of from 1s. 8·2d. to 1s. 11·12d. per week for plumber-jointers and jointers, and of from 1s. 3·82d. to 1s. 4·91d. per week for jointers' mates.
			Female workers employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade:— Polishers or drop stampers	Decreases in the general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates, fixed under Trade Boards Acts, as follows (see also p. 311 of August GAZETTE):— Decrease in time rates of ¼d. per hour for those 15 years and over, and of ¼d. per hour for those under 15 years; also a decrease of ¼d. per hour (10½d. to 10d.) in the piecework basis time rate. Rates after change for timeworkers 18 years and over: 8d. during first 12 months' employment and 9d. afterwards.
Stamped or Pressed Metal Ware Manufacture			Hand brush japanners, or handbrush lacquerers who are capable of finishing all classes of work, blow-pipe braziers or solderers using ordinary hand iron or blow-pipe with bar strip or wire solder	Decrease in time rates of ¼d. per hour for those 15 years and over, and of ¼d. per hour for those under 15 years; also a decrease of ¼d. per hour (9½d. to 9d.) in the piecework basis time rate. Rates after change for timeworkers 18 years and over: 7d. during first 12 months' employment and 8d. afterwards.
	Great Britain ...	13 Aug.	All other female workers not included above	Decrease in time rates of ¼d. per hour for those 15 years and over, and of ¼d. per hour for those under 15 years; also decreases in piecework basis time rates of ¼d. per hour for those 15 years and over, and of ¼d. per hour for those under 15 years. Rates after change for those 18 years and over: timework, 6½d.; piecework, 7½d.

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

† See note || on p. 296 of August GAZETTE.

‡ This change was arranged between the London and District Association of Engineering Employers and the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

§ The adoption of the above rate was the result of an agreement made by the London and District Association of Engineering Employers and the National Union of Foundry Workers, the Brassworkers and Metal Mechanics, the Amalgamated Society of Brassworkers and the London United Brass and General Metal Founders, and applied to the area within a 1½-mile radius of Charing Cross and such parts of the following towns as lie outside that area, viz.: Bexley Heath, Crayford, Dartford, Enfield, Erith, Hayes, Romford, Thames Ditton and Waltham.

|| In the August issue of this GAZETTE particulars were given of an increase of 2s. per week in the rates of wages of moulders and patternmakers at Burton-on-Trent as from 1st July. The Department has since been informed that the increase applied only to iron moulders and patternmakers, and not to brass moulders.

¶ The rates for platers, rivetters and holders-up include a speed allowance of 20 per cent. on basis rates.

** Members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.

†† These changes took effect under arrangements made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Electrical Cable-Making Industry.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Cotton Industry	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and West Riding of Yorkshire	Week ending 4 Aug.	Weavers employed in the cotton industry:— Cloths made with two kinds of twist	Addition to standard prices of 5 per cent. for weaving cloth with two kinds of twist (twist way and weft way), tinted or otherwise, both same counts; if woven on two beams the addition to be 10 per cent., to include payment for second beam. (This arrangement does not apply to selvages made in a similar manner). Addition to standard prices varying according to weft from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. for pickfinding in plain cloths and from 5 per cent. to 12½ per cent. for pickfinding in two-and-two twill cloths. Bonus of 7d. in the 1s. on earnings increased† to 8d. in the shilling.
Hosiery Manufacture	Various districts in Midland Counties*	Week beginning 20 Aug.	All classes of workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery (except dyers, trimmers, finishers, etc.)	
Silk Dyeing and Finishing	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 18 Aug.	Male workers employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trades	Decreases† of 6d. per week for those 14 to 18½ years of age, of 9d. for those 19 to 20½ years, of 1s. for those 21 to 22 years, and of 1s. 3d. for those 22½ years of age. Rates after change: 15s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 49s. 6d. at 22½ years.
Calico Printing	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Sept.	Machine calico printers ...	Supplementary "cost of living" wage increased† from 59·5 per cent. to 60·35 per cent. on basis wages, the flat-rate bonus of 10s. per week for journeymen and 9s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing, and Finishing	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby and Hinckley	24 Aug.	Timeworkers ... Pieceworkers:— Trimmers (other than web trimmers and jersey trimmers) Web trimmers and jersey trimmers Dyers, scourers, menders, and other pieceworkers	Increase† of 3d. 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 increases for auxiliary workers under 18. Rates after change: dyers and scourers, 1s. 3d.; trimmers, 1s. 6d.; auxiliary workers (Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley): men 18 to 21, 10d.; 21 and over, 1s. 2d.; women 18 and over, 9d.; qualified menders, 11d. Bonus of 50 per cent. on list prices, previously paid, increased† to 60 per cent. Bonus of 32½ per cent. on list prices, previously paid, increased† to 40 per cent. Increase† of 1s. in £.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade	Scotland ...	6 Aug.	Female learners employed in the retail branch (during 2nd, 3rd and 4th year of employment)	Decrease in the minimum time rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, of ½d. or ¾d. per hour. (See also p. 311 of August GAZETTE.)
			Workpeople (other than learners) employed in the hat, cap and millinery trade:— Male workers ...	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See also p. 350):— Decrease of ½d. to 1½d. per hour in time rates and 1½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate (1s. 3½d. to 1s. 2d.). Minimum time rates after change: under 15 years, 2½d., increasing to 6½d. at 18 and to 1s. 0½d. at 22 and over.
Hat, Cap, and Millinery	Northern Ireland	20 Aug.	Female workers employed in the retail branch:— 22 years and over, with not less than 3 years' experience after learnership Workers (excluding homeworkers) under 22 years or having attained the age of 22 years have not had three years' experience after learnership Homeworkers ...	Decreases of 1½d. per hour in Class A§ areas, and of 1½d. per hour in Class B§ areas. Minimum time rates after change: Class A, 8½d.; Class B, 7½d. Decrease of 1d. per hour for Class A§ and 1½d. per hour for Class B§. Minimum time rates after change: Class A§, 7½d.; Class B, 6½d.
Tailoring	Bradford ...	Week ending 24 Mar. 1st pay in July	Female workers employed in branches other than the retail branch Tailors:— "Log" workers ... Timeworkers ... Pieceworkers (other than "log" workers)	Decrease of 1d. or 2d. per hour. Minimum time rates after change: Class A§, 7½d.; Class B§, 6½d. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum time rates after change: knife cutters and blockers, 10d.; other workers (including homeworkers), 7d. Decrease of 5 per cent. in percentage payable on pre-war rates, leaving wages 100 per cent. above pre-war rates. Decrease of 2d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 3d.). Decrease of 2d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 4½d.).
FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES.				
Furniture Manufacture	London ...	1 Aug.	Timeworkers:— Cabinet makers, wood-carvers, chairmakers, gluers, crampers-up, wood-cutting machinists and upholsterers French polishers (men), japaners and chair shapers French polishers (women) ... Operatives employed in the carpet and blind section Packers and porters (wholesale trade) Learners, improvers and apprentices Pieceworkers:— Upholsterers ... Operatives employed in the white enamelled (deal) section	Decrease† of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: spindle and four-cutter hands, 1s. 9½d.; other classes, 1s. 8½d. Decrease† of ½d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.). Decrease† of ½d. per hour (1s. 1d. to 1s. 0½d.). Decrease† of ½d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.). Decrease† of ½d. per hour for those paid hourly rates, and 1s. 10d. per week for those paid weekly. Rates after change: packers, 1s. 4½d. per hour or 60s. 3d. per week; porters, 1s. 3d. per hour or 54s. 5d. per week. Decrease† of 2·38 per cent. for those who have previously received advances pro rata to those granted from time to time to journeymen. Decrease† in total of agreed percentage payable on basic rate from 75 to 70·83, except for those employed by certain firms (see p. 315 of the June, 1921, issue of this GAZETTE), for whom the percentages payable are 10 per cent. plus 10 per cent. plus 70·83 per cent. (calculated cumulatively). Decrease† of 2·38 per cent. on existing rates.

* Viz.: Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley, and Coventry districts.

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

‡ It is understood that the increase did not apply to auxiliary workers at Nottingham.

§ Class A.—Workers employed within the areas of the County Boroughs of the Cities of Belfast and Londonderry. Class B.—Workers employed in other areas.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 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 (cont.)	Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport	1 Aug.	Furniture trade operatives ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for male workers and ½d. per hour for female workers, with proportionate decreases for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists (after 4 years on machines), upholsterers, polishers, and mattress makers, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.; glass workers—bevellers, silverers, and cutters, 1s. 7d.; brilliant cutters, 1s. 8d.; fitters, 1s. 5d.; packers, 1s. 4d.; upholstresses and female polishers, 11½d.
	North-East Lancashire† and Todmorden	1 Aug.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair makers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists	Decrease* of ½d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.), and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers.
	Oldham ...	26 May 1 Aug.	Cabinet makers and french polishers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Wigan ...	1 Aug.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers, and french polishers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Birmingham and West Bromwich	Pay day in week ending 10 Aug.	Carpet and blind fitters ...	Decrease* of ½d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 4½d.).
Mill Sawing	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 25 Aug.	Journeymen ...	Increase* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane, and cheap rush bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5½d.
			Labourers ...	Increase* of ½d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2d.).
			Apprentices ...	Increase* of from 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 6d., increasing to 16s. 6d. during 4th six months and to 32s. during 8th six months.
	Manchester, Salford and District, and Ashton-under-Lyne	26 May 23 July	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers Timber yard labourers, slingers, and power driven crane drivers	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Sheffield and Rotherham	Week ending 1 Sept.†	Machinists, sawyers, etc. ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: timber yard labourers, 1s. 1d.; slingers, 1s. 1½d.; crane drivers, 1s. 1½d.
Packing Case Making	Scotland ...	Pay day in week ending 11 Aug.	Woodcutting machinists ...	Increase* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: planing and moulding machinists, 1s. 5½d.; band and circular sawyers, 1s. 5d.; horizontal sawyers, 1s. 4½d.; deal frame sawyers, 1s. 4d.
	Scotland (except Aberdeen)	Pay day in week ending 11 Aug.	Packing case makers and woodcutting machinists employed in packing case shops	Decrease of ½d. per hour for journeymen. Minimum rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 3½d.
Picture Frame Making	Glasgow ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Picture frame makers ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour for journeymen and of ¼d. per hour for apprentices. Rates after change: packing case makers: Glasgow, 1s. 3½d.; Edinburgh, Leith, Dunfermline, and Dundee, 1s. 2½d.; woodcutting machinists (all districts), 1s. 3½d.
CHEMICAL, GLASS, BRICK, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES.				
Chemical Manufacture	Scotland§ ...	6 Aug.§	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of heavy chemicals||	Decrease of 2s. per week for timeworkers and 2s. 6d. per week for shiftworkers.
	London ...	1 Aug.	Plumbers employed in chemical works	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 10½d. to 1s. 9½d.).¶
Brick, Tile, and Cement Manufacture	Bridgwater ...	2 Aug.	Dayworkers ... Pieceworkers ...	Increase of 1s. per week (38s. to 39s.). Rates adjusted so as to yield at least 25 per cent. above daywork rates.
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Flour Milling	Great Britain** ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Male workers (including motor lorry drivers, carriers and horse carmen where previously included with mill employees):— 21 years and over ...	Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: first roller men—Grade I: Class A mills, 67s.; Class AA, 64s. 6d.; Class B, 62s.; Class BB, 58s. 6d.; Class C, 55s.; Grade II: Class A, 65s.; Class AA, 62s. 6d.; Class B, 60s.; Class BB, 56s. 6d.; Class C, 53s.; Grade III: Class BB, 54s. 6d.; Class C, 51s.; general labourers (all grades): Class A, 51s.; Class AA, 48s. 6d.; Class B, 46s.; Class BB, 42s. 6d.; Class C, 39s.
	London (Metropolitan Area)	1st pay day in Aug.	Under 21 years of age ... Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trade by members of the London Master Bakers' Protection Society	Decreases* varying from 6d. to 1s. per week. Decreases* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male bakers and confectioners, 2s. per week for allied workers, 9d. per week for juveniles and 5d. per day for jobbers. Minimum rates after change for adult male workers: forehands, 65s. 6d., 69s. 6d. or 73s. 6d.; singlehands, 61s. 6d.; secondhands and doughmakers, 59s. 6d., 63s. 6d. or 65s. 6d.; ovenmen, machine minders, stokers, etc., 60s. 6d.; tablehands, 57s. 6d.
Baking and Confectionery		25 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trades by certain members of the Incorporated Society of Principal Wholesale and Retail Bakers	Increase* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male bakers and confectioners, 2s. for allied workers, 1s. 3d. for adult female workers, 9d. for juniors, and 5d. per day for jobbers. Minimum rates after change: adult male workers: forehands, 65s. 6d., 69s. 6d., or 73s. 6d.; singlehands, 61s. 6d.; secondhands and doughmakers, 59s. 6d., 63s. 6d., or 65s. 6d.; ovenmen, machine minders, stokers, &c., 60s. 6d.; tablehands, 57s. 6d.; adult female workers, forewomen 43s. 9d., others 39s.
	Birmingham and Midland District††	Pay day in week ending 1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the bread baking and confectionery trade	Increase* of 2s. 4d. per week for adult workers and proportionate increases for juniors. Minimum rates after change for adults: foremen, 63s. 8d. or 68s. 8d.; doughmakers, singlehands and secondhands, 62s. 8d.; platers, 60s. 8d.; tablehands, 58s. 8d.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
† Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Padiham and Preston.

‡ The increase was to be paid in respect of the full pay preceding the pay-day in the week ending 1st September.
§ The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Scottish Committee of Chemical Manufacturers. It is understood that in the case of some firms the

reductions took effect from a later date.
|| Excluding tradesmen whose wages are regulated by movements in their own trades.

¶ Plumbers employed in fertiliser works receive an additional 1d. per hour but are not paid for Bank holidays.

** The change took effect under an arrangement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry.

†† Including Brierley Hill, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock, Coventry, Darlaston, Dudley, Leamington, Rugby, Smethwick, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Willenhall, and Wolverhampton.

‡‡ The rates quoted are for daywork; 1s. per night extra is added for each night worked, making 6s. per week extra on continuous night work.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 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 (cont.)	Leicester	1st pay day after 20 Aug.	Adult workers	Increase* of 3s. per week. Rates after change: ordinary bakeries—forehands, 68s.; singlehands and secondhands, 66s.; tablehands, 64s.; factories, 5s. per week more in each case.
	Dundee	1st pay day in Aug.	Youths and deliverers under 21 years of age Bakers and confectioners ...	Increases* of 1s. 9d., 2s. 3d., and 2s. 7d. per week for those 18, 19, and 20 respectively. Decrease of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 72s.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Leather Belt Manufacture	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Timeworkers	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled—London, 1s. 3½d.; Provinces, 1s. 3¼d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s. 0½d.; Provinces, 11¼d.
	Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Pieceworkers and cutters on day work	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, reduced* from 74 to 69.
Saddlery, Harness, etc., Manufacture	Various Districts in England†	4 June	Saddlers, harness makers, and horse collar makers (retail trade)	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: saddlers and harness makers, 1s. 5d.; collar makers, 1s. 6d.
			Basket makers employed on Government work	Bonus of 52½ per cent. on revised London price list of 1919 previously paid reduced to 45 per cent. Time rate after change for repair work, 1s. per hour plus 45 per cent.
Basket Making	Lancashire and Cheshire†	20 Aug.	Skip and basket makers... ..	Increase* of 5 per cent. on Lancashire price list, making wages 95 per cent. and 85 per cent. above the list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively. Rate after change for timeworkers, 8d. per hour plus 95 per cent.
			Agricultural basket makers ...	Bonus of 100 per cent. on pre-war price list previously paid increased* to 105 per cent.
Warehousing	Liverpool	3 Aug.	Permanent warehousemen (cotton, rubber, etc.)	Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 55s.
India Rubber Manufacture	Lancashire	1st full pay day in July	Workpeople employed in india rubber manufacture	Decrease* of ½d. per hour for men and ¼d. per hour for women and young persons. Minimum rate after change for men, 38s.
Boiler and Pipe Covering	London	1st full pay after 22 Aug.	Boiler and pipe coverers	Decrease of ½d. per hour for qualified men 21 years and over (1s. 5d. to 1s. 4½d.).
Artificial Limb Making	Birmingham ...	10 Aug.	Artificial limb makers	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled men, 1s. 9d.
			Workpeople employed in the hair, bass, and fibre trade:—	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (See also p. 311 of August GAZETTE):—
Hair, Bass, and Fibre	Great Britain ...	6 Aug.	Horse hair sorters, hacklers, drawers or bunchers, power loom weavers, winders, damask seating hand loom weavers, curlers, spinners, hair dyers, cloth starchers, and carpet weavers with not less than three years' experience	Decreases in time rates of from ¼d. to ½d. per hour for male workers and ¼d. or ½d. per hour for female workers; and decrease of ¼d. and ½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate for male and female workers respectively. Minimum time rates after change: male workers, 7½d. at 17 years, increasing to 1s. 2½d. at 21 and over; female workers, 5½d. at 17 and under 17½ years, increasing to 7½d. at 18 and over.
			Fibre drafters, dressers or dyers, bass sorters, dyers, cutters, roughers, mixers, or finishers with not less than three years' experience	Decreases in time rates of ¼d. or ½d. per hour for male workers, and ¼d. or ½d. per hour for female workers; and decrease of ¼d. and ½d. in the piecework basis time rates for male and female workers respectively. Minimum time rates after change: male workers, 7d. at 17, increasing to 1s. 1½d. at 21 and over; female workers, 5½d. at 17 and under 17½, increasing to 7d. at 18 and over.
Made-up Textiles	Great Britain ...	27 Aug.	Male and female workers employed in the weaving of hair machine belting, and in all preparatory, finishing, warehousing, or packing operations incidental to, or appertaining to, such weaving	General minimum time rates, piecework, basis time rates and overtime rates previously fixed cancelled.
			All other workers 16 years of age and over (except those employed on hand loom weaving other than damask seating hand loom weaving)	Decrease in time rates of ¼d. to ½d. per hour for male workers, and ¼d. or ½d. per hour for female workers. Minimum rates after change: male workers, 4½d. at 16 and under 16½, increasing to 11½d. at 21 years and over; female workers, 4½d. at 16 and under 16½, increasing to 6½d. at 18 and over.
Made-up Textiles	Great Britain ...	27 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the made-up textile trade:—	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (See also p. 350):—
			Foremen and forewomen, awl and needle stitchers (leather and canvas), cutters, letter writers (other than stencillers), machinists (sewing), mixers, palm and needle hands, ropers of tents and coal sacks, splicers of ropes over 1½ ins. in circumference	Decrease of 1d. and ½d. per hour for male and female workers respectively. Minimum time rates after change: men, 21 years and over, 1s. 1d.; women, 18 and over, 6½d.
Made-up Textiles	Great Britain ...	27 Aug.	All other workers (except learners)	Decreases in time rates of ¼d. to ½d. per hour for male workers and ¼d. or ½d. per hour for female workers, and in the piecework basis time rates of ¼d. and ½d. per hour for male and female workers respectively. Minimum time rates after change: male workers, 21 and over, 10½d.; female workers, 18 and over, 6½d.
			Learners	Decreases of ¼d. or ½d. per hour in minimum time rates.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Gas	Birmingham, Smethwick and Walsall	18 to 23 July	Gas fitters (fully qualified) employed in Corporation Gas Undertakings	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d.).
Electricity Supply	North Western Area§	1 Aug.	All classes of adult male workers	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on the total wages paid at 31 January, 1923 (making a total decrease of 10 per cent. since that date). Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change: indoor and outdoor labourers respectively, Zone A, 13·14d., 13·66d.; Zone B, 12·51d., 13·08d.; Zone C, 12·23d., 12·81d.; fitters—Zone A, 17·86d.; Zone B, 17·10d.; Zone C, 16·34d.

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

† Including Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, London, Birmingham, Leicester and Nottingham.

‡ Including Ashton-under-Lyne, Blackburn, Bolton, Heywood, Knutsford, Leigh, Liverpool, Manchester, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport and Warrington.

§ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the North Western Area Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES—(continued).				
Electricity Supply (contd.)	Scotland* ...	1 Aug.	Adult male workers (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: Group A, 11'96d.; Group B, 11'68d.; Group C, 11'12d. per hour.*
	Londonderry...	22 June	Workpeople employed by Electricity Undertaking	New schedule of rates of wages adopted, including the following:—Fitters' assistants, 1s. 2d. per hour; greasers, cleaners, and general helpers, 1s.; stokers, 1s. 4d.; leading stokers 1s. 4½d.
Tramways	Great Britain† ...	1st pay in July	Motormen, conductors, etc. ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour.
	Lancaster ...	1st full pay in Aug.	Youths. under 19 years of age, 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.†
	Dundee ...	9 Aug.	Motormen, conductors, etc. ...	Decrease of 3d. per week. Rates after change: 14 to 15 years, 13s. 6d.; 15 to 16 years, 15s. 6d.; 16 to 17 years, 17s. 6d.; 17 to 18 years, 22s.; 18 to 19 years, 27s. 6d. per week.§
	Belfast ...	2 Aug.	Motormen, conductors, etc. ...	Decrease of 1s. 3d. per week. Rates after change: motormen, 51s.; conductors, 49s. per week.
	Northumberland and Durham||	8 Aug.	Motormen, conductors, etc. ...	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: drivers and conductors, 55s. to 58s.; cleaners, 53s. to 54s. per week.
Non-trading Departments of Local Authorities	York ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Able-bodied male manual workers	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change for motormen and conductors—minimum, 52s.; maximum, 64s. per week.
	London (certain Authorities)¶	1st pay in Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change:—Grade A areas: road repairers and carters, 1s. 2½d.; road sweepers and general labourers, 1s. 0½d.; paviors' and flaggers' labourers, concretors and men laying tramways, 1s. 3½d.; sewer cleaners and drainers, 1s. 2½d. and 1s. 3½d.; men tarring and asphaltting roads, 1s. 2½d.; dustmen, day scavengers and gardeners, 1s. 1½d.; Grade B areas, 1d. per hour less; and Grade C areas, 2½d. per hour less than Grade A area rates.||
	London (certain Authorities)**	2 Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, day carters and refuse collectors, 1s. 1½d.; day scavengers, 1s. 1½d.; night scavengers and carters, 1s. 2½d.; wagon and road roller drivers, 1s. 3d.; paviors, 1s. 6½d. per hour.
	Acton, Edmonton, Hanwell, Ilford, Tottenham, Middlesex C.C.	1st pay in Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease of ½th of "cost of living" bonus as revised in July, 1922. Scheduled minimum rates after change include: general labourers, 60s. 4d. or 60s. 5d.; scavengers, 57s. 1d.; female bath and lavatory attendants, 45s. 1d. per week.¶
	East Ham ...	1 Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease of ½ths of the original bonus, as agreed in June, 1920, making a total reduction of ¼ths. Scheduled minimum rates after change include: general labourers, 56s. 8d. or 56s. 9d.; scavengers, 54s.; female bath and lavatory attendants, 41s. 11d. per week.**
	Carnarvonshire ...	1 Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease of ½ths of the original bonus on minimum rates. Rates after change for road labourers: Acton, 53s. 7d.; Edmonton, 53s. 6d.; Hanwell, 46s. 6d.; Ilford, 53s.; Tottenham, 1s. 3d. per hour; Middlesex C.C., 41s. 1d. to 49s. 11d.
		25 Aug.	Roadmen employed by County Council	Decrease in bonus varying from 4s. per week for those in receipt of a basis wage of 51s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. for those with a basis rate of 31s. Rates after change: road scavengers, 58s. 6d.; refuse collectors, 59s. 6d. per week.
				Decrease of 5s. per week (50s. to 45s.).††

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1923.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Local Authority Services	Carnarvonshire ...	25 Aug.	Roadmen employed by County Council	Working hours increased from 47 to 48 per week.‡‡

* 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 groups:—Group A: Cambuslang Electric Supply, Clyde Valley Electric Power Co., Falkirk, Paisley, Edinburgh and Wishaw; Group C: Alloa, Kirkcaldy, Kilmarnock, Stirling and Perth.

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

‡ This decrease took effect under the sliding scale of the National Joint Council for the Tramways Industry. The decrease was put into operation by the majority of the principal undertakings, but it is reported that it has not taken effect in the case of the following:—Camborne and Redruth, Colchester, Dundee, Glasgow, Great Yarmouth, Lancaster, Llandudno and Colwyn Bay, Musselburgh, Perth, Sunderland (Corporation and Sunderland and District Electric Tramways Ltd.), Southend-on-Sea, Scarborough, West Ham, and York; while at East Ham the full reduction did not apply to all classes, and at Cheltenham the reduction took effect from 6th September. Particulars of the changes which applied at Lancaster and Dundee are given above.

§ In the case of Liverpool the reduction for youths under 18 years employed as parcels, etc., boys was 6d. per week.

¶ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Northumberland and Durham for Local Authorities (Non-Trading Services) and include:—Grade A: Darlington, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Blyth, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Earsdon, Felling, Leadgate, Longbenton, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Newburn-on-Tyne, Prudhoe, Ryton, Seaton Delaval, Stanley, Durham C.C. and R.D.C.s of Durham, Easington, South Shields; Grade B: Brandon and Byshottles, Shildon, Tanfield, and R.D.C.s of Auckland, Sedgfield, Weardale; Grade C: Amble and Benfieldside. The rates actually paid by some of the Authorities differ from the scheduled minima quoted above.

¶ Viz.:—London County Council, Battersea, Camberwell, Chelsea, Deptford (operated reduction from 14th September), Fulham, Greenwich, Hackney, Islington, St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Southwark. In the case of Chelsea, the decrease of ½th applied to one-half the bonus paid previous to November, 1922.

** Viz.:—Finsbury, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Westminster. The rates actually paid by some of the authorities differ from the scheduled minima quoted above.

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

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

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN SEPTEMBER, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes already reported as having been arranged to take effect in September:—*Increases in Wages.*—Coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and in the Forest of Dean; silversmiths, jewellery workers, etc., at Birmingham; and workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing, paper of Dean, and brush and broom trades (under Trade Board Orders). *Decreases in Wages.*—Coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, and in Scotland; iron ore miners and blastfurnace workers in Cumberland; men employed in the Thames ship-repairing industry; bolt and nut makers in Lancashire; road transport workers and coal porters in London; cement workers; and men employed in the gas industry. *Change in Hours.*—Building trade operatives (see page 324 of this issue). Further particulars will be given in the October issue of this GAZETTE.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 135 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed in August, 1923. The summarised figures for August are given in the following Table, together with similar figures relating to plans passed in these localities in the first eight months of this year.

In the 135 localities to which the figures relate, plans were passed in August for buildings of an estimated cost of nearly £2,300,000, compared with an average of about £3,650,000 in the preceding seven months. In a considerable number of towns, however, no plans were approved during August owing to the fact that the Councils concerned were in vacation during the month.

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 135 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) AUGUST, 1923.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
ENGLAND AND WALES—						
Northern Counties (805,000)	76,500	1,700	9,700	13,000	34,800	135,700
Yorkshire .. (2,089,000)	212,700	12,000	31,400	77,100	139,600	472,800
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,183,000)	229,500	61,800	31,500	16,300	53,400	392,500
North and West Midland Counties .. (2,911,000)	168,600	112,300	12,000	8,700	106,900	408,500
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (580,000)	80,000	6,800	16,900	1,100	8,700	113,500
Outer London* (1,986,000)	250,300	4,600	23,300	7,700	53,200	339,100
South-Eastern Counties (909,000)	65,500	5,300	6,300	27,400	18,600	123,100
South-Western Counties (432,000)	40,500	800	1,500	—	2,200	45,000
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (795,000)	64,500	2,000	3,800	7,000	6,700	84,000
SCOTLAND .. (2,146,000)	58,300	8,100	1,300	30,700	84,700	183,100
Total .. (14,836,000)	1,246,400	215,400	137,700	189,000	508,800	2,297,300

(b) JANUARY TO AUGUST, 1923.

	£	£	£	£	£	£
ENGLAND AND WALES—						
Northern Counties (805,000)	659,600	70,600	76,900	93,400	193,800	1,094,300
Yorkshire .. (2,089,000)	2,409,000	307,400	357,600	395,500	905,800	4,375,300
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,183,000)	2,153,300	380,900	281,100	140,100	493,600	3,449,000
North and West Midland Counties .. (2,911,000)	2,536,900	744,100	399,700	308,800	977,700	4,967,200
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (580,000)	1,219,800	79,400	131,700	42,400	143,500	1,616,800
Outer London* (1,986,000)	3,602,400	274,900	444,600	276,300	595,500	5,193,700
South-Eastern Counties (909,000)	1,711,800	53,800	165,300	112,900	433,400	2,477,200
South-Western Counties (432,000)	505,100	15,200	52,900	45,300	85,900	704,400
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (795,000)	694,000	37,800	92,600	98,000	135,100	1,057,500
SCOTLAND .. (2,146,000)	959,100	256,600	115,800	360,700	1,222,200	2,914,400
Total .. (14,836,000)	16,451,000	2,220,700	2,118,200	1,873,400	5,186,500	27,849,800

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during August, 1923, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act (see March, 1923, GAZETTE, page 84), and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the numbers of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

	Assisted Passages Granted in Aug., 1923.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Aug., 1923.	Total Departures.	
		1922.	Jan.—Aug., 1923.		1922.	Jan.—Aug., 1923.
Assisted Passage Schemes:						
To Australia	2,370	7,058	19,409	1,924	6,118	15,126
„ New Zealand	725	1,133	3,923	553	694	2,900
„ Canada:						
Dominion of Canada	258	—	1,821	109	—	1,658
Province of Ontario	74	—	1,530	68	—	1,175
Minor Schemes	108	—	1,063	89	—	990
TOTAL	3,535	8,191	27,746	2,743	6,812	21,849

The figures given in the above Table include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council Area.

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 August, 1923, was thirty-three. Ten cases of lead poisoning (including two deaths) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during August, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—

Smelting of Metals ..	3
Plumbing and Soldering ..	3
Printing .. ..	...
File Cutting and Hardening ..	...
Tinning of Metals ..	...
Other Contact with Molten Lead ..	1
White and Red Lead Works ..	3
† Pottery	6
Vitreous Enamelling ..	...
Electric Accumulator Works ..	8
Paint and Colour Works ..	1
Indiarubber Works ..	...
Coach and Car Painting ..	1
Shipbuilding .. ..	...
Paint used in other Industries ..	4
Other Industries ..	...

TOTAL OF ABOVE .. 30

HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING .. 10

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Mercury Poisoning ..	1
Phosphorus Poisoning ..	...
Arsenic Poisoning ..	...
Toxic Jaundice—	
Arseniuretted Hydrogen Gas .. ..	...
Other .. ..	...
Epitheliomatous Ulceration—	
Paraffin .. ..	...
Pitch	1
Tar .. ..	...
Oil .. ..	...
Chrome Ulceration—	
Manufacture of Bichromates ..	...
Dyeing and Finishing ..	...
Chrome Tanning ..	...
Other Industries ..	...
TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ..	2

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—

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

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 August, 1923, was 191, as compared with 230 in the previous month, and with 165 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

RAILWAY SERVICE.		FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):	
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	Boiler Making & Constructional Engineering ..	1
Engine Drivers	1	Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ..	7
Firemen .. ..	...	Other Metal Trades ..	2
Guards (Passenger) ..	...	Shipbuilding ..	5
Permanent Way Men ..	10	Wood	1
Porters .. ..	...	Gas	1
Shunters	1	Electric Generating Stations ..	2
Mechanics	1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ..	5
Labourers .. ..	...	Chemicals, etc. ..	4
Miscellaneous	4	Food and Drink ..	2
Contractors' Servants ..	...	Paper, Printing, etc. ..	2
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ..	18	Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	2
MINES.		Rubber Trades ..	...
Underground	86	Other Non-Textile Industries ..	...
Surface	7	TOTAL FOR FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ..	49
TOTAL, MINES	93	Docks, Wharves, etc., s. 104	11
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ..		Buildings, s. 105 ..	10
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.		Warehouses, s. 104 and Railway Sidings, s. 106 ..	2
Cotton	2	TOTAL	72
Wool, Worsted, & Shoddy ..	1	Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	
Other Textiles .. ..	...	1894	1
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing	2	TOTAL (excluding Seamen) ..	191
Metal Extracting and Refining	4		
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ..	2		
Metal Founding	4		
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 6 persons affected in the Pottery industry 1 was a female.

§ 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 August, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 519 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 27 per 10,000 on the previous month, and a decrease of 46 per 10,000 on a year ago.

As compared with July, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 46,779 (or 4.9 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief decreased by 263 (or 0.2 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients was less by 46,516 (or 5.6 per cent.). Fifteen districts showed decreases and sixteen districts showed an increase. The greatest decreases were in the Hull district (392 per 10,000), in the West Ham district (163 per 10,000), and in the East district of the metropolis (105 per 10,000). All the increases were small.

As compared with August, 1922, the total number relieved decreased by 80,775 (or 8.2 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 1,162 (or 1.0 per cent.), but the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 81,937 (or 9.5 per cent.).

Nine districts showed increases, and every other district showed decreases. The most marked changes were increases in the Paisley and Greenock district (534 per 10,000), and in the East district of the metropolis (225 per 10,000), and decreases in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (701 per 10,000), in the Stockton and Tees district (481 per 10,000), and in the Sheffield district (440 per 10,000). Four other districts showed decreases ranging from 104 to 291, and fifteen districts showed decreases ranging from 4 to 82.

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons in receipt of poor law relief on one day* in August, 1923.				Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.‡						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District	8,948	8,490	17,438	214	– 1	– 29
North District	10,132	22,964	33,096	329	– 12	– 18
Central District	2,513	2,993	5,506	414	– 31	– 7
East District	9,801	63,011	72,812	1,149	– 105	+ 225
South District	19,590	84,968	104,558	551	– 74	– 5
TOTAL, Metropolis ..	50,984	182,426	233,410	521	– 50	+ 21
West Ham	4,184	66,582	70,766	961	– 163	+ 52
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ..	2,627	35,858	38,485	792	+ 4	+ 119
Stockton and Tees District ..	1,130	23,707	24,837	945	+ 24	– 481
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	3,923	7,961	11,884	152	+ 6	+ 15
Wigan District	1,740	11,129	12,869	296	– 4	– 104
Manchester District ..	8,500	31,452	39,952	395	– 32	– 16
Liverpool District ..	9,387	55,679	65,066	550	– 3	– 148
Bradford District ..	1,697	4,675	6,372	174	+ 13	– 30
Halifax and Huddersfield ..	1,181	3,588	4,769	126	+ 2	– 13
Leeds District	2,385	9,887	12,272	256	+ 5	– 30
Barnsley District ..	895	7,581	8,476	271	+ 1	– 82
Sheffield District ..	2,528	39,890	42,418	843	+ 14	– 440
Hull District	1,788	14,371	16,159	521	– 392	+ 8
North Staffordshire ..	1,974	6,168	8,142	201	+ 6	– 58
Nottingham District ..	2,013	9,920	11,933	261	– 1	– 4
Leicester District ..	1,170	2,913	4,083	174	+ 8	– 52
Wolverhampton District ..	3,220	25,749	28,969	413	+ 6	– 149
Birmingham District ..	6,879	45,129	52,008	565	+ 12	– 291
Bristol District ..	2,474	13,972	16,446	406	+ 23	+ 52
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,296	12,728	15,024	325	+ 14	– 42
TOTAL "Other Districts"	57,807	362,357	420,164	416	– 10	– 97
SCOTLAND.‡						
Glasgow District	4,582	115,211	119,793	1,237	– 46	+ 24
Paisley & Greenock Dist.	717	21,425	22,142	1,157	+ 63	+ 534
Edinburgh & Leith Dist.	1,440	16,310	17,750	422	+ 14	+ 1
Dundee and Dunfermline ..	615	3,400	4,015	194	– 6	– 58
Aberdeen	493	5,179	5,672	357	– 1	– 45
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	321	6,335	6,655	656	– 12	– 701
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts }	8,168	167,860	176,028	860	– 14	+ 17
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in August, 1923 }	121,143	779,225	900,368	519	– 27	– 46

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 25th August, and those for Scotland to 18th August.

† 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.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CAPITAL CITIES ABROAD IN JULY, 1923.

[N.B.—The method by which the index-numbers in the following table have been computed was explained in an article in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1923, pages 236-238. The numbers relate to purchasing-power in terms of food alone, and, for the reasons given in the article referred to, they can only be accepted as affording a very rough indication of the differences that existed, on or about the date at the head of the table, between the real wage levels (in terms of food), in the various capitals, of the selected categories of typical urban male labour. The numbers are comparable horizontally but not vertically.]

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages, 1st July, 1923. (London=100)

Occupation.	London.	Amsterdam.	Berlin.	Brussels.	Christiania.	Copenhagen.	New York.	Ottawa.	Paris.†	Prague.	Stockholm.	Sydney.	Vienna.	Warsaw.
BUILDING TRADES.														
<i>Skilled:</i>														
Mason	100	106	—	62	85	—	—	255	89	58	95	—	52	67
Bricklayer	100	106	—	62	85	—	—	255	79	—	95	—	52	67
Carpenter	100	106	—	67	81	—	—	191	79	50	95	—	55	67
Joiner	100	106	—	65	81	—	—	191	79	—	95	—	43	—
Plumber	100	106	—	57	81	—	—	204	79	—	88	—	—	—
Painter (General)	100	105	—	58	90	—	—	175	83	71	111	—	59	70
<i>Unskilled:</i>														
Labourer (General)	100	115	—	59	106	—	—	135	98	62	111	—	66	62
ENGINEERING TRADES.														
<i>Skilled:</i>														
Fitter	100	105	—	64	100	—	—	192	99	85	77	—	58	69
Ironmoulder	100	92	—	67	102	—	—	191	107	62	78	—	—	70
Patternmaker	100	97	—	82	93	—	—	208	126	—	72	—	—	64
Turner	100	105	—	69	100	—	—	192	105	55	77	—	62	69
<i>Unskilled:</i>														
Labourer	100	108	—	68	132	—	—	180	104	63	93	—	52	70
FURNITURE TRADES.														
<i>Skilled:</i>														
Cabinetmaker	100	81	—	61	79	—	—	130	—	65	78	—	39	—
PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.														
<i>Skilled:</i>														
Compositor (Book and Job) Hand	100	82	—	51	78	—	—	170	60	—	74	—	35	89
Do. Machine	100	85	—	52	72	—	—	158	—	74	76	—	—	117
Machine Minder ..	100	82	—	53	78	—	—	155	65	—	74	—	—	89
Bookbinder	100	91	—	56	91	—	—	184	67	66	75	—	34	89
Average, 1st July, 1923	100	99	—	62	90	—	—	186	88	65	86	—	50	76
<i>Do. 1st June, 1923..</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>*64</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>*84</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>96</i>
<i>Do. 1st May, 1923 ..</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>*65</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>98</i>
<i>Do. 1st April, 1923..</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>101</i>
<i>Do. 1st March, 1923..</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>85</i>

In the case of Paris the difference between the average index-numbers for 1st June and 1st July and the corresponding figure for 1st March does not necessarily reflect a corresponding relative improvement in real wages in that city, and may be explained by the fact that it has since been possible to obtain, through H.M. Commercial Counsellor at Paris, up-to-date figures as to the rates of wages current in that capital for all but two of the selected occupations, namely, cabinet making and machine composing.† The Paris prices for June were known and have been used. July prices were not available; but, the Paris cost-of-living index-number for July being the same as for March, the prices for March have, provisionally, been used.

As regards the Copenhagen index-number for April, the warning published last month must be repeated, namely, that the comparability of the figure with those for other cities is impaired by the fact (communicated by the Director of the State Statistical Office at Copenhagen) that the wages figures are (a) provisional and (b) based on average earnings. No later wages and price statistics have yet been obtained in respect of Copenhagen.

The omission from the table of figures for Berlin is still due to the special conditions prevailing in that city. The New York and Sydney columns will be completed as the requisite statistics of wages and prices become available.

The drop in the July index-figure for Warsaw is due to an average increase of prices of 62 per cent., accompanied by an average increase of wages of only 18 per cent.

The average index-numbers for 1st May are now added to the Table. The material on which these figures are based was available last month, but, owing to pressure of work, it was not possible to complete the calculations in time to permit of the figures being included in the Table published in August.

[Erratum.—The figure given as 120 in line 38, column 2, on page 281 of the August GAZETTE should have been 115.]

* Amended figures. † Provisional figures.

‡ The wage rates used in computing the Paris average index-number for 1st March were derived in a number of cases from the *Annuaire Statistique* for 1921.

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.	
UNITED KINGDOM ..	109	158	120	80	123	1923. Sept.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Austria (Vienna) ..	—	359	9,700†	328,600	123,340	Aug.
Belgium† ..	—	—	310	281	378	Aug.
Czechoslovakia§ ..	—	—	1,246	1,330	821	July
Denmark ..	112	153	136	84	88	July
Finland ..	—	882	1,178	1,005	868	June
France (Paris)§ ..	161	273	206	197	228	Aug.
" (other towns) § ..	188	288	250	212	237	May
Germany ..	—	—	1,391	6,736	7	Aug.
Holland (The Hague) ..	—	143	113	80	60	July
" (Amsterdam) ..	110	117	85	44	41	June
Italy (Rome) ..	106	218	302	359	391	May
" (Milan) ..	210	345	406	392	390	Aug.
Norway ..	189	219	195	133	120	Aug.
Poland (Warsaw) ..	—	—	45,555	129,711	163,650	June
Sweden § ..	210	197	132	79	61	Aug.
Switzerland ..	—	—	110	57	64	July
United States ..	86	115	45	39	44	July
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.						
Australia ..	47	94	61	48	64	July
Canada ..	86	127	48	38	42	Aug.
India (Bombay) ..	—	88	74	60	49	Aug.
New Zealand ..	44	67	64	44	43	Aug.
South Africa ..	39	97	39	16	16	July

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, average, 1913; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in Aug., the increase for all working-class families ranged from 374 to 378 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. ¶ Figure for August. ¶ 67,048,400.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

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.	
UNITED KINGDOM ..	A, B, C, D, E	105—	152	119	84	73	1923. Sept.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES							
Austria (Vienna) ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	—	9,700§	264,400	104,950	Aug.
Belgium ..	A, C, D, E	—	353	279	266	339	Aug.
Bulgaria ..	A, D	—	—	1,512	2,331	2,641	April
Denmark ..	A, B, C, D, E	111	162	137	99	104	July
Finland ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	811	1,039	1,018	987	June
France (Paris) ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	263‡	195‡	189‡	231	2nd Qtr.
Germany ..	A, B, C, D	—	—	—	5,282	7	10-16 Sep
Italy (Rome) ..	A, B, C, D, E	105	213	287	329	349	May
" (Milan) ..	A, B, C, D, E	180	341	394	388	383	Aug.
Luxemburg ..	A, C, D	—	—	284	259	340	June
Norway ..	A, B, C, D, E	180	202§	202§	155§	139	June
Poland ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	—	25,609	78,698	127,786	April
Spain (Madrid) ..	A, D	74‡	90‡	84	79	70	June
" (Barcelona) ..	A, D	81‡	91‡	78	73	66	June
Sweden ..	A, B, C, D, E	157	170	136	90	74	July
Switzerland ..	A, D	—	—	—	59	66	July
United States ..	A, B, C, D, E	77§	117§	80	67§	70	June
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.							
Australia ..	A, B	33‡	67‡	46‡	43‡	43	1st Qtr.
Canada ..	A, B, D	56	90	52	46	49	Aug.
Egypt (Cairo) ..	A, D	—	—	93	72	54	June
India (Bombay) ..	A, B, C, D	—	89	77	65	54	Aug.
Irish Free State ..	A, B, C, D, E	—	—	—	85§	80	July
New Zealand ..	A, B, D	32	49	57	44	45	June
South Africa ..	A, B, D	25	62	30‡	20	19	July

* 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. ¶ 505,104,500.

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. 327-328 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in August.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 1st September, 1923, was 9,964 (6,458 men and 3,506 women). In the preceding week the corresponding figure was 9,943, and in the last week of August, 1922, 9,638. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 9,319 (4,898 for men and 4,421 for women), as against 10,219 in the preceding week, and 10,358 in August, 1922. During the week under review the exchanges succeeded in placing 28,084 persons (22,477 men and 5,607 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 4,391 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns six departmental and thirty-seven municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 6th September, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 1,502 (1,380 men and 122 women). This shows a decrease of 72 when compared with the corresponding figure for the preceding week, and of 1,973 when compared with the figure for 8th September, 1922. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully represent the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

GERMANY.†

Employment in July.—During July, as in previous months, in spite of isolated unfavourable symptoms, a further slight improvement in employment was generally reported. In the first half of August, however, the symptoms indicating the beginning of more unfavourable conditions in the labour market increased in number.

Unemployment among organised workers showed a further fall during July. Thirty-nine trade unions, with an aggregate of 5,474,000 members covered by the returns, had 190,078 of these, or 3.5 per cent. of the total, out of work at the end of the month, as compared with 4.1 per cent. in the preceding month, and 0.6 per cent. in July, 1922. The following Table gives particulars for the leading unions:—

Unions.	Member-ship reported at end of July, 1923.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		July, 1923.	June, 1923.	July, 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	5,474,000	3.5	4.1	0.6
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building (Soc. Dem.) ..	502,000	3.4	4.2	0.5
" (Christian) ..	58,000	1.2	1.4	0.1
Painters (Soc. Dem.) ..	52,000	2.6	3.1	0.5
Metal (Soc. Dem.) ..	1,367,000	3.9	4.4	0.3
" (Hirsch-Duncker) ..	120,000	0.4	4.1	0.1
Textile (Soc. Dem.) ..	667,000	2.7	3.2	0.4
" (Christian) ..	131,000	4.1	5.7	0.1
Clothing ..	35,000	3.8	1.7	1.4
Boot and shoe ..	64,000	2.7	3.8	0.5
Transport ..	476,000	3.4	3.4	0.8
Printing ..	63,000	8.0	6.6	1.6
Bookbinding ..	91,000	4.7	5.7	0.7
Woodworking (Soc. Dem.) ..	413,000	2.4	2.7	0.4
Porcelain ..	20,000	3.1	2.3	0.4
Food preparation ..	81,000	0.9	0.7	..
Baking and confectionery (Soc. Dem.) ..	75,000	8.3	8.6	3.3
Tobacco (Soc. Dem.) ..	79,000	13.8	14.9	2.6
Factory workers (irrespective of trade) ..	516,000	2.2	3.3	0.5
Factory and transport workers (Christian) ..	132,000	3.4	4.1	0.2
Municipal and State workers	210,000	1.6	1.5	0.8

The above figures relate to persons totally unemployed. In addition, thirty-six unions, with an aggregate of 4,904,735 members, reported that 708,546, or 14.5 per cent. of the total, worked short time in July, as against 15.3 per cent. in June.

A further decline took place in the number of unemployed in receipt of assistance from public funds. On 1st August the total was 138,278, as against 184,859 on 1st July. This total increased, however, during the first part of August, 145,320 being in receipt of assistance on the 15th of the month.

* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 7th September, 1923. Paris.
† *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt*, 1st September, 1923. Berlin.

Returns from Employment Exchanges indicate that the more favourable conditions reported last month continued during July. The number of applications for employment decreased from 1,055,329 in June to 934,309 in July, while the vacancies reported rose from 510,238 to 519,512. On the average there were thus 212 applicants for each 100 situations for men, and 131 for each 100 for women. In June the corresponding figures were 245 (men) and 149 (women).

Sickness insurance statistics show an increase in the number of members under obligation to insure (and therefore assumed to be in work). Returns from 4,459 societies report a total of 10,912,672 members on 1st August, as against 10,833,812 on 1st July, an increase of 0.4 per cent.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in July.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th August, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in the principal industrial districts was 87,349 at the end of July, as compared with 92,788 at the end of the preceding month, and 30,969 at the end of July, 1922. In Vienna alone (included in the foregoing totals) there were 55,858 unemployed in July, and 58,218 in June.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in June and July.—The most recent figures available relate to July, but are provisional in character. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,616 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 638,389, show that 13,457 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of that month. The aggregate days of unemployment in July numbered 195,574, or 1.05 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; for June the corresponding percentage was 1.22, and for July, 1922, 2.97.

Revised and final figures are given for June, in which month 1,649 funds, with an aggregate membership of 660,850, reported 5,605 (or 0.8 per cent.) wholly unemployed, and 11,653 partially so, on the last working day of the month. The percentage of members totally unemployed in May was 1.2 per cent., and in June, 1922, 2.7 per cent.

During July 12,656 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 13,234 in June. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 13,299 (12,341 in June). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus ninety-five applications, as compared with 107 in June.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in July.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 28th July, out of 280,632 members of unemployment funds making returns, 28,635 (or 10.2 per cent.) were unemployed for six days in the week, and 8,173 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 30th June) the percentages were 8.7 and 2.3, and in the week ended 29th July, 1922, 7.4 and 2.1.

ITALY.

Unemployment in June.—According to a report received from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Rome, 216,287 persons were reported to be totally unemployed on 30th June, as compared with 243,928 at the end of May and 372,001 on 30th June, 1922. In addition, 39,288 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 57,715 on 31st May and 95,334 on 30th June, 1922. On 30th June, 1923, the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit was 61,547, as compared with 64,517 on 31st May and 123,767 on 30th June, 1922.

DENMARK.

Unemployment in August.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange covered a total of 247,997 workpeople, of whom 7.6 per cent. were unemployed on 31st August, as compared with 7.4 per cent. on 27th July, and 11.1 per cent. at the end of August, 1922.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Copenhagen states that in the week ended 31st August 20,648 persons were reported unemployed, as compared with 20,764 in the previous week and 32,400 in the corresponding week of last year.

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in July.—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 31st July was 22,722 (as compared with 25,583 at the end of the preceding month and 52,180 at the end of July, 1922). Of these 8,816 were employed on relief works, leaving 13,906 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 3,331 normally engaged in the building trades, 2,635 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 2,302 in the textile trades, and 2,188 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work 12,592 were reported as only partially employed, including 7,462 in the textile trades, 1,402 in the metal, etc., trades, and 1,311 in watchmaking, etc. The vacancies reported by employers remaining unfilled at the

end of July numbered 2,579, as against 2,366 at the end of June and 1,794 at the end of July, 1922.

During the month of July on an average 291 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men and ninety for each 100 for women. In June the figures were 297 and 101 respectively.

SWEDEN.

*Unemployment in June.**—Trade unions with a total membership of 131,587 reported 12,903, or 9.8 per cent., as unemployed on 30th June, 1923. The percentage unemployed at the end of the preceding month was 10.6, and on 30th June, 1922, 20.9.

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

Unions.	Membership reporting on 30th June, 1923.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		30th June, 1923.	31st May, 1923.	30th June, 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	131,587	9.8	10.6	20.9
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Iron and steel	8,702	8.5	9.8	20.7
Engineering	30,401	15.3	15.6	32.6
Textile	4,718	1.1	3.6	4.3
Clothing	4,206	5.1	3.8	6.1
Boot, shoe and leather	6,140	2.9	12.7	28.2
Food preparation	3,575	5.9	6.7	8.6
Sawmilling	7,594	12.2	9.4	16.2
Woodworking	6,696	13.3	16.4	33.6
Paper and pulp	7,658	3.3	3.5	8.5
Municipal workers	6,145	1.8	1.8	2.5
Commercial employees	6,096	7.2	8.0	11.0
General and factory workers ..	12,008	20.4	15.0	29.2
(trades not specified)				

Total Number Unemployed.—According to *Ekonomisk Översikt* (the journal of the Swedish Board of Trade) for 1st September, the total number of persons out of work in Sweden at various dates in the present year is estimated by the Unemployment Commission to have been as follows:—49,200 (28th February), 43,400 (31st March), 35,200 (30th April), 24,100 (31st May), 20,700 (30th June), 19,000 (31st July).

CANADA.†

Employment in August.—For 1st August, 1923, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa from 5,862 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 823,605. On 1st July the same firms reported 818,535 employed. There was thus an increase of 5,070 at the later date. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st August is 100.2, as compared with 99.5 for the 1st July and 93.1 for 1st August, 1922. It is pointed out that the present is the first occasion since December, 1920, that the index number has exceeded 100.

Trade Union Unemployment at End of July.—At the end of July, 2.9 per cent. of membership of trade unions were reported to be unemployed, as compared with 3.4 per cent. on 30th June, and 4.1 per cent. on 31st July, 1922.

AUSTRALIA.‡

Unemployment in Second Quarter, 1923.—The percentage of members of trade unions unemployed in the second quarter was 7.1, as compared with 7.2 in the preceding quarter and 9.6 in the second quarter of 1922.

UNITED STATES.§

Employment in July.—The Federal Department of Labour presents figures relating to the volume of employment in July, 1923, from 6,739 representative establishments in 51 manufacturing districts, covering 2,353,258 workpeople. These establishments in June reported 2,396,012 persons employed, and the July figures consequently indicate a net decrease amounting to 1.8 per cent. This decrease in employment is the first shown since April, 1922, in this series of reports, and is largely due to seasonal causes, many establishments making a practice of closing temporarily soon after 1st July for inventory or repairs, while many workpeople take their holidays during July and August. The aggregate wages paid show a decrease of 4.7 per cent. in the same period. Twenty of the 51 industries show increases in employment in July, the greatest being 8.4 per cent. in the fertiliser industry, 5.2 per cent. in electric car building and repairing, 4.2 per cent. in baking, and 3.9 per cent. in women's clothing. Among the 29 industries showing a falling off in employment automobile tyres reports a decline of 10.3 per cent. in the numbers employed, stoves 8.3 per cent., cotton goods 7.8 per cent. and glass 7.1 per cent.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of last year, it is reported that 37 industries out of 43 furnishing information show for the most part increases in employment as between July, 1922, and July, 1923, steam railway car building and repairing and foundry and machine shop products both showing over 50 per cent.

* *Societa Meddelanden*, No. 8, 1923. Stockholm.

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

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Commonwealth High Commissioner in London.

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

* *Revue du Travail*, August, 1923. Brussels.

† *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 12th September, 1923. Copenhagen.

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

OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 4976, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—MORNING AND EVENING WORK UNDER ONE CONTRACT—MORNING WORK DROPPED—EVENING WORK NOT AN ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION.

The applicant stated that he had been employed for nine years up to 25th March, 1923, at a picture theatre as general utility man and attendant. His hours of work as utility man were from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. daily, and, as an attendant, from 6 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. each evening, at a total wage of 50s. per week, or 35s. for the morning and 15s. for the evening work. He could not have had the morning work without also doing the evening work. Owing to slackness of work he was given two weeks' notice to terminate his morning work on 25th March, but he retained his evening employment at a wage of 15s. per week. He contended that he was entitled to claim benefit as from the date his morning employment ceased, but his claim was disallowed under Section 7 (1) (ii).

Recommended by the Court of Referees, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court thought that the morning and evening employments were under the same contract, and that, therefore, the evening work was part of the applicant's main employment. They did not think Section 7 (2) (a) applied, but leave to appeal was given in order to obtain the Umpire's decision.

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

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees."

"The applicant had for many years been employed at a theatre as cleaner and general handyman in the mornings and as door-keeper in the evenings. The working hours were 4½ hours in the morning and 4½ in the evening, and he would not have had the morning work unless he had taken the evening work also. I think the morning and evening work must be regarded as together constituting his usual employment, and, therefore, that he has not ordinarily followed the occupation of door-keeper in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment."

CASE No. 5117, SECTION 8 (1)—TRADE DISPUTE—EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION DECLARED GENERAL LOCK-OUT OWING TO DISPUTE AT WORKS OF ONE FIRM—DISPUTE EXTENDED.

The applicant, a weaver at the Midwynd Factory, Dundee, lost employment on 22nd March, 1923, in consequence of a lock-out. It appeared that in February, 1923, a dispute as to certain terms of employment arose between the employers at some mills, known as the Camperdown Works, and those of their employees who were members of the Dundee and District Union of Jute and Flax Workers. On 13th March, 1923, all employers who were members of the Employers' Federation, and including those owning the mill at which the applicant was employed, gave notice that their works would be closed as from 23rd March, and accordingly the applicant's employment ended on 22nd March. The applicant contended that there was no dispute at the premises at which she had been employed. Her fellow workers had no dispute with their employers, the whole question in dispute being confined to the Camperdown Works.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were satisfied that the applicant was unemployed owing to a trade dispute.

The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire and an oral hearing of the case took place.

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

"In February last there was at the Camperdown Works in Dundee a trade dispute between the employers at those works and certain of their employees connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment of those employees, and as a result thereof there was a stoppage of work at those works."

"On the 13th of March all employers belonging to the Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers, to which Association the applicant's employers belonged, gave notice that their works would be closed on the 23rd March, and would remain closed until further notice, and, in accordance with that notice, the Midwynd Factory (at which the applicant worked as a weaver) was closed, and she thereby lost employment."

"The applicant was a member of the Dundee and District Union of Jute and Flax Workers, with whom the employers at the Camperdown Works were in dispute; but the notices given

by the members of the Employers' Federation applied not only to the members of that Union, but to all their employees indifferently."

"At a hearing before me it was argued by Mr. Patrick Hastings, K.C., M.P., for the applicant, that there was no dispute at all at the Midwynd Factory. The dispute arose at the Camperdown Works, and the lock-out notice given at the Midwynd Factory, though an act done in furtherance of the dispute at the Camperdown Works, could not in itself be treated as showing that there was a dispute at the Midwynd Factory, which was closed pursuant to the general lock-out notice. Accordingly the stoppage of work at the Midwynd Factory was due to the lock-out notice which was given by reason of the dispute at the Camperdown Works and not to a dispute at the Midwynd Factory."

"The Attorney-General submitted on behalf of the Insurance Officer that the dispute was between the Employers' Federation and the Jute Workers' Union, and that it existed at all the factories belonging to members of the Federation at which members of the workers' union were employed, and that accordingly it must be inferred that there was a dispute between the employers and the employees at Midwynd Factory with regard to the terms of employment or the employment or non-employment of persons at the Camperdown Works. And he pointed out that if the interpretation of Section 8 (1), for which the applicant was contending was accepted, it would follow that a sympathetic strike by workmen, in furtherance of a dispute at one factory only, would not constitute a dispute at the other factories, and that the men on strike would be entitled to benefit, except in so far as they might be disqualified for voluntarily leaving without just cause, or for being not unable to obtain suitable employment."

"The Attorney-General also submitted that the case fell within the principles of numerous decisions by the Umpire, in which a general lock-out declared in support of masters or workers who are in dispute has been held to extend the dispute to factories or premises other than those in which the dispute originated."

"If the question had in this case been raised for the first time I should have had to decide for myself whether a stoppage of work brought about by a lock-out at a factory at which there was not otherwise a dispute, but which was declared in support of one of the parties to a trade dispute at another factory, is a stoppage of work which is due to a trade dispute at the factory from which the employees are so locked out, but the question has already been decided by the Umpire in a number of cases, and I do not feel at liberty (whatever my own opinion unaided by the wisdom of my predecessor might have been) to depart from those decisions. In several cases on the Act of 1911 the Umpire in similar circumstances decided that 'the lock-out in itself constitutes a trade dispute' or 'extended the trade dispute' to the premises at which the lock-out was declared. This principle he applied in Decisions 336 and 1753 (Benefit, 1911 Act), 2170, 2239, 3793 (O.W.D.) and 437 among others."

"The construction put upon the Act of 1911 by the Umpire was well known at the time of the passing of the Act of 1920, and I must assume that, when re-enacting in the Act of 1920 the trade dispute section of the Act of 1911, Parliament intended that the later Act should be construed in the same way that the earlier Act had been construed."

"I am bound, therefore, to hold that the applicant lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at the factory at which she was employed."

CASE No. 5125, SECTION 8 (1)—TRADE DISPUTE—LOCK-OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY OF EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION BECAUSE OF STRIKE ELSEWHERE—APPLICANT TOTALLY UNCONNECTED WITH STRIKERS.

The applicant, a carpet weaver, employed by a firm of jute and flax manufacturers and jute carpet manufacturers, lost employment on 22nd March, 1923, owing to the closing of the works at which he had been employed in consequence of a decision of the Employers' Association that all establishments of its members should be closed down because of a strike of certain spinners and weavers, members of the Jute and Flax Workers' Union, employed elsewhere (Case No. 5117, above).

The applicant contended that neither he nor his Union had any dispute with the employers. Carpet weavers were not governed by the same Boards and Councils as the members of the Union in dispute. The trade of carpet weaving was quite distinct from the jute trade. No jute spinning or weaving was done at the factory where he was employed and his work could have been carried on without difficulty, but the Employers' Association had ordered his firm to close down, although no member of the Jute and Flax Workers' Union was employed there.

Recommended by a majority of the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed, in view of the decisions on Cases Nos. 2170 (O.W.D.), 1753 (Benefit, 1911 Act) and 437 and 1083, on the ground that the employers had extended the area of the dispute by locking out the carpet weavers. The insured contributors' representative dissented on the ground that carpet weaving was a separate trade, and had no industrial connection with jute and flax weaving and spinning, and also that an agreement, which had been cited, between the applicant's Association and the employers, showed that the carpet weavers were not in dispute with the Employers' Association.

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

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

"Following the principle of the decision on Case No. 5117, I must hold that the applicant lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work at the factory at which he was employed.

"Although the Union of which he was a member was not concerned in the trade dispute at the Camperdown Works, the employers by closing the factory on the 22nd March in support of the employers who were in dispute at Camperdown thereby constituted a dispute at the factory at which the applicant was employed. It is clear that the employers locked out their employees in accordance with a resolution of the Employers' Association calling on its members to close down all their works owing to the dispute at the Camperdown Works, in order to give support to the members of the Employers' Association in the dispute and not merely on account of a difficulty of carrying on owing to actual or expected shortage of materials or loss of market for their output."

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

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

EDINBURGH FIRE BRIGADE—REDUCTION OF PAY FROM SCALES RECOMMENDED BY "MIDDLEBROOK" COMMITTEE.—Edinburgh Corporation *v.* National Union of Corporation Workers. The parties required a Decision of the Court as to whether in all the circumstances existing at the time, the reduction of 5 per cent. recently made in the wages of the Edinburgh Fire Brigade was justified, and, consequentially, whether wages should be restored to the previous level, as claimed by the workers. *Decision.*—In the circumstances the Court are not prepared to hold that the reduction referred to in the terms of reference was not justified. Issued 2nd August, 1923. (832.)

ISSUERS AND STORESMEN IN GENERAL STORES—SWINDON AND OTHER DEPOTS ON GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY—FIXING OF RATES—GRADING.—Great Western Railway *v.* Workers' Union and National Union of Railwaymen. *Decision.*—The Court decided that at Swindon 7s. per week of the war wage or bonus should be incorporated in the base rates of the issuers and storemen, leaving a present war wage or bonus of 16s. 6d. per week, and that the base rates at Swindon should be :—

Issuers, Grade I. ...	37s. per week.
" " II. ...	35s. "
" " III. ...	32s. "
Storemen, Grade I. ...	31s. "
" " II. ...	30s. "

The Court consider that in the other Stores Department depôts the different issuers and storemen should be graded and rated by the parties as far as may be, and having regard to their duties, in the manner shown above for Swindon. The Decision, both as regards Swindon and the other depôts, is to come into operation on 1st October, 1923, and in the event of a settlement not being reached by that date, it will be open to the management to fix a rate and/or grade for any employee, who will, if aggrieved, have a right of appeal to the Court. Any resultant alteration of pay exceeding 2s. per week shall take effect to the extent of 2s. per week as from 1st October, 1923, and at the rate of 2s. per week (or such part thereof as may remain) as from the first day of each succeeding calendar month. In the event of any national or general settlement being made in respect of rates for men in Stores Departments of Railway Companies, the rates prescribed in the Decision may come under review. Issued 2nd August, 1923. (833.)

WHEEL TURNERS, TENDER FITTERS.—Amalgamated Engineering Union *v.* London and North Eastern Railway (North Eastern Section). *Decision.*—It being agreed that the men concerned are fully skilled fitters and turners, the Court consider that they are entitled to be paid the fitters' and turners' rate. The Decision is to operate as from the beginning of the pay period next after 28th March, 1923. Issued 3rd August, 1923. (834.)

JOINER AT BUCHLYVIE—CLASSIFICATION—JOINERS AT CARSTAIRS—MEAL ALLOWANCE—DECISION NO. 728, SCHEDULE F, CONDITION 9.—Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers *v.* London and North Eastern Railway at Buchlyvie and London, Midland and Scottish Railway at Carstairs. *Decision.*—The joiner at Buchlyvie is paid in accordance with an agreement between the Scottish Railway Companies and the various Unions. The Court felt, however, that there are circumstances special to the case which might well be made the subject of further consideration by the Company. The case of the joiners at Carstairs is not one which comes within Condition 9, Schedule F, Decision No. 728, and the men are now therefore entitled to meal allowance thereunder. Issued 3rd August, 1923. (835.)

DRESSMAKERS AND MILLINERS—RATES OF PAY—EXCESS OVER TRADE BOARD MINIMUM RATES.—The Northern Co-operative Society, Ltd., *v.* The National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks. *Decision.*—That, as from

the first full pay week after the date of the Decision, the rates of pay of the workpeople shall be as follows :—

- (1) Learners, Trade Board rates, plus a bonus of 5 per cent.
- (2) Those with over four years' and not exceeding six years' experience, a minimum of 7½d. per hour, plus a bonus of 5 per cent.
- (3) Those with over six years' experience, a minimum of 8½d. per hour. These workers are not to receive any fixed bonus addition to the minimum of 8½d., but the Society should consider favourably the case of individuals who show exceptional ability.

The Decision is to remain in force unless and until there is an alteration of the Trade Board rates, in which case the matter would fall to be reconsidered. Issued 10th August, 1923. (836.)

PLUMBERS, DUNDEE—RATE OF WAGES.—The Dundee and District Master Plumbers' Association *v.* United Operative Plumbers' and Domestic Engineers' Association. The question before the Court was the rate payable as from 16th July, 1923. *Decision.*—The case is raised as a purely local issue, and no case was made out for a higher rate than that now prevailing in Glasgow and Edinburgh, viz. : 1s. 7d. per hour; on the question as to whether the plumbers' rate should be on a basis higher than that of other craftsmen in the Building Industry, the Court on this occasion offered no opinion, as such a matter should only be considered and decided in its wider aspects. Issued 10th August, 1923. (837.)

BOILER AND PIPE COVERERS—LONDON—CLAIM FOR REDUCTION IN WAGES—PAYMENT FOR HOLIDAYS.—The Master Boiler Coverers' Federation (1915), London Section, *v.* The National Amalgamated Union of Labour, London District. This case involved London employers and London workpeople only. *Decision.*—The Court decided that a case had been made out for a reduction of wages, but not to the full amount claimed, and further decided that the standard rate of wages of the men concerned should be reduced by ½d. per hour as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision, by a further ½d. per hour as from the beginning of the first full pay period in October, 1923, and by a further ½d. per hour as from the first full pay period in November, 1923, making the rate thereafter 1s. 3¾d. per hour. On the question of the continuance during the present year of the paid holiday arrangement, the Trade Union representatives proposed for the consideration of the Court a grant of pay to such of the workers as could not now be given a holiday. Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, the Court are of opinion that the suggestion recently made by the employers of payment of wages for one-half of the holiday period which would otherwise have been due is a fair one, and should be acted upon. Issued 22nd August, 1923. (838.)

EMPLOYEES AT ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE AND STAFF COLLEGE, CAMBERLEY—INCREASE IN BASE RATES.—The Official and Trade Union Sides of the Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council for Government Industrial Establishments. *Decision.*—The Court were of opinion that a claim had been established for some increase in basic rates of pay, and they decided that, as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision, an advance of 1s. 3d. per week should be made in the basic rate of wages of the men concerned. Issued 22nd August, 1923. (839.)

NAVVIERS AND LABOURERS ON SEWERAGE CONTRACTS—RATES OF PAY.—Rural District Council of Llantrisant and Llantwit Vardre *v.* The "Altogether" Builders' Labourers' and Constructional Workers' Society. The question at issue was as to whether the workmen should be paid in accordance with the rates of payment applicable to a Grade I. or Grade II. Area. *Decision.*—Having regard to the nature and character of the neighbourhood where the works are being carried out, the Court came to the conclusion and so decided that Grade I. or Class I. is not the appropriate rate, and that the rate that should be paid is that which is paid for a Class II. Area. Issued 28th August, 1923. (840.)

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

GASMEN AND CLEANERS: BLOCHAIRN WORKS.—Iron and Steel Trades Confederation *v.* Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association (No. 1 Division). Difference: As to the manning in regard to gasmen and cleaners respectively of the producers fitted with mechanical feed and Chapman Agitator at the Blochairn Works of the Steel Company of Scotland, Limited. Board of Arbitration: Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. W. Simons (Employers' representative) and Mr. W. Dodgson (Workpeople's representative). Award: The manning of the producers should be one gasman and one cleaner to four producers. Issued 1st August, 1923. (I.R. 1228/2/1923.)

BOILERMEN, RATEAU DRIVERS, ETC.: BLAENAVON.—National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motor-men and Electrical Workers *v.* Blaenavon Company, Limited. Difference: (a) Whether the boilermen (top and bottom landing), rateau drivers, electric generating engine drivers and sub-station attendants, while not paid in accordance with blast furnace conditions normally, should continue to receive the holiday payment of time-and-a-half for ten holidays in each year. (b) Or what payment for holidays should obtain.

Board of Arbitration: Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. George Pate, O.B.E. (Employers' representative), and the Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P. (Workpeople's representative). Award: The workers concerned should not in future continue to be paid the holiday payment of time-and-a-half for ten holidays in each year, but should be paid in future in lieu thereof at the rate of double time for five holidays in each year, *i.e.*, Christmas and Boxing Days, Easter Monday, Whit Monday and the August Monday Bank Holiday. Issued 31st August, 1923. (I.R. 1369/2/1923.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

CARTERS : STEPNEY.—Transport and General Workers' Union *v.* Messrs. E. Lloyd and Sons, Limited, Mile End, contracting for the Stepney Borough Council. Difference: Claim for annual holidays with pay and for payment for statutory holidays in accordance with the London Road Transport Agreement of February, 1922. Agreement: The difference between the parties should be referred to the Road Transport Council for settlement. Signed 13th August, 1923. (I.R. 1375/1923.)

CLAY WORKERS : BRIDGWATER.—Transport and General Workers' Union *v.* Bridgwater Clay Employers' Association. Difference: Application for wages increases. Agreement: Day-workers should receive an advance of 1s. per week as from the 2nd August, 1923, with stabilisation until March, 1924. Various other grievances were rectified. Agreed 2nd August, 1923. (I.R. 1202/1923.)

QUARRYMEN : LLANDEBIE.—Transport and General Workers' Union *v.* Lime Firms, Limited, Llandebie. Difference: Dismissal of some of the older employees and the retention of younger men. Agreement: The men would resume work on the understanding that a joint conference would be held. Agreed 30th August, 1923. (I.R. 1388/1923.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

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

Made-up Textiles Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order M.T. (7), dated 14th August, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying the 27th August, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied should become effective.

General Minimum Time-Rates:—(a) for certain specified classes of workers, 1s. 1d. per hour for males of 21 and over, and 6½d. per hour for females of 18 and over; (b) for other male workers of 21 and over, 10¾d. per hour; (c) for other female workers of 18 and over, 6½d. per hour; (d) lower rates for younger workers and learners of both sexes.

Piece-Work Basis Time-Rates:—(1) 1s. 2d. and 7¾d. per hour respectively for the workers specified in (a) above; (2) 11¾d. per hour for all other male workers; (3) 7¼d. per hour for all other female workers.

The definitions, conditions and provisions governing the application of the minimum rates set out in M.T. (7) are contained in a separate pamphlet, M.T. (8).

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order J. (31), dated 27th August, 1923, confirming a piece-work basis time-rate of 7¼d. per hour and overtime rates (as varied) for female weavers employed on piece-work in the area of Carnoustie (*i.e.*, the Burgh of Carnoustie, the parish of Barry and the parish of Panbride), and specifying the 3rd September, 1923, as the date from which the rates as fixed and as varied should become effective.

Order made by the Minister of Labour for Northern Ireland under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the undernoted Trade Board.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.H.M. (8), dated the 3rd August, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying the 20th August, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are:—

(a) 1s. 0½d. per hour for male workers of 22 years of age and upwards.

(b) 2¾d. to 10¾d. per hour (according to age) for male workers under 22 years of age.

(c) For female workers of 22 years of age and over with not less than three years' experience in the retail branch of the trade—8¼d. per hour in Belfast and Londonderry and 7½d. per hour in other areas.

(d) For other female workers (other than learners) in the retail branch—7½d. per hour in Belfast and Londonderry and 6½d. per hour in other areas.

(e) For female workers employed as knife cutters and blockers 10d. per hour.

(f) For other female workers (other than learners) 7d. per hour.

The piece-work basis time-rates (as varied) are:—

(a) 1s. 2d. per hour for male workers.

(b) 7½d. to 11d. per hour for female workers according to classification.

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

The "cost of living" index figure having risen to 71, as recorded in the August issue of this GAZETTE, the minimum rates of wages effective from 1st September, 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 not more than 90 but more than 70. The principal rates operative during this period are as follows:—

General Minimum Time-Rates:—

(A) *Male Workers.*

(i) Surgical bootmakers, 1s. 8d. per hour.

(ii) Male workers of 21 and over with at least 3 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, 74s. per week.

(b) Blake or Richardson machines and employed whole time in operating such machines, 70s. per week.

(iii) Pressmen responsible for cutting and costing, 70s. per week.

(iv) Foremen and managers, 74s. per week.

(v) Male workers other than those specified above, 60s. 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. 8d. per hour.

(ii) Foremen and managers, 74s. per week.

(iii) Workers other than learners employed on benching and/or finishing, 60s. per week.

(iv) All other workers of 21 and over, 42s. per week.

(v) Learners and other younger workers. Lower rates are in operation.

A guaranteed time-rate of 74s. per week is effective for foremen and managers, and for female workers employed as foremen and managers a guaranteed time-rate of 70s. 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 7½ per cent.

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

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).

The rates applicable as from 1st September, 1923, are those set out in the Board's Notices M. (35), (36) and (37) for the period during which the "cost of living" figure is less than 76 and not less than 71.

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. 1¾d. per hour; (ii) all other operations, 11d. per hour; (b) female workers: (i) pan hands (all ages), 6½d., 10d. or 1s. 1¾d. 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, 2¾d. to 5¾d. per hour according to age at entry and experience.

Piece-Work Basis Time-Rates: (a) Female workers (other than pan hands), 7¼d. per hour; (b) female pan hands (other than learners), 7¼d. and 11d. per hour according to the operations on which employed.

General Minimum Piece-Rates: A reduction of 21¼ per cent. from the rates specified in the Board's Notice M. (37).

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 81 but not less than 71, and are summarised below:—

General Minimum Time Rates:—

(A) *Male Workers.*

(i) Machine tacklers, 23 years of age and over, 69s., with lower rates for younger workers.

(ii) Paper bag cutters, 23 years of age and over, 62s. 6d., with lower rates for younger workers.

(iii) Hydraulic pressers, slitters, stock-keepers, packers and despatchers of 21 years of age and over, 55s., 56s.,

57s. 6d., 59s. 6d. during the first, second and third twelve months and subsequent employment in the same occupation respectively.

(iv) All other workers other than learners, 55s., with lower rates for learners.

(B) Female workers, including home workers, 30s. 6d., with lower rates for learners.

Piece-work basis time-rate for all female workers, 32s.

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 81 but not less than 71, 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, 68s. 6d., with lower rates for younger workers.

(ii) All other male workers other than learners, 51s., with lower rates for learners.

(B) Female workers other than learners, 30s. 6d., with lower rates for learners.

Piece-Work Basis Time-Rates: (i) Male workers other than those specified in (A) (i) above, 57s. 6d.; (ii) female workers, 32s. 6d.

Copies of Orders relating to Great Britain may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses shown on the cover, price 3d. net. Orders relating to Northern Ireland may be obtained either directly or through any bookseller, from W. Erskine Mayne, Donegall Square West, Belfast.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Notices of proposal to vary minimum rates of wages have been issued by the following Trade Boards:—

Cotton Waste Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal C.W. (13), dated 20th August, 1923, to vary, by reduction, the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making Trade Board (Great Britain)

Proposals U. (11) and (12), dated 28th August, 1923, to vary, by reduction, general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers [U. (11)], and to vary general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male workers in the coffin furniture section of the trade for periods dependent upon the "cost of living" index figure [U. (12)].

Milk Distributive Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal M.D.S. (7), dated 3rd September, 1923, to vary, by reduction, general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers of certain ages.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.H.H.G. (N. 22), dated 24th August, 1923, to vary General Minimum Piece-Rates and Overtime Rates for certain classes of Female Workers.

Particulars of the minimum rates proposed above may be obtained by reference to the LONDON, EDINBURGH or BELFAST GAZETTE.

REPORT OF INQUIRY.

Public Inquiry held by Sir William Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C., into the Scope of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board and the Button-Making Trade Board.

[A summary of the Reports made by Sir William Mackenzie into the Scope of these Trade Boards is given on page 320].

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

THE Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated the 11th September, that he proposes, at the expiration of forty days from the publication of the notice, to make an Order, in pursuance of sections 54 and 59 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, rescinding the provisions of the Order of the 21st May, 1913, which relate to the night employment of male young persons of sixteen years and upwards in parts of factories in which reverberatory and regenerative furnaces are used; and re-enacting those provisions in a modified form.

Copies of the draft of the proposed Order may be obtained on application to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

COAL MINES ACT, 1911, AND MINING INDUSTRY ACT, 1920.

EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES AS MANAGERS AND UNDER-MANAGERS AND FOR CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION AS SURVEYORS OF MINES.

AN Examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines will be held on the 21st and 22nd November, 1923, at Edinburgh, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sheffield, Wigan, Cardiff and Birmingham.

The written part of an Examination for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines will be held at the same Centres on the 22nd November, 1923.

Applications for the necessary Forms should be made not later than the 1st October, 1923. In order that the appropriate Forms may be sent, it is important that Candidates should state whether they have already sat at one or more of the Board's examinations.

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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO LABOUR.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.—*Interim report on meat, poultry and eggs.* Departmental Committee on distribution and prices of agricultural produce. Ministry of Agriculture. (Cmd. 1927: price 5s.)

ALIENS.—*Aliens Order, 1920.* A return of alien passengers, excluding transmigrants, landed, embarked, and refused leave to land, in the United Kingdom during the three months ending June 30, 1923. (Cmd. 1688-1: price 2d.)

CENSUS.—*Census of England and Wales, 1921* (a) *County of Monmouth*, (b) *County of Stafford*, (c) *County of Warwick*, (d) *County of Worcester.* (S.O. publications: price 8s. 6d., 12s., 6s. 6d., 8s. each.)

COAL TIPPERS AND TRIMMERS.—*Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Report by a court of enquiry concerning hours of labour of coal tippers and trimmers in South Wales.* Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 1948: price 3d.) (See page 323.)

EX-SERVICE MEN.—*Second interim report of the Committee on the initial salary of "Lytton entrants," and the appointment of ex-Service men to posts in the Civil Service.* Treasury. (S.O. publication: price 1d.) (See page 322.)

HEALTH, MINISTRY OF.—*Fourth annual report, 1922-1923.* Ministry of Health. (Cmd. 1944: price 4s.) (See page 320.)

HOUSING.—(1) *Second interim report of the Interdepartmental Committee appointed to survey the prices of building materials.* Ministry of Health and Board of Trade. (Cmd. 1935: price 6d.) (2) *Interdepartmental Committee appointed to survey the prices of building materials. Chairman's report for the month of August, 1923.* Ministry of Health and Board of Trade. (Cmd. 1956: price 2d.)

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.—*Second report of the miners' nystagmus Committee.* Medical Research Council. (S.O. publication: price 9d.) (See page 324.)

MINING.—*Miners' Welfare Fund. First report (1921-1922) of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to allocate the Fund.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication: price 1s. 6d.) (See page 323.)

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—*Reports of decisions on appeals and applications under section 67 of the National Insurance Act, 1911, and section 27 of the National Insurance Act, 1913.* Vol. 2, Part I. Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication: price 2s.)

STATE SERVANTS.—*Report of Committee on pay, etc., of State servants.* (S.O. publication: price 6d.) (See page 321.)

TRADE BOARDS.—*Report by Sir William Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C., Commissioner appointed by the Minister of Labour, concerning the scope of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board and the Button-making Trade Board.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication: price 1s. 3d.) (See page 320.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Report of the Committee appointed to consider the position of out-workers in relation to unemployment insurance.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication: price 6d.) (See page 318.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—*Registrar-General's statistical review of England and Wales for the year 1921. Text.* (New Annual Series No. 1.) (S.O. publication: price 5s.)

WOMEN'S TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.—*Second interim report of the Central Committee on women's training and employment, for the period ending 31st December, 1922.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication: price 6d.) (See page 317.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, AUGUST, 1923.

ADMIRALTY.

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

Accumulators: Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex.—**Blowers, Motor-driven, Blast Mains, Forges, etc.:** Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., Aylesbury, Nottingham and London.—**Brass, Naval, Bars:** J. Booth & Co. (1915), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brass, Naval, Plates and Sheets:** Vivian & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Caps, Reconditioning:** S. Schneiders & Son, London, E.—**Cells:** London Battery & Cable Co., Ltd., London, E.; Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex.—**Cocks, Gunmetal and Plated:** H. Bisseker, Ltd., Birmingham; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Hayward, Tyler & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Stroud Metal Co., Ltd., Stroud, Glos.; Hyde & Sons, Wolverhampton.—**Cocks, Steam, Gunmetal and Torpedo Fittings:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; J. Blakeborough & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse; Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough; Hayward, Tyler & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; C. S. Madan & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Crane, Travelling, Electric:** Sir W. Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cranes, Wall:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Engines, Oil:** Vickers-Petters, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Engines, Parts for:** J. Pollock, Sons & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Engines, Pumping, Parts for:** Fullerton, Hodgart & Barclay, Paisley.—**Floating Stages:** Frank Bevis, Ltd., Portsmouth.—**Generating Sets:** Douglas & Grant, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Hawse Pipes Steel Castings:** J. Rogerson & Co., Ltd., Wolsingham, Durham.—**Ingots, Manganese Bronze:** Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Jam:** J. Stephens, Son & Co., Ltd., Gloucester; Scott Preserve Makers, Ltd., Hayes; J. Keiller & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lamps, Lanterns and Gear:** Eli Griffiths & Sons, Birmingham; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Leather Straps:** S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.; J. H. Fenner & Co., Hull; G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle.—**Machine, Cylinder Grinding:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Broadheath, Manchester.—**Machine, Universal Gear Cutting:** J. Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Milnrow, Rochdale.—**Nails, etc., Copper:** Harrison & Cook, Birmingham; D. Powis & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Combination Metallic Packing Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Plant, Steam Generating:** J. S. White & Co., Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight.—**Tapes:** Bole Hall Mill Co., Tamworth; G. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley; J. Lilley & Sons, Derby.—**Test Bed, Cast Iron:** Fullerton, Hodgart & Barclay, Ltd., Paisley.—**Threads:** Lindsay, Thompson & Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Ties, Black Silk:** Welch, Margetson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Timber, English:** The Baltic Saw Mills Co., Ltd., Tunbridge Wells; R. Batcheller & Sons, Ltd., Maidstone; Bowerman & Sons, Ltd., Bridgwater; C. R. Claridge, Exeter; E. C. White & Son, Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Tubing, Canvas Hose:** F. Reddaway & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Turntables, Parts for:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Vinegar:** Crosse & Blackwell (Mfg.) Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Water Closets and Gear:** R. Brown & Son, Ltd., Paisley; Doulton & Co., Ltd., Paisley; Shanks & Co., Ltd., Barrhead, Glasgow.—**Water Tubing and Fittings:** Harry W. Wyld, West Bromwich; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Winches, Mine-hauling:** Brown Bros., Ltd., Edinburgh.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Portsmouth: Portland Cement: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Shotley: Reconstruction of Roads:** Mr. E. J. Edwards, Norwich.

WAR OFFICE.

Batteries, Elect: Pritchett & Gold & E.P.S. Co., London, S.W.; C. A. Vandervell & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Boots:** Northants Productive Society, Wollaston; Tebbutt & Hall Bros., Raunds; S. Walker, Walgrave.—**Brassfoundry, Plumber and Hot Water:** United Brass Founders & Engineers Co., Ormskirk.—**Buckets, Pails and Tubs:** S. Turner & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Clothing, Miscellaneous:** J. Hammond (1922), Ltd., Newcastle-under-Lyme.—**Copper Ingot:** Brandies, Goldschmidt & Co., London, E.C.; British American Metals Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Copper, Sheet:** Broughton Copper Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Cotton Waste, Coloured:** A. Smart & Sons, Manchester.—**Cotton Waste, White:** C. E. Austen & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Dowels, Tan:** Brookfield Linen Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Flannel, Grey:** J. Bradbury & Co. (Saddleworth), Ltd., Upper Mill, Lancashire.—**Flannelette:** W. N. Berry & Sons, Colne; Schofield, Preston & Co., Ltd., Nelson.—**Galvanised Corrugated Steel Sheets:** Walker Bros., Ltd., Walsall.—**Glazed Ware, Drain Pipes, etc.:** Harri-man, W., & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Harness, Collars, etc.:** Wilmot Bennett, Walsall.—**Hose Pipes, Canvas:** The Raven Hose & Belting Co., Ltd., Salford.—**Helmet Bodies:** E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans.—**Kettles, Tea:** Thos. Sheldon & Co.,

Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Leathers, Stirrup, etc.:** D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Linoleum:** M. Nairn & Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Lockers, Steel:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., Stratford.—**Metal Rod, Copper Alloy:** Delta Metal Co., Ltd., East Greenwich.—**Meters, Steam:** Electric Flow Meters Co., London.—**Motor Bodies:** T. H. Gill & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; Hoods & Bodies, Ltd., Harlesden.—**Nickel:** Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., Swansea.—**Motor Spares:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—**Paving Bricks:** Bispham Hall Colliery Co., Wigan.—**Pins, Sliding (Beds):** Samuel Lewis & Co., Ltd., Dudley.—**Pneumatic Covers:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., London, N.W., and Birmingham.—**Pyjamas:** Barron Walton, Manchester; Bryce & Weston, London, E.C.—**Repair of Locomotives:** Avonside Engineering Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Sashes, Silk and Worsted:** Dalton, Barton & Co., Coventry.—**Sheets, Cotton:** G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester.—**Sheets, Linen:** Lamb & Scott, Ltd., Brechin, N.B.—**Shoes, Canvas:** Stead & Simpson, Ltd., Leicester.—**Slop Pails:** Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Steel Framework for Huts:** Wood, E., & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Steel, Round:** Barrow Hematite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Steel, Square:** Cammel Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**White Spirit:** Gas Lighting Improvement Co., Ltd., West Ham.—**Wire, Barbed:** Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.—**Zinc or Spelter Ingots:** British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** Shorncliffe: Thos. Carr, Halifax. Dover (East): C. J. Else & Co., Matlock, Derby. Maryhill Barracks: J. Dunbar & Co., Glasgow. Dover (West): F. Holdsworth, Shipley, Yorks. Lichfield—Whittington Barracks: R. S. Kerrington & Sons, Derby. Longmoor: Henry Mellor, Woking. Sandhurst: Morgan & Son, Ash Vale, Surrey. Ballykinlar: R. D. Pollock & Co., Bangor, Co. Down.—**Building Works:** Canterbury: G. Browning, Canterbury. Reforming Roads at Richmond Barracks: Coxhead & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough. Alteration to Stores, etc., Canterbury: L. T. Dadds, Canterbury. Hilsea: F. Metteill & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Glasgow—Maryhill Barracks, Resurfacing Roads: W. G. Walker & Sons, Parkhead, Glasgow. Provision of a Quarter for Quartermaster Weedon Equitation School: W. W. Webster, Guilsborough, Northants.—**Painting:** Chatham: F. Holdsworth, Shipley, Yorks. Hounslow Heath: S. Lupton & Sons, Bradford, Yorks.

AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: Peto & Radford, London, S.W.—**Aeroplanes:** Fairey Aviation Co., Hayes, Middlesex; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Edgware, Middlesex.—**Aeroplane Spares:** A. V. Roe & Co., Manchester; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Bristol.—**Aircraft:** H. G. Hawker Eng. Co., Kingston-on-Thames; Armstrong Whitworth Co., Coventry; Fairey Aviation Co., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft (Reconditioning):** A. V. Roe & Co., Newton Heath, Manchester; S. E. Saunders, Ltd., Cowes, I.W.; Short Bros., Rochester.—**Aircraft Spares:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; A. V. Roe & Co., Newton Heath, Manchester; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; G. Parnall & Co., Bristol; Supermarine Aviation Co., Southampton; Westland Aircraft Co., Yeovil.—**Air screws:** D. M. Davies, London, N.—**Battery Booster to Power House:** J. Enock & Co., Sheffield.—**Building Works Services—Permanent Barrack Blocks (Uxbridge):** J. Parkinson & Sons (Blackpool), Ltd., London, W.C. Barrack Blocks (Spittlegate): J. Laing & Son, Ltd., London, W.C. Barrack Blocks (Northolt): W. Willett, Ltd., London, S.W. Boundary Fencing (Uxbridge): Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Wolverhampton. Heating Flight Sheds (Biggin Hill): Brightside Foundry Co., Sheffield. Mains—Underground (Digby): Macintosh Cable Co., Walton, Liverpool. Married Quarters (Manston): J. W. Heath, Ltd., Chelsea, S.W. Married Quarters (Digby): Hutchinson & Sons, Sleaford, Lincs. Married Quarters (Netheravon): W. E. Chivers & Sons, Devizes. Married Quarters (Bircham Newton): E. J. Edwards, Norwich.—**Cartridges Signal:** Brock & Co., Sutton, Surrey.—**Cotton Waste:** Richard Garside, Ltd., Manchester.—**Crossley Spares:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Engine (Aircraft) Spares:** W. Jessop & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Engine Spares:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines (Experimental Work and Supply of Parts)—Seven Contracts:** Ricardo & Co. (Engines), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Fire Extinguishers:** The General Fire Appliance Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Floats for Seaplanes:** Fairey Aviation Co., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Ford 1-ton Vans:** Wallace Harmer Motors, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Gas Coke (Halton):** A. G. Dawbarn, London, E.C.—**Magnetos:** Simms Motor Units (1920), Ltd., London, W.—**Metal Hull for Aircraft:** English Electric Co., London, W.C.—**Patent Impulse Starters:** S. Smith & Sons (M.A.), Ltd., London, N.W.—**Piping, Galvanised, W.I.:** S. Dixon & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Radiators (Crossley):** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Radium Compound:** F. Harrison Glen, London, S.W.—**Rolls Royce Chassis Spares:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Standard Terne Plates:** Skimwell & Co., London, E.—**Timber:** Denny, Mott & Dickson, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tyres:** Avon India Rubber Co., Melksham, Wilts; Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rapson:** Rapson Tyre & Jack Co., Ltd., New Malden, Surrey.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: Automatic Telephone Manfg. Co., Ltd., Liverpool; British L.M. Ericsson Manfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts.; General Electric Co., Ltd. (Peel-Conner Tele. Wks.), Coventry; International Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Sterling Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex; Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Apparatus, Testing and Protective:** Evershed & Vignoles, Ltd., London, W.; General Electric Co., Ltd. (Peel-Conner Telephone Works), Stoke, Coventry; H. W. 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