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

EMPLOYMENT.

AFTER the settlement of the railway dispute, on 29th January, employment quickly recovered from the decline caused by the shortage of transport, and there was a further and continuous improvement during February.

Among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland the percentage unemployed at 25th February, 1924, was 10·7, compared with 11·9 at 28th January, 1924 (the last full day of the railway stoppage) and with 10·7 at 21st December, 1923; at 26th February, 1923, the corresponding percentage was 12·2. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 8·6 at the end of February, 1924, compared with 8·9 at the end of January, 1924. The total number of workpeople on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges at 25th February, 1924, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was approximately 1,156,000, of whom 858,000 were men and 227,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 21st January, 1924 (the first day of the railway stoppage), the total was 1,253,000, of whom 925,000 were men and 248,000 were women.

Employment was good in the coal mining industry and in the tinsplate, steel sheet, carpet, jute and coach-building trades; it was fairly good with skilled operatives (except painters) in the building trades, with millsawyers and in certain sections of the metal trades, and fair with brickmakers, coopers and in some branches of the leather and clothing trades. In most of the other large industries it was still slack or bad.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are available the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in February resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £90,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 640,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £3,250 in those of nearly 100,000 workpeople.

Building trade operatives in most districts in Great Britain received increases, under a cost-of-living sliding scale, of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in the case of craftsmen and of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in the case of labourers, and there were additional increases of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d. per hour in a number of towns in the Midland, Southern and South-Western Counties. Dock labourers at all the principal ports had their wages increased by 1s. per day or 6d. per half-day in the case of timeworkers, and generally by 5 per cent. on the rates operative in August, 1921, in the case of pieceworkers. Other important groups of workpeople whose wages were increased included iron miners in Cumberland, steel sheet millmen, men employed by electrical contractors, leather belt makers, warehousemen at Liverpool, and workpeople employed in the non-trading services of various local authorities in Yorkshire.

The principal decrease in wages affected steel smelters

and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, whose wages were reduced by $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on standard rates (equivalent to about 1 per cent. on current rates). Other groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced included subsidiary workers in the iron and steel trade in various districts, coal miners in the Radstock district, ironstone miners and blast-furnace workers in North Lincolnshire, and blastfurnace workers in the West of Scotland. There was also a decrease, under the Trade Boards Acts, in the minimum rates fixed for men employed in the chain-making trade.

During the first two months of 1924 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net increase of nearly £180,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 1,600,000 workpeople and in a net reduction of £28,500 in the wages of 580,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1923 there was a net reduction of over £120,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 950,000 workpeople and a net increase of £43,000 in the weekly wages of 670,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st March the average level of retail prices of 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 78 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 79 per cent. a month ago and 76 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding percentage for 1st March was 76, as compared with 77 a month ago and 71 a year ago.

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

For further particulars and details of the statistics for 1st March reference should be made to the article on page 84.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 56. In addition, 20 disputes, which began before February, were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in February (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 144,000, as compared with 83,000 in the previous month and 37,000 in February, 1923. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during February was about 700,000 working days, as compared with 629,000 days in January, and with 325,000 days in February, 1923. The principal dispute was that involving dock workers throughout Great Britain, which was in progress from 18th to 25th February.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

RELAXATION OF SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR RECEIPT OF UNCOVENANTED BENEFIT.

CERTAIN special restrictions on the grant of uncovenanted benefit which have been imposed by administrative order under the discretionary power vested in the Minister of Labour by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922, have recently been under consideration. In the result the Minister has decided to remove certain of these special restrictions.

In consequence of this decision uncovenanted benefit will not in future be withheld from the following classes of persons provided in each case that the three statutory conditions attaching to uncovenanted benefit are fulfilled:—

(1) Single persons residing with parents or relatives to whom they could reasonably look for support during unemployment.

(2) Married women living with their husbands who are in employment and whose incomings are sufficient to justify the withholding of uncovenanted benefit from the wife.

(3) Married men living with their wives where the circumstances are as in (2).

(4) Persons working short time whose incomings are sufficient to justify the withholding of uncovenanted benefit.

(5) Certain classes of aliens.

The three statutory conditions referred to are that each applicant must prove:—

(a) that he is normally employed in insurable employment;

(b) that he is genuinely seeking, but unable to obtain, whole-time employment;

(c) that not less than 20 contributions have been paid at some time or that, having regard to the opportunities of employment in his normal employment, he has since 31st December, 1919, been employed for a reasonable length of time in an occupation which is now insurable. (In the case of certain ex-Service men that they were so employed before joining His Majesty's Forces.)

It has been decided to retain the administrative rule that uncovenanted benefit should not be paid to:—

(6) Persons who are unwilling to accept on fair terms and conditions work other than that to which they are accustomed, but which they are reasonably capable of performing.

The decision came into force in respect of all cases considered by Local Employment Committees after the receipt by them of a memorandum dated the 13th February, and applies to all claims dealt with thereafter. The memorandum referred to contains the following further observations:—

"Many representations have been received from Local Committees and from other bodies and individuals that the special conditions applied to the classes named above should be modified. It has been suggested that, while in a number of cases the conditions have resulted in the withholding of benefit from claimants to whom the grant of benefit should properly be refused, the general effect has been to debar from the receipt of benefit many deserving cases where benefit would otherwise have been paid. It will be within the recollection of committees that comparatively recently it was decided not to apply the condition in regard to the grant of uncovenanted benefit to single men and women, to persons of twenty-five years of age and over.

"In giving consideration to the representations which have been made, the Minister has been impressed by the fact that in view of the statutory conditions mentioned above which have to be fulfilled by all claimants, it is difficult to justify the withholding of benefit in any case where those conditions are fully satisfied and where the refusal of benefit depends solely on the fact that the home circumstances of the individual claimant are such that it can be said that it is possible for the family of which the claimant is a member to support him during unemployment without assistance from the Unemployment Fund. These individuals are within the classes who in normal times will be contributors during their employment to the revenue of the fund in future years. In particular, young single men and women may be expected in the future, when trade revives, to be valuable supporters of the fund through their contributions over a long period of years.

"As the result of full consideration of all the circumstances, the Minister has come to the conclusion that the special restrictions which have been applied to the classes now in question cannot be justified. He is of opinion that, while the discretion vested in him not to pay uncovenanted benefit unless it is expedient in the public interest to do so should be used to rule out individuals whose records show that they are not in any case proper subjects for the grant of benefit under an insurance scheme, his discretion should not be used to refuse benefit to those individuals who are normally insurable workers, who satisfy the committees that they are genuine seekers for work, but who happen to have relatives who can support them. The mere fact that a claimant may have some private resources of his own or from relatives should not be in itself a ground for refusing benefit. The Minister desires, therefore, that in considering cases brought before them after the receipt of this memorandum, committees will no longer have regard to the special conditions which have been laid down in regard to the first four classes set out in the second paragraph above.

"The considerations which have so far been mentioned do not apply precisely to aliens, to whom uncovenanted benefit has hitherto been refused on the ground of public expediency. Here

again, however, the Minister is of opinion that these persons, who in any event have to prove that they are normally insurable and genuinely seeking work, should be dealt with on the same lines as other claimants for uncovenanted benefit, provided they satisfy the committees that these conditions are fulfilled in their cases. The Minister desires, therefore, that committees in dealing with claims by aliens shall do so without regard to nationality.

"With regard to the sixth class mentioned above, the Minister does not propose at present to make any change in the conditions relating to the grant of uncovenanted benefit to individuals within this class. In his view the condition is a reasonable one, having regard to the present state of trade. Committees will therefore continue to apply the condition to this class of claimant.

"In conclusion, the Minister would urge upon committees that strict attention should be paid to the statutory requirements as to normal insurability, the genuine search for work, and, where twenty contributions have not been paid by a claimant, to his record of employment since 31st December, 1919. (In the case of certain ex-Service men, a reasonable period of employment before joining His Majesty's Forces in an occupation which is now insurable will satisfy the condition.) He is sure that committees will appreciate that, while it is important not to refuse benefit in any proper case, it is equally important that the administration of benefit should not be allowed to fall into disrepute owing to benefit being paid to persons who are not really doing their utmost to secure work."

APPOINTMENT OF CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

THE Ministry of Labour for some time past have been giving consideration to the possibility of improving the arrangements in London for dealing with the question of juvenile employment, including, in particular, the entrance of children into employment, general problems (other than administrative) in connection with unemployment insurance, and the consideration, in close co-operation with public bodies and voluntary organisations, of the question of the general welfare of young persons in employment.

Hitherto the duty of dealing with such questions has been shared between the Ministry of Labour and the London County Council; but it has now devolved upon the Ministry, in consequence of the decision of the Council not to undertake the optional powers in this respect given to them under Section 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

It is felt that in the endeavour to secure that the entry of juveniles into industry is made under the most favourable auspices, every possible step should be taken with the object of bringing industry and the schools more closely into touch with one another than they have been hitherto; and, with this object in view, the Minister has decided to appoint a Central Advisory Council for juvenile employment within the administrative area of the county of London. This Council will include members identified with educational interests (both teachers and others), and persons representing the views of employers and workpeople, together with others with special knowledge of the problems to be faced.

The duties of the Council will be to consider and advise the Minister on the broad questions relating to the employment of boys and girls in London, such as those mentioned above, and to co-ordinate the work of the Juvenile Advisory Committees, which the Minister is proposing to establish, and which will be attached to each of the Employment Exchanges in the area of the county of London for the purpose of dealing with local questions as they affect juvenile employment in the various districts. Every effort has been made to secure that the Advisory Council should be fully representative and should command the respect of all interests concerned in the important work which lies before it.

The Minister has appointed Mr. Max J. Bonn, C.B.E., as chairman of the Council; and acceptances of invitations to serve upon the Council have, up to date, been received from Major the Hon. J. J. Astor, M.P., Mr. P. A. Best, Mr. J. T. Brownlie, Mr. M. T. Greenwell, Mr. A. E. Holmes, Mr. W. T. Kelly, Miss M. E. King, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. L. H. Pascall, Mr. A. Paterson, Mr. G. W. Paton, Sir Felix J. C. Pole, Mr. R. L. Roberts, Mr. Isidore Salmon, C.B.E., Mrs. Salmond, Miss M. J. Symons, Miss Talbot, Mr. Gerald Wellesley, and Mr. J. C. A. Ward.

In addition, the London County Council have nominated the following persons to serve as representatives:—Miss H. Adler, J.P., Mr. E. T. Campbell, the Hon. Lady Lawrence, Mr. W. F. Marchant, O.B.E., Mrs. A. M. Mathew, J.P., Miss A. E. Tomes; while the London Teachers' Association will be represented by Messrs. W. J. Burton, W. T. Pincombe, J. H. L. Ridley, O.B.E., and Miss C. Robinson.

Mr. W. P. Fuller, the chairman of the Headmasters' Employment Committee for Secondary Schools (Boys) and Miss Oldham, the chairman of the Headmistresses' Employment Committee for Secondary Schools (Girls), will be members of the Council. There will also be added four representative chairmen of the Local Advisory Committees.

Major E. J. M. Harvey, Ministry of Labour, 59, Queen's-gardens, Paddington, London, W. 2, will act as secretary of the Council.

The Council held its first meeting on Monday, 17th March, at the Ministry of Labour.

REPORT ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

THE Ministry of Labour have issued a Report* on an investigation into the personal circumstances and industrial history of nearly 10,000† claimants to unemployment benefit during the week ended November 10th, 1923, all of whom were individually interviewed. This represented about one in a hundred of the claims current at Employment Exchanges on that date. The greatest care was taken to ensure that the sample should be evenly spread, without bias of any kind, over the whole of the claimants; so that reliance may confidently be placed upon the representative character of the claimants selected for interview. A further indication of the general trustworthiness of the results of the present inquiry is to be found in the fact that, allowing for changes in the composition of the body of claimants between the two dates, the results of the present inquiry are in close agreement with those of an inquiry into nearly 370,000 claims to unemployment benefit (approximately one in three) current on the 27th January, 1923.‡

It should be noted that, as in the earlier inquiry, the figures relate solely to *claimants to unemployment benefit*; and therefore exclude those who, though unemployed, were not, for any reason, claiming benefit. Hence caution is necessary in drawing from the results of the analysis conclusions as to the composition of the unemployed population generally.

Classification by "Employability."—On the present occasion, each of the 10,000 persons was personally interviewed by the Employment Exchange manager or his deputy, and various items of information were obtained that were not covered by the previous inquiry, particularly as to *degree of employability*. Managers were asked to state, from their knowledge or impressions, into which of certain categories each claimant fell. The four principal categories were as follows:—

(a) Persons who, in normal times, would usually be in steady employment.

(b) Persons who, though not usually in steady employment, would, in normal times, obtain a fair amount of employment.

(c) Persons who would not in normal times obtain a fair amount of employment, but who were not considered to be "verging on the unemployable."

(d) Persons who were considered to be "verging on the unemployable."

With reference to Category (d), it should be noted that persons who were *absolutely* unemployable would, under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, be excluded from benefit, since it is a statutory condition that a claimant, to receive benefit, must be "capable of work." That the men and women who were placed in Category (d) were not "unemployable" in the strict sense of the word was shown by their employment records, which indicated that they had had, as a class, a fair amount of recent employment.

An analysis shows that 66·3 per cent. of all the males interviewed were allocated to Category (a), and 89·0 per cent. to Categories (a) and (b) together; the corresponding figures for females were 73·7 per cent. and 88·0 per cent., respectively. Only 3·5 per cent. of the males, and 1·8 per cent. of the females, were regarded as "verging on the unemployable." Over half of the men in this category, and over a third of the women, were 60 years old or over; a heavy proportion, also, suffered from poor physique, poor health, or some manifest physical defect.

Age of Claimants.—Less than half of the male claimants were under 35, but four-fifths of the female claimants were under that age. The largest absolute numbers, both of men and of women, of any one age, were in the age-group 20-24: the largest numbers *relatively to the working population* generally were in the age-group 20-24 and in the age-group 55 and over, for men; and in the age-group 18-24, for women. Youths from 16 to 19, and girls of 16 and 17 were much more lightly represented among the claimants than among industrial workers generally.

Marital State of Claimants.—About two-fifths of the men and two-thirds of the women were single, the rest being either married or widowed. It should be remembered, in this connection, that female claimants are in general much younger than male claimants.

Physique and Health.—The following is an analysis of the reports of interviewing officers of their impressions as to the physique, and as to the apparent state of health, of the claimants:—

	PHYSIQUE.			HEALTH.		
	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.
Males	67·5	27·9	4·6	76·0	20·3	3·7
Females	74·0	23·1	2·9	81·6	16·0	2·4

It was found that physique fell off steadily from the age of 45 onwards, and that, at 60 and over, less than half the claimants were described as of good physique. Those of poor physique formed an insignificant proportion of workpeople assigned to Category (a), but over two-fifths of those assigned to Category (d), that is, of those "verging on the unemployable." The figures regarding health give closely similar results.

Physical Defects.—No apparent physical defect was recorded in the case of 78·2 per cent. of the males, and of 87·5 per cent.

of the females. The defects most frequently recorded were bad eyesight, deafness, lameness and amputation; the two last named occurring principally among men who had been of military service age at the time of the war. The proportion of persons with no physical defect was highest among those assigned to Category (a), and lowest among those assigned to Category (c). More than a third of the men of 60 and over, and nearly half of the women of the same ages, had some apparent physical defect. The males assigned to Category (c)—i.e., those "who would not in normal times obtain a fair amount of employment, but who were not considered to be verging on the unemployable," included a large proportion of men who were lame, maimed and aged, or who suffered from miscellaneous physical defects.

It would appear from the above classifications—by physique, by health, and by physical defects—that interviewing officers were largely influenced by the apparent or disclosed physical condition of the claimants. It is possible, therefore, that some of those classified in the lower categories may have had qualities of skill or character, and that those classified in the higher categories may have had undisclosed failings, which would partly or wholly neutralise their apparent physical defects or advantages, as the case might be.

Age of Leaving School and of Starting Work.—Over 90 per cent. of the boys and girls, and of the young men and women under 30, had left school at 14 or before; and about 97 per cent. had left at 15 or before. Of the boys and young men, 90·7 per cent. had started work at or under the age of 14, but only 66·6 per cent. of the girls and young women had started work at that age: a further 15·7 per cent., however, of girls and young women had started work at the age of 15. It would appear, therefore, that a good proportion of the girls who had left school at 14 had waited a year or two before going to work.

The great majority (nearly 94 per cent.) of both boys and girls had attended only elementary schools.

Apprenticeship and Training.—Of the males, 25·9 per cent. had been apprenticed, 25·3 per cent. had been trained and 48·8 per cent. neither trained nor apprenticed; the corresponding figures for females were 15·3 per cent., 49·2 per cent., and 35·5 per cent. The proportion of apprenticed or "trained" persons was considerably higher in Category (a) than in the other categories (58·4 per cent. for males and 72·2 per cent. for females); there is a tendency for the best type of boys and of girls to be accepted for apprenticeship or training. In considering the high proportion of "trained" females, it should be remembered that "training" in the case of a woman often means something more meagre or casual than in the case of a man.

Number of Dependants.—57·1 per cent. of the males, but only 10·1 per cent. of the females, had dependants: the average number of dependants in the case of the male claimants who had dependants was 2·7.

The proportions drawing Dependants' Benefit, however, were only 47·3 per cent. in the case of males, and 1·5 per cent. in the case of females. Of the males who were drawing Dependants' Benefit, 35·2 per cent. were drawing benefit in respect of wife or housekeeper only, 6 per cent. in respect of child or children only, and 58·8 per cent. in respect of an adult, with one or more children.

Analysed by number of children, the figures for men with dependent children were:—One child, 35·9 per cent.; two children, 28·8 per cent.; three children, 17·1 per cent.; four or more children, 18·2 per cent.

Contributions and Benefit.—The average number of contributions paid was 176 for males and 104 for females, and the average number of days' benefit drawn was 308 for males and 132 for females. The least amount of benefit drawn, in proportion to contributions paid, was among young persons (boys under 18 and girls and young women under 21); the conditions which until recently* attached to the receipt of "uncovenanted" benefit, excluded young persons who might reasonably look to parents or relatives for support. The largest amount of benefit, relative to contributions paid, was received by men of 20-29 years of age and by women over 60.

There was a progressive increase in the proportion of benefit to contributions as the degree of apparent "employability" fell. For males the figures were:—Category (a), 1·53 days; category (b) 2·26 days; category (c), 2·62 days; category (d), 2·80 days: the corresponding figures for females were 1·22, 1·54, 1·59 and 2·56 respectively. Claimants were also classified according to the year when they first became insured. Of the males, 25·3 per cent. entered under the original Insurance Act of 1911, 27·0 per cent. entered under the Act of 1916, and 47·7 per cent. under the 1920 Act. The figures for females were very different; only 1·7 per cent. entered under the 1911 Act, 14·7 per cent. under the 1916 Act and 83·6 per cent. under the 1920 Act.

The figures for claimants who entered under the Act of 1911 were largely affected by military service, which reduced the number of contributions paid by many of the men. Of those who entered in the insurance year 1920-21, the younger men had a better industrial history than the older; men of 20-24, for example, had drawn only 2·6 days' benefit for each contribution paid, as compared with 3·7 days' benefit for men of 45 and over.

The "One-in-Six" Rule.—Under the 1920 Act an insured person who was not disqualified on other grounds might claim one week's benefit for every six contributions paid, and no more. This restriction has been relaxed under subsequent Acts,

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. net

† The exact number was 9,997, divided as follows:—7,981 men; 252 boys; 1,617 women; and 147 girls.

‡ An analysis of the results of the enquiry of January, 1923, appeared in the November, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 395-6.

* See page 78 of this GAZETTE.

and it was found in the present inquiry that no fewer than 70·8 per cent. of the males and 51·2 per cent. of the females had drawn more benefit than they would have been entitled to under the "one-in-six" rule. The excess was highest (over 70 per cent.) among men and women of 60 and over, and among men of 25-29.

The excess was, naturally, highest among those assigned to Category (d) and lowest among those assigned to Category (a); the figures were 87·8 per cent. and 65·9 per cent. respectively for males, and 81·3 per cent. and 49·0 per cent. for females.

Poor Law Relief.—Information was obtained from the Poor Law authorities as to whether the claimant was in receipt of poor relief, and, if so, at what weekly rate. 10·3 per cent. of the males, but only 0·8 per cent. of the females, were in receipt of poor relief. The highest proportions of males in receipt of such relief were between 25 and 44; no less than 51 per cent. of the total number fell within these age groups. The commonest cases were of men drawing from 20s. to 24s. in benefit (which implies that they had dependent wives, and that some had also from one to four children), and receiving poor relief ranging from 2s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. a week.

How Long Unemployed?—An attempt was made to ascertain from the returns how long claimants had been unemployed during the 122 weeks preceding the date of the inquiry (November 5th-10th, 1923); that is to say, since the 4th July, 1921, the beginning of the 1921-22 insurance year. This was done by ascertaining how many contributions the claimants had paid since that date. It should be understood that the payment of a contribution does not necessarily imply a whole week's work; a stamp will in some cases represent only one day's, or even half a day's, employment. Taking the claimants as a whole, however, the apparent overstatement from this cause would probably not be very material.

Subject to this caution, it would appear that 5 per cent. of the claimants who had entered insurance before the 4th July, 1921, had had no insured employment whatever since that date. The proportions were 3·6 per cent. among those allocated to Category (a), 6·0 per cent. in Category (b), 13·2 per cent. in Category (c) and 17·0 per cent. in Category (d). The proportion of youths under 20 who had had little employment was very small, while the proportion of men of 60 and over who had had no insured employment was nearly twice as great as among persons in the other age groups.

The figures for males of all ages and categories were as follows:—23·6 per cent. had done some insured work in from 1 to 29 weeks, 26·3 per cent. had done some insured work in from 30 to 59 weeks, 25·8 per cent. had done some insured work in from 60 to 89 weeks, and 19·3 per cent. had done some insured work in from 90 to 122 weeks.

Ex-Service and Non-ex-Service.—Of the men who had entered insurance before the 4th July, 1921, 38·4 per cent. were ex-Service men and 61·6 per cent. were non-ex-Service; 55 per cent. of the ex-Service men were under thirty-five years of age, and nearly all were under forty-five.

The following Table shows how the two classes compare as regards length of employment during the two and a-half years since the 4th July, 1921, the comparison being confined to men between 20 and 44 years of age:—

Weeks worked:—	<i>Ex-Service.</i> <i>Non-ex-Service.</i>	
	(Ages 20-44.)	(Ages 20-44.)
	Per cent.	Per cent.
0-29	29·4	24·4
30-59	26·1	26·2
60-89	24·6	28·2
90-122	19·9	21·2
Total	100·0	100·0

It will be seen that there is a close similarity between the two sets of figures, though the non-ex-Service men had a somewhat better employment history in these 122 weeks.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF WORKS, 1924-5

THE Unemployment Grants Committee have issued a circular letter to Local Authorities, dated 27th February, 1924, inviting proposals for schemes of work to be carried out with State assistance during the spring and summer of this year, and during the winter of 1924-5 for the relief of unemployment.

The general conditions previously laid down will continue to apply with the following modifications:—

(1) Works are eligible for approval not only in districts where unemployment exists, but also in districts not so affected, provided that in the latter class of case a substantial part of the expenditure on the proposed works takes the form of orders for materials which will give employment in industries affected by unemployment, though not necessarily in the area where the work is to be carried out.

(2) Where the Local Authority undertakes the work by direct labour the rate of wages paid must not exceed the Local Authority's rate to its own workmen on similar classes of work, or the recognised District Rate (where such exists) if that is lower.

The Ministry of Transport have also issued a Circular in regard to grants from the Road Fund to road works specially expedited for the relief of unemployment, setting out the revised condition as to wages given above. It should be noted that this condition takes the place of the previous requirement that the rate of wages for unskilled labour should not, for a probationary period of six months, exceed 75 per cent. (in certain cases 87½ per cent.) of the Local Authority's rate.

CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

A CONFERENCE on unemployment, in its national and international aspects, will be held at the London School of Economics, under the auspices of the League of Nations Union, on 25th, 26th and 27th March. The object of the conference is to secure an interchange of knowledge and experience between persons and societies (including the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations) specially concerned with one or more aspects of the problem.

The subjects to be discussed at each session of the conference, together with the names of the chairmen, are as shown below:—

- 1st day, morning.—"International Trade." Chairman, Sir William Beveridge, K.C.B.
 ,, afternoon.—"Financial Factors." Chairman, Sir William Beveridge, K.C.B.
 2nd day, morning.—"Work for the Unemployed." Chairman, the Rt. Hon. T. Shaw, C.B.E., M.P., Minister of Labour.
 ,, afternoon.—"Unemployment Insurance." Chairman, Mr. E. D. Simon, M.P.
 3rd day, morning.—"Hours and Wages." Chairman, Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, P.C.
 ,, afternoon.—"Migration," and concluding discussion, including "The International Aspects of Unemployment." Chairman, Viscount Burnham, C.H.

Tickets for the conference and detailed programmes may be obtained free of charge from the League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W. 1. Applications should state the names of those intending to be present, and whether they will attend in their private capacity or as delegates of an organisation.

TRADE DISPUTE DISQUALIFICATION COMMITTEE.

THE Minister of Labour announced in the House of Commons on the 12th March that he had received a Report from the Trade Dispute Disqualification Committee appointed in June, 1922,* "to examine the working of the Trade Dispute Disqualification for Unemployment Benefit as contained in Section 87 (1) of the National Insurance Act, 1911, and Section 8 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and to consider whether any, and, if so, what, modification should be made therein."

The Report states that the Committee have held many meetings and have given earnest and careful consideration to the matters referred to them. They regret, however, that they are unable to reach agreement as to whether any, and, if so, what modification should be made in the existing law.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 26th February, 1924, the number of men in training was 10,332, and the number awaiting training 4,442. Since 1st August, 1919, 80,962 men have terminated training.

NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

On the 29th February, 1924, the names of 28,524 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 330,000 disabled Ex-Service Men.

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

DURING the four weeks ended 23rd February, 1924, thirteen meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

The National Joint Council for Insurance Committees' Administrative, Technical and Clerical Services have made progress in connection with the proposed superannuation scheme.

The Coopers Joint Industrial Council considered a motion recommending a modification of the hour for starting work and the limitation of the number of breaks in the working hours, and referred the matter to the London District Council for consideration, particular mention having been made of the hours of work of coopers employed in one section of the trade in London.

Following a reference from the Negotiating Committee of the Clay Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee of an application for an advance in wages made by the workers' side, a meeting of the full committee was held. As a result the workers' side decided to make representations as to the wages in the industry, and to ask their executives to take a ballot vote as to strike action.

The Lock and Latch industry considered very fully the question

* See the July, 1922, issue of this GAZETTE, page 287.

of boys' and youths' wages, and a schedule of wages for that class of workers was eventually agreed. As a result of a discussion on the desirability of establishing uniform holiday periods throughout the trade, the Council decided to recommend to employers that not more than two days' holiday at the normal holiday periods of Easter, Whitsuntide and August should be declared; also that arrangements should be made where possible for workpeople requiring a holiday during the summer months to be afforded a reasonable opportunity for taking it.

The *National Wool (and Allied) Textile Joint Industrial Council* agreed to ask the Home Secretary to make forthwith an Order under the Factory and Workshops Acts giving effect to the Council's recommendations regarding the lifting of heavy weights in woollen cloth manufacture. A further question regarding the lifting of heavy weights by women and young persons was referred to a committee.

STRIKE OF DOCK WORKERS.

THE Transport and General Workers' Union, at a Delegate Conference held at York, on 29th November, 1923, decided to apply to the port and dock employers throughout the country for an increase of 2s. per day in the daily minimum wage and for a guaranteed week.

The Union sent in their claim to the employers on 15th December, 1923, and tendered formal notice on 1st January, 1924, to terminate the existing national agreement. A meeting of the National Joint Council for Dock Labour was held on 16th January, at which the employers refused the application of the Union. In view of this refusal the Union called a further Delegate Conference for 29th January, when it was decided that the members of the Union should be instructed to withdraw their labour at noon on 16th February in all ports of Great Britain unless in the meantime a settlement satisfactory to the Delegate Conference had been arrived at. They also notified the employers that the following Unions were associated with them in the demands—viz., the National Union of General Workers, the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, the United Order of General Labourers, and the National Amalgamated Society of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motormen and Electrical Workers.

A further Conference between the parties was held on 5th February. The Conference was adjourned to enable the employers to consult the National Council of Port Labour Employers. At the adjourned Conference, on 11th February, no agreement was reached, and negotiations broke down. So soon as this was known the Minister of Labour invited the parties to meet again under his auspices. Both sides accepted the invitation and met him on 12th February. Thereafter negotiations were continued daily. On 14th February the employers stated that they were willing to concede an increase of 1s. a day in the minimum wage, with a proportionate increase to pieceworkers, to operate from 3rd March, and to refer the second shilling to arbitration. As regards the guaranteed week they proposed that a sub-committee of the National Joint Council should be set up to explore and report on the situation. This offer was not accepted by the men's representatives, and negotiations finally broke down late on Saturday afternoon, 16th February. In the meantime the strike had commenced at noon on 16th February, all the ports in Great Britain being affected.

Meanwhile, the National Amalgamated Stevedores, Lightermen, Watermen and Dockers' Union had applied to the employers for a 25 per cent. increase, equivalent to an increase of 2s. 6d. a day in the daily minimum wage. On 17th February, as the advance had not been granted, the Union recommended its members to refuse to work overtime, and many members of the Union joined in the strike.

On Monday, 18th February, the Minister of Labour announced in the House of Commons that he had decided to set up a Court of Inquiry, under Part II. of the Industrial Courts Act, "to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the dispute and to report thereon." The members of the Court were Mr. Holman Gregory, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. H. Boothman, J.P. (General Secretary of the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners), and Sir Andrew Duncan (Vice-President of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation). The Court held a preliminary meeting in private on 19th February, 1924, and considered procedure, and on the following day sat in public at the Royal Courts of Justice, and heard statements from the parties. Mr. E. Bevin, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, presented the case on behalf of the men, and Sir Norman Hill (Vice-President of the Chamber of Shipping) outlined the case of the shipowners.

During the evening of 20th February further conferences between the parties to the dispute were held, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Labour, as a result of which an agreement was reached, the terms of which were accepted by the employers' representatives, and were to be recommended by the men's representatives to a Delegate Conference of the Union summoned to meet in London on 21st February. In these circumstances the parties applied for the further hearing *sine die*, on the understanding that should it be deemed advisable or necessary at some future time to proceed further with the Inquiry, due notice would be given.

The Delegate Conference accepted the terms, and work was resumed by members of the Transport and General Workers'

Union and the Unions associated with it in the dispute on 26th February. The members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores, Lightermen, Watermen and Dockers' Union continued on strike until 27th February, when they accepted terms similar to those obtained by the other Unions.

The terms of the Agreement were as follows:—

1. *Resumption of Work.*—Work will be resumed forthwith on the terms of this Agreement, and all men shall be re-instated in their former positions from the date of resumption, and shall in no way be prejudiced in the future for any part taken in the dispute.

2. *Wages.*—On and after the date of resumption of work the minimum daily wage on the half-daily basis will be for the greater ports 11s. and for the smaller ports 10s. respectively, and on and after 2nd June, 1924, 12s. and 11s. respectively.

3. *Differentials.*—All existing differentials will be maintained and added to the increased minima.

4. *Permanent men* whose wages are paid weekly will be paid the increased rates as from the date of resumption of work, but the June, 1924, increase will commence with the week's pay for the first pay week wholly worked after the introduction of such increased rate.

5. *Piecework.*—On resumption of work and at 2nd June, 1924, respectively, there shall be restored to the piecework tariffs the reductions made in October, 1922, and July, 1923, respectively, with the following exceptions, that in those cases where new rates have been fixed in the interim, or where rates have been readjusted on grounds of being unduly high or unduly low, there shall be increases added to such rates as will give the men a corresponding increase in accordance with the method of calculating piecework rates as embodied in local agreements at each port.

6. *Overtime.*—The rates of pay for overtime as fixed by the Agreement of May, 1920, shall be readjusted in accordance with the increased rates of pay when such rates respectively operate, but in ports where there has been a local arrangement of overtime rates and/or conditions mutually agreed since the Shaw Agreement, a corresponding increase in rates to be given effect to in accordance with the local arrangement.

7. *Local Joint Committees.*—Local Joint Committees shall, on request of either side, consider, with a view to arriving at local settlement, the following particular matters:—

(a) Time workers' differentials when working to or from pieceworkers.

(b) The adjustment of piecework rates which are claimed as unduly high or unduly low. (See Clause 6 of the September, 1922, Agreement.)

(c) Adjustments of exceptional local conditions and/or working conditions, provided that the decisions and minutes issued by the National Joint Council shall not be displaced locally.

(d) Questions of safety working and general conditions affecting health and safety of the men.

8. *Local Joint Committees* shall meet within seven days of written request being made by either side to consider the above and any other matters, and shall make every endeavour to arrive at agreement. Failing such meeting and/or settlement in one month from such request (or such further time as may be mutually agreed by the Local Joint Committee) the matter or matters shall be deemed to have been referred forthwith to the National Joint Council or to such tribunal as the National Joint Council may agree for settlement, and the settlement so arrived at shall be final and binding upon all parties concerned.

9. *Decasualisation.*—The parties to this Agreement agree to appoint a sub-committee (the Minister of Labour to appoint an independent chairman and supply such technical assistance as may be necessary) for the purpose of developing and strengthening the system of registration and to examine the proposal for a guaranteed week with a view to arriving at an agreement to give effect to the Shaw Report.

10. *Amendment and Notice.*—Either party to this Agreement desiring to amend any of the current national Agreements or to propose the termination of the Agreements shall give one month's notice in writing of their intention. Upon such notice being given the parties shall meet forthwith to discuss the position. Failing agreement at the end of one month from such notice, the parties may extend the period by mutual arrangements, or either party may give 14 days' notice to terminate the Agreements.

11. *General.*—This Agreement shall be regarded as a modification of the National Agreement of May 5th, 1920, and subsequent conditions arranged thereunder.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1924.

THE Unemployment Insurance Bill* passed both Houses of Parliament without amendment, and received the Royal Assent on the 21st February. It came into force on the same day.

The Act abolishes, from February 21st, 1924, the three weeks' interval without benefit, which had previously been imposed in cases where twelve weeks' uncovenanted benefit had been drawn in the First Benefit Year.

* See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1924 (p. 41).

UNEMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY: NEW ORDER.*

THE German Government has issued a new Order, dated 13th February, 1924, which introduces certain amendments in the fundamental Order on Unemployment Relief of 1st November, 1921, and in the Order on the Raising of Funds for Unemployment Relief of 15th October, 1923, of which an account was given in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for November last (page 402). The text of the two Orders, as amended, has been codified and published as an Order of the Minister of Labour, dated 16th February, 1924, and this text now forms the legal basis of the present provisions for the relief of unemployment in Germany.

The amendments to the Order of 1st November, 1921, are, in the main, intended to introduce greater stringency in the supervision of the grant of unemployment relief, as well as to make provision, so far as possible, for certain social needs which, in practice, have made themselves felt. Thus unemployed persons under the age of 16 can now receive unemployment relief if they accept relief work. Those over 16 but under 18 years of age, however, can receive relief only when the competent authorities are satisfied that in view of the prospects of the labour market they are likely to remain unemployed for a long time, but they may be employed on relief work under the same conditions as for persons under 16. Moreover, the right to receive benefit is, in principle, restricted to persons who have paid sickness insurance contributions over a period of three months during the twelve months preceding their unemployment.

The objects of the amendments to the Order of 15th October, 1923, are (1) to increase the contributions of employers and workers, and thereby to lighten the financial burden of the Reich, the States and the Communes, and (2) to distribute the financial burden of unemployment in such a way as to equalise its incidence on employers and workers over wider areas than those falling within the Employment Exchange district. Hitherto each district has been self-contained in this respect, and, owing to the fact that the incidence of unemployment in the different districts is apt to be unequal, different rates of contribution have had to be levied within relatively restricted areas. It is now sought to make the contributions uniform, as far as possible, over the area controlled by the Central Employment Office of each State. The Minister of Labour may also, with the approval of the Federal Council, and after consultation with the Administrative Council of the Federal Employment Office, order that the contributions of employers and workers shall be calculated on the total expenditure on unemployment relief in the whole of Germany.

The contributions of employers and workers† are to be so fixed that they cover two-thirds of the necessary cost of the Public Employment Exchange service and eight-ninths of the necessary expenditure on unemployment relief in the district served by the Exchange (or group of Exchanges). They are not, however, to exceed—except for a period of two weeks—3 per cent. of the basic wage,‡ the employer and worker each paying one-half of the amount. The Commune (or district, as the case may be) bears the remaining one-third of the cost of the Employment Exchange service and one-ninth of the expenditure on unemployment relief. Where the maximum rates of contribution permissible have been levied for a period of two weeks, and the expenditure on unemployment relief is not covered by this income, together with the contribution of the Commune or district, the deficit, after the first two weeks, is met by equal contributions from the funds of the Reich and the State. The deficit for the first two weeks is made up by increased contributions from employers and workers.

The changes introduced here are (1) the contribution of the Reich and the State to the cost of the Employment Exchange service has been suppressed; (2) the limit on the contribution of the district (Commune, union of communes, or other unit established for the purpose), formerly fixed at one-fourth of the combined contributions of employers and workers, has been removed, and the Commune (or district) now pays, without limit, one-ninth of the total expenditure on unemployment relief; and (3) the contributions of employers and workers are assessed on the basic wage adopted for the purpose of calculating sickness insurance contributions instead of on the amount of the sickness insurance contribution itself.

As regards (2), the Minister of Labour may order, as from 1st July, 1924, that the contribution of the Communes shall be increased up to one-sixth of the expenditure on unemployment relief, and, as regards (3), he may fix a higher percentage of the basic wage than 3 per cent. as the contribution of employers and workers.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN ITALY.

AMENDMENT OF LAW.

A DECREE, dated 30th December, 1923,§ dealing with compulsory insurance against unemployment in Italy, came into force on 1st January, 1924.

The new provisions supersede those of the Decree of 19th October, 1919,|| and subsequent enactments; but the older pro-

* *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 16th February, 1924.

† Cf. the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1923, page 402.

‡ The basic wage (*Grundlohn*) is the average daily wage of those classes of insured persons for whom a sickness insurance fund is established. It will be remembered that sickness insurance and unemployment contributions are levied simultaneously and paid into the sickness insurance fund.

§ Published in *Gazzetta Ufficiale* for 9th February, 1924.

|| A summary of the provisions of this Decree was published in this GAZETTE for February, 1920, p. 63.

visions are to remain in force until the new administrative machinery is set up.

The control of the National Unemployment Fund and of the local unemployment funds is transferred to the National Social Insurance Authorities.*

Provision is no longer made for any State contribution (other than from fines, as explained below). The central fund will receive a percentage of all workers' and employers' contributions—these remain unchanged—together with 50 per cent. of the total amount which may accrue to the State from fines exacted for infractions of the Decree. The balance of the contributions and fines will go to the appropriate local, provincial or inter-provincial fund. The central fund will be used to supplement any local fund showing a deficit; but where, owing to peculiar local conditions, a deficit tends to become permanent the amount of the local contributions may be increased by a further Decree.

There is no longer any provision for insurance by industries, it being provided by Article 14 of the Decree that trade funds may be set up as sections of the provincial and inter-provincial funds.†

The local Insurance Authorities may institute technical classes for the benefit of the unemployed, and the payment of unemployment benefit may be made contingent upon attendance at such classes in pursuance of regulations to be issued later. An amount not exceeding 20 per cent. of the balance in hand may be advanced by the local authority for local public works if approved by the Minister for National Economy, but such advances must be repaid within two years.

The conditions regulating both the payment of benefits and the rates of benefit remain unchanged; but persons who have served with the colours are entitled to count the period of such service as qualifying for benefit if twelve fortnightly contributions have been paid in the twelve months prior to such service. Special regulations are to be made with regard to partial unemployment (short time) in its various forms. The unemployed worker must register with the local authority on the first day of unemployment; otherwise he will not be entitled to benefit as from the eighth day of unemployment, but as from the fifth day following that on which registration is effected.

The following classes of workers are excluded from unemployment insurance:—Non-manual employees in receipt of more than 800 lire a month, or whose employers (public or private) guarantee permanency of employment; homeworkers; domestic servants and persons rendering domestic service; "artistic, theatrical and cinematographic" workers; persons receiving food or a share of profits in lieu of wages; Civil Servants; employees of public institutions, State railways and of certain subsidiary transport services; casual workers and workers wholly engaged in seasonal occupations where the annual period of employment is less than six months. Agricultural workers are also excluded; but certain categories as a whole, or in limited areas, may be included by separate Decree.

Workers who are now excluded from the operation of the measure, but who were insurable under the old Decree, are not deprived of the right to benefits which may have accrued in respect of contributions already paid.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN BELGIUM: NEW ROYAL DECREE.

A ROYAL Decree dealing with the organisation of unemployment relief was signed on 18th February, 1924.‡ By its provisions the decree of 30th December, 1920,§ and subsequent Orders are repealed; but the new Decree has in view the regulation and co-ordination, rather than any modification of the existing system of voluntary insurance against unemployment.

The Governing Body of the National Emergency Fund will act as a permanent commission empowered to examine the constitution of voluntary unemployment insurance societies which desire to be affiliated to the National Fund. The Commission will indicate the modifications which must be made in order to secure the recognition of a society by the Minister of Industry and Labour.

Article 10 of the Order, dated 31st December, 1920, is specifically repealed by the present decree.¶

The National Emergency Fund will place to the credit of an approved voluntary unemployment insurance society a sum equal to 50 per cent. of the members' subscriptions. Out of these funds, an amount equal to the benefit paid by the insurance society is granted, as a supplementary benefit, such amount, however, being limited to 4 francs a day for heads of families and to 3 francs for other insured persons. Heads of families may, in addition, draw from the Emergency Fund 1 franc a day for a wife engaged at home on domestic work, and 1 franc a day for each child under 14 years of age, or under 16 years if at school or incapable of work. In no case will the contribution from the National Fund exceed 10 francs a day.

* These authorities administer the National Social Insurance Fund for invalidity and old age insurance, etc.

† According to a circular issued by the Minister of National Economy the autonomous trade unemployment funds set up under the Decree of October, 19th, 1919 are suppressed. Their funds are to be transferred to the National Social Insurance Fund.

‡ *Moniteur Belge*, 23rd February, 1924.

§ See this GAZETTE for January, 1921, page 12.

¶ Under Article 10 all questions of principle or of general procedure were to be submitted to the Permanent Commission of recognised Trade Unions, Industrial Councils and Unemployment Insurance Societies. If a deadlock arose over any question the matter was to be submitted for decision to the Minister of Industry and Labour.

An approved auxiliary insurance society may supplement the benefit provided by the principal unemployment insurance society; but the total benefit from all sources must not exceed two-thirds of the worker's normal wage.

Contributions from the Emergency Fund are payable in respect of persons who have been paying members of an unemployment insurance society for a year, and the right to State assistance is lost by any member whose subscriptions are thirteen weeks in arrear, unless it can be shown that the failure to pay is due to sickness, military service or employment abroad.

The National Emergency Fund may take over the liabilities of any unemployment insurance society which for adequate reasons is unable to meet its commitments regularly, and it may, in urgent cases, continue for a period not exceeding 30 days the payment of benefit to insured persons who have exhausted their right to receive assistance from an unemployment insurance society. The period of 30 days may be exceeded where unemployment is excessive in a particular branch of industry, and no suitable employment can be provided.

“PRODUCTIVE” UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF WORK IN AUSTRIA.*

A REPORT of the Austrian Minister of Social Welfare, dated 18th December, 1923, gives an account of the working of the system of “productive unemployment relief” from its institution in October, 1922, to the end of September, 1923.

“Productive relief,” which has been widely adopted in Germany under the name of *Produktive Erwerbslosenfürsorge*, was introduced in Austria by an Act of 19th July, 1922, amending the Unemployment Insurance Act of 24th March, 1920. Under this system loans or grants may be made to undertakings for the purpose of enabling them to employ workers who would otherwise be in receipt of unemployment benefit. The amount of the subsidy per day and per worker must not exceed the unemployment benefit rate. The subsidies are intended mainly for communes and other public bodies, but in times of crisis they may be given also to private undertakings. As its name suggests, the system aims at the productive utilisation of unemployment insurance funds.

During the period covered by the report 171 grants were made in respect of productive unemployment relief, all to public administrative bodies. The work undertaken provided 1,541,000 days of employment for about 22,000 unemployed workers, giving an average of seventy days per worker. The total amount of the grants was 16,934 million kronen.

The results of the application of this form of unemployment relief are stated by the Minister to have been very satisfactory, and to have proved that productive unemployment relief is an efficient method of combating unemployment. Apart from the number of persons directly employed on relief works, these works gave rise to increased activity in the labour market, and the fall in the number of unemployed, during the last six months covered by the report, from 160,000 to 80,000, is for a large part to be regarded as a consequence of the unemployment relief works, the orders for machinery and materials of all kinds required for the furtherance of the works having led to the re-engagement of a large number of unemployed. It was found that the construction of roads and dykes was by far the most suitable form of unemployment relief work, since the cost of the material and plant used was small, and nearly the whole of the total expenditure went in wages.

CURRENT WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN GERMANY.†

Wirtschaft und Statistik (the organ of the Federal Statistical Office) for the second half of February, 1924, contains the following tables, showing (1) the average nominal and real wages during January of certain groups of workers for a normal full week's work, as compared with the wages current before the war, and (2) the hours of labour in a number of industries and districts at the end of 1923 and the beginning of 1924. The nominal wages given in table (1) are weighted averages based on the rates fixed by collective agreement in the principal centres of the industry concerned, including a family allowance (where paid) in respect of a wife and two children. The real wage is obtained by an application to the nominal wage of the official index number of the rise in the cost of living since 1914. The working hours given in table (2) are those fixed by collective agreement, the increase in working hours at the beginning of 1924 being due to the operation of the new Order on working hours of 21st December, 1923, which *inter alia*, made provision for an extension of working hours, from eight up to ten a day, by collective agreement.

* *Ämtliche Nachrichten*, 31st December, 1923.

† Cf. articles entitled *Working Hours in Germany* and *Wages in Germany* in the January and February, 1924, issues of this GAZETTE, pages 11 and 45 respectively.

(1) Nominal and Real Weekly Wages of Skilled and Unskilled Workers in January, 1924.

Group of Workers.	Skilled.			Unskilled.		
	Weekly Wage.		Percent- age of Pre-War Real Wage.	Weekly Wage.		Percent- age of Pre-War Real Wage.
	Nominal	Real.		Nominal	Real.	
	Renten Marks.*	Pre-War Marks.		Renten Marks.*	Pre-War Marks.	
Miners	33.84	31.38	83.4	28.50	26.46	106.6
Building workers ..	26.66	24.74	66.0	23.58	21.88	74.8
Woodworkers	25.62	23.77	75.6	22.20	20.60	90.4
Metal workers	27.35	25.38	70.1	22.21	20.61	84.3
Textile workers, male	20.69	19.20	73.3	17.62	16.35	76.5
female	14.59	13.54	77.8	11.84	10.99	76.4
Factory workers ..	25.92	24.05	72.9	23.04	21.38	79.9
Printers	25.80	23.90	72.8	21.93	20.31	85.8
Federal Industrial workers	24.00	22.23	64.3	18.72	17.34	73.2
<i>Average (weighted).</i>						
January, 1924	27.76	25.76	73.6	23.05	21.39	88.0
December, 1923.. ..	28.81	24.53	70.1	24.27	20.66	85.0

* 1 Renten Mark=1 Gold Mark or 1 Billion Paper Marks.

(2) Hours of Labour in Industry.

Industry and District.	Hours fixed by collective agreement per shift or week.			No. of hours that must be worked before the overtime rate is paid
	1913.	End of 1923.	Beginning of 1924.	
<i>Mining.</i>				
Ruhr District (underground) ..	8 *	7	8	8
" (surface) ..	10.8*	8	10	10
Upper Silesia (underground) ..	9.6*	7½	8½	8½
" (surface) ..	11.1*	8	10	10
Lower Silesia (underground) ..	8 *	7	8	8
" (surface) ..	10.9*	8	8	8
<i>Metal Industry.</i>				
North Western Group ..	54-60	48	57½	57½
Berlin ..	54-60	48	54-60†	60
Hamburg ..	54	48	54	54
Breslau ..	54-60	48	54-60†	54
Stuttgart ..	54-56	46	54-60†	54
Magdeburg ..	54-60	48	56	56
Mannheim ..	54-56	46	54-60†	60
Hagen ..	54-60	48	57	57
<i>Textile Industry.</i>				
Augsburg ..	52-58	46	51-54†	54‡
Barmen ..	56-58	46	54	54
Rheine (Westphalia) ..	53-58	46	51-54†	54
Leipzig ..	53-59	46	53-56†	48
Forst ..	55-60	46	51-54†	51
<i>Printing Industry.§</i>				
Hand Compositor ..	52-53	48	53	53
Machine ..	52-53	48	51	51

* Weighted average. † Lower limit at the order of the employer, upper limit by agreement of the Works Council. ‡ If more than 54 hours are worked, all hours are paid 3 per cent. more. § National agreement.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.*

THE Legislature of British Columbia, during the October-December session of 1923, passed a new Hours of Work Act, which supersedes an Act passed in April, 1921—this Act had remained in abeyance—and which comes into force on 1st January, 1925. The new Act establishes a general eight-hour day for industrial workers, and it is the first Canadian Act to give practical effect, without reservation or condition, to the Draft Convention on working hours which was adopted by the International Labour Conference at Washington in 1919. A Board of Adjustment, composed of three members, appointed by the Government, with the Deputy Minister of Labour as Chairman, will have charge of administering the Act, with full power to hold inquiries and to make regulations in regard to industries temporarily or permanently excepted from the limitation of hours.

WORKING HOURS IN SWITZERLAND.

PROPOSED EXTENSION REJECTED BY REFERENDUM.

ON 12th July, 1922, a Decree† was published repealing Article 41 of the Swiss Factory Act (as amended by the Decree of 27th June, 1919) and authorising an extension of the normal working hours to fifty-four, with a maximum of ten hours on any one day. This extension was to come into force only when the Federal Council, after consultation with representatives of the employers' and workers' central organisations, affirmed the existence of a serious general economic crisis. The Federal Council was further empowered to authorise a similar extension in any branch of industry or in individual establishments where the circumstances were considered to justify such action. The new provisions were to remain in force for three years.

A demand for a Referendum on the subject was supported by 202,000 signatures. This referendum was taken on 17th February, and resulted in the rejection of the measure by 430,000 votes to 312,000.

* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 3rd March, 1924.
Published in *Feuille Fédérale*, 12th July, 1922. Berne.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	78%
Food only	...	...	...	76%

FOOD.

THE principal movement in the retail prices of food during February was a further fall in the prices of eggs, amounting to about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. each on the average. Bacon, butter, cheese and fish were also somewhat cheaper than a month earlier. On the other hand, there was a further increase of about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. in the average price of sugar, and there were also small average increases in the prices of potatoes, flour, bread and imported meat.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics fell to about 76 per cent. at 1st March, as compared with about 77 per cent. at 1st February.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of food in July, 1914, at 1st February and 1st March, 1924:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 1st Mar., 1924, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Feb., 1924.	1st Mar., 1924.	July, 1914.	1st Feb., 1924.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Thin Flank	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thin Flank	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	—
Breast	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Breast	0 4	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flour per 7 lb.	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 3	+ 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1
Bread per 4 lb.	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	§
Tea	1 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Sugar (granulated)	0 2	0 7	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Milk per quart	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7	0 7	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Salt	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 1	+ 0 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheese†	0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 6	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Margarine	0 7	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	—
Eggs (fresh) each	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 3	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 6	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Mar., 1924, as compared with July, 1914.			Corre- sponding figure for 1st February, 1924.
	Large Towns (Popula- tions over 50,000).	Small Towns and Vil ages.	General Average.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—				
Ribs	80	74	77	77
Thin Flank	50	52	51	51
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	42	39	40	38
Thin Flank	14	17	15	13
Mutton, British—				
Legs	91	91	91	91
Breast	72	71	72	71
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	84	76	80	79
Breast	30	31	30	29
Bacon (streaky)*	44	40	42	46
Fish	119	100	110	117
Flour	39	44	42	39
Bread	50	47	48	45
Tea	66	68	67	67
Sugar (granulated)	262	238	250	234
Milk	96	96	96	98
Butter—				
Fresh	75	87	81	83
Salt	74	77	75	77
Cheese†	70	72	71	75
Margarine	— 3	— 7	— 5	— 5
Eggs (fresh)	107	91	99	143
Potatoes	146	102	124	116
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	79	74	76	77

* 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.

§ Average increase of nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st March, 1924, 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 Acts 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 March the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, was slightly higher than a month ago, and about 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group there were further increases in the prices of coal during February, and at 1st March the average retail price was between 100 and 105 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 50 and 55 per cent. above the pre-war level. The prices of lamp oil showed a slight rise, and those of candles and matches showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st March was between 85 and 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

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 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st March is approximately 78 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 79 per cent. a month earlier.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken for 1924 as for 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 1924.

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.	1924.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78
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	75	—
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	—

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, 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 March, 1924, is about 5 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

AFTER the settlement of the railway dispute, on 29th January, employment quickly recovered from the decline caused by the shortage of transport, and there was a further and continuous improvement during February. Employment was good in the coal mining industry, and in the tinplate, steel sheet, carpet, jute and coachbuilding trades; it was fairly good with skilled operatives (except painters) in the building trades, with millsawyers, and in certain sections of the metal trades; and fair with brickmakers, coopers, and in some branches of the leather and clothing trades. In most of the other large industries it was still slack or bad.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage of unemployed was 8·6 at the end of February, 1924, compared with 8·9 at the end of January, 1924, and with 13·1 at the end of February, 1923. Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 25th February, 1924, was 10·7, compared with 11·9 at January, 1924, and 12·2 at the end of February, 1923. For males alone the percentage was 11·1 at 25th February, 1924, as compared with 12·5 at 28th January, 1924; for females the corresponding figures were 9·5 and 10·2. The number of workpeople on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges at 25th February, 1924, was approximately 1,156,000, of whom men numbered 858,000 and women 227,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 21st January, 1924, was 1,253,000, of whom 925,000 were men and 248,000 were 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.)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines, which was adversely affected at the end of January by the railway dispute, recovered quickly and was good throughout February. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd February was 1,187,587, an increase of 4·2 per cent. as compared with February, 1923. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 23rd February was 5·66, as compared with 5·50 in February, 1923.

At iron mines employment was moderate, except in the Cleveland district, where it was bad. At the mines covered by the returns received there were decreases of 7·4 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with January and of 4·7 per cent. compared with February, 1923. The average number of days worked per week by the mines in the fortnight ended 23rd February, 1924, was 5·11, an increase of 0·28 days on the previous month, but a decrease of 0·16 days as compared with February, 1923. At shale mines employment was fair. Employment at limestone quarries in the Clitheroe district improved during February, but was still only moderate; in the Buxton and Weardale districts it was fair. At slate quarries in North Wales employment was fairly good, while at granite quarries in the Aberdeen district it was reported as good. There was a decline, however, at whinstone quarries in East Scotland, and employment was generally slack. At china clay quarries employment, on the whole, was fair.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—Employment in the pig iron industry was moderate during February. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of February was 202, as compared with 190 at the end of January (when 14 furnaces had been damped down owing to the railway stoppage), and with 189 at the end of February, 1923. At iron and steel works employment, which had been adversely affected towards the end of January by the railway stoppage, recovered and was moderate in February. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade employment continued good. At the end of February 537 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 509 in February, 1923.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades showed a further improvement, but was still bad on the whole; in the railway and electrical sections, however, it continued fairly good. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries employment remained very bad, but again showed an improvement. Employment in the other metal trades showed a slight improvement in some sections, but was moderate on the whole. It was good, or fairly good, in the hollow-ware trades; fair in the brasswork, nut, bolt, nail, sheet metal, wire and stove and grate trades; and slack or bad in the metallic bedstead, lock and latch, cutlery and file, chain and anchor, harness furniture, and jewellery and plated-ware trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment continued bad except with spinners of Egyptian cotton and with firms engaged in weaving fancy cloths, who continued to be well employed. In the woollen and worsted trades employment, though still slack, showed a further slight improvement in all the principal branches.

Employment in the hosiery trade, though slightly better than during the previous month, was still slack. In the silk trade it showed a slight improvement in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton districts, but was still slack; in the Eastern Counties it was moderate. In the jute and carpet trades employment was good; in the lace trade it continued bad. In the linen trade employment showed a further improvement. Employment in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades remained slack on the whole, but an improvement was reported in several branches of the industry.

Clothing Trades.—In the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade employment remained slack in most districts; in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch it was fair, and a slight improvement was reported in certain centres. Employment in the dressmaking and millinery trades continued slack on the whole; in the blouse and light underclothing trade in London it showed a further slight improvement and was good. In the corset and shirt and collar trades employment also improved and was fair. In the felt trade employment continued bad. In the boot and shoe trades employment, though still moderate on the whole, continued to improve in the majority of centres.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section continued fair, and showed a slight improvement. In the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section also an improvement was reported at a few centres, and at Birmingham employment was reported as very good. With saddlery and harness makers it continued bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trade showed a slight general improvement; it continued fairly good, on the whole, with skilled operatives (except painters), and slack or bad with unskilled workers. With painters there was a considerable improvement, but employment in most districts was still bad. In the brick trade it continued fair, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month.

In the furnishing trades employment continued quiet generally, except at Birmingham, where it was fairly good. With coachbuilders it was good on the whole. With millsawyers and wood-cutting machinists it continued fairly good generally; with coopers it was fair; with brushmakers it was still slack; with packing-case makers it declined and was bad.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In paper manufacture employment continued moderate on the whole. With letterpress printers in London it showed a slight improvement, but was still slack; in the provinces there was also some improvement, and employment was fair on the whole. In the lithographic section employment was generally moderate. With bookbinders it was moderate on the whole, and showed a slight improvement at some centres.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trades employment continued slack on the whole; in the tile and sanitary earthenware sections it was reported as good, and in the fireclay section as fair. In the glass trade employment improved slightly in certain districts, but remained moderate on the whole.

Agriculture and Fishing.—The supply of agricultural labour was generally adequate for all requirements, and the unfavourable weather conditions for field work in the Eastern Counties resulted in a slight increase in unemployment among casual workers. In the fishing industry employment continued fair.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment among dock labour was moderate in the first half of the month; from mid-day on the 16th to 25th work was at a standstill owing to a general strike, after the settlement of which there was increased activity in dealing with arrears of work. With seamen employment continued poor.

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 February, 1923 :—

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.*
1923.		
February	13·1	12·2
March	12·3	11·5
April	11·3	11·4
May	11·3	11·2
June	11·1	11·3
July	11·1	11·5
August	11·4	11·8
September	11·3	11·7
October	10·9	11·7
November	10·5	11·5
December	9·7	10·7
1924.		
January	8·9	11·9
February	8·6	10·7

* The percentages, prior to June, 1923, for insured workpeople have been revised in accordance with more complete information which has become available as to the total number of insured workpeople.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,124,272 in branches covered by the returns received reported 96,450 (or 8·6 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1924, compared with 8·9 per cent. at the end of January, 1924, and 13·1 per cent. at the end of February, 1923.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of Feb. 1924.	Unemployed at end of February, 1924.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-ge.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	113,398	4,631	4·1	..	- 4·8
Coal Mining	144,918	1,041	0·7	- 0·2	- 5·4
Engineering and Ship-building	359,198	59,625	16·6	- 0·6	- 7·5
Miscellaneous Metal ..	46,840	4,130	8·8	+ 0·1	- 0·7
Textiles:-					
Cotton	59,557	4,034†	6·8	- 0·2	- 0·8
Woollen and Worsted ..	12,139	154	1·3	- 0·7	+ 0·2
Other	58,180	1,762	3·0	- 0·4	- 1·4
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	99,452	4,649	4·7	- 0·3	- 1·0
Furnishing	78,170	1,876	6·7	- 1·6§	- 0·7
Woodworking	44,495	1,816	4·1	- 0·4	- 2·3
Clothing:-					
Boot and Shoe	75,821	3,207	4·2	..	- 0·9
Other Clothing	42,640	970	2·3	..	- 0·8
Leather	5,572	503	9·0	- 0·5	+ 0·3
Glass	1,191	34	2·9	+ 0·3	- 0·2
Pottery	28,000	6,700	23·9	- 0·9	+ 6·2
Tobacco|| .. ..	4,701	1,318	28·0	+ 2·6	- 4·0
Total	1,124,272	96,450	8·6	- 0·3	- 4·5

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 10·7 per cent. (males 11·1 per cent., females 9·5 per cent.) at 25th February, 1924, as compared with 11·9 per cent. (males 12·5 per cent., females 10·2 per cent.) at 28th January, 1924, and 11·8 (males 13·4 per cent., females 7·7 per cent.) at 26th February, 1923. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 94 and 95.

It should be noted that, at 28th January, employment in many industries was affected by the railway stoppage.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Feb., 1924.	Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining	1,187,587	5·66	+0·49	+0·16
Iron "	7,831	5·11	+0·28	-0·16
Shale "	4,153	5·89	-0·06	-0·07
		Furnaces in Blast	Number.	Number.
Pig Iron	487	202	+12	+13
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ..	-	537	..	28
		Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel	81,488	441,510	+9·6	+0·2

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.¶	
		Month ago.				
Textiles:-		Per cent.		Per cent.		Per cent.
Cotton	89,231	+ 0·8	156,386	+ 3·3	+ 0·2	
Woollen	15,110	- 0·5	31,193	+ 2·6	- 3·6	
Worsted	28,702	+ 0·1	53,940	+ 3·1	- 9·8	
Boot and Shoe ..	52,700	+ 0·7	121,918	+ 2·6	+ 4·7	
Pottery	11,326	- 0·9	20,977	+ 0·5	- 0·4	
Brick	7,078	+ 0·5	16,832	+10·9	+36·4	
Total	204,147	+ 0·5	401,246	+ 3·1	+ 0·8	

* 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 January.

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

§ The figure for January has been revised.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

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

Thick Curve ————— = 1924.

Thin Curve ————— = 1923.

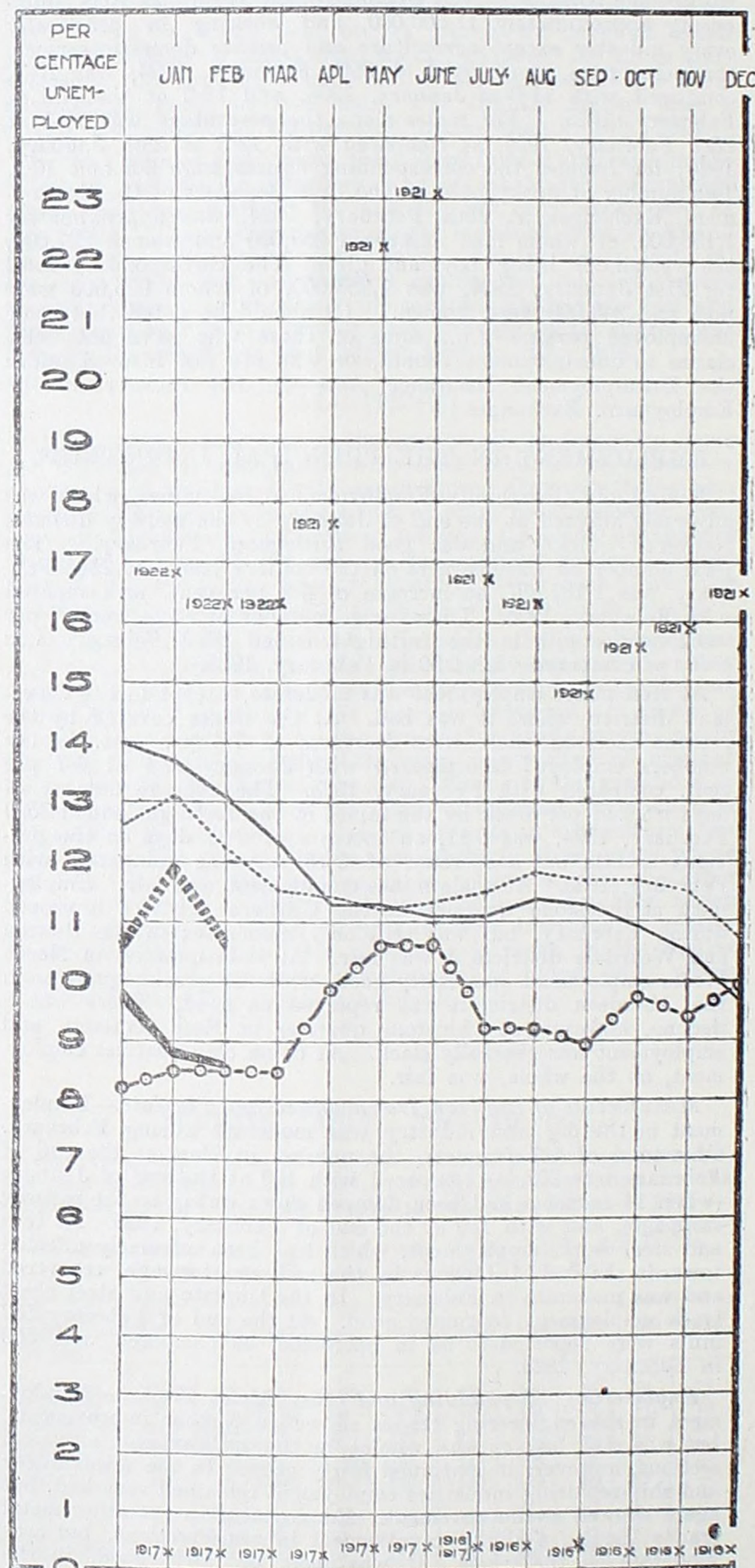
Chain Curve -o-o-o-o-o = Mean of 1919-23.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1894-1923.

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

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - 1924.

Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - 1923.



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 are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail, on pages 94 and 95.

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.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry, which was adversely affected at the end of January by the railway dispute, recovered quickly after the resumption of work on the railways, and was good during February. The average number of days worked per week for the fortnight ended 23rd February accordingly increased to 5.66, as compared with 5.17 in the fortnight ended 26th January. The decrease in the percentage of wage earners employed in the Gloucester and Somerset area, as shown in the Table below, is due to an accident which caused one colliery to close down temporarily.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 23rd February showed an increase of 0.1 per cent., as compared with the previous month, and of 4.2 per cent., as compared with a year ago.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 2.5 at 25th February, as compared with 4.6 at 28th January (the last full day of the railway dispute).

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 23rd February, 1924, as indicated by the returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling mineral other than coal are included in these totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*			
	23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Month ago.	Year ago.			
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Per cent	Per cent	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ..	64,218	— 0.0	+ 5.1	5.43	+ 0.19	— 0.04
Durham ..	175,419	+ 0.4	+ 5.5	5.39	+ 0.17	+ 0.39
Cumberland and Westmorland ..	12,020	+ 0.5	+ 4.3	5.73	+ 0.01	+ 0.02
South Yorkshire ..	113,805	+ 0.0	+ 6.4	5.55	+ 0.54	+ 0.01
West Yorkshire ..	70,011	+ 0.1	+ 5.1	5.73	+ 0.25	+ 0.04
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	105,700	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	5.89	+ 0.38	+ 0.68
Derbyshire ..	65,924	— 0.0	+ 3.1	5.76	+ 0.26	— 0.01
Notts. and Leicester..	66,276	+ 0.0	+ 4.4	5.59	+ 0.39	+ 0.01
Warwick ..	21,733	— 0.4	+ 0.2	5.98	+ 0.03	+ 0.04
North Staffordshire ..	35,330	+ 0.4	+ 2.5	5.81	+ 0.14	+ 0.14
South Staffs.,† Worc. and Salop ..	36,389	+ 0.2	+ 4.2	5.99	+ 0.05	+ 0.05
Glouc. and Somerset ..	14,608	— 2.8	+ 1.8	5.88	+ 0.31	+ 0.32
Kent ..	1,835	+ 4.7	+ 1.7	5.73	+ 0.11	+ 0.04
North Wales ..	18,475	+ 0.7	+ 5.9	5.94	+ 0.76	+ 0.09
South Wales and Mon.	244,066	+ 0.2	+ 4.0	5.83	+ 1.30	+ 0.21
England and Wales	1,045,809	+ 0.1	+ 4.1	5.69	+ 0.52	+ 0.20
SCOTLAND:						
Mid & East Lothians..	15,801	— 0.8	+ 3.2	5.42	+ 0.58	+ 0.07
Fife and Clackmannan ..	31,138	+ 0.6	+ 5.0	5.51	+ 0.49	— 0.03
Rest of Scotland ..	94,839	+ 0.3	+ 5.0	5.46	+ 0.17	— 0.07
Scotland ..	141,778	+ 0.2	+ 4.8	5.47	+ 0.29	— 0.04
GREAT BRITAIN ..	1,187,587	+ 0.1	+ 4.2	5.65	+ 0.49	+ 0.16

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 23rd February, 1924, was 0.10 of a day, of which 0.06 of a day was lost through transport difficulties and want of trade; the corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 26th January were 0.59 of a day and 0.53 of a day respectively; for the fortnight ended 24th February, 1923, they were 0.27 of a day and 0.17 of a day respectively. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about a quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 23rd February, was returned to the Mines Department at 22,672,400 tons, as compared with 20,788,100 tons for the four weeks ended 26th January, and with 22,246,800 tons for the four weeks ended 24th February, 1923. The output for the period ended 26th January was affected by the railway stoppage and by the New Year holidays.

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 February to 6,908,862 tons, compared with 7,719,577 tons in January, 1924.

* 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., were 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 Carnock Chase.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

In the Cleveland district employment was bad, and slightly worse than in January; elsewhere it continued moderate on the whole.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in iron ore and iron-stone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.2 on 25th February, as compared with 32.7 on 28th January (the last full day of the railway dispute).

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 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as com- pared with a		Fort- n ght ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as com- pared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland	3,414	— 11.9	— 3.2	4.59	— 0.57	— 0.06
Cumberland and Lanca- shire.. ..	2,822	— 6.7	— 12.1	5.48	+ 1.17	— 0.52
Other Districts	1,595	+ 2.2	+ 8.2	5.58	+ 0.68	+ 0.39
ALL DISTRICTS	7,831	— 7.4	— 4.7	5.11	+ 0.28	— 0.16

Shale Mining.

Employment during February was again fair. At mines employing 4,153 workpeople during the fortnight ended 23rd February there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with the previous month, and of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.89 in February, 1924, 5.95 in January, 1924, and 5.96 in February, 1923.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT, which was adversely affected by the railway stoppage at the end of January, recovered during February, but was still only moderate.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.1 at 25th February, 1924, compared with 13.6 at 28th January, 1924 (the last full day of the railway dispute).

Returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms, employing 21,708 workpeople at the end of February, showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of January, but a decrease of 3.2 per cent. compared with February, 1923.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of February, as shown by the returns collected by the Federation, was 202, compared with 190 at the end of January (when 14 furnaces had been damped down owing to the railway strike).

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast according to returns collected by the Federation:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in Feb., on a	
		Feb. 1924.	Jan. 1924.	Feb. 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland ..	115	47	48	40	— 1	+ 7
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	46	12	12	16	..	— 4
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield.	38	17	16	16	+ 1	+ 1
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	40	39	35	+ 1	+ 5
Lincolnshire ..	22	19	9	16	+10	+ 3
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	58	19	17	18	+ 2	+ 1
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	11	5	8	+ 6	+ 3
Total England and Wales	385	165	146	149	+19	+ 16
Scotland ..	102	37	44	40	— 7	— 3
Total ..	487	202	190	189	+12	+ 13

* See note * in previous column.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.1 on 25th February, as compared with 13.6 on 28th January, 1924 (the last full day of the railway stoppage). The production of pig iron in February amounted to 612,700 tons, as compared with 636,600 tons in January, and 543,400 tons in February, 1923.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works, which had been adversely affected towards the end of January by the railway dispute, recovered in February, but was still only moderate.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.8 on 25th February, as compared with 23.2 per cent. on 28th January (the last full day of the railway stoppage), and with 17.1 per cent. on 21st December, 1923.

According to returns from firms employing 81,488 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 23rd February (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each case), increased 9.6 per cent. as compared with January, and 0.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.4 per week in all three periods.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review. The improvement in employment shown in the Table as compared with January is mainly due to the fact that the figures for January were affected by the railway stoppage.

	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate number Shifts worked.*		
	Week ended 23rd Feb. 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Week ended 23rd Feb. 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS.						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	9,651	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	56,039	+ 5.3	- 0.1
Puddling Forges	3,803	+ 58.9	- 18.9	17,662	+ 63.7	- 21.9
Rolling Mills	29,989	+ 16.1	- 0.9	153,571	+ 15.6	- 0.7
Forging and Pressing ..	3,324	+ 6.0	+ 20.8	17,727	+ 12.4	+ 25.8
Founding	8,544	+ 3.3	+ 6.0	48,273	+ 4.0	+ 8.4
Other Departments ..	8,390	+ 0.4	+ 1.5	46,123	- 0.2	+ 1.9
Mechanics, Labourers, etc.	17,787	+ 4.1	- 1.3	102,115	+ 4.1	- 1.3
Total	81,488	+ 9.1	- 0.2	441,510	+ 9.6	+ 0.2
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ..	16,108	+ 3.1	- 3.7	89,077	+ 2.9	- 5.1
Sheffield and Rotherham	19,790	+ 5.9	+ 9.7	106,290	+ 0.7	+ 12.7
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,543	+ 14.9	+ 15.2	13,947	+ 13.8	+ 14.4
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	7,900	+ 21.6	- 9.1	42,152	+ 26.7	- 7.2
Staffordshire	7,774	+ 0.1	- 6.2	41,989	+ 0.2	- 6.2
Other Midland Counties ..	4,367	+ 7.0	+ 3.5	23,423	+ 6.3	+ 6.7
Wales and Monmouth ..	9,646	+ 34.0	+ 2.7	53,570	+ 33.6	+ 3.5
Total, England and Wales	68,128	+ 9.8	+ 0.8	370,448	+ 10.5	+ 1.7
Scotland	13,360	+ 5.9	- 5.4	71,062	+ 5.1	- 7.0
TOTAL	81,488	+ 9.1	- 0.2	441,510	+ 9.6	+ 0.2

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted in February to 767,600 tons, compared with 694,300 tons in January, and with 707,100 tons in February, 1923.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good during February. At the end of the month 537 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 537 in January and 509 at the end of February, 1923.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4.0 on 25th February, compared with 8.1 on 28th January, 1924 (the last full day of the railway stoppage).

* 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 were actually worked by all the men employed.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received at the end of February, 1924, together with the increases and decreases, as compared with January, 1924, and February, 1923:—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ..	77	- 2	+ 3	408	-	+ 16
Steel Sheet ..	15	-*	+ 2	129	-*	+ 12
TOTAL ..	92	- 2	+ 5	537	-*	+ 28

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in February, 1924, amounted to 95,422 tons, or 11,091 tons less than in January, 1924, and 811 tons less than in February, 1923.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during February was still bad on the whole, but showed a further improvement. In the railway and electrical sections it continued fairly good; in marine and general engineering it was bad, but better than in January; in the textile engineering section short time was still frequently worked.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th February, 1924, and the increase or decrease as compared with 28th January, 1924:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th February, 1924.						Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th Jan., 1924.
	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	11,815	375	425	130	158	12,903	- 726
South Eastern..	5,065	364	262	122	52	5,865	- 993
South Western	2,801	129	67	564	54	3,615	- 719
Midlands	13,209	3,977	1,161	190	641	19,178	- 2,343
North Eastern..	25,204	1,983	441	7,188	681	35,497	- 5,995
North Western	35,615	926	997	395	188	38,121	- 3,843
Scotland	20,396	2,508	159	2,787	879	26,729	- 2,000
Wales	701	187	11	11	11	921	- 337
Northern Ireland	1,849	391	10	570	7	2,827	+ 317
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	116,655	10,840	3,533	11,957	2,671	145,656	- 16,639
Males	114,096	10,022	3,030	11,919	2,633	141,700	- 16,719
Females	2,559	818	503	38	38	3,956	+ 80

Divisions.	Percentage Unemployed at 25th February, 1924.						Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in per- centage as com- pared with 28th Jan., 1924.
	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	12.4	9.3	6.2	25.5	9.5	11.9	- 0.7
South Eastern..	11.7	10.5	3.4	3.5	6.5	10.0	- 1.7
South Western	7.8	9.8	2.5	9.0	10.0	7.8	- 1.5
Midlands ..	14.2	11.9	5.6	11.0	11.5	12.4	- 1.5
North Eastern	17.6	16.8	7.7	25.0	9.9	18.1	- 3.0
North Western	22.9	11.9	6.3	14.6	10.4	20.7	- 2.1
Scotland ..	22.0	12.0	7.8	15.9	14.4	19.2	- 1.4
Wales	8.9	9.4	3.1	22.0	2.9	8.7	- 3.1
Northern Ireland	} 22.3	36.5	9.1	9.8	35.0	18.5	+ 2.1
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	} 17.3	12.6	5.7	17.9	11.2	15.9	- 1.9
Males	18.0	12.7	6.0	18.1	11.5	16.6	- 2.0
Females ..	6.5	11.9	4.3	3.4	4.5	6.6	+ 0.3

On the North-East Coast employment was still very bad in both general and marine engineering, but continued to improve; at locomotive works conditions were still fairly good. In York-

* The figure for January has been revised.

shire employment continued to improve slowly, although the general position remained bad; railway engineering work at Doncaster and Wakefield was reported as fair, and printing machinery makers at Otley remained well employed. In Lincolnshire employment continued bad, although an improvement was experienced at Lincoln, where some sections were fairly well employed. In Lancashire and Cheshire the heavy engineering section remained depressed, and much short time was still reported at textile machinery works; there was considerable activity, however, in the motor, electrical and railway sections, and also with makers of colliery plant.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district the motor and cycle industries showed an improvement and were fairly active, especially at Coventry, where night-shifts were in operation at many works; general engineering continued slack, but less short time was reported, and an improvement was also shown in the machine tool section. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment improved, and was moderate on the whole; at Nottingham the lace machinery section was very slack, but in the cycle section some overtime was worked.

Employment remained fair at Norwich and Ipswich, but bad at Colchester and Luton. In the London district it continued moderate on the whole; little improvement was shown in general engineering, but employment on aircraft and motor work maintained an upward tendency. There was a further improvement in the Southern Counties; on railway, motor and aircraft work employment was good. In South Wales considerable improvement was shown; at Swansea employment continued fair.

There was some further improvement in the West of Scotland, especially in marine engineering, although conditions still remained bad. In the East of Scotland little improvement was reported. At Belfast employment was bad and rather worse than in the previous month.

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries remained very bad during February, though it again showed some improvement as compared with the previous month.

On the North-East Coast employment, though still very bad on the whole, continued slowly to improve; with joiners it was moderate. On the East Coast employment continued bad. On the Thames it was very bad, no general improvement being shown. At Southampton, where there had been a considerable improvement in January, employment was interrupted in February by a wages dispute (see p. 96). At Plymouth and Falmouth employment was fair, while at Cowes and Bristol some improvement was reported. Upon repair work at Swansea and Port Talbot employment continued fairly good, but at Cardiff and Newport it was bad. On the Mersey the improvement previously reported was maintained. At Barrow employment continued bad, but showed a further improvement compared with the previous month.

In Scotland employment remained bad, on the whole, but showed an improvement on the Clyde, and also at Leith and Dundee, while at Aberdeen it improved to good. At Belfast employment remained bad.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th February, 1924, and the increase or decrease as compared with 28th January, 1924:—

Divisions.	Total number of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th Feb., 1924.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with 28th Jan., 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at 25th Feb., 1924.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with 28th Jan., 1924.
London	4,566	+ 20	32.2	+ 0.1
South Eastern ..	1,264	+ 33	13.4	+ 0.3
South Western ..	5,066	— 24	16.3	— 0.1
Midlands	135	— 16	27.0	— 3.2
North Eastern ..	27,343	— 1,657	37.7	— 2.3
North Western ..	11,346	+ 400	31.6	+ 1.1
Scotland	19,933	— 5,096	27.8	— 7.1
Wales	3,997	— 81	31.4	— 0.6
Northern Ireland ..	7,217	+ 322	29.5	+ 1.3
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	80,867	— 6,099	29.7	— 2.2
<i>Males</i>	<i>80,566</i>	<i>— 6,083</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>— 2.3</i>
<i>Females</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>— 16</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>— 0.4</i>

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

DURING February there was a further slight improvement in all the principal branches of these trades.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.6 on 25th February, as compared with 9.2 on 28th January.

Employment with wool sorters was somewhat better than in January, and wool combers were slightly better employed,

although employment in this section was still bad; practically all the mills in the Bradford district were working short time, though in isolated cases full time was reported. In the worsted spinning section the recent improvement in the cross-bred section was maintained, and there was also a slight improvement in the fine section.

In the manufacturing section of the trade employment was still bad, but there was a slight improvement in the dress goods trade of Bradford, Keighley and Silsden, and, on balance, a little improvement in the fine coating trade; although employment fell off with some firms employed in the manufacture of fine men's wear or coating in the Keighley, Halifax, Leeds and Huddersfield districts.

There was a further improvement in the woollen trade in the Huddersfield and Colne Valley area, and in the Heavy Woollen District; a fair amount of overtime was worked by firms whose plants had become temporarily unbalanced, or whose orders were for urgent delivery. In the cotton warp trade of Leeds and Morley there was also a little improvement. There was no appreciable change in the flannel trade of Yeadon and Guiseley, Saddleworth and Rochdale; there was a slight falling off with some of the blanket manufacturers, although with others employment continued good.

In Scotland there was a further improvement. At Galashiels employment was reported as fair.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers of workpeople employed and the total amount of wages paid in the three periods under review:—

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting ..	401	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	982	+ 7.8	+ 2.5
Spinning	3,639	— 0.4	— 2.2	7,664	+ 4.3	+ 1.0
Weaving	6,041	+ 0.1	— 0.3	11,083	+ 2.2	— 3.4
Other Departments ..	4,278	— 1.7	— 1.8	9,814	+ 1.8	— 4.8
Not specified	751	+ 1.3	— 2.6	1,650	— 1.6	— 18.9
TOTAL	15,110	— 0.5	— 1.3	31,193	+ 2.6	— 3.6
Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Huddersfield District ..	1,581	— 3.2	— 2.2	3,782	— 4.2	— 8.4
Leeds District	1,434	— 0.4	+ 3.5	3,341	+ 2.1	+ 8.7
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,713	+ 1.7	+ 3.9	3,826	+ 6.2	+ 1.3
Other Parts of West Riding	1,646	+ 0.8	+ 6.8	3,820	+ 4.9	+ 3.1
Total, West Riding ..	6,374	— 0.3	+ 3.0	14,769	+ 2.1	+ 0.6
Scotland	4,040	+ 0.4	— 7.1	7,868	+ 7.3	— 10.4
Other Districts	4,696	— 1.4	— 1.4	8,556	— 0.8	— 3.9
TOTAL	15,110	— 0.5	— 1.3	31,193	+ 2.6	— 3.6

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,316	+ 1.1	— 7.0	10,964	+ 7.5	— 13.7
Spinning	14,664	— 0.5	— 4.7	22,391	+ 1.0	— 8.1
Weaving	5,082	+ 1.3	— 6.6	10,555	+ 2.7	— 8.7
Other Departments ..	2,785	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	6,879	+ 1.2	— 1.1
Not Specified	1,855	— 0.9	— 12.5	3,151	+ 9.1	— 23.8
TOTAL	28,702	+ 0.1	— 5.5	53,940	+ 3.1	— 9.8
Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bradford District ..	15,189	— 0.5	— 7.2	30,511	+ 2.9	— 10.7
Keighley District ..	4,632	+ 0.7	— 0.8	8,720	+ 1.9	—
Halifax District ..	2,668	+ 0.8	— 6.5	4,449	+ 10.7	— 13.5
Huddersfield District ..	2,736	+ 2.6	— 11.5	4,587	+ 1.1	— 26.0
Other Parts of West Riding	2,352	— 0.6	+ 4.2	4,076	+ 2.4	+ 4.4
Total, West Riding ..	27,577	+ 0.1	— 5.7	52,343	+ 3.2	— 9.9
Other Districts	1,125	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	1,597	+ 0.6	— 4.9
TOTAL	28,702	+ 0.1	— 5.5	53,940	+ 3.1	— 9.8

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

Returns from firms in the *woollen* section employing 14,438 workpeople in the week ended 23rd February showed that about 32 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time to the extent, on the average, of 9 hours in that week. In the *worsted* section returns from firms employing 25,504 workpeople in the same week showed that about 19 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 10 hours on the average.

The *imports* (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 42,768,700 lbs. in February, 1924, compared with 16,064,900 lbs. in January, 1924, and 45,629,700 lbs. in February 1923.

The *exports* of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,635,600 lbs., compared with 4,276,000 lbs. in January, 1924, and 3,098,400 lbs. in February, 1923.

The *exports* of woollen and worsted tissues were 19,822,200 square yards, compared with 22,389,500 square yards in January, 1924, and 17,559,700 square yards in February, 1923.

The *exports* of blankets were 157,102 pairs, 193,941 pairs and 112,597 pairs in February, 1924, January, 1924, and February, 1923, respectively.

COTTON TRADE

EMPLOYMENT in the spinning section of the cotton trade continued bad during February, except with spinners of Egyptian cotton, who continued to be well employed. Organised short time (which was discontinued at the end of November) came into force again in the American spinning section as from the 25th February, and is to continue until the end of May, the weekly hours in this section being reduced from 48 to 26½, in accordance with a recommendation of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations.

In the weaving section of the industry there was a slight improvement in employment. The demand for plain cloths was stated to be somewhat better, and firms engaged in weaving fancy cloths were generally well employed. In some districts a shortage of weavers was experienced.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15·7 on the 25th February, the same percentage as at the 28th January.

In the Oldham, Ashton, and Stockport districts employment in the spinning section was about the same as in January. In the manufacturing section employment was very slack, and much short time was worked by weavers and winders.

At Bolton, Leigh and Chorley employment continued good in the spinning section; at Chorley there was a considerable improvement. With card-room workers in the Bolton district it was reported as fairly good. In the Bury district employment continued bad, and much short time was reported; in the Rochdale district also many mills were working short time.

In all the principal weaving centres employment continued slack. At Burnley employment was slightly better than during the previous month, but was still very slack; the total production was estimated at about 60 per cent. of normal. In Blackburn it was reported that an average of over 17,000 looms were again idle throughout the month. At Preston there was still much unemployment and short time, but the depression was reported to be not so acute as it was some months ago, and manufacturers of the finer or fancy makes of cloth were well employed. At Darwen a further slight improvement was reported in the weaving section; all the mills were running at the end of the month, and the looms were gradually filling up.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing..	12,599	Per cent. + 1·7	Per cent. + 1·4	20,585	Per cent. + 3·3	Per cent. + 0·0
Spinning ..	22,748	+ 1·3	+ 1·9	39,264	+ 3·3	+ 0·8
Weaving ..	36,338	+ 0·5	+ 0·1	59,261	+ 3·1	+ 0·3
Other ..	8,734	+ 1·0	+ 1·4	20,007	+ 2·1	+ 4·5
Not specified	8,812	+ 0·5	+ 3·6	17,269	+ 5·2	+ 6·5
Total ..	89,231	+ 0·8	+ 0·9	156,386	+ 3·3	+ 0·2

DISTRICTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Ashton ..	4,219	Per cent. + 5·6	Per cent. + 2·3	7,348	Per cent. + 10·4	Per cent. + 4·0
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ..	7,331	— 0·4	— 6·2	12,095	— 2·8	— 6·2
Oldham ..	11,223	+ 2·0	+ 0·6	20,742	+ 3·6	— 3·7
Bolton and Leigh ..	15,691	— 0·4	+ 1·9	27,180	+ 2·6	+ 2·0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden ..	8,067	— 1·6	— 2·1	12,176	— 1·1	— 3·6
Manchester ..	5,894	+ 1·0	+ 4·0	9,780	+ 5·3	+ 0·3
Preston and Chorley..	5,829	+ 0·1	— 7·0	9,671	— 3·6	— 13·1
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ..	9,673	— 0·6	+ 1·3	17,916	+ 1·4	+ 2·2
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ..	10,526	— 0·6	+ 4·7	21,509	+ 8·5	+ 5·5
Other Lancashire Towns ..	3,680	+ 15·5	+ 14·5	5,960	+ 15·7	+ 16·5
Yorkshire Towns ..	4,063	— 0·6	+ 2·1	7,368	+ 3·1	+ 7·1
Other Districts ..	2,935	+ 3·9	+ 2·7	4,641	+ 6·2	+ 2·7
Total ..	89,231	+ 0·8	+ 0·9	156,386	+ 3·3	+ 0·2

Returns from firms employing about 78,000 workpeople showed that about 24 per cent. of the workpeople reported on were on short time, to the extent of about 17½ hours, on the average, in the week ended 23rd February.

The *imports* (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 135,494,500 lbs. in February, 1924, compared with 212,003,000 lbs. in the previous month and with 119,888,800 lbs. in February, 1923.

The *exports* of cotton yarn were 14,121,900 lbs. in February, 1924, compared with 10,991,500 lbs. in January, 1924, and 10,881,600 lbs. in February, 1923.

The *exports* of cotton piece goods were 397,070,200 square yards, as compared with 353,965,900 square yards in the previous month, and with 342,558,500 square yards in February, 1923.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during February, though still only moderate on the whole, continued to improve in the majority of centres. Fuller time was worked in some factories, but in the industry as a whole short time working was still very prevalent.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9·1 on the 25th February, 1924, as compared with 9·5 on the 28th January, 1924.

In London there was a slight improvement during February, though employment was still very slack, especially in the hand-made trade. At Leicester conditions were generally fair, and short time was worked to only a small extent; in a few cases resort was had to overtime. At Northampton short time was still largely worked, and employment was only moderate, though better than in January and considerably better than in February of last year. At Kettering also there was some improvement, and a fair number of factories in this district were working full time; while at Desborough, where a further improvement was reported, a little overtime was worked. In the Higham and Rushden districts employment remained generally fair, though some short time was worked. At Wellingborough it was not so good as in January, and most firms were again on short time. Employment remained depressed in the heavy boot industry at Leeds, and most factories worked only two or three days a week; firms engaged in the light boot and shoe trade, however, were busy. At Stafford employment was fair on the whole, and slightly better than in the previous month.

There was a marked improvement at Norwich during February, and the majority of works were running full time at the end of the month. In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment continued to decline, and was very poor on the whole; short time was generally worked, and some factories were almost closed.

Employment was bad at Arbroath, and short time working was general. At Glasgow and at Kilmarnock employment was fairly good. It remained quiet at Edinburgh; while at Maybole there was a decline, and short time was general.

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

	Number of Work-people.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
England and Wales:—						
London	2,050	+ 2·7	+ 2·3	4,686	+ 2·9	+ 0·6
Leicester	9,202	+ 1·1	- 0·1	24,399	+ 4·7	- 2·0
Leicester Country District	2,382	+ 0·6	- 0·7	5,462	+ 2·1	+ 7·3
Northampton	7,023	+ 1·0	+ 7·2	17,350	+ 2·9	+ 13·5
Northampton Country District	8,313	- 0·1	+ 8·2	18,841	- 1·5	+ 10·8
Kettering	3,432	+ 1·4	+ 6·1	8,855	+ 4·3	+ 8·8
Stafford and District	2,602	+ 0·1	+ 3·1	5,726	+ 2·3	- 5·1
Norwich and District	4,144	+ 4·5	..	8,964	+ 9·1	+ 10·8
Bristol, Kingswood and District	2,047	- 5·3	- 3·1	3,732	- 7·5	- 12·7
Leeds and District	2,048	+ 0·2	+ 2·0	4,128	- 2·2	+ 5·6
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	4,212	+ 0·3	+ 0·2	8,921	+ 8·3	- 5·9
Birmingham and District	1,014	+ 0·3	- 0·7	2,012	- 1·2	+ 15·4
Other parts of England and Wales	1,625	- 0·2	+ 7·6	3,147	- 3·1	+ 6·6
England and Wales	50,097	+ 0·7	+ 3·1	116,223	+ 2·6	+ 4·2
Scotland	2,603	+ 0·6	+ 10·1	5,695	+ 2·7	+ 17·3
United Kingdom	52,700	+ 0·7	+ 3·4	121,918	+ 2·6	+ 4·7

Returns from firms employing nearly 40,000 workpeople in the week ended 23rd February showed that 27·4 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time in that week, to the extent of about 12 hours each, on an average.

The exports of boots and shoes in February, 1924, amounted to 105,902 dozen pairs, or 10,747 dozen pairs more than in January, 1924, and 35,053 dozen pairs more than in February, 1923.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade was moderate on the whole. An improvement was reported in some districts, but in others the mills were still working irregularly. Employment generally continued bad in the wrapping section, and was reported as slack, with much short time, in the hand-made section.

With letterpress printers employment continued slack in London, but showed a slight improvement among compositors and proof readers. In the provinces employment was fair on the whole, some improvement on the previous month being reported from a number of centres, including Bradford, Leeds, Bolton, Birmingham, Nottingham and Bristol. Employment was slack, however, at Newcastle and with machine compositors at Edinburgh.

In the lithographic printing trade employment was generally moderate; an improvement was reported at Bradford, Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh, but employment was still reported as bad at Manchester.

With bookbinders employment was moderate on the whole, and showed a slight improvement at some centres, including London, Leeds and Newcastle; a decline was reported, however, at Edinburgh, where employment was bad. Short time was reported in a number of instances in both the lithographic printing and the bookbinding trades.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 6·2 at 25th February, 1924, compared with 6·4 per cent. at 28th January, 1924. In the paper and paper board making industry the percentage was 9·6 at 25th February, compared with 13·6 at 28th January. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery trades the percentage was 7·6 at 25th February, compared with 7·9 at 28th January.

The following Table summarises the returns received from Trade Unions:—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb., 1924.	Jan., 1924.	Feb., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Printing	78,316	4·1	4·5	5·7	- 0·4	- 1·6
Bookbinding	14,487	5·1	5·6	6·3	- 0·5	- 1·2

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the building trade during February showed a slight general improvement; it continued fairly good, on the whole, with skilled operatives (except painters), and slack or bad with unskilled workers. There was a considerable improvement in the painting and decorating section of the trade, but

employment in most districts was still bad. It was reported as very good with craftsmen (other than painters) in several districts, including Harrogate, Preston, West Middlesex, North-West Surrey and Bournemouth, and as good at many other centres, a little overtime being worked in some cases; on the other hand, it was slack or quiet in a few districts, including Grimsby, Rochdale and St. Helens, and bad weather conditions caused a certain amount of irregular time to be worked.

As regards individual occupations employment remained very good generally with bricklayers, good in most districts with masons and plasterers, and fairly good with carpenters and joiners; in a considerable number of districts a shortage of one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives was again reported, especially with bricklayers and plasterers. Employment with plumbers and slaters was generally only moderate; it was bad with painters, although a considerable improvement took place during the month, and it continued very slack, on the whole, with builders' labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 25th February, and the increase or decrease in the percentage as compared with 28th January:—

Occupations.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th February, 1924.	Approximate Percentage* Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with 28th January, 1924.
Carpenters	5,050	4·0	- 0·8
Bricklayers	1,027	1·8	- 0·5
Masons	735	3·3	- 0·8
Slaters	385	7·4	+ 0·8
Plasterers	486	3·0	- 1·5
Painters	23,506	22·0	- 9·1
Plumbers	2,482	7·2	-
Labourers of above	33,642	13·2	- 1·5
All other occupations	24,740	25·9	- 1·3
Total	92,053	12·8	- 2·3
Divisions.			
London	24,099	15·0	- 1·8
South-Eastern	10,584	9·8	- 2·2
South-Western	9,057	10·4	- 2·1
Midlands	10,471	13·5	- 2·1
North-Eastern	10,846	12·8	- 2·7
North-Western	13,115	14·0	- 2·7
Scotland	8,290	12·6	- 3·3
Wales	2,669	10·2	- 2·0
Northern Ireland	2,922	22·9	- 0·6
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	92,053	12·8	- 2·3
Males	91,822	13·0	- 2·3
Females	231	2·7	-

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS received from Local Authorities in 132 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area) with a total population of 14,837,000, show that in February, 1924, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,571,900, as compared with £3,969,500 in January, 1924, and £3,368,000 in February, 1923. Of the total for February, 1924, dwelling houses accounted for £3,042,000; factories and workshops for £203,300; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £291,800; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,034,800.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in February continued fair, some improvement being shown in comparison with January, particularly in the North of England. In the Peterborough and Birmingham districts employment was reported as good; in the Coventry district it again improved.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges on 25th February, 1924, was 8·1, as compared with 10·0 on 28th January, 1924.

The following Table summarizes the information received as to the number of workpeople employed, and amount of wages paid, by those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review:—

* Figures are not available as to the exact numbers of insured workpeople in each of the occupations shown in the first column of the Table, in the building industry. For the purpose of computing the percentages given in the third column, the total numbers insured, in each occupation, have been estimated by applying ratios obtained from the exchange of unemployment books which took place in 1922 to the total number of insured workers engaged in the building industry as shown by the 1923 exchange of books. The estimated numbers so arrived at were given on page 20 of the January issue of this GAZETTE. In view of the possibility that some changes may have taken place since 1922, in the ratios referred to, the percentages of unemployed, as given in the third column, should be regarded as only approximate.

Districts.	Number of Workpeople			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,680	Per cent. + 4.6	Per cent. +15.9	£ 4,148	Per cent. +12.1	Per cent. +29.3
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,906	- 1.1	+30.9	9,159	+ 10.3	+46.2
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,304	+ 0.5	+17.1	3,057	+12.4	+22.6
Other Districts	188	..	+18.2	468	+ 4.9	+26.1
TOTAL	7,078	+ 0.5	+24.0	16,832	+10.9	+36.4

Returns from firms employing 6,449 workpeople showed that about one per cent. of these workpeople worked short time, to the extent of 10 hours each on an average, during the week ended 23rd February.

POTTERY TRADES.

DURING February employment in the pottery trades showed a slight improvement, but was still slack on the whole. In the tile and sanitary earthenware sections it was reported as good, and in the fireclay section as fair.

In Staffordshire employment continued slack generally; at Worcester and Derby it was reported as good, at Bristol as fair, and at Glasgow as bad.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 25th February, 1924, was 13.4, as compared with 15.1 at 28th January, 1924.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
China Manufacture ..	1,483	+ 0.8	- 0.3	3,136	+ 3.1	+ 12.8
Earthenware Manufacture ..	8,056	- 1.1	+ 0.8	14,825	+ 0.7	- 2.5
Other Branches (including unspecified) ..	1,787	- 1.5	+ 8.8	3,016	- 2.7	- 1.6
TOTAL ..	11,326	- 0.9	+ 1.8	20,977	+ 0.5	- 0.4
DISTRICTS.	Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Potteries ..	8,867	- 1.6	+ 1.8	15,779	+ 0.7	- 0.2
Other Districts ..	2,459	+ 1.4	+ 1.7	5,198	- 0.1	- 0.8
TOTAL ..	11,326	- 0.9	+ 1.8	20,977	+ 0.5	- 0.4

Returns from employers relating to short-time working showed that of 10,047 workpeople employed, 2,368, or 24 per cent., were working on an average 16 hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd February, 1924.

SEAMEN.

DURING February employment with seamen continued poor on the whole. The demand for men was adversely affected by the dock strike, but, on the termination of the dispute, a strong revival set in. There was a substantial surplus of engine-room hands, but in some cases the supply of ableseamen and other deck ratings was reported to be inadequate. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 25th February was 21.9, compared with 21.8 at 28th January.

On the Thames the demand for men was fair until the stoppage of work at the docks, when it became very quiet. It was moderate on the Tyne and quiet on the Wear and the Tees. It declined on the whole at Hull. The demand was quiet at Southampton and generally poor at Avonmouth. At Bristol it was quiet, but showed a gradual improvement. At Newport it declined, and was reported as quiet at the close of the month. It was fair on the whole at Cardiff and at Swansea, some shortage of white deck hands being reported at the former port. Employment in the foreign-going trade on the Mersey was moderate, except during the dock dispute. At Manchester it was fair, and the supply of able seamen was not more than equal to the demand.

The demand on the Clyde and at Leith was quiet. At Belfast it was fair early in February, and declined subsequently.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	Feb., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Two months ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb. 1924.	Feb. 1923.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool† ..	7,409	- 3,718	- 723	18,536	20,405
Manchester ..	657	- 216	+ 45	1,530	1,473
London ..	6,034	- 1,827	- 610	13,895	14,920
Southampton ..	5,436	- 329	+ 1,138	11,201	12,932
Tyne Ports ..	1,791	+ 594	+ 261	2,988	3,105
Sunderland ..	121	+ 15	- 63	227	482
Middlesbrough ..	410	+ 2	+ 25	818	926
Hull ..	1,261	- 566	+ 25	3,088	2,961
Grimsby ..	22	+ 20	+ 22	24	21
Bristol‡ ..	701	- 174	- 78	1,576	1,711
Newport, Mon. ..	838	- 189	- 116	1,865	2,321
Cardiff§ ..	3,207	+ 352	+ 56	6,062	6,278
Swansea ..	641	- 340	+ 239	1,622	1,416
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ..	307	- 14	+ 109	628	773
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ..	267	+ 66	+ 14	468	681
Glasgow ..	2,481	+ 320	+ 739	4,642	3,254
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast ..	216	+ 111	+ 110	321	330
TOTAL ..	31,799	- 5,893	+ 1,193	69,491	73,989

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during February was moderate in the first half of the month. Work was at a standstill from mid-day on the 16th to the 25th owing to a general strike (see page 81). After the strike settlement there was increased activity in dealing with arrears of work.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
2nd Feb., 1924 ..	5,353	1,682	7,035	7,692	14,727
9th " ..	5,370	2,501	7,871	7,967	15,838
16th " ..	5,218	2,952	8,170	8,078	16,248
||23rd " ..	..	..	..	..	..
Average for 3 weeks ended 16th Feb., 1924 ..	5,314	2,378	7,692	7,912	15,604
Average for Jan., 1924 ..	5,303	1,884	7,186	7,839	15,025
Average for Feb., 1923 ..	4,851	2,569	7,420	7,923	15,343

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in the three weeks ended 16th February, 1924, was 826, as compared with 971 in the previous month, and with 827 in February, 1923.

East Coast.—With coal trimmers on the Tyne employment was good and better than in January. With other classes of workers it continued fair on the average. At Middlesbrough it was fairly good, and at Grimsby fair. At Hull, however, employment on coal shipments declined and was slack. It remained slack at most of the other East Coast ports.

Western and Southern Ports.—At Liverpool employment was moderate. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the three weeks ended 18th February was 15,208, compared with 15,211 in the five weeks ended 28th January, and with 15,321 in February, 1923. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the Clearing Houses was £38,475 in the three weeks ended 18th February, compared with £34,415 in the five weeks ended 28th January. At Manchester employment continued fair.

Employment at the South Wales ports was quiet. At Plymouth and other South-Western ports and at Southampton it continued slack.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment remained moderate. At Leith it was slack and not so good as in January, but there was increased activity at Aberdeen in the period immediately preceding the strike. At Dundee employment continued very good. At Belfast it was fair.

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

† Including Birkenhead and Garston.

‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

§ Including Barry and Penarth.

|| In the week ended 23rd February there was a general strike of dock labourers (see p. 81.)

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from workpeople—at 25th February, 1924, was 1,155,904,† of whom 857,798 were men, 36,018 boys, 227,199 women, and 34,889 girls. Compared with 28th January there was a decrease of 166,550, which was distributed as follows:—Men, 131,844; women, 22,106; juveniles, 12,598.

During the four weeks ended 25th February the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 91,258, of which 57,368 were for men, 19,556 for women, and 14,334 for juveniles.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 25th February, 1924:—

Week ended	Applications by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople (Live Register.) †	From Employers
28th January, 1924 ..	22,094	19,387	1,322,454	17,890
4th February, 1924 ..	26,069	22,942	1,248,322	17,539
11th " " ..	26,513	22,630	1,189,805	18,478
18th " " ..	27,597	22,534	1,160,017	19,964
25th " " ..	25,528	23,152	1,155,904	19,071
Total (4 weeks) ..	105,712	91,258	—	—

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraph is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 4th February are dealt with below.

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of 843,429 applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 4th February showed a daily average of 35,143. Of this daily average men accounted for 23,145, women for 8,800, and juveniles for 3,198. In the preceding month the corresponding averages were: Men, 20,933; women, 8,590; juveniles, 2,735.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 4th February there were 97,458 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 4,061. Of this daily average 2,354 were for men, 1,059 for women, and 648 for juveniles, compared with a daily average, during the previous month, of 2,477 men, 1,004 women, and 567 juveniles.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 84,921, a daily average of 3,538, as compared with 3,560 during the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average men accounted for 2,159, women for 793, and juveniles for 586. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 2,327; women, 735; and juveniles, 498.

Juveniles.—During the period, 38,355 applications were received from boys and 38,384 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 5,077, and 7,437 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls 7,478 vacancies were notified, and 6,639 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 22.6 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

Statistics relating to *Building Trades* (men) and to *Domestic Service* occupations (women) for the four weeks ended 4th February have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below.

In the building trades 7,260 vacancies were notified for men, and 6,234 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were: Carpenters, 1,862 vacancies notified and 1,622 filled; bricklayers, 1,066 vacancies notified and 755 filled; painters, 1,496 vacancies notified and 1,370 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,232 vacancies notified and 1,148 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 92,148† at 4th February, compared with 101,120† at 7th January.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 4th February was 13,916. Of this number 5,552 were for resident domestic servants, 3,341 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,489 for charwomen, and 663 for waitresses, other domestic occupations accounting for 871.

Of the 9,580 vacancies filled 2,531 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,631 as non-resident, 3,243 as charwomen, and 573 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 4th February for work in domestic service was 34,225, compared with 32,613 on 7th January.

The figures above, except those in the first three paragraphs, are exclusive of dock labourers and coal porters. The number of casual jobs found for men in these occupations during the period of four weeks ended 4th February was 1,608.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 25th February, 1924, there were on the Live Registers 830,000 men, 220,000 women, and 80,000 juveniles, as compared with 927,000 men, 253,000 women, and 70,000 juveniles at 31st December, 1923.

† The figures exclude workpeople on systematic short time, but include workpeople "suspended" or "stood off."

The following Table shews 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 25th February, 1924. 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 25th February, 1924.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 28th Jan., 1924.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
<i>London</i>	140,588	36,098	12,247	188,933	− 10,964
<i>South Eastern Division</i> ..	51,139	9,092	5,528	65,759	− 9,596
Brighton	2,593	737	573	3,903	− 526
Chatham	2,959	426	759	4,144	− 134
Ipswich	2,819	566	332	3,717	− 240
Norwich	3,575	483	144	4,202	− 1,338
Rest of South Eastern	39,193	6,880	3,720	49,793	− 7,358
<i>South Western Division</i> ..	54,467	10,552	5,319	70,338	− 12,021
Bristol	10,413	3,169	1,012	14,594	− 2,419
Plymouth	4,487	687	519	5,693	− 678
Portsmouth	5,845	721	724	7,290	− 481
Reading	1,488	179	311	1,978	− 355
Southampton	5,589	528	435	6,552	+ 148
Swindon	535	116	143	794	− 38
Rest of South Western	26,110	5,152	2,175	33,437	− 8,198
<i>Midlands Division</i> ..	99,956	33,486	6,518	139,960	− 20,403
Birmingham	25,706	8,746	948	35,400	− 2,386
Coventry	2,017	305	1	2,323	− 413
Cradley Heath	3,579	1,037	134	4,750	− 1,171
Derby	1,955	376	168	2,499	− 377
Leicester	1,853	726	39	2,618	− 956
Northampton	1,432	452	127	2,011	− 192
Nottingham	5,368	2,142	273	7,783	− 1,011
Smethwick	3,232	1,177	383	4,792	+ 7
Stoke-on-Trent	6,258	4,209	227	10,694	− 2,059
Walsall	3,834	742	801	5,377	− 721
West Bromwich	2,262	452	132	2,846	− 137
Wolverhampton	5,077	1,934	304	7,315	− 547
Rest of Midlands	37,383	11,188	2,981	51,552	− 9,939
<i>North Eastern Division</i> ..	159,478	23,721	11,453	194,652	− 32,798
Barnsley	892	173	73	1,138	− 154
Bradford	4,181	2,270	196	6,647	− 2,922
Darlington	1,251	190	114	1,555	− 915
Dewsbury	653	278	103	1,034	− 246
Doncaster	308	206	325	839	− 132
Gateshead	5,519	700	576	6,795	− 653
Grimsby	2,364	262	220	2,846	− 800
Halifax	1,657	481	40	2,178	− 870
Hartlepool	6,778	276	199	7,253	− 735
Huddersfield	2,816	1,813	187	4,816	− 916
Hull	10,418	1,062	1,092	12,572	− 420
Leeds	11,606	2,109	483	14,198	− 3,306
Lincoln	2,868	405	285	3,558	− 821
Middlesbrough	8,276	416	337	9,029	− 81
Newcastle-on-Tyne	14,726	1,388	1,260	17,374	− 1,048
Rotherham	1,303	275	287	1,865	− 806
Sheffield	19,124	3,045	1,309	23,498	− 3,863
South Shields	5,001	428	363	5,792	− 406
Stockton-on-Tees	5,067	184	184	5,435	− 696
Sunderland	10,039	865	693	11,597	− 1,283
York	1,938	304	626	2,868	− 293
Rest of North Eastern	42,693	6,591	2,481	51,765	− 11,432
<i>North Western Division</i> ..	175,468	78,404	16,865	270,737	− 29,583
Accrington	1,910	1,124	198	3,232	− 1,069
Ashton-under-Lyne	2,933	1,917	327	5,177	− 1,000
Barrow	4,041	439	645	5,125	− 1,271
Birkenhead	4,811	579	413	5,803	− 139
Blackburn	3,861	3,128	374	7,363	− 1,020
Blackpool	1,035	885	248	2,168	− 201
Bolton	5,778	1,375	430	7,583	− 740
Burnley	3,310	3,629	23	7,174	− 2,002
Bury	2,073	2,275	295	4,643	+ 951
Chorley	1,051	369	57	1,477	− 595
Liverpool	43,060	7,884	3,347	54,291	− 835
Manchester	21,604	6,871	1,800	30,275	− 3,339
Nelson	1,026	594	44	1,664	− 911
Oldham	15,420	8,510	1,137	25,067	+ 4,952
Preston	3,530	2,412	138	6,080	− 607
Rochdale	5,337	4,176	624	10,137	+ 488
St. Helens	1,460	310	218	1,988	− 1,081
Salford	6,837	3,963	1,213	12,013	− 1,637
Stockport	3,203	2,465	304	6,002	− 1,226
Warrington	1,896	325	152	2,373	− 1,686
Wigan	1,564	3,944	572	6,080	− 1,638
Rest of North Western	39,698	21,230	4,094	65,022	− 14,987
<i>Scotland Division</i> ..	119,507	25,235	9,942	154,684	− 15,140
Aberdeen	5,058	991	308	6,357	− 636
Clydebank	1,886	206	133	2,305	− 463
Dundee	6,106	1,821	264	8,191	+ 357
Edinburgh	10,151	2,028	982	13,161	− 812
Glasgow	55,959	10,993	5,371	72,323	− 5,154
Greenock	4,825	682	281	5,788	− 963
Motherwell	1,245	109	75	1,429	− 151
Paisley	4,238	916	374	5,528	− 487
Rest of Scotland	30,039	7,359	2,154	39,552	− 6,831
<i>Wales Division</i> ..	29,362	5,263	2,267	36,892	− 35,157
Cardiff	5,134	870	535	6,539	− 1,445
Llanelli	387	135	57	579	− 861
Newport	1,955	198	166	2,319	− 921
Swansea	2,534	223	211	2,968	− 235
Rest of Wales	19,352	1,337	1,298	22,487	− 31,685
<i>Northern Ireland</i> ..	27,833	7,848	763	36,444	− 889
Belfast	18,229	4,792	506	23,527	+ 12
Londonderry	1,723	511	61	2,295	− 145
Lurgan	375	92	15	482	− 113
Lisburn	537	157	14	708	− 33
Newry	873	185	11	1,069	− 75
Rest of Northern Ireland	6,096	1,611	161	7,868	− 535
<i>Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland</i>	857,798	227,199	70,907	1,155,904	− 166,550

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the numbers of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 25th February, 1924. "Unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 25th February, 1924, were not at work because they were suspended, "stood off," "furloughed," or on short time, and whose unemployment books were lodged at Exchanges, are counted in the statistics as "unemployed."

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, substantially all persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Employees of local authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme, may, in certain circumstances, be excepted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under sixteen years of age.

The statistics take account only of persons insured under the Acts. Such persons number approximately 11,500,000 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This figure is computed annually, and is obtained from a count of the unemployment books which must be held by all insured persons, and which are exchanged at the beginning of each insurance year in the early weeks of July. In arriving at the estimated number of current books regard is paid not only to those books actually exchanged, but also to those which are likely to be exchanged in the course of the insurance year. The issue of new books between the exchange of books and the date of the estimate is also included, and at the same time allowance is made for wastage by deaths, emigration, leaving industry, etc.

Every insured person claiming unemployment benefit must

lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim. It is possible therefore to obtain from a count of the lodged books a record of unemployment in insured trades. The figures given of numbers unemployed are not, however, confined to persons in receipt of benefit. They include:—

- Insured persons unemployed and in receipt of benefit;
- Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;
- Insured persons who are not in receipt of benefit and are not maintaining registration, but whose unemployment books remain lodged at Employment Exchanges. Provided there is no definite evidence of employment these are counted in the statistics for two months after the insured person's last attendance at an Exchange.

Concurrently with the exchange of insurance books in the middle of July last opportunity was taken to revise the classification of insured workpeople so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adapted in connection with the 1921 census of population. At the same time the industrial classification was amended. Previously it had not been on a strictly industrial basis, but in some cases had followed an occupational grouping. At the last exchange of books all unemployment books were classified according to the industry of the employer, or, in the case of unemployed persons, of the last employer. As the composition of the several industrial groups has undergone modification the statistics subsequent to June, 1923, are not strictly comparable with those prior to that date.

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. Persons who were not at work owing to sickness are also not included.

INDUSTRY.	NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.													
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBER OF UNEMPLOY- MENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 25TH FEBRUARY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH FEBRUARY, 1924.				INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 28TH JANUARY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.	
									Great Britain & North'n Ireland.	Great Britain only.				
Fishing	23,600	530	24,130	3,435	62	3,497	14.6	11.7	14.5	14.0	- 3.7	- 8.1	- 3.8	
Mining:—														
Coal Mining	1,258,650	8,200	1,266,850	30,666	407	31,073	2.4	5.0	2.5	2.4	- 2.2	- 1.8	- 2.1	
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	19,670	50	19,720	3,985	1	3,986	20.3	2.0	20.2	20.0	- 12.5	-	- 12.5	
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,000	70	5,070	891	4	895	17.8	5.7	17.7	17.7	- 0.2	+ 1.4	- 0.1	
Stone Quarrying and Mining	32,060	270	32,330	1,584	15	1,599	4.9	5.6	4.9	4.5	- 4.5	- 1.4	- 4.4	
Slate Quarrying and Mining	8,000	20	8,020	164	2	166	2.1	10.0	2.1	2.0	- 1.4	-	- 1.4	
Other Mining and Quarrying	24,960	1,580	26,540	1,588	228	1,816	6.4	14.4	6.8	6.6	- 2.6	+ 1.9	- 2.4	
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	12,520	170	12,690	782	22	804	6.2	12.9	6.3	6.1	- 1.7	+ 0.5	- 1.7	
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—														
Coke Ovens and By Product Works	15,070	200	15,270	782	23	805	5.2	11.5	5.3	5.3	- 0.3	- 3.0	- 0.3	
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	10,090	660	10,750	1,549	76	1,625	15.4	11.5	15.1	15.2	- 9.1	- 0.6	- 8.6	
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	16,080	620	16,700	1,895	33	1,928	11.8	5.3	11.5	11.5	+ 0.4	- 4.1	+ 0.2	
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	54,340	7,500	61,840	4,168	868	5,036	7.7	11.6	8.1	8.0	- 1.8	- 2.2	- 1.9	
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	35,750	36,380	72,130	4,272	5,382	9,654	11.9	14.8	13.4	13.3	- 1.4	- 2.1	- 1.7	
Glass Trades:—														
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	22,880	4,990	27,870	3,003	420	3,423	13.1	8.4	12.3	12.3	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.2	
Glass Bottle Making	14,950	1,650	16,600	3,287	142	3,429	22.0	8.6	20.7	20.4	- 2.3	- 3.4	- 2.3	
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.:—														
Chemicals Manufacture	80,430	24,940	105,370	8,073	1,627	9,700	10.0	6.5	9.2	9.2	- 1.4	- 0.3	- 1.1	
Explosives Manufacture	13,960	5,120	19,080	1,497	516	2,013	10.7	10.1	10.6	10.5	- 1.8	- 0.9	- 1.5	
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	10,920	2,950	13,870	537	151	688	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.9	- 0.9	- 0.6	- 0.8	
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	57,530	21,620	79,150	4,545	1,705	6,250	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 0.6	
Metal Manufacture and Secondary Pro- cesses:—														
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces) Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills	29,310	240	29,550	2,985	12	2,997	10.2	5.0	10.1	10.1	- 3.4	+ 1.7	- 3.5	
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	210,150	4,480	214,630	35,669	311	35,980	17.0	6.9	16.8	16.7	- 6.5	- 0.3	- 6.4	
Manufacture of Tin Plates	38,510	4,000	42,510	5,034	437	5,471	13.1	10.9	12.9	12.9	- 0.3	- 1.0	- 0.3	
Iron and Steel Tube Making	25,860	4,330	30,190	1,045	164	1,209	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	- 4.1	- 4.7	- 4.1	
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	23,900	1,450	25,350	3,439	205	3,644	14.4	14.1	14.4	14.4	- 3.4	+ 0.4	- 3.2	
Engineering and Ironfounding:—	20,650	3,940	24,590	1,649	316	1,965	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	- 2.9	- 0.1	- 2.5	
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	635,260	39,660	674,920	114,096	2,559	116,655	18.0	6.5	17.3	17.2	- 1.9	+ 0.1	- 1.8	
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	79,020	6,890	85,910	10,022	818	10,840	12.7	11.9	12.6	12.3	- 2.8	+ 0.3	- 2.6	
Electrical Engineering	50,570	11,710	62,280	3,030	503	3,533	6.0	4.3	5.7	5.7	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 0.2	
Marine Engineering and Marine Boiler Making	65,760	1,110	66,870	11,919	38	11,957	18.1	3.4	17.9	18.6	- 2.0	-	- 1.9	
Constructional Engineering	22,940	840	23,780	2,633	38	2,671	11.5	4.5	11.2	11.2	- 2.8	+ 0.7	- 2.7	
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—														
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft	174,590	19,830	194,420	15,949	1,254	17,203	9.1	6.3	8.8	8.8	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 0.8	
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	25,540	2,400	27,940	3,324	213	3,537	13.0	8.9	12.7	12.5	- 2.2	- 1.0	- 2.0	
Railway Carriage, Wagon, and Tram- car Building	50,560	1,280	51,840	2,301	25	2,326	4.6	2.0	4.5	4.5	- 3.1	- 0.7	- 3.1	

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.—continued.

INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.									
				NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 25TH FEBRUARY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH FEBRUARY, 1924.				INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (—) AS COMPARED WITH 28TH JANUARY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
									Great Britain & North'n Ireland.	Great Britain only.			
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ..	263,520	,010	272,530	80,586	301	80,887	30.0	7.5	29.7	29.7	— 2.3	— 0.4	— 2.2
Metal Trades :—													
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ..	11,010	860	11,870	1,081	27	1,108	9.8	3.1	9.3	9.1	— 0.7	—	— 0.7
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ..	48,480	24,360	72,840	3,835	1,885	5,720	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.8	— 0.3	— 0.3	— 0.3
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making ..	22,760	7,340	30,100	4,031	1,144	5,175	17.7	15.6	17.2	17.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.5	+ 0.7
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ..	17,510	12,730	30,240	2,319	1,698	4,017	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.3	— 1.1	— 0.8	— 0.9
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ..	20,450	12,000	32,450	3,878	2,130	6,003	19.0	17.8	18.5	18.5	— 0.1	— 0.2	— 0.2
Heating and Ventilating Engineering ..	5,340	420	5,760	303	12	315	5.7	2.9	5.5	5.7	— 0.8	— 0.9	— 0.8
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ..	29,380	20,450	49,830	4,373	2,194	6,567	14.9	10.7	13.2	13.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.6
Other Metal Industries ..	107,180	60,310	167,490	11,808	7,354	19,160	11.0	12.2	11.4	11.4	— 0.1	— 0.1	— 0.1
Textile Trades :—													
Cotton Industry ..	211,010	365,280	576,290	30,739	59,843	90,582	14.6	16.3	15.7	15.7	+ 0.5	— 0.3	—
Woollen and Worsted Industry ..	119,630	153,700	273,330	8,476	9,666	18,142	7.1	6.3	6.6	6.6	— 2.1	— 2.9	— 2.6
Silk Industry ..	14,320	23,820	38,140	93	2,212	3,115	6.3	9.3	8.2	8.2	— 3.0	— 1.4	— 2.0
Linen Industry ..	25,700	58,370	82,070	3,421	4,607	8,028	13.3	8.2	9.8	12.4	— 0.2	— 2.5	— 1.7
Jute Industry ..	14,190	27,340	41,530	1,672	2,034	3,706	11.8	7.4	8.9	8.9	— 0.8	—	— 0.3
Hemp, Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ..	7,620	12,540	20,160	877	1,856	2,733	11.5	14.8	13.6	11.5	+ 0.3	— 0.8	— 0.4
Hosiery Industry ..	19,990	71,330	91,320	1,303	5,882	7,183	6.5	8.2	7.9	7.8	— 1.1	— 1.0	— 0.9
Lace Industry ..	9,330	12,240	21,570	2,233	1,602	3,835	23.9	13.1	17.8	17.8	— 2.1	+ 0.6	— 0.6
Carpet Industry ..	11,220	14,540	25,760	449	735	1,184	4.0	5.1	4.6	4.5	+ 0.7	— 1.0	— 0.2
Other Textile Industries ..	13,480	29,940	43,420	1,464	3,801	5,265	10.9	12.7	12.1	11.7	— 2.4	— 2.1	— 2.2
Textile, Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ..	85,560	31,400	116,960	11,326	3,469	14,795	13.2	11.0	12.6	13.2	— 0.4	— 1.6	— 0.7
Leather and Leather Goods :—													
Tanning, Currying and Leather Dressing ..	33,230	8,590	41,820	3,395	1,085	4,480	10.2	12.6	10.7	10.7	— 0.9	+ 0.5	— 0.6
Saddlery, Harness and Other Leather Goods Manufacture ..	16,800	12,550	29,350	1,885	1,268	3,153	11.2	10.1	10.7	10.7	— 1.2	— 1.0	— 1.2
Clothing Trades :—													
Tailoring ..	65,910	120,300	186,210	8,584	12,670	21,254	13.0	10.5	11.4	11.2	— 3.0	— 3.2	— 3.1
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ..	12,250	104,160	116,410	1,080	9,988	11,068	8.8	9.6	9.5	9.2	— 1.0	— 2.2	— 2.1
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ..	13,810	20,830	34,640	1,841	1,469	3,310	13.3	7.1	9.6	9.5	— 2.9	— 1.5	— 2.0
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ..	6,640	60,880	67,520	360	3,902	4,262	5.4	6.4	6.3	5.8	— 0.4	— 1.9	— 1.7
Other Dress Industries ..	12,470	20,470	32,940	1,374	2,417	3,791	11.0	11.8	11.5	11.5	— 1.6	— 2.6	— 2.2
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades ..	93,620	50,230	143,850	10,218	2,826	13,044	10.9	5.6	9.1	8.9	— 0.5	— 0.4	— 0.4
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—													
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ..	104,290	54,840	159,130	11,746	4,917	16,663	11.3	9.0	10.5	10.3	0.6	+ 0.1	— 0.3
Grain Milling ..	26,400	3,100	29,500	1,394	183	1,577	5.3	5.9	5.3	5.2	—	+ 0.1	—
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ..	25,040	45,740	70,780	2,017	5,437	7,454	8.1	11.9	10.5	10.5	+ 0.3	— 0.7	— 0.4
Other Food Industries ..	49,070	49,220	98,290	4,284	8,361	12,645	8.7	17.0	12.9	12.8	— 1.5	— 2.0	— 1.7
Drink Industries ..	81,500	20,850	102,350	4,533	2,700	7,233	5.6	12.9	7.1	6.8	—	— 0.4	— 0.1
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture ..	14,960	30,360	45,320	1,084	2,994	4,078	7.2	9.9	9.0	8.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.0	+ 0.8
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—													
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork ..	54,700	3,300	58,000	6,315	295	6,610	11.5	8.9	11.4	11.2	— 0.9	+ 1.5	— 0.7
Wood Box and Packing Case Making ..	10,710	2,020	12,730	1,755	281	2,036	16.4	13.9	16.0	16.0	— 1.1	+ 1.2	— 0.8
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc. ..	76,540	17,810	94,350	6,793	1,457	8,250	8.9	8.2	8.7	8.6	— 0.8	— 0.8	— 0.8
Other Woodworking ..	20,610	6,840	27,450	2,252	784	3,036	10.9	11.5	11.1	10.9	— 2.7	+ 0.4	— 1.9
Printing and Paper Trades :—													
Paper and Paper Board Making ..	40,440	16,120	56,560	3,938	1,470	5,438	9.8	9.1	9.6	9.6	— 4.3	— 3.2	— 4.0
Cardboard Boxes Paper Bags and Stationery ..	19,740	35,900	55,640	1,222	3,019	4,241	6.2	8.4	7.6	7.5	— 0.3	— 0.3	— 0.3
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining ..	3,510	1,270	4,780	182	117	299	5.2	9.2	6.3	6.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.2	+ 0.7
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ..	1,950	2,850	4,800	145	156	301	7.4	5.5	6.3	6.2	— 1.2	— 2.0	— 1.7
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding ..	150,870	80,140	231,010	9,158	5,231	14,389	6.1	6.5	6.2	6.2	— 0.2	—	— 0.2
Building and Construction of Works :—													
Building ..	708,640	8,480	717,120	91,822	231	92,053	13.0	2.7	12.8	12.7	— 2.3	—	— 2.3
Public Works Contracting, etc. ..	126,900	860	127,760	23,469	21	23,490	18.5	2.4	18.4	18.5	— 1.6	+ 0.1	— 1.6
Other Manufacturing Industries :—													
Rubber Manufacture ..	33,140	24,760	57,900	3,490	2,734	6,224	10.5	11.0	10.7	10.7	— 1.6	— 2.1	— 1.8
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture ..	10,440	1,880	12,320	893	151	1,024	8.6	7.0	8.3	8.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	— 0.8
Brush and Broom Making ..	4,930	4,060	8,990	519	441	960	10.5	10.9	10.7	10.7	+ 0.5	— 1.2	— 0.3
Scientific and Photographic Instrument and Apparatus Manufacture ..	11,270	6,520	17,790	598	213	811	5.3	3.3	4.6	4.6	— 0.4	— 0.9	— 0.6
Musical Instrument Making ..	16,430	3,330	19,760	1,213	206	1,479	7.7	6.2	7.5	7.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites Manufacture ..	6,580	5,640	12,220	642	845	1,487	9.8	15.0	12.2	12.2	— 1.1	— 1.0	— 1.1
Gas, Water, and Electricity Supply Industries ..	168,940	6,760	175,700	10,532	282	10,814	6.2	4.2	6.2	6.0	— 0.6	+ 0.3	— 0.4
Transport and Communication :—													
Railway Service ..	182,240	10,540	192,780	10,990	501	11,491	6.0	4.8	6.0	5.9	— 1.4	— 0.5	— 1.3
Tramway and Omnibus Service ..	107,810	4,550	112,360	3,660	151	3,811	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.4	— 0.2	+ 0.1	— 0.2
Other Road Transport ..	142,770	4,470	147,240	23,526	162	23,688	16.5	3.6	16.1	15.9	— 0.7	+ 0.3	— 0.7
Shipping Service ..	112,950	5,850	118,800	25,517	481	26,000	22.6	8.2	21.9	21.9	+ 0.1	—	+ 0.1
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ..	191,790	1,850	193,640	46,436	168	46,604	24.2	9.1	24.1	23.9	— 2.3	+ 1.4	— 2.2
Other Transport and Communication and Storage ..	23,450	2,850	26,300	4,184	328	4,512	17.8	11.5	17.2	17.1	— 0.2	+ 0.9	—
Distributive Trades ..	756,430	505,150	1,261,580	57,118	32,571	89,689	7.6	6.4	7.1	7.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance ..	91,020	52,600	143,620	5,870	1,590	7,460	6.4	3.0	5.2	5.1	— 0.2	+ 0.2	—
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—													
National Government ..	143,410	37,820	181,230	15,856	2,446	18,302	11.1	6.5	10.1	10.2	— 0.3	—	— 0.3
Local Government ..	228,000	18,370	246,370	15,350	722	16,072	6.7	3.9	6.5	6.5	— 0.6	— 0.1	— 0.6
Professional Services ..	65,300	42,170	107,470	3,253	1,315	4,568	5.0	3.1	4.3	4.2	— 0.3	—	— 0.1
Entertainments and Sports ..	38,740	20,550	59,290	5,891	2,518	8,412	15.2	12.3	14.2	14.1	— 0.8	+ 1.3	— 0.1
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services ..	93,220	161,520	254,740	14,138	21,590	35,728	15.2	13.2	13.9	13.9	— 0.1	— 0.5	— 0.4
Laundries, Dyeing, and Dry Cleaning ..	20,230	86,990	107,220	1,355	5,425	6,780	6.7	6.2	6.3	6.3	— 0.1	— 0.1	— 0.1
Other Industries and Services ..	78,230	28,650	106,880	28,150	3,060	31,210	36.0	10.7	29.2	28.9	— 0.7	— 1.3	— 0.8
TOTAL ..	3,526,900	2,975,900	6,502,800	944,803	281,788	1,226,591	11.1	9.5	10.7	10.6	— 1.4	— 0.7	— 1.2

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 56, as compared with 37 in the previous month and 40 in February, 1923. In these new disputes about 136,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition about 8,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 20 disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 76, involving about 144,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during February of about 700,000 working days. The principal new dispute was that involving about 110,000 dock workers, etc., in ports throughout Great Britain, which was in progress from 18th to 25th February (see article on page 81).

Causes.—Of the 56 disputes beginning in February, 16, directly involving 121,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 9, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages; 6, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 13, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 12, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 33 new disputes, directly involving 123,000 workpeople, and 11 old disputes, directly involving 4,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 13, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 8, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 23, directly involv-

ing 123,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 9 disputes, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in February.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Feb.	Aggregate Duration of all Disputes in progress in Feb.
	Started before 1st Feb.	Started in Feb.	Total.		
Mining & Quarrying	7	14	21	16,000	88,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	1	11	12	10,000	61,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. . .	3	6	9	1,000	7,000
Transport .. ..	..	7	7	114,000	519,000
Other	9	18	27	3,000	24,000
Total, Feb., 1924 ..	20	56	76	144,000	699,000
Total, Jan., 1924 ..	11	37	48	83,000	629,000
Total, Feb., 1923 ..	36	40†	76‡	37,000‡	325,000‡

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING FEBRUARY, 1924.

Occupations and Locality. §	Approximate Number of Work-people Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. §	Result. §
	Directly.	Indi-rectly. §	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:—						
Wakefield (near) ..	2,015		1923. 4 Dec.	1924. ..	Dispute respecting wages, alleged victimisation and other grievances.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc. } Gateshead (near) ..	2,500		1924. 21 Jan.	2 Feb.	Dispute as to amount of wages due to certain workmen.	Employers agreed to pay part of the amount in dispute. Men subsequently agreed to pay £1,000 damages for breach of contract.
Swansea (near) ..	850	—	21 Jan.	..	Dispute respecting rates of wages payable for coal cutting with a "conveyor."	No settlement reported.
Colliery surfacemen, miners, etc. —Ebbw Vale (near).	2,000		9 Feb.	11 Feb.	Dispute arising from claim by surfacemen for extra payment for working in wet weather.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIP-BUILDING:—						
Table knife and butcher blade grinders—Sheffield.	800||	¶	7 Jan.	23 Feb.	Against proposed increase in rent charged by employers for use of working troughs.	Work resumed pending arbitration.
Engineers in shipyards—Southampton.	750	..	11 Feb.	12 Feb.	Refusal to work at reduced night-shift rates in accordance with Agreement, followed by demand for advance in wages.	Overtime and Night-shift Agreement to be observed; demand for advance in wages to be subject of negotiations on 18th February.
Engineers, shipwrights, joiners and other shipyard workers—Southampton.	7,000**		{ 19 Feb.†† 25 Feb.†† }	..	For advance in wages — —	No settlement reported.
BUILDING, DECORATING, CONTRACTING, ETC.:—						
Banker masons, machinists, blacksmiths, fitters, labourers, etc.—Portland.	447	12	5 Jan.	2 Feb.	For advance in wages from 1½d. per hour below London rate to ½d. per hour below London rate.	Wages advanced to 1d. per hour below London rate; the question of the appropriate wages grading for Portland to be referred to the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry.
Masons, carpenters, plumbers, plasterers, painters, labourers, etc.—Torquay.	468	—	1 Feb.	14 Feb.	For advance in wages in excess of that due under a recent re-grading of the district against which the men had failed to appeal.	Further opportunity to be afforded the men to appeal against the recent re-grading.
TRANSPORT:—						
Dock workers, etc.—Great Britain. Railway goods loaders, porters, checkers, shunters, etc.—Hull.	110,000 1,497	..	18 Feb. 25 Feb.	25 Feb. 25 Feb.	Against issue of provisional notices of dismissal to a number of permanent employees in consequence of shortage of work during continuance of dock workers' dispute. (See article on page 81.)	Notices withdrawn upon termination of the dock workers' dispute.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES:						
Elementary school teachers—Lowestoft.	163	—	1923. 9 April	29 Feb.	Against proposed local reduction of 10 per cent. from Bureham salary scale instead of reduction of 5 per cent. agreed upon nationally.	Proposal abandoned.

* 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.

† Revised figures.

§ 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.

|| Number involved on 2nd February. In January the number was 300.

** Estimated number.

†† Engineers.

‡‡ Other workpeople

§§ Members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores, Lightermen, Watermen and Dockers' Union continued on strike until 27th February.

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 February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £90,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 640,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £3,250 in the weekly wages of nearly 100,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below :—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Work-people affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Iron and Steel	7,250	88,000	£ 750	£ 2,200
Transport	125,500	—	33,850	—
Building and Allied Trades	454,000	—	46,000	—
Other	53,500	10,000	7,700	1,050
Total	640,250	98,000	88,300	3,250

The principal change in the iron and steel trades was a decrease of 1¼ per cent. on the standard rates (equivalent to about 1 per cent. on current rates) of steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, with corresponding reductions in the wages of a large number of subsidiary classes of workers in the iron and steel trades whose wages are regulated in accordance with changes under the smelters' sliding scale. There were also reductions in the wages of blast furnace workers in North Lincolnshire and the West of Scotland. The wages of steel sheet millmen were increased by 4 per cent. on standard rates (equivalent to nearly 2½ per cent. on current rates).

In the transport group the principal change affected dock labourers, whose wages at all the principal ports were increased by 1s. per day or 6d. per half-day in the case of timeworkers, and generally by 5 per cent. on the rates operative in August, 1921, in the case of pieceworkers.

In the building industry there were increases, under a cost of living sliding scale, of ½d. per hour in the wages of craftsmen and of ¼d. or ½d. per hour in those of labourers, which applied to the majority of operatives in all the principal towns in Great Britain except Liverpool and Birkenhead. The regrading of a number of towns in the Midland, Southern and South-Western Counties resulted in further increases in those towns of ½d. or 1d. per hour. In the electrical contracting industry in England and Wales there was a general increase of 5 per cent. on standard rates (equivalent to amounts varying from 1d. to 1½d. per hour).

In industries other than the above the principal groups of workpeople affected by increases included iron ore miners in Cumberland, whose wages were advanced by 1d. per shift; men employed in furniture manufacture in a number of provincial towns, who received increases, usually of ½d. per hour; leather belt makers, for whom there was an increase of ¼d. per hour; warehousemen at Liverpool, whose wages were increased by 1s. 6d. per day in the case of casual workers, and by 7s. 6d. per

week in the case of permanent men; and men employed in the non-trading services of various local authorities in Yorkshire, who received an increase of ½d. per hour. There were decreases in the wages of coal miners in the Radstock district and iron-stone miners in North Lincolnshire, and the minimum rates for men employed in the chain trade were reduced in accordance with an Order under the Trade Boards Acts.

Of the increases taking effect in February, 24, amounting to £43,700 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; five, amounting to £43,000 per week, were arranged by standing joint bodies of employers and workpeople (nearly the whole of which took effect under cost of living sliding scales and is incorporated above); three, amounting to over £35,900 per week, were arranged by arbitration and mediation; five, amounting to £1,100 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and the remaining 65 cases, amounting to £7,500 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. In eight cases, involving over £36,000 per week, the increases were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Of the decreases, 39, amounting to over £2,700 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or on selling prices; and the remaining four cases, amounting to over £500 per week, took effect under a Trade Board Order or were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties.

Summary of Changes in January—February, 1924.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the first two months of 1924, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes :—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Work-people affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	501,000	444,000	£ 56,600	£ 20,500
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	12,500	50	1,650	—
Iron and Steel	12,500	114,000	1,250	5,100
Engineering, Shipbuilding, and other Metal ..	33,250	3,150	2,350	700
Textile	87,000	350	2,100	50
Clothing	1,000	11,000	50	1,125
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	12,500	250	550	150
Woodworking	9,250	—	900	—
Building and Allied Trades ..	455,000	—	46,400	—
Transport	327,000	4,700	44,400	400
Public Utility Services ..	146,000	1,350	15,400	250
Other	39,000	2,250	4,900	220
Total	1,636,000	581,100	176,550	28,500

In the corresponding two months of 1923 there were net reductions of over £120,000 in the weekly wages of about 950,000 workpeople, and net increases of £43,000 in the weekly wages of 670,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in February.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1924.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Cannock Chase ...	7 Feb.	Able-bodied adult surface workers at coal mines	Basic rate of the lower paid grades increased from 3s. 9·45d. per day to 4s. per day.†
	Radstock ...	28 Feb.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	<i>Decrease of 6·65 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, leaving wages 41·97 per cent. above the standard of 1918.</i>
Coke and By-Products Manufacture	West Yorkshire ...	1st full pay in Feb.	Cokemen and by-product workers	<i>Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 73 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 73 per cent.</i>
Iron Mining	Cumberland ...	4 Feb.	Iron ore miners ...	Increase† of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (10s. to 10s. 1d.) and of 1d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 4d. to 7s. 5d.).
			Winding enginem... Other underground and surface workers	Increase† of ¾d. per shift (8s. 8¾d. to 8s. 9¾d.). Increase† of ¼d. per shift. Rate after change for underground, 1st class, or leading labourers, 6s. 5d. per shift.

* 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.
† The rates quoted are subject to the current percentage addition of 55·66.
‡ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Iron Mining (contd.)	North Lincolnshire	3 Feb.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 56½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
	West Cumberland	11 Feb.	Limestone quarrymen	Increase* of ½d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of ¾d. per shift for other men, and of ¼d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 8½d.; haulage enginemens, 8s. 4½d.; blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 8d.; day borers (1st class), 8s. 2½d.; day labourers, 7s. 6½d.; ruddmen, 7s. 0½d.
Quarrying	Kendal	1 Feb.	Limestone quarry workers ...	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rate after change for quarrymen, 1s. 2d. per hour.
	North-East Lancashire	1 Feb.	Freestone and sandstone quarrymen	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rate after change for quarrymen, getters and dressers, 1s. 6½d. per hour.
	Portland	4 Feb.	Banker masons, mason machinists, labourers, etc., in saw mills and stone yards	Increase† of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: banker masons, 1s. 7d. per hour; smiths, 1s. 5½d.; skilled labourers, 1s. 4½d.; unskilled labourers, 1s. 3½d.
	South Wales ...	1 Feb.	Masons and quarrymen in penant stone quarries	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 7½d. per hour; quarrymen, 1s. 6½d.
	Aberdeen	18 Dec., 1923	Granite quarry workers	Increase† of ½d. per hour for timeworkers and of 4d. per ton for pieceworkers (settmakers).
BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES.				
Glass Working Chemical Manufacture	Bristol (certain firms)	1 Feb.	Decorative glassworkers	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 6½d.).
	England and Wales (except London)	1 Feb.	Building trade artisans employed by chemical manufacturers	Increase of ½d. per hour.‡
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	North Lincolnshire	3 Feb.	Blastfurnacemen	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 56½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 3s. 8d. plus 56½ per cent. plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
	West of Scotland...	Feb. †	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at ironstone mines, blast-furnaces and in steel works	Decrease* of 1 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 38½ 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.; machinemens (millers, borers, planers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers (after one year's service), 32s. 6d.; plus, in each case, 38½ per cent. and a tonnage bonus.
Iron and Steel Manu- facture	England and West of Scotland¶	3 Feb.	Blastfurnacemen	Decrease* of 6 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 31 per cent. above the standard.
	England and West of Scotland¶	3 Feb.	Men employed in steel smelting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on the standard of 1905, leaving wages 40 per cent. (basic process) and 15 per cent. (acid process) above the standard.
			Semi-skilled workers and labourers:— Men on 8-hour shifts** ...	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
			Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week**	Decrease* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 79 per cent.
	Certain districts in England also West of Scotland††	3 Feb.	Roll turners	Decrease* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 79 per cent.
	North of England	3 Feb.	Bricklayers and masons employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works in England and steel works in West of Scotland	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on basis rate, leaving wages 11·375d. per hour plus 40 per cent. plus a tonnage bonus.
	North of England	3 Feb.	Engineers, electricians, strikers, motor attendants, arc lamp trimmers, boiler-makers, patternmakers, employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works	Decrease* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 79 per cent.
Iron and Steel Manu- facture	North of England	3 Feb.	Bricklayers' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works	Decrease* of 0·10d. per hour (10·45d. to 10·35d.).
			Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills:— Men on 8-hour shifts** ...	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
	Tees-side (certain firms)	3 Feb.	Men employed on direct production in steel rolling mills	Decrease* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 79 per cent.
Iron and Steel Manu- facture	England and Wales	4 Feb.	Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week**	Decrease* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
			Steel sheet millmen	Increase* of 4 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 70 per cent. above the standard of 1891.

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

† One halfpenny of this increase is due to the operation of a "cost of living" sliding scale, and the other halfpenny as a result of negotiations after a strike.

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

§ By an agreement dated 27th October, 1922, between the Chemical Employers' Federation and the Trade Union concerned the rates of wages are to be 1d. per hour below those paid to similar classes of workpeople in the building trade. It is understood, however, that in the case of plumbers in certain districts, including Manchester and Swansea, the same rate is paid as to house plumbers.

¶ This decrease took effect from the pay period commencing nearest 1st February—in most cases this was 3rd February.

‡ 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 employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowances or extra payments mentioned.

†† This 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 FEBRUARY, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.)	Sheffield District*	Middle of Jan.	IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE—(continued). Skilled masons', slaters' and plasterers' labourers, scaffolders and navvies employed in steel works	Rate of 52s. per week adopted for skilled labourers and scaffolders, and of 46s. per week for navvies.*
	Workington ...	3 Feb.	Steel millmen, engineers' labourers and general labourers Engineers employed in steel works	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 42s. per week plus 40 per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
	Barrow-in-Furness	3 Feb.	Rail millmen Enginemen, cranemen, etc. ...	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 31½ per cent. above the standard. Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
	Shotton	4 Feb.	Mill enginemen, boilermakers, millwrights and their assistants, and cranemen	Increase† of 4 per cent., making wages 70 per cent. above the standard.
	Scunthorpe	3 Feb.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers, general labourers, etc. Bricklayers' and joiners' labourers employed at blast-furnaces and in steel works Men employed in steel rolling mills:— Millmen, gas producemen, enginemen, cranemen, firemen, etc. Semi-skilled workers and labourers	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. Decrease† of 0.12d. or 0.13d. per hour. Rate after change, 10.46d. or 10.47d. per hour.
	West of Scotland	3 Feb.	Bricklayers' labourers in steel works Joiners in steel works	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. Decrease† of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 79 per cent. Decrease† of 0.09d. per hour (9.66d. to 9.57d.). Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.).
	London District ...	Pay immediately following 2 Feb.	ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING. Qualified toolmakers†	Rate fixed for men engaged as (or promoted to the status of) qualified toolmakers,† at 1½d. per hour above the district rate (viz., 1s. 1d. per hour, plus 10s. per week war bonus) for skilled fitters and turners.§ (See entry under Iron and Steel Manufacture.)
	Sheffield District...	Middle of Jan.	Skilled masons', slaters', and plasterers' labourers, scaffolders, and navvies employed in engineering establishments	Increase of 2s. per week in minimum base rate. Rate after change: 26s. per week plus 17s. war advance. (See Decision No. 868 on p. 111.)
	Great Britain ...	1st full pay after 7 Feb.	Unskilled labourers employed in H.M. dockyards and Admiralty establishments	
			OTHER METAL TRADES.	
Galvanising	England and Wales||	Feb.	Workpeople employed in galvanising departments (excluding process of annealing)	Increase† of 4 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 70 per cent. above the standard.
Cable Making	Greater London Area	1st pay after 1 Jan. Pay preceding 1st pay after 2 Mar.	Jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electric cable making industry Plumber-jointers and plumber jointers' mates employed in the electric cable making industry	Increase† of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: jointers, 1s. 6.78d.; jointers' mates, 1s. 4.52d. per hour. Increase of 1½d. per hour for plumber-jointers and of 1d. per hour for plumber-jointers' mates. Rates after change: plumber-jointers, 1s. 10d.; plumber-jointers' mates, 1s. 5½d.
Chain Making	Great Britain ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in making dollied and tommyed chain from iron, No. 6 I.S.W.G. to 1½ in. diameter, and hand hammered chain from iron ¾ in. diameter and over up to 1½ in. diameter inclusive	General minimum time rates reduced under Trade Boards Acts from amounts, varying with size of iron from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11½d. per hour, to amounts similarly varying from 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 10½d. per hour in cases where employer provides workshop, tools and fuel, with corresponding decreases for workers providing any of the above-mentioned accessories, and for learners; corresponding reductions also made in the general minimum piece rates. The revised rates to be applied whether or not the employer supplies the iron. (See also p. 72 of the February GAZETTE.)
Spring Manufacture	Sheffield	1st full pay after 13 Feb.	Laminated spring fitters and vicemen, smiths and strikers	Increase† of 1s. per week in flat-rate bonus.
Textile Printing, Dyeing, etc.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Mar.	TEXTILE TRADES. Machine calico printers ...	Supplementary "cost of living" wage increased¶ from 63.75 per cent to 67.15 per cent. on basis wages, the flat-rate bonus of 10s. per week for journeymen and 9s. for apprentices remaining unchanged.
	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 16 Feb.	Male workers employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trades	Increase¶ of 6d. per week for those of 15 to 22 years, and of 7d. per week for those of 22½ years; the rates for those of 14 and 14½ years remaining unchanged. Rates after change: 16s. at 14 years, increasing to 51s. 7d. at 22½ years.
Baking and Confectionery.	Barrhead and Coatbridge	Feb.	FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES. Bakers and confectioners..	Increase¶ of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 76s. 6d.
	Dumfries and Maxwelltown	25 Feb.	Bakers and confectioners..	Increase¶ of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 71s.

* This change took effect under an agreement between the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives (Sheffield Branch). It was agreed that when navvies are called upon to do timbering in trenches, pits, etc., they shall be paid an "all in" rate of 52s. per week for the time when so employed.

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

‡ i.e., workmen who have qualified either by an indentured apprenticeship or by its equivalent as skilled engineering mechanics and have acquired at least twelve months' general experience on skilled toolmaking such as may be required for the purposes of a general engineering establishment.

§ The new rate was fixed by an agreement between the London and District Association of Engineering Employers and the Amalgamated Engineering Union. The London Area is defined as the Area within a twelve 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. It was further provided in the agreement that (a) toolmaking and the work of a tool-room shall be treated as the work of an engineering production shop, on which all grades of labour may be employed, (b) no special rates shall be attached to work because it consists of the manufacture of tools or because it is done in a tool-room. The only claim to a special rate can arise from the special skill and ability required for the work to be performed.

Certain firms—members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.

This 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 FEBRUARY, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Furniture Manufacture	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.			
	London	1 Feb.	Female french polishers	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Minimum rate after change, 1s. 1d.
	Huddersfield	Week ending 11 Jan.	Cabinet makers, woodcutting machinists, upholsterers, and french polishers	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Sheffield	1 Feb.	Retail trade:— Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, woodcutting machinists, upholsterers, french polishers, carpet planners and cutters, and carpet and lino fitters	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: carpet and lino fitters, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; other classes, 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
			Wholesale trade:— Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	York	1 Feb.	Skilled female workers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.).
	Lancaster	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, french polishers and upholsterers	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	North-East Lancashire† and Todmorden	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, carvers, french polishers, machinists and upholsterers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
			Cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 8d.), and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers.
	Oldham	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Rochdale	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Warrington	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Derby	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, carvers, turners, machinists, french polishers and upholsterers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Ipswich	1 Feb.	Furniture trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for skilled men (1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 5d.), and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for labourers (1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.).
	Leicester	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	North Staffordshire (including Stoke, Hanley, and Newcastle-under-Lyme)	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, french polishers and upholsterers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
			Cabinet makers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change, carvers 1s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; others, 1s. 6d.
	Peterborough	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers, carvers, french polishers and upholsterers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: carvers, 1s. 8d.; others, 1s. 5d.
	Reading	1 Feb.	Cabinet makers and machinists	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Edinburgh	1 Feb.	Upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 7d.).
Female polishers and sewers			Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.).	
Building, &c.	BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.			
	London and Districts within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross; also Epsom and Watford	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives	Increase† of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen and for crane, engine, etc., drivers, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for scaffolders, labourers, etc. Rates after change: masons (fixers), 1s. 9d.; painters, 1s. 7d.; bricklayers, masons (banker hands), slaters and tilers, plumbers, plasterers and other craftsmen, 1s. 8d.; electric derrick drivers, 1s. 7d.; steam derrick drivers, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; marble polishers, 1s. 6d.; crane and overhead traveller drivers, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; engine drivers, scaffolders and timbermen, 1s. 4d.; labourers, boiler attendants and crane signalmen, 1s. 3d.
	Other towns in Great Britain (with certain exceptions—see p. 104)	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives (excluding plasterers and painters in Scotland)	Increase† for craftsmen of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour, and for labourers of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in some districts and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in others.† [For towns affected and rates of wages after change see Table on p. 104.]
	Bridlington and Scarborough	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 7d.) and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for labourers (1s. 2d. to 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).§
	Kettering and Wellingborough	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen (except plasterers at Wellingborough), 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.§
	Oakham, Raunds, Rushden and Uxeter	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 5d.), and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for labourers (1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.).§
	Certain other towns in the Midland Counties||	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.§
	Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem, Hanley, Newcastle-under-Lyme and District	1 Feb.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plasterers, painters and labourers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.
	Isle of Wight	4 Feb.	Building trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.§
	New Forest (including Brockenhurst, Lyminster, Lyndhurst, Milford, New Milton and Ringwood)	4 Feb.	Building trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.§
	Certain other towns in the Southern Counties Area¶	4 Feb.	Building trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.§

* 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 change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

§ This increase took effect as the result of the district having been up graded, under the National Grading Scheme. The increase was in addition to that given under the "cost of living" sliding scale of the National Wages and Conditions Council (see above), and the rates after change include the effect of both increases.

|| Including Burt-on-Trent, Dudley, Knowle, Northampton, Solihull, Stafford, Stourbridge, Old Hill, Brierley Hill, Halesowen, Swadincote, Walsall, Wednesbury, and Darlaston. It is reported that the new rate for plumbers at Stafford is 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.

¶ Including Addlestone, Atherham, Ascot, Beaconsfield, Bracknell, Chatham, Chesham, Gillingham, Henley, Maidenhead, Maidstone, Rochester, and Wokingham.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1924—(continued).

Industry	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES —(continued.)				
Building, etc. (contd.)	Bideford	2 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	Exeter, Newton Abbot, Paignton and Torquay	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (painters at Exeter, 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.); labourers, 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.*
	Bath, Cheltenham and Gloucester ...	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen and $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (painters at Gloucester 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.); labourers, 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.*
	Hereford, Swindon and Weston-super-Mare	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: painters, Weston-super-Mare, 1s. 5d.; Hereford and Swindon, 1s. 4d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.*
	Princetown	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen and $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: painters, 1s. 4d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.*
	Stroud and Taunton	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (painters at Stroud, 1s. 4d.); labourers, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.*
	Certain other towns in the South Western Counties†	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: painters, 1s. 3d. (except in special cases referred to in note†); other craftsmen, 1s. 4d.; labourers, 1s.*
	Milford Haven ...	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Rates adopted of 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen and 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for labourers.
	Certain districts in Scotland†	4 Feb.	Plasterers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Arbroath	4 Feb.	Plasterers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
Electrical Installation	Inverness	1 Feb.	Painters	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 4d.).
			French polishers employed in the building and shop-fitting industry	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 8d.).
	London	1 Feb.	Brass and metal mechanics employed in the shop-fitting industry	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, with not less than 5 years' experience in the metal industry, 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; semi-skilled men, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; assistants, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
			Glaziers and assistants ...	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: glaziers, 1s. 7d.; assistants, 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	Manchester, Salford and District	1 Feb.	Decorative glassworkers and lead light cementers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: decorative glassworkers, 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; lead light cementers, 1s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.
	England and Wales and Northern Ireland‡	Pay preceding 1st pay day after 2 Mar.	Concretors and asphalters ...	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
			Men employed by electrical contractors	Increase of 5 per cent. on standard rates of April, 1921, leaving wages 27 per cent. below standard rates. Net hourly rates after change for qualified men: Grade A Districts, 1s. 10d.; Grade B, 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Grade C, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Grade D, 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	TRANSPORT TRADES.			
	Great Britain ...	Feb.¶	Dock labourers and other workers (except coal trimmers and tippers¶) employed in actual handling of cargoes in or on a ship, quay, warehouse or craft:—	
Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour			Timeworkers	Increase of 1s. per day of 8 hours or 6d. for half-day. Minimum daily rates after change: larger ports, 11s.**; smaller ports, 10s.**
			Pieceworkers	Increase of 5 per cent.†† on rates in operation on 1 August, 1921, leaving wages 25 per cent. below such rates; where the piece rates have been revised since 1921 an increase of an amount corresponding to the above to be given.

* This increase took effect as the result of the district having been up-graded, under the National Grading Scheme. The increase was in addition to that given under the "cost of living" sliding scale of the National Wages and Conditions Council (see p. 100), and the rates after change include the effect of both increases.

† Including Box, Bradford-on-Avon, Bridgwater (painters, 1s. 4d.), Burnham-on-Sea (painters, 1s. 4d.), Cirencester, Coleford, Corsham, Fairford, Lydney, Melksham, Tetbury, Thornbury (painters, 1s. 4d.), Totnes (painters, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.), Trowbridge, Westbury, Weymouth, and Yeovil.

‡ The change took effect under an arrangement arrived at between the Scottish Master Plasterers' Association and the Scottish National Operative Plasterers' Federal Union. The principal districts affected are as follows:—Airdrie, Alloa, Alva, Ayr, Bellshill, Bridge of Weir, Clidebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Govan, Grangemouth, Greenock, Hamilton, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Kirkealdy, Larbert, Largs, Leith, Motherwell, Neilston, Newmains, Paisley, Perth, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, St. Nicholas, Stirling, Uddingston, and Wishaw.

§ The change took effect under an arrangement made between the National Federated Electrical Association and the Electrical Trades' Union. The various districts are graded as follows:—

Grade A.—London district (within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross) and Watford.

Grade B.—Mersey district (including Liverpool, Birkenhead, and Wallasey), Chester, Shotton, and Wrexham, Southport, Manchester district (including Ashton, Atherton, Bolton, Bury, Dukinfield, Hyde, Leigh, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport, Warrington, and Wigan), South Wales and Glamorgan (including Bargoed, Barry, Cardiff, Chepstow, Llanelli, Newport, Penarth and Swansea), Tyne-side, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Stockton, Darlington, Middlesbrough, West Riding of Yorkshire districts including Barnsley, Batley, Bradford, Castleford, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Ilkley, Keighley, Leeds, Morley, Normanton, Pontefract, Selby, Shipley, Wakefield, and York, Sheffield district, Hull, Birmingham district (including Coventry, Dudley, Leamington, Oldbury, Smethwick, Sutton Coldfield, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, and Wolverhampton), and Bristol.

Grade C.—Bath, Bournemouth, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chatham, Crayford, Dartford, Devonport, Faversham, Gravesend, Luton, Maidstone, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester, Sheerness, Sittingbourne, Southampton, Belfast, Londonderry, towns and districts (other than those already specified) in the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Hertfordshire (outside London Area), Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Sussex, Surrey and Middlesex (outside London Area), Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire.

Grade D.—Other towns and counties in England and Wales.

¶ The increase is the first instalment of an increase of 2s. per day (and corresponding increases to pieceworkers). The first instalment (shown above) was to take effect from the date of resumption of work (usually 26th February) and the second instalment from on and after 2nd June. In the case of permanent men the second instalment is to take effect from the first pay week wholly worked for on 2nd June 1924.

¶ Coal trimmers at Glasgow and Manchester and tippers and trimmers at Liverpool and Garston and tippers at Ardrossan were affected.

** The classification of ports is as follows:—**Larger ports:** Aberdeen, Ardrossan, Avonmouth, Ayr, Barrow-in-Furness, Barry, Birkenhead, Blyth, Bristol, Cardiff, Chatham, Dundee, Falmouth, Garston, Glasgow, Grangemouth, Greenock, Hartlepool, Humber Ports, Ipswich, Irvine, King's Lynn, Lancaster, Leith, Liverpool, Llanelli, London, Lowestoft, Manchester, Maryport, Middlesbrough, Newport, Penarth, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Port Talbot, Preston, Queenborough, Rochester, Sharpness, Southampton, Stockton, Sunderland, Sutton Bridge, Swansea, Troon, Tyne Area, Weymouth, Whitehaven, Widnes, Wisbech, Workington and Yarmouth. **Smaller ports:** Arbroath, Aberystwith, Banff, Barnstaple, Berwick, Bridgwater, Briton Ferry, Carlisle, Colchester, Cowes, Dumfries, Exeter, Exmouth, Faversham, Fraserburgh, Hayle, Inverness, Isle of Man Ports, Kirkcaldy, Kirkwall, Lerwick, Montrose, Newhaven, Padstow, Penzance, Peterhead, Poole, Ramsgate, Scilly Isles, Stornoway, Teignmouth, Torquay, Whitby, Whitstable, Wick and Wigtown. At Boston and Gloucester the rate for general cargo workers is 1s. per day and the rate for timber, grain, minerals, oilcake, etc., workers is 11s. per day. At some ports differential daily rates, of which the following are examples, are in operation for certain classes of men:—**London:** Stevedores and dockers (except those on timber work) employed by ocean shipowners and master stevedores, 1s. 6d.; men employed by the Port of London Authority: deal porters, 7s. 9d. per half-day, other men 11s. per day; men employed by public wharfingers and short sea traders: shipwork, 1s. 6d.; quaywork, 11s. **Liverpool:** Coal heavers, 14s. 8d.; timberworkers, 12s.; stevedores, 13s.; riggers, 11s. 6d. **Garston:** loaders and riggers, 11s. 6d.; checkers and capstanmen, 11s. 9d.; steam crane drivers, outers, coal tip drivers, weighbridgemen, 12s.; coal tippers, 13s.; coal trimmers, 14s. 6d. **Manchester:** Timber men aboard ship, 12s. 6d.; men carrying from ship on quay, 13s. 4d.; men trimming bulk grain in hold, 14s. 6d.; men shovelling ore, 15s. 3d.; other shovelling work, 11s. 3d.; men discharging pig iron, 13s. per day; **Glasgow:** Iron ore men and coal trimmers, 6s. 4d. per half-day and 6s. 6d. (Saturdays); timber workers (lower reaches) 1s. 6d. per hour, (upper reaches) 1s. 5d. per hour; others 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. **Middlesbrough:** Men employed by master stevedores: stevedores, 14s. 6d. (day shift), and 21s. 9d. (night shift); slingers, 12s. day shift, and 18s. (night shift); hatchwaymen, 11s. (day shift), 18s. (night shift). Men employed by wharf owners (on basis of six full days per week): stevedores, 13s. 5d.; slingers and cranemen, 11s. 1d.; hatchwaymen, 10s. 1d.; floating cranemen employed by Keil and Lighter

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TRANSPORT TRADES—(continued).				
Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour	London	26 and 27 Feb.	Lightermen in rough goods trade	Increase of 6s. per week (72s. to 78s.).
			Other lightermen and watchmen	Increases of 1s. per day, 7d. per "short night" and 1s. 2d. per "long night." Rates after change: 11s. per day, 6s. 2d. per "short night" and 12s. 3d. per "long night."
			Apprentices to above	Increases, varying from 6d. to 10d. per day, from 4d. to 6d. per "short night" and from 5d. to 10d. per "long night."
			Tugmasters, mates, drivers, firemen, etc.	Increase of 6s. per week.
			Crews of sailing barges:—	Increase of 15 per cent. on tariff of 1912 (as amended in February, 1921), making rates 80 per cent. above list.
			Other than coal freights	Increase of 15 per cent. on tariff of 1912 (as amended in February, 1921), making rates 70 per cent. above list.
			With coal freights	
Road Transport	Belfast	1st pay day in Feb.	Road transport workers	Increase* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: one horse carters, 54s.; two horse carters (light) 59s., (heavy) 62s.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Gas Undertakings	Dundee	1 Feb.	General workers	Increase of ½d. per hour or 2s. per week. Rate after change for labourers, 1s. 2¾d.
	Belfast	1 Jan.	Adult male workers†	Increase of 1d. per hour or 8d. per shift for labourers (11½d. to 1s. 0¾d.).
Waterworks Undertakings	Certain districts in the Home Counties‡	1st pay day in Jan.	Able-bodied male manual workers	Increase* of 1s. per week. Scheduled minimum rates after change for labourers: Grade D areas, 54s. 6d.; C, 51s. 3d.; A, 42s. 9d. per week.†
	Dundee	1 Feb.	Pipelayers and labourers	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: pipe layers, 1st grade, 1s. 7½d.; 2nd grade, 1s. 5½d.; labourers, 1s. 2¾d. and 1s. 3¾d. per hour.
Electricity Undertakings	Dundee	1 Feb.	Outdoor labourers	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2¾d.).
	Belfast	1 Jan.	Adult male workers†	Increase* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change for labourers: indoor, 1s. 0½d.; outdoor, 1s. 0¾d.
Tramways Undertakings	Walthamstow	24 Jan.	Bodymakers, painters, blacksmiths and brush hands	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: body-makers and painters, 1s. 8½d.; brush hands, 1s. 6¼d. per hour.
	West Ham	12 Dec., 1923	Coachmakers, coach painters, wheelwrights and brush hands	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: coach-makers, coach painters and wheelwrights, 1s. 8½d.; brush hands, 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 6¾d. per hour.
Port, Harbour and River Authorities	Various ports in Great Britain§	26 Feb.	Dock labourers and other workers (except coal trimmers and tippers) engaged in the actual handling of cargoes, employed by certain port, river and dock authorities¶	Increase of 1s. per day of 8 hours or 6d. per half-day for timeworkers; pieceworkers' earnings increased by 5 per cent. on rates in operation on 1st August, 1921, leaving wages 25 per cent. below such rates. Minimum rate after change, 11s. per day.
	Bristol	26 Feb.	Permanent men connected with dock employed by Docks Committee	Increase of 4s. 6d. per week.
	Preston (Ribble Navigation)	26 Feb.	Crews of floating plant	Increases in bonus of 4s. per week for men and of 2s. for boys. Rate after change for seamen and firemen, 62s. per week.
	Oxford, Reading, Weybridge	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed by the Thames Conservancy:— Regular men Temporary men	Increase* of 1s. per week in bonus. Increase of ½d. per hour for tradesmen and of ¼d. for labourers.
	West Riding of Yorkshire||	1st full pay after 1 Feb.	Male manual workers	Increase* of ½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change for certain classes:—Grade A areas: destructor stokers, 1s. 3d.; steam roller and wagon drivers, 1s. 2½d.; petrol wagon drivers, 1s. 2d.; carters and dry ashmen, 1s. 1½d.; gully cleaners, sweepers, dustmen and labourers, 1s. 1d.; Grade B areas, 1d. per hour less; Grade C areas, 2d. per hour less; and Grade D areas, 3d. per hour less than rates quoted for Grade A areas.||
Non-trading Services of Local Authorities	York	31 Jan.	Manual workers	Increase* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, carters and refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d.; day scavengers, 1s. 1½d.; night scavengers and carters, 1s. 3½d. per hour.

(Continued from previous page.)—

Owners' Association, 12s. 3d. *Hartlepool*: Iron ore men, 1s. 6½d. per hour; others 1s. 4½d. per hour. *Hull*: Fillers (grain and seed), 11s. 8d.; fillers (mineral), 12s. 5d.; pitch workers, 13s.; weekly lightermen, 56s. 6d. per week; deal carriers in merchant yards, tallymen, 11s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. (labourers when piling away, 12s.). *Newhaven*: Men on timber, coal, stone, etc., cargoes, 1s. 4d. per day extra. *Bristol*: Grain workers, 11s. and 11s. 6d.; boiler scalers and shore donkeymen, 12s.; timber workers, 11s. for weekdays, 8s. for Saturdays. *Cardiff, Penarth and Barry*: Pit prop workers (a) in hold, 12s. 6d.; (b) other work, 11s.; deal carriers, 13s. 6d. *Dundee*: Jute cargoes, 11s. 8d.; coaling, 12s. 8d.

† The reductions for pieceworkers were applied in the manner stated at the majority of the ports. Exceptions included the following:—*London*: Men employed by Ocean Shipowners and Master Stevedores—The increase for pieceworkers was applied by restoring the rates paid prior to the decrease in July, 1923. Men on timber cargoes—The tariff list of April, 1923, was restored. *Hartlepool*: Increase of 6 per cent. on tariff rates of July, 1920; this increase was limited to account of six days' pay being given for a full week (to make up the normal amount of 5s. 6d. per week). Lightermen and keelmen employed by Keel and Lighter Owners' Association were increased by ½d. to 5½d. per ton, also coal trimmers from 1s. 7d. to 1s. 9½d. per ton, less 5 per cent. *Hull*: Timber-workers, percentage of 75 on tariff rates increased to 87½. *Farmouth*: There was no increase for pieceworkers as no reduction was made from piecework rates in July, 1923. *Bristol* and *Avonmouth*: A revised schedule was adopted for grain-workers which restored the rates operative prior to the July, 1923, reduction. *Cardiff, Barry and Penarth*: A revised schedule was put into force for pitwood workers, which resulted in an average increase of an amount equal to 5 per cent. on the rates paid at 1st August, 1921. *Glasgow*: Grain workers, an increase of 1s. per 10 tons. *Ayr, Troon and Ardrossan*: men discharging iron-ore and limestone, 12s. 8d. per day (minimum).

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. † Excluding those classes of tradesmen whose wages are regulated by movements in their own trade.

‡ The Undertakings affected are those which follow the Schedule D, C and A rates of the Home Counties Joint Industrial Council for Waterworks Undertakings, and include the following:—Grade D: Richmond; Grade C: Brighton; Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester Waterworks Co.; Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (distribution men); Folkestone Waterworks Co.; Grade A: Colne Valley Water Co.; Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (pump men). The scheduled minimum rate for Grade B remains unchanged at 47s. per week.

§ The Authorities affected include the Port of London Authority, the Tyne Improvement Commissioners, the Blyth Harbour Commission, the River Wear Commission, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, the Bristol Docks Committee, Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation), and the Clyde Navigation Trust. Further details in respect of the Port of London Authority are given in footnote ** on p. 101.

|| The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and include the following:—Grade A Areas: Bradford, Halifax, Rotherham, Wakefield, Holmfirth, Marsden, Meltham, Slaithwaite; Grade B Areas: Doncaster, Ossett, Pontefract, Todmorden, Adwick-le-Street, Altofts, Mirfield, Normanton, Otley, Sowerby Bridge, Wath-upon-Deane, Rotherham R.D.C. Grade C Areas: Birkenhead, Clifton, Denholme, Guiseley, Haworth, Hebden Bridge, Horbury, Penistone, Selby, Kiveton Park R.D.C. Grade D Areas: R.D.C.'s of Barnsley, Pontefract, Todmorden.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1924—(continued).

Industry	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
Non-trading Services of Local Authorities (contd.)	Barnsley	1 Feb.	PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES—(continued). Manual workers employed in non-trading and Waterworks Departments	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rate after change for general labourers, 1s. 2d. per hour; road labourers, 1s. 3d.
	Burnley, Bolton, Manchester, Preston and Rochdale	1 Feb.	Paviors, masons, labourers, etc.	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.
	Blackburn	1 Feb.	Manual workers employed in non-trading and Waterworks Departments	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.
	Cambridge	1 Feb.	Manual workers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for tradesmen and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for labourers. Rates after change: labourers, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; tradesmen (paviors and masons), 1s. 4d.
	Ipswich	3 Jan.	General labourers, horse drivers, scavengers and roadmen	Increase* of 1s. 4d. per week (46s. 8d. to 48s.).
	London (certain Authorities)†	1st pay day in Feb.	Manual workers	Increase* of $\frac{1}{4}$ th of original bonus as agreed in June, 1920, leaving a bonus of $\frac{1}{8}$ ths of the original amount. Scheduled minimum rates after change: general labourers, 60s. 5d.; scavengers, 57s.; female lavatory and bath attendants, 44s. 7d. per week.
	East Ham	1 Feb.	Manual workers	Basis rates and bonuses revised in accordance with the Agreement made by the London Joint Industrial Council in 1922, half the bonus being incorporated in wages, and the other half remaining subject to variation with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, resulting in no change in some cases and in increases varying from 2s. 2d. to 4s. 10d. in others. Rates after change: road scavengers, 59s. 2d.; refuse collectors, 60s. 7d.; road labourers, 60s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; general yard labourers, 64s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	Acton, Edmonton, Hanwell, Ilford, Tottenham	1 Feb.	Manual workers	Increase* of $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the original bonus. Rates after change for general labourers: Acton, 58s. 4d.; Edmonton, 57s.; Hanwell, 49s. 6d.; Ilford, 56s. 6d.; Tottenham, 62s. 11d. per week.
	Exeter	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed on roads, footpaths and sewers, etc.	Increase of 1d. per hour for paviors and masons and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for labourers. Rates after change: labourers, 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; paviors and masons, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.
	Plymouth	6 Feb.	Masons, paviors and labourers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, 1s. 2d.; paviors, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; masons, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.
	Dundee	1 Feb.	Paviors, beaters and labourers in Works Department	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: paviors, 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	Edinburgh	1 Jan.	Manual workers employed in non-trading and Waterworks Departments	Increase* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: road and waterworks labourers, 53s.; scavengers, 49s. to 54s.; pipe jointers, 57s. 3d. to 61s. 3d. per week.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES				
Leather Belt Manufacture	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Timeworkers	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled—London, 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Provinces, 1s. 4d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s. 1d.; Provinces, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Leather Manufacture	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales	1st pay day in Jan.	Pieceworkers and cutters on day work	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, increased* from 75 to 77.
Warehousing	Liverpool	22 Feb.	Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture	"Cost of living" wage increased* from 75 to 80 per cent. on minimum basic rates.
Newspaper Distribution	England and Wales (except London)†	Pay day in week ending 15 Dec., 1923	Warehousemen employed in the cotton, rubber, canned goods, provision, etc., trade:— Casual men Permanent men	Increase of 1s. 6d. per day (10s. to 11s. 6d.). Increase of 7s. 6d. per week (55s. to 62s. 6d.).
	London	1st pay day in Feb.	Male juniors (new entrants) employed by wholesale newsagents in newspaper and periodical distributing departments	Graduated scale of minimum weekly rates adopted as follows:—Youths starting at 16 years to receive 17s. 6d. during first six months, those starting at 17 years, 22s. 6d., and those starting at 18 years, 27s., such rates increasing each half-year up to 63s. per week.
	Liverpool	23 Nov., 1923	Workpeople employed in the exhibition stand fitting, etc., trade	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled, 1s. 6d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 4d.; unskilled, 1s. 2d.
	Edinburgh and Leith	5 Jan.	Workpeople employed by undertakers:— Coachmen, stablemen, harness cleaners and washers	Decrease of 3s. per week for weekly men (63s. to 60s.), and of 1s. per day (11s. to 10s.) or 6d. per half-day (5s. 6d. to 5s.) for casual men.
	Fife and Kinross	1 Jan.	Motor men Coffin makers and polishers...	Decrease of 3s. per week (66s. to 63s.). Decrease of 3s. per week (69s. 6d. to 66s. 6d.).
	Other Trades and Occupations		Window cleaners Assistants employed by co-operative societies:— Male workers	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). New scale of weekly rates adopted starting at 13s. during 1st year, increasing to 32s. during 5th year, and to 60s. during 8th year; second hands to receive 5s. extra.
			Female workers	New scale of weekly rates adopted starting at 12s. during 1st year, increasing to 25s. during 5th year, and to 40s. during 8th year; second hands to receive 3s. extra.

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

† Viz: Chiswick, Finsbury, Hammersmith, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Leyton, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Westminster. In the case of Lambeth and Leyton the total bonus remaining is $\frac{1}{4}$ ths of the original amount. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ from the actual minima quoted above.

‡ The new rates are embodied in an agreement arrived at between the Provincial Wholesale Newsagents' Association and the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers, and apply to "new entrants" only.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH, 1924.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes already reported as having been arranged to take effect in March:—
Increases—Coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, and in Scotland; brickmakers at Peterborough; blastfurnace workers in Cumberland; brewery workers at Burton; mill sawyers in Scotland; men employed by electrical contractors in Scotland; and workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire. *Decreases*—Coal miners in Durham. Particulars of these changes will be included in the April GAZETTE.

The following Table shows the revised rates of wages, in operation from 1st February, for craftsmen (bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plumbers, plasterers and painters), and labourers in Great Britain (outside London), after the increases referred to on p. 100. For particulars of the towns included in the various grades as distinguished by the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry at the end of February see below. The rates of wages in the London district are shown on page 100.

of the towns included in the various districts are shown on page 100.
below. The rates of wages in the London district are shown on page 100.

Grade.				Craftsmen.		Labourers.		Grade.				Craftsmen.		Labourers.							
				s.	d.	s.	d.					s.	d.	s.	d.						
A	1	7½	1	2¾	B	..	..	1	5½	1	1½	C	..	..	1	4	1	0
A1	1	7	1	2¾	B1	..	..	1	5	1	0¾	C1	..	..	1	3½	11	¾
A2	1	6½	1	2	B2	..	..	1	4½	1	0½	C2	..	..	1	3	11	¼
A3	1	6	1	1½	B3	..	..	1	4	1	0	[For London see page 100.]						

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

NORTH EAST COAST:—
Grade A.—Alnwick, Annfield Plain, Barnard Castle, Bishop Auckland, Blackhill, Blyth, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Crook, Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Hebburn, Hexham, Jarrow, Middlesbrough, Morpeth, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Seaham Harbour, Shildon, Stanley, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland, Thornaby, Wallsend, Whitburn, Whitley Bay, Willington and Wooler. **Grade A2.**—Berwick-on-Tweed.

YORKSHIRE:—
Grade A.—Barnsley, Batley, Bingley, Birstall, Bradford, Brighouse, Castleford, Cleethorpes, Colne Valley, Crosshills, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Grimsby, Guiseley, Halifax, Harrogate, Hebden Bridge, Holmfirth, Horbury, Hoyland, Huddersfield, Hull, Ikley, Immingham, Keighley, Leeds, Mexborough, Mirfield, Morley, Normanton, Ossett, Penistone, Pontefract, Pudsey, Rawdon, Rotherham, Scunthorpe, Selby, Sheffield, Shipley, Sowerby Bridge, Spen Valley, Stocksbridge, Wakefield, Wombwell, Yeadon and York. **Grade A1.**—Bridlington and Scarborough. **Grade A3.**—Barnoldswick, Beverley, Goole, Skipton, Whitby and Worksop.
Grade B3.—Kirby Moorside, Malton, and Norton.

NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES:—
Grade A.—Accrington, Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Atherton, Bacup, Barrow, Birkdale, Bispham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Broughton (Flints), Burnley, Bury, Carlisle, Chester, Chorley, Church, Clayton-le-Moors, Cleveleys, Clitheroe, Colne, Connahs Quay, Darwen, Denton, Dukinfield, Eccles, Farnworth, Fleetwood, Frodsham, Glossop, Great Harwood, Haslingden, Hawarden, Helsby, Heywood, Horwich, Hyde, Kirkham, Leigh, Leyland, Littleborough, Lytham, Manchester, Middleton, Mossley, Nelson, Oldham, Ormskirk, Oswaldtwistle, Padiham, Pendlebury, Poulton, Preston, Prestwich, Queensferry, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Rishton, Rochdale, Runcorn, St. Anne on the Sea, St. Helens, Saddleworth, Sale, Salford, Shaw, Shotton, Southport, Stalybridge, Stockport, Swinton, Thornton, Todmorden, Tyldesley, Walkden, Warrington, Westhoughton, Whalley, Whitefield, Widnes, Wigan and Wilmslow. **Grade A1.**—Wrexham. **Grade A2.**—Lancaster, Morecambe, and Carnforth. **Grade A3.**—Buxton, Cleator Moor, Congleton, Crewe, Distington, Egremont, Grange-over-Sands, Harrington, Hayfield, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Maryport, Market Drayton, Middlewich, Milom, Nantwich, New Mills, Northwich, Sandbach, Tarporley, Ulverston, Whitehaven, Winsford, and Workington. **Grade B1.**—Colwyn Bay, Conway, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Prestatyn, and Rhyl. **Grade B2.**—Ambleside, Bala, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cockermouth, Grasmere, Kendal, Langdale, and Windermere. **Grade B3.**—Bangor.

[NOTE.—In the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts the rates remain unaltered at 1s. 8½d. for carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, and painters, 1s. 9d. for other craftsmen, and 1s. 3½d. for labourers. The new rate for plumbers at Warrington is reported as 1s. 8½d.]

Grade A.—Alfreton, Belper, Bilston, Birmingham, Blackheath, Chesterfield, Coalville, Coventry, Derby, Heanor, Hinckley, Ilkeston, Langley Mill, Leicester, Lincoln, Long Eaton, Loughborough, Mansfield, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Ripley, Sutton Coldfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, West Bromwich, Willenhall and Wolverhampton. **Grade A2.**—Brierley Hill, Burton-on-Trent, Darlaston, Dudley, Halesowen, Knowle, Northampton, Old Hill, Rugby, Solihull, Stafford, Stourbridge, Swadlincote, Walsall, and Wednesbury. **Grade A3.**—Atherstone, Boston, Bromsgrove, Cannock, Droitwich, Gainsborough, Grantham, Hednesford, Kidderminster, Leamington, Leek, Lichfield, Louth, Malvern, Matlock, Melton Mowbray, Newark, Peterborough, Redditch, Retford, Rugeley, Shrewsbury, Skegness, Sleaford, Stourport, Stratford-on-Avon, Tamworth, Warwick, Wellington, and Worcester. **Grade B.**—Kettering, Market Harborough, and Wellingborough (except plasterers). **Grade B1.**—Oakham, Raunds, Rushden, and Uttoxeter. **Grade B2.**—Bridgnorth, Horncastle, Newport, Spalding, and Warksworth. **Grade C.**—Huntingdon and District.

[NOTE.—The new rate for plumbers at Stafford is reported as 1s. 7½d., and at Chesterfield as 1s. 8½d.]

Grade A3.—St. Albans and Welwyn Garden City. **Grade B.**—Brentwood. **Grade B1.**—Baldock, Bedford, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Clacton-on-Sea, Colchester, Frinton, Haistead, Harpenden, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hitchin, Ingatestone, Ipswich, Letchworth, Luton, Norwich, Ongar, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stotfold, Walton-on-the-Naze, and Ware. **Grade B2.**—Dovercourt, Felixstowe, Gorleston, Harwich, Lowestoft, Newmarket, and Yarmouth. **Grade B3.**—Amphill, Attleborough, Aylsham, Bishop's Stortford, Braughing, Cromer, Dunstable, Ely, King's Lynn, Leighton Buzzard, March, Much Hadham, Sawbridgeworth, Southwold, Standon, Stowmarket, and Woodbridge. **Grade C1.**—Aldeburgh, Halesworth, Leiston, Saxmundham, Wickham Market, and Wymondham. **Grade C2.**—Coltishall, Royston, and Saffron Walden.

Grade A3.—Cobham, Gravesend, Leatherhead, Northfleet and Weybridge. **Grade B1.**—Abingdon, Addlestone, Amersham, Ascot, Beaconsfield, Bournemouth, Bracknell, Brighton, Byfleet, Chalfonts, Chatham, Chesh m, Christchurch, Dorking, Eastbourne, Eastleigh, Eton, Gillingham, Gosport, Guildford, Henley, Hove, Maidenhead, Ma dstone, Oxford, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Redhill, Reigate, Rochester, Slough, Southampton, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Windsor, Woking, and Wokingham. **Grade B2.**—Bexhill, Bramley, Cranleigh, Fareham, Godalming, Haslemere, Littlehampton, New Forest (including Brockenhurst, Lymington, Lyndhurst, Milford, New Milton, and Ringwood), Oxted, Sevenoaks, Winchester, Witley and Worthling. **Grade B3.**—Ashford (Kent), Aylesbury, Banbury, Basingstoke, Bicester, Bognor, Bosham, Broadstairs, Buckingham, Burgess Hill, Canterbury, Chichester, Deal, Dover, East Grinstead, Faringdon, Faversham, Fenny Stratford, Folkestone, Hastings, Horsham, Hythe, Lingfield, Margate, Milton Regis, Newbury, Newport Pagnell, Pangbourne, Petworth, Ramsgate, Sandgate, Sittingbourne, Stony Stratford, Walmer, Westgate, Winslow, Witney, Wolverton, and Woodstock. **Grade C1.**—Andover, Haywards Heath, Isle of Wight, and Tidworth. **Grade C2.**—Alton,* Bishop's Waltham, Farnham, Hartley Wintney,* and Staplehurst.

Grade A.—Bristol. **Grade B.**—Bath, Cheltenham, Exeter,* Gloucester,* Newton Abbot, Paignton and Torquay. **Grade B1.**—Hereford,* Ross-on-Wye,* Princetown,* Swindon,* and Weston-super-Mare.* **Grade B2.**—Barnstaple, Stroud† and Taunton. **Grade B3.**—Box*, Bradford-on-Avon,* Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea, Chipping Sodbury, Cirencester*, Cleveon, Coleford,* Corsham,* Exmouth, Fairford,* Lydney,* Melksham,* Tetbury,* Thornbury, Totnes,† Trowbridge,* Weymouth,* Westbury,* and Yeovil.* **Grade C1.**—Bruton, Castle Cary, Cheddar,* Glastonbury, Midsomer Norton, Minchhead,* Ottery St. Mary, Radstock, Tiverton,* Wells.

Grade A.—Aberdare, Abertillery, Ammanford, Barry, Blaenau, Bridgend, Briton Ferry, Brynaman, Brynmawr, Burry Port, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Clydach, Ebbw Vale, East Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire Valleys, Gorseinon, Llanelli, Maesteg, Merthyr, Mountain Ash, Neath, Newport, Ogmore Vale, Penygroes, Pontardawe, Pontardulais, Pontypool, Pontypridd, Porthcawl, Rhondda Valley, Skewen, Swansea, Tredegar, and Ystalyfera. **Grade A2.**—Abergavenny, and Chepstow. **Grade B.**—Brecon, Carmarthen, Llandilo, Llandrindod Wells, and Milford Haven. **Grade C.**—Haverfordwest, and Pembroke Dock.

Grade A.—Airdrie, Alloa, Alva, Ayr, Barrhead, Bridge of Weir, Burntisland, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dalkeith, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourock, Grangemouth, Greenock, Haddington, Hamilton, Irvine, Johnstone, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Lanark, Larbert, Leith, Leslie, Markinch, Motherwell, Musselburgh, Neilston, Newmans, North Berwick, Paisley, Pencaitland, Perth, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Stenhousemuir, Stirling, Uddingston, and Wishaw. **Grade A2.**—Arbroath, Montrose, Peebles. **Grade 2.**—Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Haddington, Hamilton, Irvine, Johnstone, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Lanark, Larbert, Leith, Leslie, Markinch, Motherwell, Musselburgh, Neilston, Newmans, North Berwick, Paisley, Pencaitland, Perth, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Stenhousemuir, Stirling, Uddingston, and Wishaw.

[NOTE.—The rates quoted do not apply to plasterers and painters in Scotland, who are not affiliated to the National Wages and Conditions Council. The new rate for labourers at Perth and Irvine is reported as 1s. 2½d., and at Ayrbroath and Montrose 1s. 1½d. In the case of plumbers in the Dumfries district the increase took effect from 11 February. At Aberdeen and Peterhead no increases were made in February.]

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

In certain sections of the iron and steel industry rates of wages are adjusted from time to time, under "sliding scale" agreements, in accordance with changes in the selling prices of specified iron and steel products, as indicated by results of periodical "ascertainments." The results of recent ascertainments of the selling prices of iron are given below :—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average Selling Price Per Ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Pig Iron :		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cleveland (No. 3) ..	Oct.-Dec.	95 1	— 4 6½	+ 6 8½
Cumberland .. (Hematite mixed numbers.)	Nov.-Dec.	99 10½	— 1 11	+
	Nov.	99 6½	— 0 7½	+ 7 9½
	Dec.	100 2½	+ 0 7½	+ 7 11½
North Staffordshire ..	Oct.-Dec.	95 10½	— 2 3½	+ 14 2½
Nottinghamshire ..	Oct.-Dec.	88 7½	— 5 0½	+ 8 3½
Northamptonshire ..	Oct.-Dec.	85 2½	— 4 4½	+ 12 5½
Lincolnshire ..	Oct.-Dec.	90 3½	— 1 5½	+ 13 7½
West of Scotland ..	Oct.-Dec.	99 5	— 5 11	+ 1 8
(All Classes of Pig Iron.)				
Manufactured Iron :				
North of England ..	Nov.-Dec.	231 5½	+ 9 4½	+ 31 8
(Bars and angles.)				
West of Scotland ..	Nov.-Dec.	241 0½	— 1 0½	+ 24 7
(Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.)				

Pig Iron.—The decrease in the ascertained selling price of Cleveland pig iron warranted a reduction of 4½ per cent. on standard rates, but as it was agreed to increase the standard selling price, upon which the sliding scale is based, from 61s. 6d. to 67s. 6d. per ton, the total decrease amounted to 10½ per cent. The reduction in the ascertained price of Cumberland pig iron for the months November-December resulted in a reduction of 2½ per cent. on standard rates in the wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire, and of 2d. per shift in the bargain price and of 2½d. per shift in the minimum wage of iron ore miners in the Furness district. The November and December ascertainments for Cumberland did not warrant any changes in the wages of iron ore miners or limestone quarrymen. The decrease in the ascertained selling price of North Staffordshire pig iron reduced the wages of blastfurnacemen by 3 per cent. The wages of blastfurnacemen in Nottinghamshire and parts of Derbyshire, and of ironstone miners in Leicestershire and the adjoining districts of Lincolnshire were reduced by 2½ per cent. as a result of the above ascertainment. In Northamptonshire the reduced ascertained price resulted in a reduction of 5½ per cent. in the wages of ironstone miners and blastfurnacemen. In North Lincolnshire the wages of ironstone miners and blastfurnacemen were reduced by 1½ per cent. as a result of the reduction in the ascertained price of Lincolnshire pig iron. In the West of Scotland the ascertainment reduced the wages of blastfurnacemen by 6 per cent.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the wages of puddlers and millmen were increased by 5 per cent. on standard rates, while in the West of Scotland the variation in the ascertained price did not warrant any change in the wages of puddlers and millmen.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages granted during February, 1924, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table :—

	Assisted Passages Granted in Feb., 1924	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Feb., 1924	Total Departures.	
		1922 and 1923	Jan.-Feb. 1924		1922 and 1923	Jan.-Feb. 1924
Assisted Passage Schemes :						
To Australia ..	1,982	33,030½	4,125	1,850	31,067	4,343
" New Zealand ..	528	7,617½	1,264	348	6,839	907
" Canada :						
Dominion of Canada	350	3,576½	441	359	3,519	441
Province of Ontario	..	1,34	24	12	1,312	44
Minor Schemes ..	227	1,623	280	192	1,581	203
TOTAL ..	3,087	47,189½	6,134	2,761	44,318	5,938

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

* Stated to the nearest farthing.
† No ascertainment was made for this period.
‡ Revised figures.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

The total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during February, 1924, was 56. Eight deaths‡ were reported during the month, three due to lead poisoning, four due to epitheliomatous ulceration, and one due to anthrax. In addition, six cases of lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during February, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—

Smelting of Metals ..	2
Plumbing and Soldering ..	3
Shipbreaking ..	16
Printing ..	1
Tinning of Metals ..	...
Other Contact with Molten Lead ..	2
White and Red Lead Works ..	...
† Pottery ..	4
Vitreous Enamelling ..	1
Electric Accumulator Works ..	1
Paint and Colour Works ..	...
Indiarubber Works ..	...
Coach and Car Painting ..	2
Shipbuilding ..	2
Paint used in other Industries ..	1
Other Industries ..	2

TOTAL OF ABOVE... 37

HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING .. 6

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Mercury Poisoning ..	1
Phosphorus Poisoning ..	...
Arsenic Poisoning ..	...
Toxic Jaundice—	
Arseniuretted Hydrogen Gas ..	...
Benzine, etc., derivatives ..	...
Epitheliomatous Ulceration—	
Paraffin ..	...
Pitch ..	1
Tar ..	...
Oil ..	7

Chrome Ulceration—
Manufacture of Bichromates .. 2
Dyeing and Finishing .. 1
Chrome Tanning
Other Industries .. 2

TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF POISONING .. 14

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—

Wool ..	3
Handling of Horsehair ..	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ..	1
Other Industries ..	...

TOTAL, ANTHRAX .. 5

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.§

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during February, 1924, was 227, as compared with 232 in the previous month, and with 224 a year ago.

RAILWAY SERVICE.		Factories and Workshops (continued):	
Brakesmen and Goods Guards ..	3	Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ..	4
Engine Drivers ..	3	Other Metal Trades ..	3
Firemen ..	1	Shipbuilding ..	13
Guards (Passenger) ..	...	Wood ..	3
Permanent Way Men ..	4	Gas ..	...
Porters ..	5	Electric Generating Stations ..	...
Shunters ..	4	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ..	5
Mechanics ..	2	Chemicals, etc. ..	20
Labourers ..	3	Food and Drink ..	...
Miscellaneous ..	6	Paper, Printing, etc. ..	...
Contractors' Servants ..	...	Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ..	31	Rubber Trades ..	...
MINES.		Other Non-Textile Industries ..	1
Underground ..	88		
Surface ..	11		
TOTAL, MINES ..	99		
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ..	6		

Factories and Workshops.		PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.	
Cotton ..	2	Docks, Wharves, etc. ..	3
Wool, Worsted, & Shoddy ..	2	Buildings ..	9
Other Textiles ..	1	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ..	...
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ..	...	TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, AND PLACES ..	88
Metal Extracting and Refining ..	2	Use or Working of Tramways ..	1
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ..	9	Construction or Repair of Tunnels ..	1
Metal Founding ..	2	Construction or Repair of Other Works ..	1
Engineering and Machine Making ..	4	Total (excluding Seamen) ..	227
Boiler Making & Constructional Engineering ..	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 four persons affected in the Pottery industry two were females.

§ 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 Wales and by the Board of Health in Scotland.)

THE number of persons relieved on one day* in February, 1924, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 901,123, or 0.9 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 4.8 per cent. less than in February, 1923. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 509, 514 and 546§ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in February, 1924, was 741,288, or 474 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 159,835, or 773 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in February numbered 129,781, or 0.5 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 1.8 per cent. more than in February of last year. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 771,342, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. on the previous month, and a decrease of 5.9 per cent. on a year ago.

Twenty-one districts showed decreases and nine districts showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in February, 1924, as compared with January. Districts showing the most marked decreases were Paisley and Greenock (155 per 10,000), Sheffield (96 per 10,000), Newcastle (85 per 10,000) and Stockton and Tees (80 per 10,000); while the chief increases were in East London (80 per 10,000), Glasgow (58 per 10,000), West Ham (52 per 10,000) and South London (50 per 10,000). Compared with February, 1923, twenty-three districts showed decreases and eight showed increases. Considerable decreases were recorded in the districts of Coatbridge and Airdrie (356 per 10,000), Sheffield (245 per 10,000), Birmingham (225 per 10,000) and Stockton and Tees (201 per 10,000); while the most marked increase was in West Ham (117 per 10,000).

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons‡ in receipt of poor law relief on one day* in February, 1924.				Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Month ago	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District	9,497	9,019	18,516	225	– 4	– 42
North District	10,873	25,186	36,059	355	– 2	– 46
Central District	2,616	3,393	6,009	451	+ 6	+ 1
East District	10,753	60,961	71,714	1,117	+ 80	+ 65
South District	20,357	93,965	114,322	594	+ 50	– 10
TOTAL, Metropolis ..	54,096	192,524	246,620	543	+ 31	– 13
West Ham	4,488	83,223	84,716	1,124	+ 52	+117
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ..	2,715	29,891	32,606	660	– 85	– 60
Stockton and Tees District ..	1,228	19,645	20,873	771	– 80	– 201
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	4,171	7,862	12,033	151	– 2	+ 14
Wigan District	1,828	11,137	12,965	299	– 26	– 43
Manchester District ..	9,123	30,361	39,484	381	– 44	– 38
Liverpool District ..	10,228	58,617	68,845	568	+ 1	– 15
Bradford District ..	1,775	4,254	6,029	161	– 8	– 32
Halifax and Huddersfield ..	1,319	3,414	4,733	124	..	– 1
Leeds District	2,565	9,557	12,122	248	– 17	– 42
Barnsley District ..	935	7,443	8,378	260	– 2	– 57
Sheffield District ..	2,667	39,122	41,789	813	– 96	– 245
Hull District	1,793	16,208	18,001	568	+ 48	+ 43
North Staffordshire ..	2,152	5,620	7,772	188	– 7	– 23
Nottingham District ..	2,159	9,735	11,894	255	– 12	– 24
Leicester District ..	1,283	2,598	3,881	163	– 4	– 25
Wolverhampton District ..	3,407	23,769	27,176	374	– 52	– 109
Birmingham District ..	7,438	39,687	47,125	498	– 67	– 225
Bristol District	2,478	15,393	17,871	434	+ 11	+ 18
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,451	13,924	16,375	347	+ 8	– 29
TOTAL "Other Districts"	61,715	346,237	409,952	397	– 26	– 61
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ..	120,299	620,989	741,288	474	– 6	– 39
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District	5,406	105,374	110,780	1,141	+ 58	+ 62§
Paisley & Greenock Dist.	774	14,670	15,444	804	– 155	– 135
Edinburgh	1,568	16,462	18,030	426	– 20	+ 5
Dundee and Dunfermline	770	3,110	3,880	176	– 16	– 38
Aberdeen	558	4,961	5,519	346	– 2	– 68
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	406	5,776	6,182	607	– 47	– 356
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts }	9,482	150,353	159,835	773	+ 5	– 13§
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in February, 1924 }	129,781	771,342	901,123	509	– 5	– 37§

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 23rd February, and those for Scotland to 15th February.

† 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 and Edinburgh districts.

‡ Exclusive of casuals, of lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only.

§ The figures previously published for February, 1923, have been revised.

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, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.		Rise.	Date
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
UNITED KINGDOM	158	120	80	62	76		Mar. '24
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna) .. ..	..	9,700†	323,600	129,1000	1382,000		Feb. '24
Czechoslovakia§ .. ..	..	1,246	1,330	821	817		Jan. '24
Denmark	153	136	84	88	94		Jan. '24
Finland	882	1,178	1,005	868	983		Dec. '23
France (Paris)§	273	206	197	221	276		Jan. '24
" (other towns) §	288||	250||	212||	249||	274		Nov. '23
Holland (The Hague) ..	..	113	80	60	65		Nov. '23
" (Amsterdam) .. ..	..	80	40	36	42		Nov. '23
Italy (Milan)	345	406	392	396	416		Jan. '24
Norway	219	195	133	118	134		Feb. '24
Poland (Warsaw) .. ..	..	45,555	129,711	241,9623	†		Dec. '23
Sweden §	197	132	79	60	62		Feb. '24
Switzerland .. ..	..	110	57	64	67		Feb. '24
United States	115	45	39	44	46		Jan. '24
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia .. ..	..	61	48	64	55		Jan. '24
Canada	127	48	38	37	46		Feb. '24
India (Bombay)	88	74	60	48	51		Feb. '24
Irish Free State .. ..	..	..	85†	82	96		Jan. '24
New Zealand	67	64	44	42	49		Jan. '24
South Africa	97	39	16	16	20		Jan. '24

* 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; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ 1,526,274-fold increase. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. || Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.*	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†				Latest figures available.	
		July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	Rise.	Date.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
UNITED KINGDOM	A, B, C, D, E	152	119	84	69	78	Mar. '24
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna)	A, B, C, D, E	..	9,700§	264,400	109,0200	1193,900	Feb. '24
Belgium	A, C, D, E	353	279	266	329	395	Feb. '24
Bulgaria	A, D	..	1,512	2,368	2,289	2,482	Dec. '23
Denmark	A, B, C, D, E	162	137	99	104	109	Jan. '24
Egypt (Cairo)	A, D	..	93	72	52	53	Dec. '23
Finland	A, B, C, D, E	811	1,039	1,018	990	1,053	Dec. '23
France (Paris)	A, B, C, D, E	263‡	195‡	189‡	231‡	245	4th Qtr. 1923
Greece (Athens)	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	516	933	1,225	Jan. '24
Hungary	A, B, C, D, E	..	3,661	15,579	225,167	597,320	Jan. '24
Italy (Milan)	A, B, C, D, E	341	394	388	387	417	Jan. '24
Luxembourg	A, C, D	..	284	259	340	387	Jan. '24
Norway	A, B, C, D, E	202§	202§	155§	139§	136	Dec. '23
Poland (Warsaw)	A, B, C, D, E	..	25609	78,698	209,3546	**	Dec. '23
Spain (Madrid)	A, D	90‡	84	79	72	82	Dec. '23
" (Barcelona)	A, D	91‡	78	73	65	66	Dec. '23
Sweden	A, B, C, D, E	170	136	90	74	76	Jan. '24
Switzerland	A, D	..	..	59	66	68	Feb. '24
United States	A, B, C, D, E	117§	80||	67§	70§	73	Dec. '23
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia	A, B	67‡	46‡	43‡	56‡	56	3rd Qtr. 1923
Canada	A, B, D	90	52	46	46	50	Feb. '24
India (Bombay)	A, B, C, D	89	77	65	53	56	Feb. '24
Irish Free State	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	85§	80	88	Jan. '24
New Zealand	A, B, D	49	57	44	45	48	Dec. '23
South Africa	A, B, D, E	..	..	35	30	33	Jan. '24

* 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; Greece, March, 1914; Milan and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Egypt, Germany and Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. || Figure for May. ** 1,196,567-fold increase.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES

IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CAPITAL CITIES ABROAD
IN JANUARY, 1924.

[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 for the various occupations are comparable horizontally but not vertically. The averages, however, are comparable both ways, provided it be understood (a) that this applies only to capitals other than London, and (b) that any difference between the indices for a given capital at two different dates does not imply a proportionate change in the real-wage level between those dates, but only a proportionate change in the level in relation to that of London.]

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages, 1st January,
1924. (London=100.)

Occupation.	London.	Amsterdam.	Berlin.	Brussels.	Christiania.	Copenhagen.	Madrid.	New York.	Ottawa.	Paris.	Prague.	Stockholm.	Sydney.	Vienna.	Warsaw.
BUILDING TRADES.															
<i>Skilled :</i>															
Mason ..	100	99	52	56	85	—	—	—	260	84	78	97	—	46	41
Bricklayer ..	100	99	52	56	85	—	—	—	260	75	—	97	—	46	41
Carpenter..	100	99	52	60	80	—	—	—	195	75	76	97	—	49	40
Joiner ..	100	99	48	62	80	—	—	—	195	75	—	97	—	45	—
Plumber ..	100	99	51	55	80	—	—	—	208	75	—	90	—	45	—
Painter (General)	100	98	54	49	89	—	—	—	178	79	99	113	—	52	44
<i>Unskilled :</i>															
Labourer(General)	100	108	62	50	105	—	—	—	137	93	80	114	—	50	34
ENGINEERING TRADES.															
<i>Skilled :</i>															
Fitter ..	100	98	46	68	99	—	—	—	195	94	125	79	—	55	48
Ironmoulder ..	100	85	—	68	99	—	—	—	192	100	111	79	—	—	48
(Hand)	100	91	43	91	93	—	—	—	212	120	—	74	—	54	44
Patternmaker ..	100	98	46	70	99	—	—	—	195	100	103	79	—	58	48
Turner ..	100	98	46	70	99	—	—	—	195	100	103	79	—	58	48
<i>Unskilled :</i>															
Labourer ..	100	101	53	69	131	—	—	—	183	100	97	95	—	54	48
FURNITURE TRADES															
<i>Skilled :</i>															
Cabinetmaker ..	100	76	56	57	79	—	—	—	133	83	76	80	—	39	—
PRINTING & BOOK-BINDING TRADES.															
<i>Skilled :</i>															
Compositor (Book and Job) Hand	100	77	36	49	77	—	—	—	173	57	—	76	—	36	61
Do. Machine ..	100	80	36	49	72	—	—	—	161	—	85	78	—	—	79
Machine Minder	100	77	—	50	77	—	—	—	158	62	—	76	—	36	—
Bookbinder ..	100	85	37	55	90	—	—	—	187	64	80	77	—	35	68
Average, 1st Jan., 1924 ..															
..	100	92	48	60	89	—	—	—	190	84*	92	88	—	47	50†
<i>Do. 1st Dec., 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	91	36	61	89	—	—	—	189	86*	89	87	—	49	59†
<i>Do. 1st Nov., 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	92	—	58	89	—	—	215	188	87*	90	86	—	49	73†
<i>Do. 1st October, 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	100	—	60	94	—	63	220	190	88*	90	86	—	51	60†
<i>Do. 1st Sept., 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	99	—	59	92	—	69	217	190	89	74	84	—	50	91†
<i>Do. 1st August, 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	100	—	57	94	—	66	219	163	92	77	88	—	50	91†
<i>Do. 1st July, 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	99	—	62	90	134	62	—	186	91	65	86	152	50	76
<i>Do. 1st June, 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	100	—	64	87	—	62	—	182	87	67	84	—	47	96
<i>Do. 1st May, 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	99	—	65	86	—	58	—	182	—	67	83	—	43	98
<i>Do. 1st April, 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	103	57	70	93	139	—	209	174	—	61	85	158	44	101
<i>Do. 1st March, 1923 ..</i>															
..	100	103	57	70	92	—	61	217	180	—	61	87	—	47	85
<i>Do. 1914 ..</i>															
..	100	60	—	61	77	103	42	187	181	—	84	74	—	69	93

COST OF LIVING IN TUNIS, 1914-1922.†

THE Department of Commerce and Labour of Tunis has recently computed a series of index figures showing the changes in the cost of living in that country for the period 1914-1922. The method followed has been similar to that pursued by the local Cost of Living Committees in France, being based on the expenditure of a working-class family, consisting of four persons, upon food and fuel (charcoal). Certain modifications had to be made, however, by reason of the fact that the inquiry covered workers belonging to three nationalities—viz., French, Italian and Tunisian, each having a dietary differing from that of the others both in kind and quantity. Thus, the French worker is a large consumer of beef and dried vegetables, while the Italian lives mostly on farinaceous foods and fish. The Tunisian native, however, scarcely consumes any meat except mutton, and uses a large quantity of oil of an inferior quality. Three classes of budgets had therefore to be drawn up in ascertaining the working-class cost of living. The following Table gives the index numbers of the rise in the cost of living from 1914 to 1922, calculated for each nationality (July, 1914 = 100) :—

Nationality.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
French ..	100	114	150	184	250	286	360	352	311
Italian ..	100	120	154	187	238	236	350	349	301
Tunisian ..	100	114	146	178	240	260	311	312	264

* Provisional figures.

† Based on prices and wages for the first two weeks of the month.

‡ Bulletin du Ministère du Travail, Oct.—Dec., 1923. Paris.

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. 85-86 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in February.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges at the end of the last week of February (i.e., on 1st March) was 11,239 (7,971 men and 3,268 women). At the end of January the corresponding figure was 12,058, and on 3rd March, 1923, 12,001. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 9,086 (4,814 for men and 4,272 for women), as against 8,433 at the end of January and 8,288 on 3rd March, 1923. During the week under review the exchanges succeeded in placing 26,418 persons (including 10,768 dock workers) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 2,966 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns, three departmental and 17 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 6th March, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 1,042 (832 men and 210 women). The corresponding total for the preceding month is 1,248 and that for February, 1923, 2,745.

GERMANY.†

Employment in January.—Almost all the statistics that reflect changes in the labour market pointed to an unmistakable improvement in January. The indications were particularly clear in respect of those branches of industry which manufacture directly for the home market, such as the clothing trade and the food, drinks and tobacco trade. This was due to the stabilisation of the currency and to the simultaneous fall in prices. On the other hand, in those branches of industry which produce more for export and not so much for the home market, the scarcity of credit and the reduced opportunities of export appeared to have exercised an adverse effect upon the labour market.

Returns relating to unemployment among members of trade unions show an improvement—for the first time since August, 1923. In the 36 organisations reporting, out of an aggregate of 4,365,132 members 1,158,586 were unemployed on 26th January, a percentage of 26.5. In December the corresponding percentage was 28.2, and in January, 1923, 4.2.

Percentages for the principal unions included in these returns are given in the following Table:—

UNIONS.	Member-ship reported on at end of Jan., 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Jan., 1924.	Dec., 1923.	Jan., 1923.
S. D. = Social-Democratic				
H. D. = Hirsch-Duncker (non-Social-Democratic)				
C. = Christian				
All Unions making Returns ..	4,365,132	26.5	28.2	4.2
Building (S. D.) ..	399,000	71.5	67.3	12.4
(C.) ..	43,000	75.7	70.4	6.6
Painters (S. D.) ..	40,000	59.0	53.3	12.7
Metal (S. D.) ..	1,162,000	24.4	26.0	1.3
(H. D.) ..	117,000	53.9	54.2	0.5
Textile (S. D.) ..	519,000	10.0	12.3	3.3
(C.) ..	113,000	9.2	10.2	2.3
Clothing (S. D.) ..	63,000	21.3	29.8	2.0
Boot and shoe (S. D.) ..	90,000	10.1	24.1	3.9
Saddlers and bagmakers (S. D.)	29,000	25.4	26.8	6.0
Transport (S. D.) ..	377,000	18.5	23.9	2.7
Printing (S. D.) ..	68,000	18.8	25.4	8.4
Bookbinding (S. D.) ..	61,000	27.6	32.4	4.5
Woodworking (S. D.) ..	346,000	21.2	26.0	2.4
Baking and confectionery (S. D.) ..	55,000	16.5	24.0	9.6
Food preparation (S. D.) ..	56,000	10.4	11.1	3.4
Tobacco (S. D.) ..	109,000	16.8	21.7	23.8
Factory workers (trade not specified) (S. D.) ..	325,000	26.0	26.8	4.2
Engine drivers and firemen (S. D.) ..	63,000	18.6	13.5	1.8
Factory and transport workers (S. D.) ..	92,000	42.4	29.7	5.3
Municipal and State workers (S. D.) ..	133,000	5.0	4.8	2.4

The above figures do not include persons only partially employed. On this point 32 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 3,800,000, reported that 29.9 per cent. of these were working short time, as compared with 42 per cent. in the preceding month and with 12.6 per cent. in January, 1923.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out of work donation fell from 1,582,852 on 1st January to 1,430,838 on 15th January and to 1,302,270 on 15th February. At the

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 7th March, 1924. Paris.

† Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st March, 1924. Berlin.

latest date 257,840 part-time workers were also in receipt of donation. These totals do not include figures for the occupied districts of Germany.

Returns from Employment Exchanges indicate some improvement, especially in regard to the vacancies offered by employers. These increased from 274,127 in December to 387,007 in January. Similarly the number of situations found by the Exchanges reporting increased from 225,014 in December to 324,140 in January. The returns of applications for employment registered at the Exchanges are incomplete, some districts not having yet reported. So far as they go the total fell from 2,580,000 in December to 2,380,000 in January. On an average there were 871 applications for every 100 vacancies for men and 301 for each 100 for women. In December the corresponding figures were 1,282 and 495 respectively.

Statistics of health insurance societies show that in 4,062 societies making returns the membership (*i.e.*, the number of persons under obligation to insure, and hence assumed to be in work) fell from 9,231,949 on 1st January to 9,176,280 on 1st February, or by 1.6 per cent.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in December and January.—The latest figures available relate to January, but are provisional only. Returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,530 approved unemployment societies, with a total membership of 631,622, show that 23,669 of these were either totally or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The total days lost through unemployment in January numbered 310,763, or 2.05 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 1.35, and in January, 1923, 1.96.

Revised figures are given for December, in which month returns were received applying to 656,708 members of unemployment insurance societies. Of these, 11,017 (or 1.7 per cent.) were totally unemployed and 12,550 partially so, on the last working day of the month. The proportion totally unemployed in November was 0.9 per cent., and in December, 1922, 1.7 per cent.

During January 15,829 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 13,335 in the preceding month. Vacancies notified by employers in January numbered 9,950, as against 8,979 in December. There were thus on an average 159 applicants for each 100 situations registered as vacant, as compared with 149 in the preceding month.

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in January.—According to figures compiled by the Swiss Federal Labour Office, the number of applicants for work remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges at the end of January was 28,480, as compared with 26,873 at the end of the preceding month and with 56,275 at the end of January, 1923. Of these, 6,730 were employed on relief works, leaving 21,750 entirely without work. The 28,480 applicants included 5,909 normally occupied in the building trades, 3,159 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 2,381 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons who were entirely without work, 12,661 were reported as partially unemployed, including 6,174 in the textile trades and 2,922 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades.

Taking January as a whole, there were on an average 380 applications for each 100 vacancies for men and 127 for each 100 for women. In December the corresponding figures were 398 and 139 respectively.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in February.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague, in a despatch to the Department of Overseas Trade, reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 9th February, out of 277,314 members of unemployment funds making returns, 35,452 (12.8 per cent.) were unemployed for six days in the week, and 8,111 (2.9 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 12th January) the percentages were respectively 20.3 and 3.6, and in the week ended 10th February, 1923, 12.5 and 2.9.

AUSTRIA.‡

Unemployment in January.—According to the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 119,309 at the end of January, as compared with 97,573 at the end of the preceding month and 161,227 at the end of January, 1923. In Vienna alone there were 60,354 in receipt of benefit at the end of January, 53,228 at the end of December, and 85,037 at the end of January, 1923.

DENMARK.§

Unemployment in January.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that, out of 256,509 workpeople, 21.0 per cent. were unemployed on 25th January last, as compared with 16.0 per cent. on 28th December, and with 21.5 per cent. at the end of January, 1923.

NORWAY.

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

Unions.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Dec 31, 1923.	Nov. 30, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Nov. 30, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1922.
Bricklayers and masons (Christiania)	911	911	861	15.4	11.4	14.5
Carpenters	768	803	675	9.0	6.5	13.2
Painters (Christiania) ..	452	529	446	24.1	4.0	17.5
Metal workers	5,627	5,928	6,671	10.9	11.1	15.5
Boot and shoe makers ..	863	940	732	11.7	13.6	8.3
Printers	2,478	2,461	2,383	6.2	3.5	6.6
Bookbinders (Christiania) ..	957	922	721	6.2	3.7	8.3
Cabinetmakers	452	452	504	4.0	3.3	12.3
Bakers (Christiania)	589	501	597	11.0	8.2	13.9
Total	13,077	13,447	13,593	10.1	8.5	12.9

SWEDEN.*

Unemployment in December.—Trade unions with an aggregate membership of 132,671 reported 18,533, or 14.0 per cent., as unemployed on the last day of December, as compared with 9.3 per cent. on 30th November, and with 21.3 on 31st December, 1922. The following Table gives particulars for the principal unions included in the returns:—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Dec., 1923.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Dec., 1923.	30th Nov., 1923.	31st Dec., 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	132,671	14.0	9.3	21.3
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Iron and steel	8,924	8.1	6.1	24.7
Engineering	30,490	10.3	10.7	25.9
Textile	7,224	2.9	2.0	3.0
Clothing	2,467	19.4	7.5	25.1
Boot, shoe and leather ..	5,929	4.0	3.6	6.6
Food preparation	3,514	19.1	8.8	20.0
Tobacco	3,006	2.2	3.2	2.0
Sawmilling	9,274	44.4	19.4	48.7
Woodworking	6,197	23.1	15.6	28.6
Paper and pulp	8,201	5.4	3.4	7.6
Municipal workers	6,652	4.1	2.9	4.7
Commercial employees ..	6,117	6.8	6.8	10.0
General and factory workers ..	12,754	25.3	14.5	29.5
(trades not specified)				

UNITED STATES.†

Employment in January.—The Federal Department of Labour publishes preliminary figures relating to the volume of employment in January, based on returns from 7,849 establishments in 52 manufacturing industries covering 2,552,742 workpeople. These establishments in December reported 2,575,172 persons employed, and the January figures consequently indicate a net decrease of 0.9 per cent. in numbers employed. The aggregate wages paid show for the same period a decrease of 4.9 per cent., and the average weekly earnings a decrease of 4.1 per cent. Eighteen of the 52 industries show increases in the number of workpeople employed in January, the industries with the greatest increases being women's clothing (10.1 per cent.), men's clothing (5.4 per cent.) and millinery and lace goods (2.5 per cent.). The greatest decreases in employment were in stoves (15.9 per cent.), confectionery (13 per cent.) and dyeing and finishing textiles (10.3 per cent.).

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1923, returns from 4,121 establishments in 43 industries show a net increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number of workers employed, an increase of 6.8 per cent. in the aggregate wages paid, and one of 5.5 per cent. in average weekly earnings. Sixteen of the 43 industries show increases in the number of workpeople employed, that recorded for the automobile industry amounting to 26 per cent.

CANADA.

Employment in February.—For 1st February, 1924, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa from 5,896 firms with an aggregate pay-roll of 749,363. On 1st January the same firms reported 733,628 employed. The total for 1st February thus shows an increase of 15,735 persons. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st February, 1924, is 90.6, as compared with 88.7 for 1st January, 1924, and 89.5 for 1st February, 1923.

Trade Union Unemployment at end of January.—At the end of January 7.5 per cent. of the members of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 7.2 per cent. in the previous month and with 7.8 per cent. on 31st January, 1923.

* *Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 2, 1924. Stockholm

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

‡ *The February Employment Situation*, 1924. Ottawa.

§ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

* *Revue du Travail*, 29th February, 1924. Brussels.

† *Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt*, 15th February, 1924. Berne.

‡ *Statistische Nachrichten*, 25th January, 1924. Vienna.

§ *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 23rd February, 1924. Copenhagen.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Trade Disputes Act, 1906.

TRADE UNION—THEATRICAL CONTRACTS—PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATIONS INDUCING MEMBERS TO BREAK CONTRACT—JUSTIFIABLE INTERFERENCE.

Five Associations formed for the protection of the respective interests of different classes of persons engaged in the theatrical calling alleged that the plaintiff in this case paid the chorus girls in his company a wage considerably below the minimum weekly wage approved by the joint protection committee appointed by the Associations. The Associations had determined, in the interests of the theatrical calling of the members generally, to stop underpayment, which, according to their experience, was fraught with danger to the theatrical calling and its members.

The only way by which they could successfully do this was to induce proprietors of theatres to abstain from entering into contracts with the plaintiff or to break contracts already entered into with him. The plaintiff, who was the manager of a theatrical touring company, commenced an action against representatives of the five Associations for an injunction restraining them from inducing or attempting to induce any person to break any contract with him or to abstain from entering into any contract with him, and against another defendant, who was the proprietor of a provincial theatre, for breach of contract in not permitting the theatrical company to perform at that theatre in pursuance of a contract entered into between himself and the plaintiff. It was held:

(i.) That the representatives of the Association had established a good defence to the plaintiff's action, that, as they owed a duty to their calling and to its members to take all necessary steps to terminate the payment of insufficient wages, which, in the case of the plaintiff's company, had been, in fact, productive of results which past experience had led to anticipate, justification existed for their acts.

(ii.) That in consequence it became unnecessary to consider the defence raised under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1906; but that, for the purpose of this section, the business of presenting performances to the public for profit might fairly be described as a trade or industry in which many persons (including actors) were employed. This section of the Act provides as follows:—

“An act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable on the ground only that it induces some other person to break a contract of employment, or that it is an interference with the trade, business or employment of some other person, or with the right of some other person to dispose of his capital or his labour as he wills.”

(iii.) That the contract with the proprietor of the provincial theatre had been brought about by a representation made by the plaintiff which was false, and that the plaintiff, therefore, could not recover damages for breach of that contract.

(iv.) That the action must be dismissed with costs.—*Brimelow v. Casson*, *High Court of Justice, Chancery Division*. December 10th, 21st, 1923.

(2) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

MEMBER OF EMPLOYER'S FAMILY DWELLING IN HIS HOUSE.

SECTION 13 of the above Act provides as follows:—

“In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires ‘workman’ does not include a member of the employer's family dwelling in his house ‘members of a family’ means wife or husband, father, mother, brother, sister”

An interesting case under this section came before the Court of Appeal recently, where three brothers—A, B and C—were working in partnership as farmers, and were tenants of two farms X and Y. Each of these farms had on it a dwelling-house and farm buildings. B and C lived together in the dwelling-house at X farm, and A lived with his mother at the dwelling-house at Y farm. D, who was a brother of the three farmers, was employed by his brothers, and worked for them under a contract of service. He had five children, three of whom lived with him at X farm, while the other two lived at the other farmhouse. D was killed by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, and his dependants claimed compensation under this Act. The matter first came before the County Court judge, who, in his judgment, stated that, although the workman was a member of the employer's family, he could not, on a strict interpretation, be said to be a “member of the employer's family dwelling in his house.” The general object of the statute was to give compensation subject to the exemptions and limitations which were expressly imposed. He was of opinion that he should not import words into the Act, or seek to draw an inference so as to widen the particular exception, and thereby narrow the general object of the Act. It was, therefore, held that this workman did not come within the exception contained in Section 13, and an award of £300 was made in favour of the dependants. Upon an appeal by the employers, the Court held that the appeal must be dismissed.

Note.—Section 9 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, contains an extension of the definition of a workman, but does not repeal the provision relating to “a member of the employer's family dwelling in his house.”—*Wood v. Wood*, *Court of Appeal*. November 27th, 1923.

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 are not 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. 6315, SECTIONS 7 (1) (iii) AND 8 (3).—AVAILABLE FOR WORK AND TEMPORARILY RESIDENT OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM—APPLICANT WENT TO FRANCE FOR BRIEF PERIOD WHEN TOLD OF PROSPECTS OF WORK THERE.

It was reported that the applicant, a salesman, whose home was in Dover, and who had been unemployed for about one month, had received a letter from a friend in France, informing him that if he would go to Lille there was a possibility that he would be able to obtain employment as a salesman with a certain firm there.

The applicant attended the Court of Referees and produced the original of the letter he had received from his friend in Lille. He stated that he went to France as he was requested, but he was not successful in obtaining work there. He was in France during the period 23rd June to 5th July, 1923, having had to wait there for a few days because his friend had gone to Switzerland. He was in Lille on two occasions during that period; on the first occasion he was there for three days and on the second he was there for only one day. He spent the intervening days at Dunkirk. He added that if he had heard of work in his own trade in England while he was in France, the prospective employer would have allowed him time to get back.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. As regards Section 8 (3) the Court were of opinion that it could not be said that the applicant was residing even temporarily out of the United Kingdom. There was a distinction between residing temporarily, as, for example, going on holiday, and going to a place for the purpose of finding work with the intention of returning at once if the work was not found. Upon the question of availability for work the Court noted that the normal occupation of the applicant was not one which required him to commence his employment at a moment's notice. If new employment had been found for him in his absence, he could no doubt have returned in time to take it up.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the applicant was disqualified under Sections 7 (1) (iii) and 8 (3) during the period he was in France.

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

“I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The applicant, who usually resides and has his home at Dover, went to Dunkirk with the sole object of trying to obtain a situation he had heard of at Lille. I see no reason for thinking that he had any intention of staying in France longer than was necessary to try to get this situation, and I assume that he stayed either with friends or at a hotel, and did not establish himself in even a temporary home as a man would do had he secured employment, or had gone abroad with a view to settling there.”

“I cannot read the expression in Section 8 (3) of the Act of 1920 ‘is resident whether temporarily or permanently outside the United Kingdom’ as being equivalent to ‘is outside the United Kingdom,’ and in my view the applicant cannot, if I am to give any reasonable meaning to the word ‘resident,’ be said to have been resident outside the United Kingdom.”

CASE No. 6538, SECTION 8 (2).—EMPLOYMENT LEFT VOLUNTARILY—JUST CAUSE—FOREMAN LEFT WHEN REQUIRED TO STAND-OFF ON ALTERNATE WEEKS WITHOUT WAGES—BREACH OF AGREEMENT THAT HE SHOULD BE PAID STANDING WAGE.

The applicant, a foreman woodcutting machinist, was reported by his employers to have left his employment of his own accord, on 15th September, 1923, after being asked to work on alternate weeks only, under a short-time system. He stated that when he started in the firm's employment, four years ago, it was on a verbal agreement that he was to be employed at a standing weekly wage and, accordingly, when the employers wanted to

suspend him on alternate weeks without payment of wages he declined to agree, and gave in his 14 days' notice. He stated that he had observed his side of the agreement by working a great deal of overtime without extra payment.

The employers reported that the applicant's statement was mainly correct, except that whatever overtime he had worked had been paid for by a bonus of £8. The standing wage was paid to give the applicant some status as assistant foreman and to pay him for any time lost through sickness, holidays, etc. Overtime was rarely required, and on the whole the balance of advantage of the standing wage agreement was in the applicant's favour.

At the Court of Referees it was stated on behalf of the applicant that he had worked 368 hours' overtime, for which he had received no recompense, exclusive of 100 hours' overtime in respect of which he had received the bonus.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed on the ground that the applicant had not just cause for leaving.

The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire and contended that the employers' action in suspending the applicant on alternate weeks was a breach of agreement.

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

"The applicant was a foreman at fixed weekly wages subject to 14 days' notice, and he worked a great deal of overtime without extra payment. It is an implied term of such employment that the agreed wages should be paid regularly whether work is abundant or slack, and I am of opinion that the employers, by refusing to pay the applicant on alternate weeks, discharged him or gave him just cause for leaving."

CASE No. 6559.—SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION NOT CARRIED ON OUTSIDE ORDINARY WORKING HOURS OF USUAL EMPLOYMENT—COMMISSION AGENT FOR CLOTHING CLUB—ALSO HELD SPARE-TIME INSURANCE AGENCY—BOTH AGENCIES WORKED TOGETHER BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 8 P.M. DAILY.

The applicant, who had been employed for seven years as a commission agent by a clothing club, lost this employment on 19th June, 1923. His usual working hours were from 10 a.m. to about 8 p.m. daily, and he earned about 12s. per week. As an additional occupation he had also held, since December, 1919, a spare-time agency with an insurance company, and it was stated that he did his work in connection with this agency with his other employment as clothing club agent, viz., from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. He lodged a claim for benefit on 14th September, 1923, but the claim was disallowed under Section 7 (1) (ii) on the ground that he was following an occupation as a spare-time insurance agent which he had not ordinarily followed in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment as commission agent.

The applicant appealed to the Court of Referees. He stated that his average remuneration from his spare-time agency was 12s. 6d. per week, and that he generally did his collecting at night.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed on the ground that the agency was an additional occupation carried on substantially out of working hours, and that the remuneration therefrom did not exceed £1 per week.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation, and the case was referred to the Umpire.

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

"The applicant had followed the occupation of a spare-time agent for an insurance company in addition to his usual employment of agent for a clothing company. His working hours in both occupations were from about 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and he does not show that he carried on the insurance agency outside the ordinary working hours of an agent for the clothing trade."

CASE No. 6615.—SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—JOB OF THREE MONTHS' DURATION, 400 MILES AWAY—HEAVY DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES TO REPAY RAILWAY FARE—UNEMPLOYED 11 MONTHS.

The applicant, a joiner, had been unemployed for 11 months when, on 20th September, 1923, he was offered work in his own trade with a firm situated over 400 miles from his home. The work was expected to last for at least three months, and the standard rate of 1s. 3d. per hour for 47 hours per week would have been paid. The railway fare would have been advanced by the prospective employer and deducted subsequently from the applicant's wages.

The applicant, who was unmarried, refused the offer on the ground that the railway fare, which was about £2 14s. for the single journey, and other expenses for the transport of his tool chest, etc., were much too heavy in view of the short duration of the employment.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. In view of the length of time the applicant had been unemployed, the Court did not regard as satisfactory the applicant's reason for refusing the offer, and accordingly, they held that the case was covered by the decision on Case No. 5085.

The applicant, who had been granted leave by the Court, appealed to the Umpire.

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

"In my opinion it is not reasonable to expect a man to travel so far for temporary employment. The expected duration of the job was 'at least three months.' The return railway fare spread over this period would involve a deduction of about 9s. a week, which is nearly 15 per cent. of his wages."

CASE No. 6620.—SECTION 7 (1).—PROVISO A—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—VACANCIES SAID TO BE DUE TO DISPUTE—FOUR MEN LEFT WORK THROUGH DISPUTE BUT OTHER VACANCIES FOR NEARLY 200 MEN—ALLEGED PREVENTED BY PICKETS FROM STARTING WORK.

The applicant was one of a number of men who refused offers of employment on relief work near their homes on 27th and 29th October, 1923, on the ground that the vacancies were due to a stoppage of work caused by a trade dispute. It appeared that some relief work on road construction had recently been started, and four men had been engaged at a wage of 10d. per hour on preparatory work, such as felling trees and clearing land. A dispute arose, however, as to the rates of wages payable for the work, and the four men, at the instigation of the local Unemployed Committee, ceased work on or about 24th October in order to enforce payment of the County Council rate of wages—viz., 1s. 2½d. per hour. On 27th October the contractors asked the Employment Exchange to supply 100 men for the work at a wage of 11½d. per hour, and 102 men, including the applicant, were sent, but they were, it was reported, prevailed upon not to start work until the men's demand for the County Council rate was acceded to. On 29th October a further batch of 70 men was sent to the job as a result of a further request from the contractor, but this batch also failed to start work. The Exchange Manager reported that the contractors had stated that, on 27th October, they had vacancies for about 200 men, so that there was work, apart from the vacancies due to the dispute, for all the men sent by the Exchange.

The claims of the 172 men concerned were disallowed by the Insurance Officer under Section 7 (1) (iii), but test cases, including one from the applicant, were referred to the Court of Referees.

At the Court of Referees it was contended that there was a trade dispute on the job when the applicant was sent. He had been instructed by his Association to accept the job at the existing rates, under protest, but when he went to the work he found that the place was picketed by several hundred men. He was, therefore, forced to refuse the work for fear of serious physical injury. The men finally agreed to start work under protest at 11½d. per hour, but when they reported on 5th November only 13 men were engaged, and of these 10 were discharged after working for one week.

The employers were again approached on the latter point, and they confirmed their statement that work was available for all the men notified by the Exchange on 27th and 29th October. When these men refused the offers men from other districts were engaged. As regards the dismissals they stated that a certain number of men were discharged because they were not suitable for the work.

At a further hearing by the Court of Referees a representative of the applicant's Association stated that if 11½d. per hour—which was the lowest rate paid locally by contractors—had been offered at first, no trouble would have arisen. The applicant and others were, however, prepared to accept the job at 11½d. per hour, but they were prevented from starting by the pickets. The pickets were not members of his Association, and it was not known who formed them. In this connection, however, the Exchange Manager had reported that the pickets were composed apparently of men who had been offered the work and had refused it.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court held that the dispute applied only to the four men who ceased work because their rate was 10d. per hour, and that when the new and higher rate was offered this dispute terminated. They held, therefore, that the offer at 11½d. per hour, which the applicant had refused, was one of suitable employment.

The applicant's Association declined to accept the Court's recommendation. They contended that the case was governed by Section 7 (1), Proviso A.

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.

"There was on the 24th October a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the place at which the applicant was offered employment, and there were four situations vacant in consequence of that trade dispute.

"On the 27th and 29th October it was notified to a large number of men (including the applicant) that employment could be obtained at the place where the stoppage of work had occurred. It is not clear whether the stoppage of work due to the trade dispute had or had not ceased, but it is quite clear that of the 172 men notified only four, if any, were required to fill the four situations vacant by reason of the stoppage of work and there were at least 168 other situations which any of the men notified might have filled.

"It was further objected that the applicant was prevented from obtaining the employment by pickets; but I am not convinced that, if those who were offered the work had shown any determination to accept it, the pickets could have prevented them."

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS—UNSKILLED LABOURERS—BASE RATE—CLAIM FOR INCREASE—COMPARISON WITH RATE OF PAY IN PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT—RELATION TO DOCKYARD MECHANICS' AND SKILLED LABOURERS' RATES.—The Official side of the Shipbuilding Trades Joint Council for Government Departments v. The Trade Union side. *Decision.*—The Court decide in full settlement of the claim that, as from the beginning of the first full pay following the date hereof, the basic rate of unskilled labourers in H.M. Admiralty establishments shall be advanced to 26s. per week. The pay of the unskilled labourers will thus be 26s. per week plus the war advance, which at present amounts to 17s. per week. Issued 7th February, 1924. (868.)

ROYAL NAVAL CORDITE FACTORY, HOLTON HEATH—LACK OF HOUSES IN VICINITY OF FACTORY—ABNORMAL EXPENDITURE ON RAILWAY FARES—CLAIM FOR WAGES ADVANCE IN LIEU THEREOF. The Official side of the Admiralty Industrial Council v. the Trade Union side. *Decision.*—As from the first full pay period following the date of the decision, the rates of pay of the men concerned shall be advanced by 2s. per week. In the event of any material alteration in the supply of housing accommodation within a reasonable distance of the factory the advance now awarded should be reconsidered. Issued 8th February, 1924. (869.)

FITTERS' LABOURERS—PONTYPOOL ROAD AND CARDIFF RUNNING SHEDS—APPLICATION OF RANGE OF RATES.—The Workers' Union v. the Great Western Railway. *Decision.*—The Court find on the present reference that the several men concerned are being paid within their respective ranges of rates as set out in Decision No. 728, and that the higher rates claimed by the Union may, but are not required to, be paid thereunder. Issued 13th February, 1924. (870.)

SHIPBREAKERS—MEN ON HOURLY RATES OF PAY—CLAIM FOR INCREASE—SUGGESTED VARIATION WITH STEELWORKERS' WAGES—PROPOSED OUTPUT BONUS SCHEME.—Messrs. Thos. W. Ward, Ltd., v. the Transport and General Workers' Union. *Decision.*—The Court decide that, as from the beginning of the first full pay following the date of the Decision, the rates of pay of the men concerned shall be increased by 1d. per hour. Issued 19th February, 1924. (871.)

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION—CLASSIFICATION—"AREA" OR "DISTRICT"—DISTRICT PARTLY RURAL AND PARTLY URBAN.—Messrs. S. Pearson and Son (Contracting Department), Ltd., v. the National Union of General Workers. *Decision.*—The Court find that Class IV. rates be paid to the men concerned on the works in question in substitution for Class V. rates. They also find that the Decision shall operate as from the beginning of the first full pay following 13th February, 1924. Issued 19th February, 1924. (872.)

WAGON FRAME MEN, TEMPLE MILLS—GRADING AND RATES OF PAY—DECISION No. 728.—The National Union of Railwaymen v. the London and North Eastern Railway. *Decision.*—The men concerned are engaged on wagon building and repairing, and thus come within the category of wagon builders and repairers. They do not come within Grade I., as their section of the work is restricted to a particular part of building and repairing. They fall within Grade II. Issued 28th February, 1924. (873.)

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

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE WORKERS.—National Union of Printing and Paper Workers v. H.M. Stationery Office. *Difference:* In the application of the principle of the Fair Wage Resolution of the House of Commons to the cases of: (a) Workers engaged on Sheridan Binders; (b) Counter hands employed in the Stationery Office Sales Offices; (c) Men engaged in Transport. Conciliation Board: Mr. C. J. Drummond, M.B.E., J.P. (Chairman), Sir W. A. Waterlow, K.B.E., J.P., Sir Howard Spicer, K.B.E., and Sir Holberry Mensforth, K.C.B., C.B.E. (Employers' representatives), and Mr. G. A. Isaacs, M.P., Mr. W. C. Warren and Mr. F. Knight (Workpeople's representatives). *Agreement:* The parties undertook to recommend acceptance by their respective constituents of the following recommendations of the Board:—(a) The parties should accept a rate of £5 10s. per week for working the Sheridan Binding Machine, in accordance with the custom operative at the Stationery Office; (b) Employees engaged in the Sales Offices should be paid in accordance with the agreement between the Federation of Wholesale Newsagents and the National Union of Paper Workers (Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters, London Branch), dated 20th July, 1920; (c) The men engaged in Transport, who are paid in accordance with the Transport Workers' Agreement, should receive, in addition to the rates paid under that agreement, 20 per cent. of the difference between those rates and the rates operative under the agreement between the London Master Printers' Association and the

National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers, London Central Branch, dated 20th November, 1923. It was further agreed that the several recommendations should become operative on the first full pay day after acceptance by both parties. Issued 2nd February, 1924. (I.R. 301/1924.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

BUILDING TRADES OPERATIVES: GLASGOW.—National Federation of Building Trades Operatives v. Messrs. J. A. MacTaggart and Company, Limited, Contractors for the Glasgow Corporation on the Knightswood Housing Scheme. *Difference:* Introduction by the firm of a bonus system. *Agreement:* The parties agreed to accept such working conditions as are agreed between the Scottish Building Contractors' Association and the various trade organisations specified in the agreements and between the Scottish Federation of Building Trade Employers and the various trade organisations specified in the agreements, and, in particular, the clause which, in various forms, appears in these agreements prohibiting piece-work or any system of payment by results. In the event of any alteration or revision of any of the agreements the parties would meet to give consideration to this agreement. Signed 9th February, 1924. (I.R. 175/1924.)

VEHICLE BUILDERS: WEST HAM.—National Union of Vehicle Builders v. West Ham Borough Council. *Difference:* Application on behalf of the men concerned for an advance of 1d. per hour to a rate of 1s. 8½d. *Agreement:* The advance would be paid as from 12th December, 1923. Agreed 26th February, 1923. (I.R. 312/1924.)

COLD AIR STOREMEN: SMITHFIELD MARKET.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Up-Town Cold Storage Managers' Committee. *Difference:* Workers desired a settlement on (a) adjustment of wages in connection with dockers' increase; (b) the refusal of a firm on the committee to sign the November, 1923, agreement; (c) the refusal of outside firms to sign agreements as to wages and conditions. *Agreement:* (a) It was contrary to the agreement in force to remain on strike as joint negotiations must take place on wage adjustments; (b) the firm in question would sign the agreement; (c) grievances with outside firms did not affect joint agreement, and the Union must endeavour to institute negotiations. Agreed 22nd February, 1924. (I.R. 472/1924.)

HAT AND CAP WORKERS: LONDON.—Tailors' and Garment Workers' Trade Union v. Messrs. B. Prager and Company, Limited. *Difference:* Reduction in certain piecework prices. *Agreement:* It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Industrial Court. Agreed 11th February, 1924. (I.R. 285/1924.)

LABOURERS: GARSTON.—Transport and General Workers' Union, National Federation of Building Trades Operatives and the Altogether Builders' Labourers' Union v. Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors and Messrs. Vale and Sons, Contractors, Stourport. *Difference:* Application on behalf of the men concerned for payment of the Liverpool Building Trade Labourers' rate upon a contract for a gas holder foundation at the Garston works of the Liverpool Gas Company. *Agreement:* The firm agreed to observe the Liverpool rates and conditions while the men were employed upon the contract. Agreed 30th January, 1924. (I.R. 196/1924.)

SHEET METAL WORKERS: KIRKCALDY.—National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Braziers, United Society of Boiler-makers and Iron and Steel Ship Builders and Messrs. Douglas and Grant, Limited, Dunnikier Foundry, Kirkcaldy. *Difference:* As to what class of tradesmen are entitled to carry on particular classes of work at the firm's establishment. *Agreement:* It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Industrial Court for decision. Signed 26th January, 1924. (I.R. 240/1924.)

SLAUGHTERMEN AND ASSISTANTS: LIVERPOOL.—National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers v. Liverpool Abattoir Tenants' Wholesale Meat Traders' Association. *Difference:* Proposal by the employers to abolish payment for overtime, except on Sundays, and the payment of 4d. per pig for carrying. *Agreement:* It was decided that the question of abolition of overtime payment should be dropped, and that the question of the rate for pig carrying should be the subject of further negotiation. Agreed 31st January, 1924. (I.R. 252/1924.)

RIVERSIDE WORKERS, PORTERS AND WAREHOUSE EMPLOYEES: LIMEHOUSE.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. Oxo, Limited, London. *Difference:* Claim by the firm that the riverside workers should belong to the Transport and General Workers' Union, and the porters, warehousemen and women, employed upon labelling, to the National Union of Warehousemen and General Workers. The firm contended that the Transport and General Workers' Union should not withdraw the warehouse staff in the event of disputes with dock labour in the Port of London. *Agreement:* The firm agreed that the employees concerned should remain in the Transport and General Workers' Union. A joint meeting would be held to discuss the firm's difficulty in being involved in dock labour disputes in so far as their warehouse staff were concerned. Agreed 28th February, 1924. (I.R. 507/1924.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

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

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order D. (24), (25) and (26), dated 28th February, 1924, confirming certain general minimum piece-rates and confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, guaranteed time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers for periods dependent upon the "Cost of Living" Index Figure, and specifying 3rd March, 1924, as the date from which the rates should become operative.

The principal rates operative from 3rd March (the cost of living figure being not more than 90 and more than 70) are as follows:—

General Minimum Time-Rates:—**(A) Male Workers.**

(i) Employed in making bespoke hand-sewn leather footwear, 65s. per week.

(ii) Over 21 years of age and with 4 months' experience in operating—

(a) Power sole-stitchers, 74s. per week.

(b) Blake or other sole-sewing machines on the Blake principle, 70s. per week.

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

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

(v) Other than those specified above (not being learners or apprentices), 60s. per week.

(vi) Lower rates for learners and apprentices providing conditions laid down by the Trade Board are complied with. Apprentices must be indentured in the form prescribed by the Trade Board or in any other form approved by the Trade Board.

(B) Female Workers.

(i) Employed in making bespoke hand-sewn leather footwear, 65s. per week.

(ii) Employed on benching and/or finishing in the repairing of leather footwear, 60s. per week.

(iii) Employed as foremen or managers, 74s. per week.

(iv) Other female workers of 21 years of age and over, 42s. per week.

(v) Lower rates for learners and juveniles.

Guaranteed Time-Rates:—

For male and female workers employed as foremen or managers, 74s. per week.

General Minimum Piece-Rates:—

The rates for repairing (including certain surgical repairs) and for making (including certain other surgical repairs) are set out in the Notice D. (26), and must be reduced by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

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

Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order B. (11), dated 28th February, 1924, confirming certain additional variations of rates for female workers for periods dependent upon the "Cost of Living" index figure, and specifying 3rd March, 1924, as the date from which these variations should become effective.

This Order merely re-instates certain provisions governing the employment of female workers which were inadvertently omitted from the Board's Notice B. (10), but all the rates now operative in the trade are included in the revised Order. The chief of these rates are set out on p. 351 of the September, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE.

Copies of the above-mentioned Orders may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE, price 3d. net.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal F.H. (17), dated 21st February, 1924, to vary—

- (1) general minimum time-rates for male workers employed in learning canvas weaving;
- (2) general minimum piece-rates for male workers employed on weaving canvas;
- (3) minimum rates of wages applicable to (a) Female Winders, (b) Male Apprentices;
- (4) overtime rates for the aforementioned classes of workers.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal J. (32), dated 5th March, 1924, to vary general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for female workers employed on hessian weaving as double loom weavers in the areas of Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Dundee and Tayport.

Particulars of the minimum rates proposed above may be obtained by reference to the London or Edinburgh Gazettes.

Brush and Broom Trade (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.B.B. (N. 28), dated 22nd February, 1924, to vary the general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers has been issued by

the Brush and Broom Trade Board in Northern Ireland. The Board's notices of proposal N.I.B.B. (N. 26 and N. 27), dated 21st December, 1923, have been withdrawn.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO MAKE SPECIAL ORDERS.

Following upon consideration of reports dated 26th July, 1923, by Sir William Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C., of the Public Inquiry held by him with regard to the scope of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board and the Button-Making Trade Board (see page 320 of the September, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE), the Minister of Labour has now issued Notices of Intention to make Special Orders varying by way of correction the descriptions of the Stamped or Pressed Metal-Wares Trade and of the Button-Making Trade for purposes of the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918. Copies of the Notices and draft Special Orders can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919: COURT OF INQUIRY.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN.

IN connection with the threatened dispute on the Great Northern Section of the London and North Eastern Railway Company, the Minister of Labour has appointed the following to constitute a Court of Inquiry under Part II. of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919:—

Mr. Holman Gregory, K.C. (*Chairman*).

Mr. R. A. Austen-Leigh.

Mr. Arthur Shaw, J.P.

The terms of reference of the Court are:—

"To inquire into the threatened dispute concerning the claim of the National Union of Railwaymen for the application of Decision No. 728 of the Industrial Court, dated 8th July, 1922, to the various classes of men employed in the several departments of the railway shops of the Great Northern Railway Company or in connection therewith, and to ascertain and report on the facts."

The Secretary to the Court is Mr. G. H. Ince, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

A preliminary meeting of the Court was held on the 12th March. Representatives of the Railway Company and of the following organisations were present:—

National Union of Railwaymen.

Amalgamated Engineering Union.

Boilermakers' Society.

National Union of Foundry Workers.

Union of Saddlers and General Leather Workers.

Workers' Union.

The representatives of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Boilermakers' Society, and the National Union of Foundry Workers, intimated that their organisations did not propose to be represented at or to take part in the Inquiry.

The Court have decided to hold the Inquiry in public, and the first sitting will take place on Tuesday, 25th March.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS, 1906 TO 1923.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION RULES, 1923, AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (No. 1) RULES, 1924.

THE Consolidated Workmen's Compensation Rules of July, 1913, as amended by various Statutory Rules and Orders in the succeeding years, have been further amended by the Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1923,* dated the 17th December, 1923; and by the Workmen's Compensation (No. 1) Rules, 1924,† dated the 19th February, 1924.

The new Rules embody the modifications rendered necessary by the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; in particular those relating to the recording of memoranda of agreement for the payment of lump sums in lieu of weekly payments, and to the permission now given to approved societies or insurance committees to appear as parties interested in such cases.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

REVISED REGULATIONS FOR GRINDING AND GLAZING OF METALS AND FOR CLEANING OF CASTINGS.

As a result of an Inquiry‡ into the effects of dust inhalation upon workers employed in the grinding and glazing of metals and the cleaning of castings, the Home Secretary is satisfied that further measures are necessary to secure a better standard of

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1923, No. 1522/L. 27. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2d. net.

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1924, No. 167/L. 3. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2d. net.

‡ See the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE, page 240.

health and safety among the workers in the industries concerned. He has therefore formally certified the grinding and glazing of metals, and processes incidental thereto, and the cleaning of castings, to be dangerous, as required by Section 79 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901; and has issued a notice, dated 8th February, 1924, that he proposes to make two sets of Regulations, under Section 80 of the Act, dealing with the grinding or glazing of metals and the cleaning of castings.

One set of Regulations is intended to apply to all factories (including tenement factories and tenements thereof in which no person is employed by the occupier) in which is carried on any grinding, or process incidental to grinding, in, or incidental to, the manufacture of cutlery, edge tools, swords, bayonets, files, saws, ploughs, or other cutting or piercing implements of iron or steel; the other to all factories, or parts thereof, in which is carried on the grinding or glazing of metals or the cleaning of castings.

Copies of the drafts of the proposed Regulations may be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

POLICE SERVICE COMMITTEE.

THE Home Secretary announced in the House of Commons on the 6th March that he had received a communication from the Police Service Committee,* presided over by Lord Desborough, stating that they felt that no useful purpose would be served by their continuing the inquiry, and asking that their reference might be discharged. The Committee gave the following reasons for their request:—

“We consider that the general economic conditions are extremely unsettled at the present time, and that the question of the rise or fall of industrial wages is most uncertain. Inasmuch, therefore, as it must be unsettling to any service to have repeated revisions of their rates of pay, we are of opinion that it is not an opportune moment for disturbing an arrangement come to so recently.”

The Committee also pointed out that, if occasion should arise for the review of the conditions of service of the police, the question could be dealt with in the Police Councils, constituted on the lines of the Committee's previous Report.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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 December 31, 1923.* Home Office. (Cmd. 1868, III.; price 2d.)

* See the August, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE, page 311.

CENSUS.—(1) *Census of England and Wales, 1921. (a) Counties of Cambridge, including the Isle of Ely, and Huntingdon, (b) County of Carmarthen, (c) County of Denbigh, (d) Counties of Carnarvon and Anglesey, (e) Counties of Brecknock and Radnor.* (S.O. publications: price 10s., 6s., 6s., 10s., 9s., respectively.) (2) *Census of Scotland, 1921. Report on the thirteenth decennial census of Scotland. Vol. II.* (S.O. publication: price £1.)

DOCK DISPUTE.—*Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning the dock labour dispute, 1924.* Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 2056: price 2d.) (See page 81.)

FACTORIES.—*Factory inspection. Historical development and present organisation in certain countries.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1923: price 5s.)

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.—(1) *A comparison of different shift systems in the glass trade. (Report on an investigation promoted by the Industrial Fatigue Research Board and the Glass Research Association.)* Report No. 24. (2) *Two studies on rest pauses in industry.* Report No. 25. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publications: price 1s. 6d. each.)

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE.—*The protection of eyesight in industry. Problems of industrial lighting. Studies and Reports. Series F., No. 6.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1923: price 2s. 6d.)

LABOUR STATISTICS.—(1) *Systems of classification of industries and occupations.* (2) *Methods of statistics of wages and hours of labour.* (3) *Methods of statistics of industrial accidents. Reports prepared for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (29 October to 2 November, 1923.)* Studies and Reports, Series N. (Statistics), Nos. 1-3. International Labour Office. (Geneva: price 1s. 3d. each.)

MINING.—(1) *The mineral industry of the British Empire and foreign countries. Coal-mining accident statistics (1912-1922).* Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau. (S.O. publication: price 2s.) (2) *Preliminary statement (subject to correction) of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1923.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication: price 4d.) (3) *Output and employment at metal-liferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended 30 September, 1923.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication: price 4d.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—*Memorandum on the rescission of the Poplar Order.* Ministry of Health. (Cmd. 2052: price 6d.)

SOCIAL SERVICES.—*Return showing . . . the total expenditure . . . in England and Wales under certain Acts of Parliament during the years ended the 31st March, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1922, and 1923 respectively, and the total number of persons directly benefiting from the expenditure for the year 1922.* Treasury. (H.C. 26: price 3d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Report on an investigation into the personal circumstances and industrial history of 10,000 claimants to unemployment benefit, November 5th-10th, 1923.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication: price 3s.) (See page 79.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, FEBRUARY, 1924.

ADMIRALTY.

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

H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: **C.I. Pipes, etc.:** Cochrane & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Jetty and Dolphins:** Braithwaite & Co. (Engineers), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Steelwork, etc.:** Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**W.I. Black Tubing:** Scottish Tube Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Paint Materials:** N. J. Fenner & H. B. Alder & Co., London, E.C.—**Clyde: Eight Steel Tanks (with option for Nine):** The Tees Side Bridge & Engg. Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Nine Foundations and Enclosure Banks:** F. A. McTaggart & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Chatham: Steel Rails, etc.:** Barrow Hæmatite Steel Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Turnouts and Crossings:** T. W. Ward, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Railway Turnouts and Crossings:** Kilmarnock Engg. Co., Ltd., Kilmarnock.—**Dalnottar: C.I. Pipes:** Cochrane & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Dover: Alterations to Cottages, Baths, etc.:** R. J. Barwick, Dover.—**Portsmouth: Steel Rails:** T. W. Ward, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Wire Cut Bricks:** Bailey & Whites, Ltd., Portsmouth.—**Red Facing Bricks:** Portsmouth Brickworks, Ltd., Copnor, Portsmouth.

ADMIRALTY.

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

Aluminium Ingots: The British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Badges, Embroidered:** R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.; E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans; Firmin & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; M. Hand & Co., Ltd., London, W.; Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, W.; George Kenning & Son, London, E.C.; H. James, London, W.; Edward Stillwell & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; Stephen Simpson, Preston; R. Virgo & Co., London, S.W.—**Batteries:** Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Batteries and Cells:** D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Beacons, Surveying:** F. Bevis, Ltd., Portsmouth; Vosper & Co., Ltd., Portsmouth.—**Blocks, Mild Steel:** Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine.—**Boots, Half:** Atlas Shoe Co., Ltd., London, E.; Owen Smith, Raunds.—**Boots, Sea:** Adams Bros., Raunds; R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; J. Horrell & Son, Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds.—**Boxes, Projectile:** Educational Supply Association, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Bulkhead Glands, etc.:** W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Bunting:** Wm. Bancroft & Sons (of Halifax), Ltd., Halifax.—**Cans, Oil:** J. G. Carrick & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Canvas Sailcloth:** Francis Webster & Sons, Arbroath; Anderson & Chalmers, Arbroath; Port Glasgow & Newark Sailcloth Co., Port Glasgow.—**Cells:** Premier Accumulator Co. (1921), Ltd., Northampton; Pritchett & Gold & E.P.S. Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock.—**Chain, Rigging and**

Pitched: Earl of Dudley's Round Oak Works, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Henry Reece, Cradley; W. Griffin & Sons, Ltd., Cradley Heath; J. G. Walker & Son, Ltd., Old Hill; Woodhouse Bros., Cradley Heath; Edge & Sons, Ltd., Shifnal.—**Clips, Mild Steel:** Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cloth, Cotton Cleaning:** A. Robertshaw & Sons, Ltd., Mytholmroyd, Yorks.—**Copper Nails, etc.:** The Combination Metallic Packing Co. (1921), Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne; Harrison & Cook, Birmingham; D. Powis & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London; Tower Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Worcester.—**Cotton Waste:** C. E. Austin & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Crane, 30-ton Electrically-operated Dockside Travelling:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Drill, White Cotton:** James Finlay & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Hoyle & Smith, Ltd., Manchester.—**Duck Cloth, Linen:** Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Duck, Cotton:** Joshua Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Electric Heating Elements:** Credenda Conduits Co., Birmingham.—**Fans, Blower:** Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Fans, Turbo:** W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Fans, Turbon and Motors:** Turbon Patent Fan Co., Ltd., Llanelly.—**Fans, Ventilating:** Sturtevant Eng. Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Felt, Brown:** Bury Felt Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bury.—**Flannel:** J. Sandiford & Son, Rochdale; J. Schofield & Sons (Buckley), Ltd., Rochdale; R. Schofield, Ltd., Rochdale.—**Flour:** J. Wilson & Co., Ltd., Leith.—**Forgings, Steel, Cylinder Liners:** Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Galvanised Steel Mangers:** S. W. Bullas & Sons, Ltd., Cradley Heath; McWhirter, Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Gloves, White Cotton:** F. & J. Ellis, Leicester.—**Glycerine:** Price's Soap Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Gunmetal Universal Joints:** Shiphams & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Heterodyne Units:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.—**Iron and Steel Nails, etc.:** Armistead & Grimshaw, Leeds; D. Bennie & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Carlyle, Chirm & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; Hall & Rice, Ltd., West Bromwich; T. Parish & Son, Halesowen; The Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington; D. Willetts, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Iron Plate Workers' Wares:** W. B. Bawn & Co., Ltd., London, E.; S. W. Bullas & Sons, Ltd., Cradley Heath; Davies Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton; Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston; Eli Griffiths & Sons, Birmingham; Lancaster & Co. (Bow), Ltd., London, E.; D. McDonald & Son, Ltd., Hamilton West; Pratt Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Sankey & Sons, Ltd., Bilston.—**Laboratory Apparatus:** Baird & Tatlock (London), Ltd., London, E.C.; R. & J. Beck, Ltd., London, E.C.; Newton & Co., London, W.; Moul & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; W. G. Pye & Co., Cambridge; H. Tinsley & Co., London, S.E.; W. Watson & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Leather:** J. Conyers & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; H. Densham & Sons, Ltd., Bristol; Harold Nickols, Ltd., Leeds; Parker Bros., Ltd., Bristol; Thos. Rearden & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Thos. Ware & Sons, Ltd., Bristol.—**Linen Goods:** A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy; W. Lumsden & Son, Freuchie; R. Stocks & Co., Kirkcaldy; Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Machine, Beam Bending, Angle Cutting and Punching:** Scriven & Co. (Leeds), Ltd., Leeds.—**Machine, Punching, Shearing and Angle Cutting:** Craig & Donald, Ltd., Johnstone, near Glasgow.—**Machine, Surface Grinding:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Broadheath, Manchester.—**Mackintoshes (C.P.O.):** Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Mercury Vapour Rectifiers:** Hewitt Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Methylated Spirit:** Davis Brothers, Ltd., London, E.—**Monel Metal Rod:** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Cathcart, Glasgow.—**Motor Boats:** Groves & Gutteridge, Cowes, I. of W.; J. S. White & Co., Ltd., Cowes, I. of W.; R. J. Perkins & Son, Whitstable; Anderson, Rigden & Perkins, Whitstable.—**Motor Boat Machinery:** The Parsons Motor Co., Ltd., Southampton; Dixon Bros. & Hutchinson, Southampton; The Gleniffer Motors, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Motors, Controllers, etc.:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Nets, Hay:** McWhirter, Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Ovens, Bakers:** Wm. Green & Co. (Ecclesfield), Ltd., Ecclesfield; H. Wilson & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Overcoats, Seamen's:** J. Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby; H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Platinum Strip and Wire:** Johnson, Matthey & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Power Press:** Greenwood & Batley, Ltd., Leeds.—**Propellers, Bronze:** Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., Millwall; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., Deptford.—**Pumps, Centrifugal:** Drysdale & Co., Ltd., Yoker, Glasgow.—**Ranges, Galley:** Carron Company, Falkirk; Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Repair and Modification of Telephone Receivers:** S. G. Brown, Ltd., London, W.—**Rope, Steel Wire:** Bullivant & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Haggie Bros., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne; T. & W. Smith, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Warrington Wire Rope Works, Ltd., Liverpool; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Rotary Converter, etc.:** English Electric Co., Ltd., Stafford.—**Screws, Phosphor Bronze:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; T. Haddon & Co., Birmingham.—**Serge, Blue:** James Casson, Elland, Yorks; Wm. Edleston, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge; Joshua Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Huddersfield; J. W. Whitworth, Ltd., Luddendenfoot, Yorks.—**Shafting, Telegraph:** Talbot-Stead Tube Co., Ltd., Walsall.—**Sheets, Steel:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Openshaw, Manchester; Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Smith & Co., Ltd., Londonderry; Wm. J. Jamieson & Co., London, E.C.—**Shutters, Fireproof:** A. L. Gibson, Twickenham.—**Side Scuttles:** J. & J. Woods, Ltd., Liverpool; J. Roby, Ltd., Liverpool.—**Slings, Chain Wagon:** Fellows Bros., Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Steel Cylinders:** Chesterfield Tube Co., Ltd., Chesterfield.—**Steel Plating, Perforated:** G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; W. Barns & Son, London, N.—**Steel Tapes:** James Chesterman & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Suits, Bluet Combination:** Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; T. Sutcliffe & Son, Ltd., Hebden

Bridge.—**Tea:** Lipton, Ltd., London, E.C.; McMeekin & Co., London, E.C.—**Trailers and Trailer Bodies:** Eagle Engineering Co., Ltd., Warwick.—**Troughs, Portable Iron Wash:** H. Brown & Co., Ltd., London; Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; McWhirter, Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Walls, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tubing, Canvas Hose:** F. Reddaway & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Tubing, Weldless Steel:** The British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Valves and Seacocks:** Shiphams & Co., Ltd., Hull; Steven & Struthers, Glasgow.—**Varnishes:** Blundell, Spence & Co., Ltd., Hull; Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; Gross, Sherwood & Heald, Ltd., Barking; W. S. Jenkins & Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Charles Orme & Co., London, S.E.; Paripan, Ltd., Egham, Surrey; Sissons Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hull; J. Smith & Son (Haltwhistle), Ltd., Haltwhistle; C. W. Waters, Ltd., London, E.C.; L. G. Wilkinson, Ltd., London, E.C.; S. Wills & Co., Bristol.—**Vests, Summer and Winter Wear:** I. & R. Morley, Nottingham.—**Zinc Slabs:** Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; London Zinc Mills, Ltd., London, N.

WAR OFFICE.

Acid, Sulphuric: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.—**Bags, Clothes Sea Kit:** T. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C.; C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Boots:** W. Nichols & Sons, Ltd., Kettering.—**Carriers, Petrol Can:** Maides Bros., Croydon.—**Cloth, Serge Service Dress:** J. Harper & Sons, Calverley, near Leeds.—**Cloth, Silk:** Ireland & Wishart, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Cloth, Tweed:** H. Booth & Sons, Gildersome, near Leeds.—**Copper Ingot:** British American Metals Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; British Metal Corpn., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Drawers, Cotton, Short:** C. Cooper & Co., Ltd., London.—**Drill, Cotton:** Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Littleborough, Lancs.—**Drill, Brown Cotton:** J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Ritchie & Eason, Manchester.—**Engine, Oil, and Alternator, etc.:** English Electric Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Gauges, Pressure, Tyre:** A. Schrader's Son, Inc., London, N.W.—**Glass Discs, Splinterless:** Triplex Safety Glass Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Gloves, Worsted Drab:** A. Yates & Co., Ashby-de-la-Zouch.—**Hides:** J. & F. J. Baker & Co., Colyton.—**Horns, Mechanical:** Cowey Eng. Co., Ltd., Kew.—**Lamps, Lorry, Tail:** H. Miller & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lathes:** Holbrook & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Lead, Pig:** Locke, Lancaster & W. W. R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Machines, Clothes, Pressing:** I. Braithwaite & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Motor Chassis:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—**Motor Launch:** J. I. Thornycroft, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Motor Vehicles:** Arthur E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—**Nickel:** Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., Swansea.—**Oil, Rangoon:** Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Overalls and Trousers, Khaki Drill:** Asten Bros., Hebden Bridge; J. Compton & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill.—**Overalls:** Lybro, Ltd., Liverpool; H. Weeler & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pneumatic Covers and Tubes:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Pumps, Tyre, Foot:** Hattersley & Davidson, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Repair of Field Dressings:** Cuxson, Gerrard & Co., Ltd., Oldbury.—**Repairs to Vessel:** S. Hodge & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Sacks, Cement:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Screws:** British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Sewing Machines:** Jones Sewing Machine Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Shirts, Flannel:** A. G. Bateman, Manchester; C. Cooper & Co., Ltd., London; Rothesay Mftg. Co., Surbiton.—**Spares, Engine:** Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Steel Plate:** David Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Stoves:** Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Summerford Iron Co., Ltd., Falkirk.—**Tin Ingot:** Wm. Harvey & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Tins, Petrol:** J. F. Farwig & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Trailer Bodies:** Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Transformers:** Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood.—**Trousers, Service Dress:** Horne Bros., London, W.; Sim, Rose & Sons, Leeds.—**Varnish, Copal, etc.:** Naylor Bros. (London), Ltd., Slough.—**Wire, Steel, Flat:** S. Fox & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Zinc:** British Metal Corpn., Ltd., London, E.C.; H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** Lichfield: Chitham & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Building Works and Services:** Supply and Erection of Steelwork at Q. Mary's Buildings, S.W. 1: Bain, W., & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Chepstow—Erection of Steel-Framed Workshop: Bain, W., & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge. Dunbar—Erection of Vehicle Shed, Castlepark Barracks: W. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge. Canterbury—Re-conditioning of Huts: Geo. Browning, Canterbury. Lydd—Married Soldiers' Quarters: T. W. Heath, Ltd., London, S.W. Erection of Field Officers' Quarters at Lydd Camp: T. W. Heath, Ltd., London, S.W. Pinehurst—Married Soldiers' Quarters: T. H. Jones, S. Farnboro', Hants. Aborfield Cross: Conversion of Old Sergeants' Mess in Four Married Soldiers' Quarters: H. Mellor, Woking. Dunbar: Erection of Stables, Sick Horse Lines, etc., Castlepark Barracks: W. C. Robertson, Edinburgh.—**Installation:** Devizes Barracks—Electric Light: J. Lott & Son, Swindon.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. Ltd., Coventry; Blackburn Aeroplane Co., Leeds; Fairey Aviation Co., Hayes, Middlesex; Handley Page, Ltd., Hendon.—**Aircraft Chassis:** S. E. Saunders, Ltd., Cowes.—**Aircraft (Conversion):** Supermarine Aviation Works, Southampton.—**Aircraft (Conversion and Reconditioning):** H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.

—**Aircraft (Metal Hull):** Short Bros. Ltd., Rochester.—**Aircraft (Metal Wings):** Steel Wing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Aircraft (Reconditioning):** De Havilland Aircraft Co., Edgware; H. G. Hawker Eng. Co., Kingston-on-Thames; A. V. Roe & Co., Manchester.—**Aircraft (Repairs to):** Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil; Blackburn Aeroplane Co., Leeds.—**Aircraft Spares:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; A. V. Roe & Co., Manchester; Fairey Aviation Co., Hayes, Middlesex; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Cheltenham; De Havilland Co., Edgware; Blackburn Aeroplane Co., Leeds; H. G. Hawker Eng. Co., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft Undercarriages:** H. G. Hawker Eng. Co., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft Wings:** Blackburn Aeroplane Co., Leeds.—**Aircraft (Work on):** Fairey Aviation Co., Hayes.—**Ballast Weights:** Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Bombs:** Trojan, Ltd., Croydon; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Bomb Sights:** Heath & Co., London, S.E.—**Building Works Services:** Married Quarters, Halton Park; Wilson, Lovatt & Sons, Wolverhampton. Officers' Mess and Quarters (Kenley): J. W. Ellingham, Ltd., Dartford. Guard House, Shotwick: J. Gerrard & Sons, Ltd., Swinton, near Manchester. External Services, Digby; Guard House, Digby: W. Pattinson & Sons, Ltd., Sleaford, Lines. Re-Roofing Flight Shed, Andover: H. J. Goodall, Basingstoke. Sick Quarters and External Services, Gosport: John Hunt, Gosport.—**Butyl Alcohol, Conversion of:** Boake, Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Coal, for Andover:** Dinham, Fawcus & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Coal, for Ickenham:** William Cory & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Coal, for Kidbrooke:** Dinham, Fawcus & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Judd Budd, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Coats, Great:** H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Connecting Rods for Aircraft Engines:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Containers, Dope:** Baldwin's Ltd., London, E.—**Cowling Experiments:** Geo. Parnall & Co., Bristol.—**Crank-cases, Duralumin:** James Booth & Co. (1915), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Crossley Spares:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Drums, Steel:** P. D. Mitchell, Dundee; Miles, Druce & Co., London, S.E.; F. Francis & Son, London, S.E.—**Engine Aircraft, Development Test on:** Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engine Aircraft, Development Work on:** Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine (Aircraft), Repair of:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine (Aircraft) Spares:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines (Aircraft), Rectification of:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines (Aircraft), Re-Design of:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines (Blackburne 5/6 H.P.):** Burney & Blackburne, Ltd., Bookham, Surrey.—**Extinguishers (Pyrene):** The Pyrene Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Extinguishers (Vincent):** General Fire Appliance Co., London, E.C.—**Gas Starter Fittings:** Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.—**Generators and Balances:** The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Hubs (Rear) for Armoured Cars:** Weybridge Motor Engineering Co., Ltd., Weybridge.—**Magnetos:** Simms Motor Units (1920), Ltd., London, W.—**Mattress Cases:** Bayswater Bedding Co., London, W.—**Packing Cases (Engine):** D. M. Davies, London, N.—**Petrol Pumps:** De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware.—**Radium Bromide:** W. Dempster & Son, Ltd., Ballock, N.B.—**Railway Sleepers:** Wm. Christie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Rotary Transformers:** W. Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Seaplane Hull (Experimental):** Supermarine Aviation Works, Southampton.—**Shock Absorber Cord:** Whiteley Exerciser, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Storage Battery:** Premier Accumulator Co., Northampton.—**Stoves, Ventilating:** Green & Co. (Ecclesfield), Ltd., Ecclesfield, near Sheffield.—**Tables, Bedside:** Watt Tarrance & Co. (Woolwich), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tent Poles (Steel):** British Mannesmann Tube Co., London, E.C.—**Tubes, Inner:** Palmer Tyre Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Tyres:** The Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, W.C.; Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Volt-meters:** Cambridge & Paul Instrument Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

POST OFFICE.

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Ltd., Birmingham; H. Collier & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Rings, Insulator:** Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham.—**Stamp Vending Machines:** British Stamp and Ticket Automatic Delivery Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Rods, Sweeps:** E. A. Ward & Co., Birmingham.—**Rope:** Belfast Ropeworks Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Solder:** Tyne Solder Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Spindles:** Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Universal Bolts and Nuts, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Thread:** H. P. King & Son, London, E.; I. N. Lyons, Ltd., London, E.; J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tools, Instrument:** Wm. Wilkinson & Sons, Penketh.—**Wallboards:** H. Brown & Sons, Luton.—**Wire, Bronze:** Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Wellington.—**Wire, Copper:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor; Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak; Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Ltd., Manchester; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Beswick; F. Smith & Co., Manchester; John Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wire, Galvanised Iron:** Ramsden, Comm & Co., Ltd., Brighouse.—**Wood Wool:** Saw Mills Co., Ltd., London, E.

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