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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement in March. Among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland the percentage unemployed at 24th March, 1924, was 9·9, compared with 10·7 at 25th February, 1924, and with 11·5 at March, 1923. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 7·8 at the end of March, 1924, compared with 8·1* at the end of February, 1924. The total number of workpeople registered at 31st March, 1924, at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as applicants for employment, was approximately 1,057,000, of whom 791,000 were men and 204,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 25th February, 1924, the total was 1,156,000, of whom 858,000 were men and 227,000 were women.

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

WAGES.

The upward tendency in wages continued during March. In the industries for which statistics are available the changes reported resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £30,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 600,000 workpeople and in a reduction of about £7,500 in the weekly wages of over 180,000 workpeople.

Among the workpeople whose wages were increased were coal miners in the Yorkshire and East Midland area and in Scotland, whose wages were increased by about $1\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., respectively, on current rates. Other important groups of workers who received increases included iron ore miners in Cumberland, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland, soap makers in England, chemical workers in Scotland, workpeople employed in the textile making-up and packing trade at Manchester, brewery workers at Burton, and workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire and the East Midlands.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced were coal miners in Durham and in the Forest of Dean, who sustained reductions of about $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., respectively, on current rates.

During the first three months of 1924 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted

in net increases of over £206,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 1,700,000 workpeople and in net reductions of nearly £36,000 in the wages of 590,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1923 there were net increases of about £19,500 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 190,000 workpeople and net reductions of over £160,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 1,600,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st April 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 73 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 78 per cent. a month ago and 74 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding percentage for 1st April was 67, as compared with 76 a month ago and 68 a year ago. The fall in the percentage between 1st March and 1st April was mainly due to substantial reductions, largely of a seasonal nature, in the prices of eggs, milk and butter.

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 April reference should be made to the article on page 124.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 59. In addition, 21 disputes, which began before March, were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in March (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 76,000, as compared with 144,000 in the previous month, while the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during March was about 730,000 working days, as compared with 700,000 days in February. The principal stoppage was that involving nearly 40,000 tramway and omnibus workers in London.

During the first three months of 1924 the stoppages of work owing to trade disputes reported to the Department have involved approximately 288,000 workpeople, as compared with 125,000 workpeople involved in disputes in the first three months of last year. The aggregate duration of the stoppages in January to March, 1924, has been nearly 2,100,000 working days, as compared with over 1,200,000 days in the corresponding period of 1923.

* Revised figure.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILLS.

THE Unemployment Insurance Bill (No. 2)* "to amend the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1924," and the Unemployment Insurance Bill (No. 3)† "to extend the periods for which the receipt of unemployment benefit during the current benefit year may be authorised under Section 2 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923," were introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Labour on the 3rd and 4th April respectively. The Unemployment Insurance Bill (No. 3) subsequently passed through all stages, and received the Royal assent on 15th April.

Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Bill.

The principal provisions of this Bill are as follows:—

Period of Benefit.—Sub-sections 1 and 2 of Clause 1 provide that, up to a limit of one week of benefit for every six contributions paid, or of 26 weeks of benefit during a "benefit year" (whichever is the less), benefit is to be paid on conditions which are in the main the same as those applied by the existing law to covenanted benefit. Certain modifications of the existing conditions in this respect are proposed in Clauses 3 and 4. "Benefit year" is defined in sub-section 5 of Clause 1.

Further benefit for a period additional to the above is to be payable if and so long as the insured contributor satisfies not only the conditions already referred to, but also the additional conditions specified in sub-section 3 of Clause 1.

Persons Insured.—Clause 5 provides that boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 16 years are, on and after 6th October, 1924, to be insured against unemployment on becoming employed in an insured trade. Under the existing law no persons under the age of 16 years are insurable.

Courses of Instruction.—Provision is already made in Section 7 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for enabling unemployed persons to be required to attend courses of instruction as one of the conditions for the receipt of benefit. Clause 11 of the present Bill authorises the Minister of Labour, with the consent of the Treasury, to pay certain grants out of the unemployment fund towards the cost of such courses of instruction.

Rates of Benefits.—The weekly rates of benefit under the existing law and those proposed by the Bill are as follows:—

	Existing rate. s. d.	Proposed rate. s. d.
Men	15 0	18 0
Women	12 0	15 0
Boys (16 to 18)	7 6	7 6
„ (14 to 16)	—	5 0
Girls (16 to 18)	6 0	6 0
„ (14 to 16)	—	4 0
Additional allowance—		
for wife (or invalided husband) ...	5 0	5 0
for each young dependent child ...	1 0	2 0

Rates of Contribution.—No change is proposed in the rates of contribution payable for the time being and until the end of the "deficiency period" (i.e., the date certified by the Treasury to be the date when the unemployment fund is solvent) by employers, employed, and the Exchequer, respectively, in respect of the classes of workpeople at present insured.

For boys and girls between 14 and 16 years of age the weekly rates of contribution during the deficiency period will be the same as those payable during that period in respect of boys and girls between 16 and 18 years of age, namely:—

	Employer.	Employed person.	Exchequer.
Boys ...	5d.	4½d.	3½d.
Girls ...	4½d.	4d.	3½d.

Section 4 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, provides that after the end of the deficiency period the rates of contribution from employers and employed shall be reduced so as not to exceed certain specified maximum rates, and that the Exchequer contribution, which is at present approximately one-third of the combined contributions of employers and employed, shall become one-fourth of the combined contributions. Clause 6 of the present Bill leaves unaltered the maximum rates for employers and employed, but provides that the Exchequer contribution shall after the end of the deficiency period become one-half of the combined contributions of employers and employed, i.e., one-third of the total contributions of employers, employed and the Exchequer. Under the proposals of the Bill the maximum rates of weekly contribution when the reduction above referred to is made after the end of the deficiency period will be as follows:—

	Employers.	Employed.	Exchequer.
	d.	d.	d.
Men	6	6	6
Women	5	4	4½
Boys (14 to 18)	3	3	3
Girls (14 to 18)	2½	2	2½

Trade Dispute Disqualification for Benefit.—Under Section 8 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, persons thrown out of work owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises at which they were employed are in general disqualified for benefit so long as the stoppage continues. Sub-section 1 of Clause 4 of the present Bill removes this disqualification in cases where the insured contributor proves that

he is not participating in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work, and that he does not belong to a grade or class of workers members of which are participating in the dispute.

Special Schemes of Insurance by Industries.—The power conferred by Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, to make special schemes of insurance by industries is, under Section 5 of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1921, suspended during the deficiency period. The Bill proposes that the power to make special schemes shall be abolished for the future, subject to a saving clause in favour of the continuance of any special scheme already approved or submitted to the Minister in a complete form before 3rd April, 1924. No restriction is proposed in the power to make supplementary schemes of insurance by industries, as conferred by Section 20 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

Refunds to Insured Persons at age of 60.—Under Section 25 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, insured persons reaching the age of 60 years (or their personal representatives) may, under certain conditions, obtain a refund of the contributions paid less any benefit received with compound interest at 2½ per cent.

Clause 9 of the present Bill abolishes these refunds for the future but provides that:—

(a) Valid claims for refund which could have been made before the passing of the Bill into law are to be paid in full if made within 12 months thereafter;

(b) Insured contributors aged 50 years or over when the Bill passes into law (or their personal representatives) in whose case a refund has not then become due, are to receive compensation (on certain specified terms) for the loss of their prospective rights to a refund, provided that they have paid at least 50 contributions before the passing of the Bill into law and make their claims within 12 months thereafter.

In connection with this Bill, the Government Actuary has presented a report to the Minister of Labour on the financial provisions of the Bill.*

The Government Actuary was instructed that his estimates should be based on the assumption that the numbers on the live register of the Employment Exchanges would average 1,100,000 up to the end of the present benefit year (15th October, 1924); 1,000,000 thereafter until the end of the deficiency period; and 800,000 after the end of the deficiency period. He has further assumed that the new provisions will operate as from the 1st July next, except that juveniles aged 14 to 16 will not be included in the scheme until 6th October next.

On this basis he estimates the net income of the Unemployment Fund (after allowing for cost of administration) up to the 15th October next at £23,900,000, and the expenditure at £21,700,000, leaving a credit balance of £2,200,000. This would reduce the Unemployment Fund's debt to the Treasury, on the 15th October, to about £7,800,000. The Actuary estimates that the debt to the Exchequer will be finally extinguished about June, 1926, when the deficiency period will come to an end.

After the end of the deficiency period the Exchequer contribution is fixed, under the new Bill, at one-half of the total contributions of employers and employed. It is estimated that the net income of the fund on this basis will be £31,500,000, and the expenditure £30,500,000, leaving a net balance of £1,000,000, which could be applied to build up a reserve against future contingencies.

In all the above calculations no account has been taken of the possible effects of the new trade disputes clause, the cost of which is insusceptible of calculation.

Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act.

The Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act substitutes a maximum of forty-one weeks of benefit for that of twenty-six provided for by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, during the "first benefit year" (i.e., 18th October, 1923, to 15th October, 1924).

The additional benefit allowed by the Act will be governed by the conditions applying to uncovenanted benefit (†).

The financial effect of the Act will be that an additional sum, estimated at between £2,000,000 and £2,250,000, will be paid in benefit out of the unemployment fund in the period up to October next.

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATION) BILLS.

LORD MUIR MACKENZIE introduced in the House of Lords, on the 18th March, a Bill‡ "to consolidate the enactments relating to the housing of the working classes in England and Wales," and a similar Bill§ for housing in Scotland.

The Bills are intended to consolidate, without amendment, the permanent law relating to the housing of the working classes in England and Wales and in Scotland, respectively. They do not incorporate, but leave outstanding, the temporary measures which have been passed for the purpose of encouraging building in the immediate future, to meet the present shortage of housing accommodation.

* House of Commons Bill 101. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.
† House of Commons Bill 102. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.

* Cmd. 2109: H.M. Stationery Office; price 8d. net.
‡ See page 78 of last month's issue of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE.
§ House of Lords Bill, No. 32. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4s. net.
§ House of Lords Bill, No. 33. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. net.

FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE THE ARMISTICE.

STATISTICAL Tables* have recently been issued showing the extent of the effort from public sources since the Armistice to meet the problems of post-war resettlement and unemployment, and to indicate the measure of assistance provided by the Exchequer. The methods of financial co-operation are so diverse that it is impracticable to give an aggregated figure of Exchequer assistance, but the following statement gives some of the principal figures under each scheme separately.

In regard to unemployment insurance the following is a statement of income and expenditure from the Armistice to the 1st March, 1924 :—

Expenditure :—		£	£
Benefit paid	154,874,000		
Appropriation for Administration	13,733,000		
Miscellaneous (Refunds, etc.) ...	1,831,000		
			170,438,000
Income :—			
Contributions :—			
Employers	54,311,000		
Employed	49,463,000		
Exchequer	35,222,000		
Exchequer (for ex-Service Men)	2,841,000		
			141,837,000
Interest (net)			1,204,000
Balance of Old Fund at Armistice (excluding interest accrued)† :—			
Employers	5,825,000		
Employed	5,825,000		
Exchequer	3,854,000		
			15,534,000
Loans from Treasury (net)			11,470,000
Miscellaneous (mainly deposits in respect of future contributions) ...			393,000
			£170,438,000

A summary of expenditure on schemes of post-war resettlement, of which the whole cost is borne by the Exchequer, shows that out-of-work donation (to ex-Service men and civilians) accounts for about £62,500,000; the training of ex-Service officers, men, nurses and war widows for nearly £35,750,000; and grants for resettlement in civil life for over £3,750,000; making a total under this head of about £102,000,000. About £98,000,000 of this was spent from the Armistice to the 31st March, 1923, and about £4,000,000 was provided for in the 1923-4 Estimates. The expenditure on the training of women and juveniles reached nearly £550,000 by the 29th February, 1924.

As regards schemes assisted by the Unemployment Grants Committee, by grants on the basis of 60 per cent. of the wages costs, grants paid to 31st January, 1924, amounted to about £2,700,000, in respect of schemes estimated to cost about £14,000,000. Loans approved by the Unemployment Grants Committee for grant over a number of years towards interest or interest and sinking fund charges amounted to about £45,250,000 up to 29th February, 1924, and the Exchequer liability (capitalised) in respect of these loans is estimated at about £14,500,000. In addition, schemes promoted by public utility companies had been approved to the extent of about £1,700,000.

Grants amounting to about £9,328,000 have been made under the special post-Armistice road and bridge programme of 1919-1920 in respect of works carried out by local authorities at an estimated total cost of approximately £20,000,000. The first "unemployment programme" proper was initiated by the Ministry of Transport in the winter of 1920-21. The total estimated expenditure up to the year 1926-27 in respect of this programme and those of the succeeding years 1921-2 and 1922-3 is nearly £26,000,000, about 43 per cent. being contributed by local authorities and the remainder by the Government.

An additional programme was authorised by the Government in October, 1923. This contemplates a maximum Government contribution of £8,050,000, towards a total estimated expenditure of £11,750,000 (or, if the new Liverpool-Manchester road be included, £14,000,000).

Schemes concerned with land drainage, water supply, forestry, light railways, etc., to the approximate value of nearly £2,000,000, have involved Exchequer assistance to the extent of about £1,350,000.

Expenditure (including advances by Public Works Loan Board Commissioners) on schemes for the provision, under the Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919, of small holdings, and other land settlement schemes for the benefit primarily of ex-Service men, reached a total of nearly £18,500,000 up to the end of February, 1924.

Under the Export Credits Scheme, which is intended to

facilitate the resumption of the ordinary means whereby traders can obtain facilities from their bankers to finance their export trade, the Government guarantee drafts drawn against shipments of goods exported from Great Britain to approved countries abroad.

Originally a system of cash advances against bills of exchange was adopted, but this has been discontinued and superseded by two systems of *guarantees*, viz., (i) general credits, which do not involve a separate reference to the Export Credits Department in respect of each transaction, and (ii) credits in respect of each specific transaction.

The maximum contingent liability of the Exchequer under this scheme is £26,000,000, of which £8,142,136 was in use or earmarked at the beginning of March, 1924, leaving £17,857,864 available.

Under the Trade Facilities Acts, 1921 and 1922, which lapsed on the 9th November, 1923, the Treasury was empowered, on the advice of an Advisory Committee, to guarantee the payment of interest and principal, or either interest or principal, of loans raised in connection with capital undertakings, provided the loans are expended in such a way as to relieve unemployment in Great Britain. The assistance involved is in the nature of guarantees, which do not call for money from the Exchequer unless losses are incurred. The total amount in respect of which the Treasury had stated their willingness to give guarantees was, at the 29th February, 1924, about £38,200,000.

Tables in regard to expenditure on Poor Law Relief in (a) England and Wales and (b) Scotland since the Armistice are also included. In the former, domiciliary relief (in money or kind) to persons "ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation" and their dependants, from the 1st April, 1920, to the 26th January, 1924, amounted to nearly £25,000,000.

In Scotland power to grant relief to the *able-bodied* poor was conferred on Parish Councils for the first time by the Poor Law Emergency Provisions (Scotland) Act, 1921. The approximate expenditure on outdoor relief to the destitute able-bodied unemployed in Scotland from the 16th May, 1921, to the 26th January, 1924, was nearly £3,000,000.

A summary intended to show the extent to which the Exchequer is involved in schemes of which the cost is borne in whole or in part by the Exchequer shows that the approximate Exchequer contribution from the Armistice to the end of the financial year just closed (excluding loans) was estimated to reach £170,000,000, in respect of schemes of a total approximate value of £390,000,000.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 25th March, 1924, the number of men in training was 10,067, and the number awaiting training 4,145. Since 1st August, 1919, 81,600 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to 31st March, 1924, 44,713 apprentices have been accepted for training with 17,864 employers, as compared with 44,712 apprentices with 17,863 employers on 31st December, 1923.

The apprentices rejected up to 31st March, 1924, numbered 2,179, this being the same as on 31st December, 1923. Of those accepted 43,663 had terminated their training and 1,050 are still in training. The corresponding numbers on 31st December, 1923, were 43,548 and 1,164.

The number of men who have received institutional training up to 31st March, 1924, is 2,313, this being the same as on 31st December, 1923.

NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

The latest returns show that there are 28,554 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-service men employed by these firms is approximately 330,000.

DOCK LABOUR DECASUALISATION COMMITTEE.

IN accordance with the terms of settlement of the recent trade dispute in connection with dock transport workers,* a Committee has been set up by the Minister of Labour for the purpose of developing and strengthening the system of registration of dock transport workers, and to examine the proposal for a guaranteed week for such workers, with a view to arriving at an agreement to give effect to the Shaw Report.†

The members of the Committee are :—Sir Donald Maclean (*Chairman*); Sir Alfred Booth, Mr. Frederic Scrutton and Mr. James S. Spencer (nominated by the National Council of Port Labour Employers); Mr. James Sexton, M.P., Mr. Ben Tillet, M.P., and Mr. Ernest Bevin (nominated by the Transport and General Workers' Union).

Mr. G. T. Reid will act as Secretary of the Committee, and Mr. C. G. Dennys, M.C., as Assistant Secretary.

* See the March, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE (page 81).

* Cmd. 2082. *Statistics relating to Financial Provision for Relief of Unemployment (including Post-War Re-settlement of Ex-Members of His Majesty's Forces), from the Armistice.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.

† Note.—The old fund at 8th November, 1920, had reached a total of £22,210,000.

REPORT ON THE BUILDING INDUSTRY, IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED HOUSING PROGRAMME.

A REPORT* has been issued on the present position in the building industry, with regard to the carrying out of a full housing programme, having particular reference to the means of providing an adequate supply of labour and materials. It has been prepared by the National House Building Committee (representative of employers and operatives in the building trades), formed at the request of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Labour in February last. A Report prepared by a Committee of building materials manufacturers and suppliers, formed at the request of the Minister of Health, is included as an Appendix.

The House Building Committee represented employers and operatives in all sections of the building industries, with Mr. W. H. Nicholls, of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, as Chairman, and Mr. T. Barron, of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives, as Vice-Chairman. Mr. B. H. Rogers, of the Ministry of Labour, acted as Secretary to the Committee.

In regard to the depletion in the numbers of skilled craftsmen, the Report states the causes may be shortly indicated thus:—

(1) The casual nature of employment, partly due to seasonal causes, partly to irregularity of demand for building work;

(2) The drafts which other industries make upon the labour supply of the industry for the purposes of other industries, e.g., maintenance staffs in large works, requirements in shipbuilding, cabinet making, wagon building and the like;

(3) The prolonged depression in the industry which existed from about 1905-6 onwards until 1914;

(4) The loss of personnel due to the war, to post war-time conditions, and also to emigration;

and adds that the effects of causes 1, 3 and 4 upon the recruiting of apprentice labour have been deplorable on account of the want of confidence engendered thereby.

The Committee, therefore, consider that it is primarily necessary to restore the confidence of both employers and workmen in the future of the industry, by providing the most stabilised conditions possible in regard to the demand for building work for a prolonged period.

In regard to the need for guarantees as to the continuity of the building programme, the Report states:—

"It is not surprising, therefore, that the organised workers view with apprehension the prospect of increasing the skilled personnel of the industry, and feel that they must have the complete assurances possible that such an increase will be satisfactorily absorbed, and that future demands for their services will be maintained at an adequate level.

"The Committee are unanimously of opinion that the demand for such assurances is a reasonable one, and recommend that Parliament should be asked to sanction the expenditure required for a definite and continuous programme extending over 15 years, for the erection of an inclusive total of up to, approximately, 2,500,000 houses, upon a basis of cost to be agreed."

The Committee consider that there is a definite shortage of bricklayers, masons and plasterers; and say there is a general feeling that when other industries (particularly shipbuilding) become active again, there will be a pronounced shortage of carpenters and joiners, and also of plumbers. The Committee do not, however, think that a sufficient amount of suitable labour for house building would be released by limiting the demand in other sections of the building industry, or that the supplying of materials would thereby be rendered easy. "The labour, and much of the material, used in ordinary commercial building is unsuitable for house building. . . . In the interests of the community there should be no restriction on private or commercial work, the continuance of which is necessary in order to employ large numbers of craftsmen who would otherwise be unemployed, and such restriction could not facilitate housing production."

The Committee recommend that the maximum programme for the first year should be an added production of 50,000 houses, over and above the 40,000 houses a year that are now being built under the 1923 Housing Act; and consider that the best way to secure the requisite labour will be to distribute the contracts over the largest number of employers possible, and that every opportunity should be given to the smaller types of employers to undertake housing contracts by making the contracts small enough. The Committee desires to lay the greatest stress on this recommendation, believing that its adoption and observance is a *sine quâ non* for the successful launching and prosecution of the housing proposals.

In regard to the augmentation of the labour supply the Committee "strongly recommend that the work of the National Joint Apprenticeship Committee should be expedited, and that among its proposals should be found provisions for establishing joint apprenticeship committees of employers and operatives in every locality where both sides are organised, whose mission it should be to stimulate, in every possible way, the engagement of apprentices up to the limit provided by the existing working rule agreements, together with the re-

moval, for a time at least, of the restrictions as to the number of apprentices which any one employer may have, so long as the total number of apprentices in a given district, when compared with the total number of craftsmen of any trade concerned who are employed in the district, does not exceed the ratio prescribed by the existing rules. The registration of every apprentice is also required." In addition, the Committee propose that "it should be made a condition of every contract for houses under this scheme that the contractor shall employ upon the work, under such contract, apprentices up to a total ratio of one apprentice to three craftsmen, in each of the following trades, viz., bricklayers and masons, carpenters and joiners, slaters and tilers, plasterers, and plumbers. (This does not mean one to three of the men on the contract, but in the trade in the district.) Such apprentices to be indentured under an approved form of indenture in such a manner that they shall be under the supervision of a local joint committee of employers and operatives, and shall be transferable by that committee wherever possible, should the contractor discontinue housing work, and also in order to secure continuity of training and employment. Such apprentices to be similarly registered. The Committee recognise that part of the difficulty at present apprehended in launching the present housing programme is the want of balance between certain trades (e.g., the relative shortage of bricklayers and plasterers); and, as this discrepancy should be rectified, the Committee recommend that instruction should be given to the local apprenticeship committees to exercise a certain discretion as to the number of apprentices in the respective trades until the balance is adjusted.

"The Committee further recommend that these apprentices be accepted up to 20 years of age. Special consideration shall, however, be given to applicants who have had previous experience of the trade (e.g., building trade labourers). That apprentices so entering the trade prior to their 20th birthday shall serve not less than four years, subject, however, in exceptional circumstances, to their right to apply to their local joint committee to pass a test as qualified craftsmen after three years' training."

The following scale of payment is recommended for apprentices under this scheme:—

First six months	40 per cent. of the journeyman's wage.
Second	45
Third	50
Fourth	55
Fifth	60
Sixth	65
Seventh	75
Eighth	85

In order to ensure the co-ordination of all interests concerned, the Committee propose the setting up of a National House Building Committee, composed of representatives of the various organisations, and under the chairmanship of a member of the building industry. It is suggested that such a Committee should be given a status, and a permanency, which would enable it to deal with everything arising within the industry connected with the exercise of its functions under the housing scheme.

The Statutory Committee so set up should be given power to obtain any information which it deems necessary from housing contractors and others. Its proceedings should be given the requisite amount of publicity to ensure the maintenance of public confidence. It should be consulted in regard to the consideration of design as affecting economy of construction, as to the method of obtaining competitive tenders and of placing contracts, also as to the method of ensuring prompt settlement of accounts.

As to wages in the building industry generally the following conclusion is arrived at:—

"Bearing in mind the adverse effect upon the building industry of certain employers seeking to take advantage of a shortage, or surplus, of labour by varying the wages payments according to the state of trade, the Committee are strongly of opinion that, in the case of contracts placed under the Government housing scheme, it should be made an offence to pay either more or less than the agreed standard for monetary payments. In the case of contracts involving the expenditure of Government money, that object could and should be secured by a suitable provision in the contracts, but legislation would appear to be necessary fully to protect the interests of all concerned."

In a section of the Report dealing with the supply of materials the Committee express the opinion that under the most favourable circumstances, and allowing for no increase in building and other new housing, the maximum number of houses that could be built would be:—

1925	...	90,000	1930	...	150,000
1926	...	100,000	1931	...	170,000
1927	...	110,000	1932	...	190,000
1928	...	120,000	1933	...	210,000
1929	...	135,000	1934	...	225,000

These figures, allowing for the five further years (to make up the 15 years' programme) maintaining a production of 225,000 houses per annum, represent a total of approximately 2,500,000 houses, an average of 170,000 houses per annum. The figures given are inclusive of houses built under the Housing Acts, whether by private enterprise or otherwise. The Committee add that, though it may not be possible to reach this standard of production, owing to circumstances over which the industry

has no control, they are prepared to undertake that the minimum production would be two-thirds of the figures given above.

With regard to the control of prices of materials, the Committee recommend that, for the purpose of dealing with outstanding attempts to increase prices, the Statutory Committee, under the Housing Act, should have adequate authority to examine carefully any suggested increase in the price of materials before such increase becomes operative. It is suggested, therefore, for consideration, that every proposed increase in prices should be submitted for the approval of the Statutory Committee prior to such increase being allowed to operate.

Two Appendices to the Report give (i) estimates of the probable demands for labour and materials, and the cost thereof, for a given number of houses; and (ii) a Report on the available supplies of materials for housing schemes.

COURT OF INQUIRY INTO COAL MINES DISPUTE.

On January 17th, 1924, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain gave three months' notice to the Mining Association of Great Britain to terminate the National Wages Agreement in the Coal Mining Industry of the 1st July, 1921.*

During the currency of the notice repeated meetings of representatives of the two bodies took place, and during the last few weeks the Secretary for Mines was in touch with both parties.

Finally, on the 27th March, the employers made the following offer:—

1. Increase in the general minimum rate of wages from 20 per cent. above standard wages to 32½ per cent..
2. A sum equivalent to 15 per cent. of standard wages to go to profits instead of the present 17 per cent.
3. Eighty-seven per cent. of any surplus to wages and 13 per cent. to profits, instead of the present 83 per cent. to wages and 17 per cent. to profits.
4. In no district shall the wages of any adult able-bodied day wage workman fall below a figure 40 per cent. above the standard wages (as defined in clause 7 of the Wages Agreement) of the lowest-paid class of day wage workman in the district.
- [For this purpose the word "district" means each district within an area where the area comprises more than one district, and not the area as a whole.]
5. Existing subsistence wages and allowances to be increased by one-eighth.
6. Owners' deficiencies below standard profits to be recouped by taking, for this purpose, instalments of 33½ per cent. of later available surpluses.
7. Contributions of employers to pensions schemes not to be treated as "costs of production," but must be borne by the employers themselves.
8. Question of inclusion in district ascertainment of the cost of maintenance of temporarily stopped collieries to be dealt with by the National Board, if re-established.
9. Fuller information on "other costs" to be supplied in accordance with workmen's proposals.
10. Information to be supplied respecting capital and quasi-capital expenditure at the collieries, in accordance with the workmen's proposals.
11. Anomalies created by the above proposals in the wages of workmen in receipt of wages at or near the new rate of the lowest-paid workmen to be dealt with by districts.

The Delegate Conference of the Miners' Federation discussed these terms and passed a resolution recommending the members of the Federation to reject them, "as providing no solution of the miners' wage question generally, nor giving the immediate relief so vitally necessary," and to call on the Government to institute an inquiry into (a) wages compared with 1914, (b) wages compared with the cost-of-living index figure, (c) wages compared with wages now prevailing in industry generally.

A ballot of the members of the Federation was taken on these terms, the members being asked to vote *either* for the acceptance of the terms *or* for their rejection coupled with an application to the Government for an inquiry. The ballot resulted in a small majority for the second alternative, the figures being:

For acceptance	322,392
For rejection coupled with an application to the Government for an inquiry	338,650

Majority for second alternative	16,258
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On the 11th April the Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation met the Secretary for Mines and reported to him the result of the ballot. Mr. Shinwell discussed the situation with the Executive Committee and afterwards with representatives of the owners. On the recommendation of the Secretary for Mines, the Minister of Labour has decided to set up a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, "to inquire into and report upon the question of wages in the coal mining industry and the matters in issue between the Mining Association of Great Britain and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain relating thereto." The members of the Court are: The Right Hon. Lord Buckmaster (chairman), Mr. Roscoe Brunner,

and Mr. A. G. Cameron; with Mr. C. S. Hurst and Mr. H. C. Emmerson, of the Ministry of Labour, as secretaries.

It is understood that representatives of the owners and of the men have come to a temporary arrangement as to the terms on which work will be continued after the 17th April (the date of termination of the existing agreement) pending the report of the Court.

LONDON TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS STRIKE.

On 19th December, 1923, the Transport and General Workers' Union gave notice to the employers' representatives on the District Joint Industrial Council for the Tramway Industry in the Metropolitan Area that they claimed an advance of 8s. per week in the basic rate of wages of all tramway workers in the Metropolitan Area. The application was considered by the District Council, but the employers stated that they were unable to meet the application owing to the financial position of their undertakings. No agreement was reached either by the District Council or by the National Joint Industrial Council, and on 13th March, 1924, the matter was reported to the Minister of Labour. At the same time the employees made known their decision to cease work on 15th March. The Minister consulted both parties to the dispute, and at his request the date of ceasing work was postponed for six days. Further meetings were held, and on 20th March the employers' representatives offered to refer the claim to arbitration. The employees' representatives refused this proposal. The London County Council and certain of the Municipal Authorities then offered advances of various amounts to motormen, conductors, inspectors and regulators. The employees' representatives rejected the offers and confirmed their claim for a general advance of 8s. per week in the basic rate of wages of all grades, failing which the notices to cease work would become operative at midnight on Friday, 21st March.

On 21st March the Minister appointed Sir Arthur Colefax, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman), Mr. G. W. Paton, Mr. Arthur Pugh and Mr. H. C. Emmerson (Secretary) as a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the threatened stoppage of the tramway and omnibus services in and around London, and to report thereon.

The strike of tramwaymen began at midnight of the 21st-22nd, and the employees of the London General Omnibus Company, who were not parties to the dispute, ceased work in sympathy with the tramway employees. Over 16,000 tramwaymen and 23,000 omnibus workers were involved in the stoppage.

The inquiry was opened at the Royal Courts of Justice on Saturday, 22nd March, and was concluded on Sunday, 23rd March. An Interim Report was presented on 24th March. Mr. Ernest Bevin, the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, presented the case for the tramwaymen. Mr. C. W. Matthews, Chairman of the Highways Committee of the London County Council, represented the Council and the Municipal Corporations. Mr. C. J. Spencer represented the three tramway companies in the Metropolitan Area, of which he is General Manager. Evidence was also given by the Rt. Hon. Lord Ashfield, Chairman and Managing Director of the London General Omnibus Company, Limited, and Mr. Frank Pick, its General Manager. The Court submitted the following conclusions in their Interim Report:—

(a) Throughout the inquiry the merits of the claim on behalf of the workers for an increase of wages were not seriously questioned.

(b) The present crisis has, in the main, arisen through the tramway undertakings in the metropolitan area being unable to earn sufficient to meet the claim. This has been brought about by the severe competition of the omnibuses in the absence of any co-ordinating control, by the heavy expenditure on renewals and upkeep of the permanent way at present high costs, and by the discharge of the statutory obligations for the maintenance of the surface of the highway.

(c) There is unanimity on the part of those who have appeared before us, competent to express an opinion on the matter, that the solution for the present unsatisfactory position of the industry in the metropolitan area is not to be found in an increase of fares.

(d) All parties express the view, with which we concur, that without some co-ordinating control of passenger traffic within the metropolitan area there is little, if any, prospect of improvement in the condition of the industry.

(e) A definite undertaking by the Government to introduce and press forward legislation placing the passenger traffic of the metropolitan area under some co-ordinating control affords, in our view, a basis, and the only one at present suggested, for reopening negotiations between the parties.

On receipt of the Interim Report the Government announced their intention of bringing in a Bill for the control of traffic in the metropolitan area, and got into touch with the parties on this basis. Renewed negotiations followed, and on March 25th the representatives of the tramway undertakings, both municipal and company owned (except those of Erith, Ilford, and Bexley), made the following offer:—

On the assumption that the Traffic Bill of the Government will afford them some relief from the present financial difficulties, the following authorities, namely, the London

* See the July, 1921, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 336-7.

County Council, including Leyton, the West Ham, East Ham, Croydon, Walthamstow, and Barking authorities, and the London United, Metropolitan Electric, and South Metropolitan Electric Companies, are prepared to recommend their authorities to make an immediate advance of 5s. a week to the motormen, conductors, inspectors and regulators employed, and to agree to arbitrate as regards the balance of the claim of 8s. per week and the claim so far as it affects the other grades of tram employees; and they will all call emergency meetings to ratify this offer.

The men's representatives rejected this offer, and the negotiations broke down. Both sides, however, agreed to attend a conference if called by the Ministry of Labour when the Government thought a suitable opportunity for attempting a settlement presented itself.

The Minister of Transport introduced the London Traffic Bill* in the House of Commons on March 25th, and it was read a second time on March 28th.

On March 26th the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen gave instructions to its members who were employed on the London underground railways to cease work at midnight on the following Friday (March 28th).

At the invitation of the Prime Minister, representatives of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the National Union of Railwaymen, and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen met him on March 27th. In response to a similar invitation, representatives of the tramway and omnibus undertakings also met the Prime Minister. After an adjournment a joint meeting of the parties was held, over which the Prime Minister, and later the Minister of Labour, presided. The conference adjourned late in the evening until the following morning.

A provisional settlement was reached on Friday, March 28th, and submitted to a delegate conference on the following day, the strike order to the "tube" men being meanwhile cancelled. The delegate conference decided to submit the terms to a ballot vote of the tramwaymen; and the men were advised to accept them, both by the leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union and by the Emergency Committee of the Trades Union Congress General Council. The ballot resulted in a large majority for acceptance, the figures being 9,428 for and 4,377 against. Work was generally resumed on Tuesday, April 1st.

The terms of settlement were as follows:—

(1) Resumption of Work: That immediately upon ratification of these heads there shall be a complete resumption of work, and all the men shall be reinstated in their former positions and shall in no way be prejudiced for any part taken in the dispute.

(2) Tramway Wages: (a) Motormen, conductors, inspectors and regulators—As and from the date of resumption of work the basic wages of these grades of employees shall be advanced at the rate of 6s. per week. (b) Other grades—The other grades covered by the Tramway Agreements and Awards shall, as and from the resumption of work, have their bonus increased at the rate of 4s. per week, and a Committee shall be appointed forthwith to consider the question of night work and other conditions.

(3) Sliding Scale: All Grades—It is hereby agreed in respect of all grades that the application of the cost of living scale shall be suspended so long as the cost of living index figure is between 75 and 68 inclusive, and thereafter operate in accordance with the sliding scale arrangements, namely, 1s. for four points above 75 or below 68 up or down.

(4) Boys and youths under the age of 18 years shall be paid one half of the amounts of the increases given under clauses (2) and (3) above.

(5) Other Conditions: These heads of agreement shall not otherwise than as provided thereunder affect any of the other conditions of labour now operating.

The Court of Inquiry issued their Final Report† on the 3rd April. In addition to confirming the conclusions set out previously they submitted the following:—

(1) The consideration by the National and District Joint Industrial Councils of the question of revision of wages paid to the tramway employees in the metropolitan area was unduly protracted, and the issues, although frequently under discussion, were not resolutely faced.

(2) For some weeks at least before the cessation of work it must have been reasonably clear to the parties that they could not reach a settlement of the claim for an increase of wages, but notwithstanding the fact that the claim was one affecting a service the stoppage of which must occasion the public most serious inconvenience, no real efforts were made on either side to arrive at an agreement to submit the dispute to arbitration.

(3) While the present dispute was complicated by the fact that it involved the need for co-ordination and control of the passenger traffic in the metropolitan area, we desire to emphasise what we have stated in paragraph 45 of this Report, that it should be a recognised principle in industrial disputes affecting public services that prompt and sustained effort should be applied in an endeavour to reach a settlement by means of the established machinery for negotiation, and, failing this, that arbitration should be the mutually recognised procedure for dealing with any outstanding issue between the parties.

* House of Commons Bill No. 84. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.
† Cmd. 2101. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE RESEARCH BOARD.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have published three Reports, dealing respectively with shift systems in the glass trade, with rest pauses in industry, and with variety in repetitive work.

(i.) *Shift Systems in the Glass Trade.**

This Report embodies the results of an investigation, conducted in collaboration with the Glass Research Association, into the relative merits of the ten-hour and of the eight-hour shift systems in the glass trade.

The conclusions of the Report are that the relative hourly efficiency in bottle blowing increases almost consistently in the eight-hour as compared with the ten-hour shift; the hourly output is greater, and there is less spoilt work. The increase in output is in no case so great as to bring the total output of the eight-hour shift up to the level of the total output of the ten-hour shift; but it should be borne in mind that, where a three-shift system is in operation, the plant in the factories is being productively used for twenty-four instead of twenty hours every day.

The Report also states that night work under the three-shift system does not appear to put a markedly greater strain on the men than day work. The night shift is always more efficient than the morning shift and not much less efficient than the afternoon shift. When two gangs of men are working alternately in six-hour shifts, one each during the day and one each at night, it is found that night work is consistently less efficient than day work.

It was found that output is greater in winter than in summer, as in other hot trades, such as the tinsplate and the steel industries. Further investigation is required with the object of finding a remedy by more efficient ventilation.

The Report also suggests that fatigue could be lessened and efficiency increased by alternating the work of the members of a gang (or "chair," as it is called in the glass bottle trade). The heaviest work is that of gathering the molten glass from the pot, and it is probable that fatigue could be relieved if the men took turns at this. Such alternation would also allow, in some cases, of a change of posture from standing to sitting.

(ii.) *Rest Pauses in Industry.†*

This Report contains an account of the results of an investigation into the effects of breaking up the spells of work in occupations involving light repetitive work by short rest pauses of definite duration and interpolated at definite intervals.

It is stated that the results of the experiments suggest that monotonous activities of the type under consideration cause a considerable reduction in output, which is most apparent about the middle of the spell of work. This reduction can be avoided to a certain extent by the introduction of a rest pause of 15 minutes' duration half-way through the spell, and such a pause is slightly more effective than two rests of 7½ minutes each introduced at intervals of 50 minutes. There is an increase in output not only after the rest, but also before the pause takes place.

In the opinion of the Board the judicious introduction of rest pauses in light repetitive work may not only tend to reduce monotony and so increase the contentment of the workers, but may also often bring about an increase in output amounting to from 5 to 10 per cent., in spite of the diminution in working time.

(iii.) *Variety in Repetitive Work.‡*

This Report is divided into two sections, setting out the results of investigations into (a) the degree of variety in repetitive industrial work, and (b) the effect of changes in activity.

In section (a) it is shown, as a result of actual observation of workers engaged on repetitive processes, that the cycles of repetition do not form an unbroken series, but that a certain degree of variety is provided either by changes in activity, short interpolated rest pauses, or changes in posture. Methods by which this variety can be still further increased are also indicated. The degree of variety must, however, be limited by practical considerations, and it is suggested in the Report that there must be some optimum condition between extreme uniformity and frequent changes of activity.

Some light is thrown on this point in section (b) of the Report, which is based on actual observations at a factory, supplemented by some experiments carried out in the laboratory. The former show that, although the highest output, as measured by earnings, occurred on days on which the same type of repetitive work continued throughout, there are indications that no diminution need necessarily result from changing the type of work every half-hour, a system which was much preferred by the operatives. More frequent changes, however, caused a much lower output, and greatly increased the amount of unproductive time.

The laboratory experiments indicated that spells of work in which changes of activity were introduced every fifty minutes gave a much higher output and less spoiled work than spells in which the same activity was maintained throughout. It is pointed out in the Report that the laboratory experiments represent a comparison between varied and truly continuous work; whereas the factory observations relate rather to types of work all having some, but different degrees of, variety.

* Industrial Fatigue Research Board, Report No. 24. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.

† Industrial Fatigue Research Board, Report No. 25. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.

‡ Industrial Fatigue Research Board, Report No. 26. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF YOUNG PERSONS IN FACTORIES.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a Committee to inquire into the working of the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Acts for the medical examination of young persons as to their fitness for employment in factories, and to consider :—

(a) Whether the existing requirement of a certificate of fitness, limited to a particular factory, should be modified; whether any other changes should be made in the examination and certificate, and what arrangements should be adopted for the future.

(b) What measures should be taken for linking up the examination of young persons under the Factory and Workshop Acts with their examination under the school medical inspection service, and, if considered desirable, with other public health services of the country.

(c) What arrangements could best be made for providing medical supervision of young persons (where such supervision is considered necessary by the Department) during employment in factories or processes where the conditions of work are unfavourable to health or physique.

The Committee consists of :—

Mr. Rhys J. Davies, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (*Chairman*).

Mr. Gerald Bellhouse, C.B.E., Chief Inspector of Factories.

Dr. R. Wallace Henry.

Mr. J. Moore Murray, secretary to the Warrington Education Committee.

Mr. Sydney W. Pascall.

Mrs. Rackham.

Mr. W. J. Tout, M.P.

Mr. A. H. Wood, of the Board of Education (Medical Branch).

The Secretary of the Committee is Miss R. E. Squire, O.B.E., of the Home Office.

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

DURING the five weeks ended 29th March, 1924, eight meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

The Trade Union side of No. 5 Provincial Council, East Midlands Area, *Local Authorities Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers)* asked the Council to interpret the sliding scale agreement in accordance with Award 861 of the Industrial Court. The Council decided to refer the whole matter to the National Council for its decision and to abide by the result. It decided also that if the National Council gave a decision in favour of the Trade Union side a resulting increase on the schedule rates should be made retrospective as from the first pay day in March, 1924.

At a meeting of the Joint Industrial Council for the *Road Transport Industry (Scotland)* it was agreed to extend the sliding scale agreement, operative last year, for a further year from the 1st May, 1924.

It was announced at a recent meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council of the *Tramways Industry* that the Yarmouth Corporation had decided to rejoin the Council. At this meeting the Council discussed the London Tramways dispute,* and, failing to reach an agreement, reported the position to the Ministry of Labour.

The National Joint Industrial Council for *Electricity Supply*, having discussed certain matters relating to grading of generating stations or sub-stations, decided to appoint a sub-committee to consider the advisability or otherwise of extending the present limits of grading of sub-stations as agreed in existing agreements, and also the possibility of applying the system of grading to men in generating stations by virtue of the size and of the units contained therein. An application for an increase in basic rates of pay was referred by this national body to the District Councils concerned for consideration and report.

The Joint Industrial District Council for the *Export Packing and Clothworking Industries (London Area)* asked the Ministry of Labour to appoint an independent chairman to give an opinion on the merits of a wages claim. The two sides accepted as chairman Sir Richard Redmayne, and thereupon passed a resolution agreeing unanimously that they were prepared to take part in an inquiry, conducted by the chairman appointed, into the ability of the clothworking industry to pay increased wages. Sir Richard Redmayne duly reported his findings to the Minister of Labour. A summary of this case will be found under "Conciliators, Single Arbitrators, etc.," on page 150 of this issue.

The Joint Industrial Council for the *Waterworks Undertakings Industry* has decided not to take the initiative in calling further meetings of the Conference of Chairmen of the Public

Utilities Joint Industrial Councils to consider the question of co-ordinating the pay of general labourers, on the grounds that there is no general desire for a resumption of the Conference.

The question of silicosis was further considered by the *Quarrying Joint Industrial Council*, who emphasised their claim to be consulted when any consideration is given to quarries by the Departmental Committee appointed to deal with certain matters connected with the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Act, 1918.

Among other questions considered by various Councils at meetings held during March were: the Merchandise Marks Bill; the employment and maintenance of ex-Service men; the proportion of apprentices to skilled workers; superannuation; the proposed ratification of the Washington Hours Convention; holiday allowances; and the Industrial Courts Bill.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS, 1906 AND 1923.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

A MEMORANDUM* has been issued by the Home Office, the object of which is stated to be "to set out briefly and in plain language the main provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, as amended by the Act of 1923."†

After a summary of the object of the Acts and of the main changes in the law made by the 1923 Act, the Memorandum deals with the injuries to which the Acts apply, the persons entitled to compensation, the persons liable to pay compensation, the amount of compensation and how payable, the procedure for claiming and recovering compensation, the review and redemption of weekly payments, the settlement of disputes by medical referees, the application of the Acts to industrial diseases (which may, in certain specified cases, entitle the person suffering therefrom, or injured thereby, to compensation), and "contracting out."

Appendices are included setting out (i) the rates of compensation payable to disabled workmen whose average weekly earnings are less than 50s. per week, showing separately the rates for total disablement and for partial disablement; and (ii) the industrial diseases to which the Acts apply.

CONTROL OF TRADE UNION FUNDS IN ITALY.

A DECREE, dated 24th January, 1924,‡ placing the control of administration of the funds of workmen's associations under the local prefectures, came into force on 6th February, 1924.

All associations and corporations which draw their funds from workers' contributions with a view to mutual benefit are covered by the Decree. Where there is ground for suspicion that the public confidence is being abused, or that the funds are being appropriated to uses other than the economic or moral benefit of the workers, the prefect may order an inquiry; and in grave or urgent cases may suspend the managing committee and appoint a commissioner to carry on the administration for a period not exceeding one year.

A month before the termination of his appointment the commissioner must submit a report on the organisation of the association and on any irregularities which may have been discovered.

The prefect, after interrogating such persons as he may think fit, shall decide whether to restore the control to the managing committee, or to appoint a commissioner for a further period, or to suppress the association. In the last case any assets of the association remaining after liquidation are to be used for the benefit of the members.

The Socialist and Catholic press and the *Corriere della Sera* point out that the employment of trade union funds for political purposes will be illegal under the terms of the Decree.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN SWITZERLAND FURTHER RESTRICTION.§

THE Swiss Federal Council has issued a Decree, dated 4th March,|| to the effect that on and from 1st April, 1924, Federal subsidies to unemployment relief works shall cease. It has also decreed, under date 7th March,|| that from the middle of April, 1924, unemployment relief shall cease to be issued to part-time workers, that subsidies to private undertakings shall no longer be granted, that no further contributions towards unemployment relief shall be levied on employers, and that trade associations shall cease to participate in the administration of unemployment relief funds.

* H. M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

† See the December, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE, page 434.

‡ Published in *Gazzetta Ufficiale* for 6th February, 1924.

§ See this GAZETTE for January, 1920, page 11, and for July, August and November, 1922, pages 290, 326 and 440 respectively.

|| *Recueil des Lois Fédérales*, 5th and 12th March, 1924.

* See page 121 of this issue.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	73 %
Food only	...	...	...	67 %

FOOD.

DURING March there was a substantial fall in the retail prices of several of the principal articles of food, largely owing to seasonal causes. The price of eggs fell to an average of 1½d. each at 1st April, as compared with 2½d. at 1st March and 3½d. in December. The price of milk was reduced by 1d. or 2d. a quart in many towns. The average price of butter fell during the month by over 2½d. per lb., and that of cheese by 1d. per lb. There were also smaller but appreciable reductions in the prices of fish and bacon. Potatoes showed the only appreciable increase in prices during the month.

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 67 per cent. at 1st April, as compared with about 76 per cent. at 1st March.

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

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest ¼d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 1st April, 1924, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1924.	1st April, 1924.	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1924.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	0 10	1 5½	1 5½	+ 0 7½	—
Thin Flank	0 6½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3½	—
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	0 10½	0 10	+ 0 2½	— 0 0½
Thin Flank	0 4½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 0½	—
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 7½	1 7½	+ 0 9½	—
Breast	0 6½	0 11½	0 11	+ 0 4½	— 0 0½
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6½	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 5½	—
Breast	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	—
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11½	1 3½	1 3½	+ 0 4½	— 0 0½
Flour per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 3	1 3	+ 0 4½	—
Bread per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 8½	0 8½	+ 0 2½	—
Tea	1 6½	2 6½	2 6½	+ 1 0½	—
Sugar (granulated)	0 2	0 7½	0 7½	+ 0 5½	—
Milk per quart	0 3½	0 7	0 6	+ 0 2½	— 0 1
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	2 2½	1 11½	+ 0 9½	— 0 2½
Salt	1 2½	2 1	1 10½	+ 0 8	— 0 2½
Cheese†	0 8½	1 2½	1 1½	+ 0 5	— 0 1
Margarine	0 7	0 6½	0 6½	— 0 0½	—
Eggs (fresh) each	0 1½	0 2½	0 1½	+ 0 0½	— 0 1
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 10½	0 11	+ 0 6½	+ 0 0½

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st April, 1924, as compared with July, 1914.			Corre- sponding figure for 1st March, 1924.
	Large Towns (Popula- tions over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	78	73	76	77
Thin Flank	47	52	49	51
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	38	38	38	40
Thin Flank	11	16	14	15
Mutton, British—				
Legs	89	91	90	91
Breast	69	70	69	72
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	82	75	79	80
Breast	30	30	30	30
Bacon (streaky)*	40	36	38	42
Fish	109	93	101	110
Flour	39	44	42	42
Bread	51	47	49	48
Tea	66	68	67	67
Sugar (granulated)	261	237	249	250
Milk	67	82	74	96
Butter—				
Fresh	58	70	64	81
Salt	53	59	56	75
Cheese†	56	61	58	71
Margarine	— 4	— 7	— 6	— 5
Eggs (fresh)	34	21	28	99
Potatoes	148	107	128	124
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	68	66	67	76

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

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries 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 April, 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 April 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 approximately 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group there were further increases in the prices of coal during March, and at 1st April the average retail price was about 105 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The average prices of gas and lamp oil showed no considerable change during March, and were about 50 and 55 per cent. respectively above the pre-war level. The prices of candles, however, rose from about 30 to between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level, while those of matches showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st April was about 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 April is approximately 73 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 78 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	161	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	73
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 April, 1924, is about 5 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement in March. It was good in the coal mining industry, in the tinplate, steel sheet, carpet, jute and coachbuilding trades, and with skilled operatives (except painters) in the building trades; it was fairly good with millsawyers, brickmakers and in certain sections of the metal trades, and fair with coopers, and in some branches of the leather and clothing trades. In some of the other large industries, however, it was still very slack.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage of unemployed was 7·8 at the end of March, 1924, compared with 8·1* at the end of February, and with 12·3 at the end of March, 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 24th March, 1924, was 9·9, compared with 10·7 at 25th February, 1924, and 11·5 at the end of March, 1923. For males alone the percentage was 10·3 at 24th March, as compared with 11·1 at 25th February, 1924; for females the corresponding figures were 8·8 and 9·5. The number of workpeople registered at 31st March, 1924, at Employment Exchanges as applicants for employment was approximately 1,057,000, of whom men numbered 791,000 and women 204,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 25th February, 1924, was 1,156,000, of whom 858,000 were men and 227,000 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 continued good generally. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 29th March was 1,138,461, an increase of 3·6 per cent. as compared with March, 1923. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 29th March was 5·68, as compared with 5·63 in March, 1923.

At iron mines employment was bad in Cleveland and in Cumberland and Lancashire; in other districts it was fair on the whole. At the mines covered by the returns received there were decreases of 10·6 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with February and of 8·2 per cent. compared with March, 1923. The average number of days worked per week by the mines in the fortnight ended 29th March, 1924, was 5·48, an increase of 0·38 days on the previous month. At shale mines employment was fair. At limestone quarries employment improved to good in the Clitheroe district; in the Buxton district it was fairly good, and in the Weardale district moderate. At granite quarries in the Aberdeen district employment was reported as fair; at slate quarries in North Wales it continued fairly good; at whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it improved, and was moderate. Employment at china clay quarries continued fair generally.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment during March was slack, and showed a decline as compared with February. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of March was 194, as compared with 202 at the end of February, 1924.

At iron and steel works employment was slack on the whole. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade employment continued good. At the end of March 545 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 511 in March, 1923.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades, though showing continued improvement, was still bad on the whole; in the railway, electrical, and motor and cycle sections it remained fairly good; marine and general engineering improved, but were still bad; the textile machinery section showed no improvement. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries employment showed a further slight improvement, but was still very bad. Employment in the other metal trades showed an improvement in several sections, and was fair on the whole. It was fairly good in the brasswork and hollow-ware trades; fair in the nut, bolt and nail, cutlery and file, needle and fishing tackle, tube, sheet metal, farriery, wire, and stove and grate trades; and slack or bad in the metallic bedstead, lock and latch, harness furniture, chain and anchor, and jewellery and plated-ware trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment showed little general change, though an improvement was reported in some sections of the weaving branch. In the Egyptian spinning section employment continued good, but in the American spinning section it remained bad. Employment in the woollen and worsted industries shared a further slight improvement, especially in the woollen section, and was moderate on the whole.

In the hosiery trade employment showed an improvement and was fair on the whole; in the Nottingham district, however, it continued bad. Employment in the lace trade continued bad, with much unemployment and short-time working. In the silk trade employment was moderate, and showed a further slight improvement in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district. In the jute and carpet trades employment continued good. In the linen trade in Ireland it showed a further improvement; in Scotland it continued depressed. Employment in textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., remained slack on the whole, though an improvement was reported with hosiery trimmers at Hinckley and with silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade was fair on the whole, and showed a seasonal improvement, especially in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch of the trade. In the dressmaking and millinery trades it was also fair, some improvement being reported from most districts; it continued good in the blouse and light underclothing trade in the London district. In the corset trade employment continued to show improvement and was fair; in the shirt and collar trade it was fair in most districts. In the felt hat trade employment showed a slight improvement, but was still slack; in the boot and shoe trades it continued moderate.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section continued fair; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section employment was generally only moderate, but at Birmingham it was very good, except in the fancy leather section, where a slight decline was reported. With saddlery and harness makers employment continued bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trade showed a general improvement; it was good, on the whole, with skilled operatives (except painters) and slack with unskilled workers. With painters there was a further improvement, but employment was still slack in most districts. In the brick trade it showed an improvement and was fairly good.

In the furnishing trades employment improved and was moderate generally; at Birmingham it was fairly good. With coachbuilders it showed a marked improvement and was good; with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists employment also improved and was fairly good generally; with coopers it showed a decline but was still fair; with brushmakers it showed an improvement and was moderate; with basket-makers it was slack, and with packing-case makers it continued bad.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In paper manufacture employment continued moderate on the whole. With letterpress printers employment showed a slight improvement; in London it was still slack with compositors; but in the provinces it was reported to be good at a number of centres. In the lithographic printing trade employment was generally moderate; it was slack, however, at Liverpool and Manchester. With bookbinders it was also moderate, on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trades employment continued slack, on the whole, but was reported as good in the tile, sanitary earthenware and fireclay sections. In the glass trade employment remained moderate, on the whole.

Agriculture and Fishing.—The supply of agricultural labour continued ample for all requirements, but there was less unemployment than during the previous month; many casual labourers being engaged for seasonal work. In the fishing industry employment continued fair.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment among dock labour was moderate, the increased activity following the recent stoppage of work not having been maintained; with seamen it 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 March 1923:—

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among			
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
1923.				
March	12·3	12·6	8·5	11·5
April	11·3	12·3	8·7	11·4
May	11·3	12·0	8·9	11·2
June	11·1	12·1	8·9	11·3
July	11·1	12·2	9·5	11·5
August	11·4	12·4	10·1	11·8
September ..	11·3	12·3	10·0	11·7
October	10·9	12·4	9·8	11·7
November ..	10·5	12·1	9·7	11·5
December ..	9·7	11·2	9·1	10·7
1924.				
January	8·9	12·5	10·2	11·9
February	8·1*	11·1	9·5	10·7
March	7·8	10·3	8·8	9·9

* Revised figure.

* Revised figure.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,118,250 in branches covered by the returns received reported 86,731 (or 7·8 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1924, compared with 8·1* per cent. at the end of February, 1924, and 12·3 per cent. at the end of March, 1923.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of March, 1924.	Unemployed at end of March, 1924.†		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent- age.	Month ago.	Year ago ¶
Building† .. - -	113,045	4,691	4·1	..	- 4·8
Coal Mining .. - -	141,921	1,283	0·9	+ 0·2	- 5·2
Engineering and Ship- building .. - -	358,002	56,951	15·9	- 0·7	- 6·3
Miscellaneous Metal .. -	47,299	3,546	7·5	- 1·3	- 1·6
Textiles :-					
Cotton .. - -	69,384	3,425	5·8	- 1·0	- 3·4
Woolen and Worsted	12,133	1,489	14	+ 0·1	+ 0·3
Other .. - -	57,414	1,568	2·7	- 0·3	- 1·4
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper .. - -	99,242	3,676	3·7	- 1·0	- 1·2
Furnishing .. - -	26,993	1,489	5·5	- 1·2	- 1·4
Woodworking .. - -	44,206	1,671	3·8	- 0·3	- 1·4
Clothing :-					
Boot and Shoe .. -	76,027	3,596	4·7	+ 0·5	- 0·3
Other Clothing .. -	43,040	885	2·1	- 0·2	- 0·5
Leather .. - -	5,677	446	7·9	- 1·1	- 0·9
Glass .. - -	1,188	38	3·2	+ 0·3	+ 0·5
Pottery .. - -	28,000	1,500	5·4	.. *	- 11·3
Tobacco¶ .. - -	4,680	1,798	38·4	+ 10·4	+ 3·4
Total .. - -	1,118,250	86,731	7·8	- 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 9·9 per cent. (males 10·3 per cent.; females 8·8 per cent.) at 24th March, 1924, as compared with 10·7 per cent. (males 11·1 per cent., females 9·5 per cent.) at 25th February, 1924, and 11·5 per cent. (males 12·6 per cent., females 8·5 per cent.) at 26th March, 1923. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 134 and 135.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Mar., 1924.	Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining .. - -	1,188,461	5·68	+ 0·02	+ 0·05
Iron " .. - -	7,518	5·48	+ 0·38	+ 0·04
Shale " .. - -	4,139	5·90	+ 0·01	+ 0·08
Pig Iron .. - -	..	Furnaces in Blast 194	Number. - 8	Number. - 8
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	-	Mills Working 545	+ 6	+ 34
Iron and Steel .. - -	78,893	Shifts Worked (one week). 423,734	Per cent. - 1·9	Per cent. - 3·1

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ended 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a
Textiles :-				
Cotton .. - -	85,356	Per cent. - 1·7	£ 146,856	Per cent. - 3·1
Woolen .. - -	14,809	+ 0·7	30,384	+ 2·3
Worsted .. - -	26,431	- 0·1	49,248	+ 0·0
Boot and Shoe .. -	51,738	+ 0·7	118,493	+ 0·2
Pottery .. - -	11,635	+ 0·4	21,513	+ 1·5
Brick .. - -	6,841	+ 3·5	16,784	+ 6·8
Total .. - -	196,810	- 0·4	383,678	- 0·7

* The figure for February has been revised.

† 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 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.

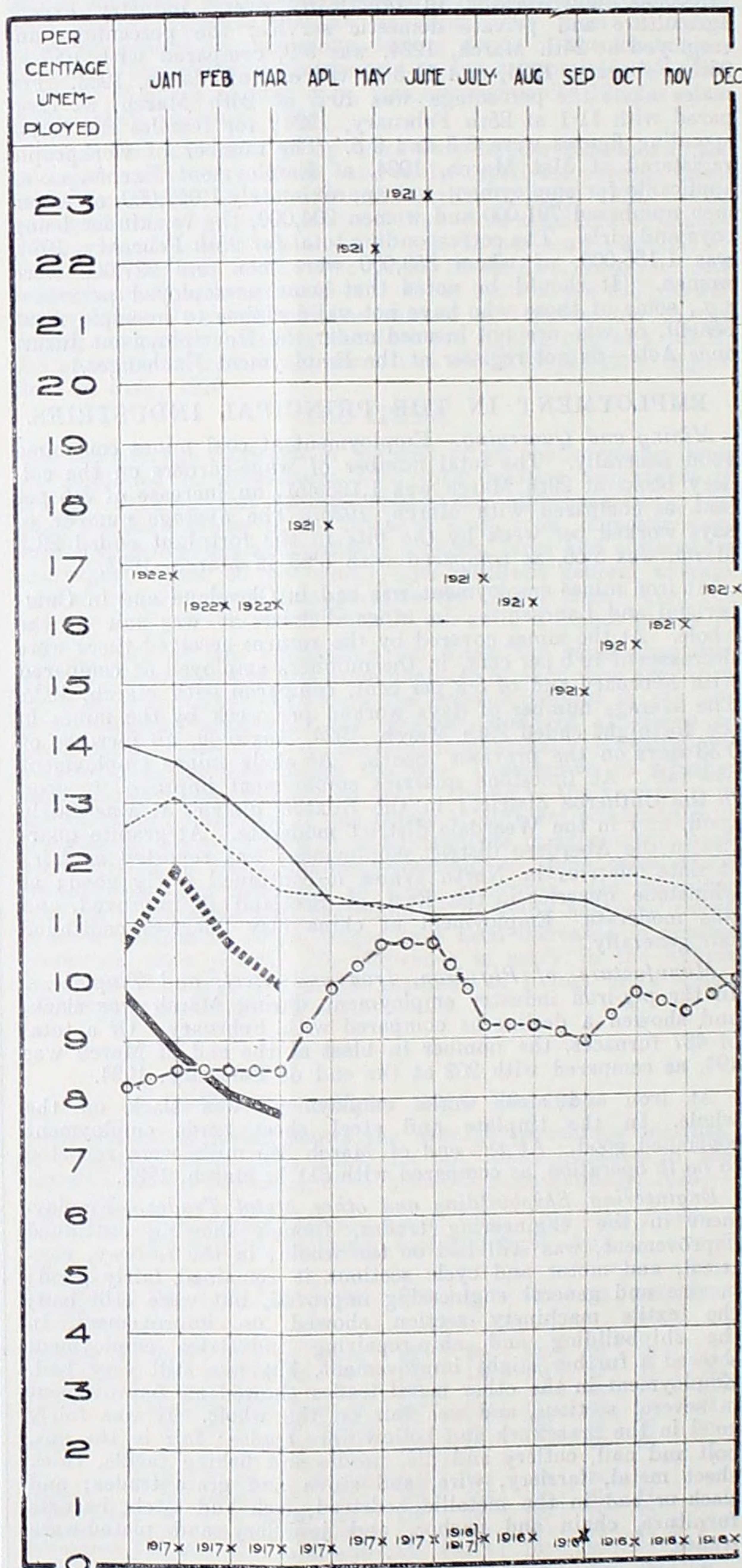
Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1919-23.

× 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 134 and 135.

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 during March continued good generally, and, on the whole, showed little change from the previous month. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 29th March showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. as compared with that at 23rd February and of 3.6 per cent. as compared with that at 24th March, 1923.

The average number of days worked per week for the fortnight ended 29th March was 5.68, an increase of 0.02 of a day per week as compared with the fortnight ended 23rd February last, and an increase of 0.05 of a day per week as compared with the relative figures for 24th March, 1923. There was a decline in the Fife and Clackmannan district, where an average of three-quarters of a day was lost owing to transport difficulties and want of trade.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 2.1 per cent. at 24th March, as compared with 2.5 per cent. at 25th February last.

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 29th March, as indicated by the returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal-mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in these totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*			
	29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 29th Mar., 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 ..	64,237	+ 0.0	+ 4.8	5.48	+ 0.05	+ 0.01
Durham ..	175,822	+ 0.2	+ 5.0	5.43	+ 0.04	- 0.01
Cumberland and Westmorland ..	11,949	- 0.6	+ 2.0	5.73	—	+ 0.03
South Yorkshire ..	114,113	+ 0.3	+ 5.3	5.61	+ 0.06	- 0.01
West Yorkshire ..	69,834	- 0.3	+ 4.0	5.74	+ 0.01	- 0.05
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	105,742	+ 0.0	+ 0.8	5.91	+ 0.02	+ 0.27
Derbyshire ..	65,951	+ 0.0	+ 2.7	5.82	+ 0.06	+ 0.01
Notts. and Leicester ..	66,529	+ 0.4	+ 4.3	5.74	+ 0.15	+ 0.10
Warwick ..	21,692	- 0.2	+ 0.1	5.97	- 0.01	+ 0.02
North Staffordshire ..	35,312	- 0.1	+ 1.8	5.76	- 0.05	- 0.04
South Staffs.,† Worc. and Salop ..	36,488	+ 0.3	+ 4.1	5.99	—	+ 0.07
Glouc. and Somerset ..	14,480	+ 1.2	+ 3.5	5.90	+ 0.02	+ 0.15
Kent ..	1,892	+ 3.1	+ 3.2	5.73	—	+ 0.23
North Wales ..	18,437	- 0.2	+ 5.4	5.77	- 0.17	- 0.19
South Wales and Mon.	243,794	- 0.1	+ 3.1	5.86	+ 0.03	+ 0.21
England and Wales	1,046,572	+ 0.1	+ 3.6	5.73	+ 0.04	+ 0.08
SCOTLAND:						
Mid & East Lothians ..	15,808	+ 0.0	+ 2.5	5.31	- 0.11	- 0.04
Fife and Clackmannan ..	31,084	- 0.2	+ 3.7	4.78	- 0.73	- 0.78
Rest of Scotland ..	94,997	+ 0.2	+ 4.3	5.48	+ 0.02	- 0.01
Scotland ..	141,889	+ 0.1	+ 4.0	5.31	- 0.16	- 0.18
GREAT BRITAIN ..	1,188,461	+ 0.1	+ 3.6	5.68	+ 0.02	+ 0.05

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 29th March, 1924, was 0.08 of a day (of which 0.04 of a day was lost through transport difficulties and want of trade). The corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 23rd February, 1924, were 0.10 of a day and 0.06 of a day respectively; for the fortnight ended 24th March, 1923, they were 0.13 of a day and 0.06 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 29th March was returned to the Mines Department at 23,051,900 tons, as compared with 22,672,400 tons for the four weeks ended 23rd February and with 22,702,600 tons for the four weeks ended 24th March, 1923.

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 March to 6,953,909 tons, compared with 6,908,862 tons in February.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allow, ance 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.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad in the Cleveland district; it was also bad in the Cumberland and Lancashire area, where there was a considerable decline in March. Elsewhere it was fair 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 22.6 on 24th March, as compared with 20.2 on 25th February.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines.		
	Fortnight ended 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Month ago.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ..	3,592	+ 0.3	+ 8.9	5.22	+ 0.75
Cumberland and Lancashire ..	2,188	- 30.1	- 33.6	5.72	+ 0.19
Other Districts ..	1,738	+ 2.2	+ 9.0	5.73	+ 0.10
ALL DISTRICTS ..	7,518	- 10.6	- 8.2	5.48	+ 0.38

Shale Mining.

Employment continued fair during March. At mines employing 4,139 workpeople during the fortnight ended 29th March there was a decrease in the number employed of 0.3 per cent. compared with the previous month, and of 5.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.90 in March, 1924, 5.89 in February, 1924, and 5.82 in March, 1923.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during March was slack, and showed a decline as compared with February.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.8 at 24th March, 1924, compared with 10.1 at 25th February.

Returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms employing 21,133 workpeople at the end of March showed a decrease of 2.7 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of February, and a decrease of 8.9 per cent. compared with March, 1923.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 194, a decrease of 8 compared with February, 1924, or with March, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1924, February, 1924, and March, 1923:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., on a	
		Mar. 1924.	Feb. 1924.	Mar. 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland ..	115	44	47	43	- 3	+ 1
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	46	10	12	17	- 2	- 7
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield.	38	17	17	16	—	+ 1
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	41	40	35	+ 1	+ 6
Lincolnshire ..	22	19	19	16	—	+ 3
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	58	19	19	19	—	—
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	11	11	9	—	+ 2
Total, England and Wales	385	161	165	155	- 4	+ 6
Scotland ..	102	33	37	47	- 4	- 14
Total ..	487	194	202	202	- 8	- 8

* See note * in previous column.

The production of pig iron in March amounted to 668,600 tons as compared with 612,700 tons in February, and 633,600 tons in March, 1923.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT among iron and steel workers was slack, on the whole, during March.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.3 on 24th March, as compared with 16.8 on 25th February.

According to returns from firms employing 78,893 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 29th March (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) decreased 1.9 per cent., as compared with February and 3.1 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 :—

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate number of Shifts.*		
	Week ended 29th Mar. 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Week ended 29th Mar. 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	9,416	- 0.4	- 2.0	54,000	- 1.6	- 3.3
Puddling Forges	4,303	+ 13.1	- 12.6	19,587	+ 10.9	- 17.9
Rolling Mills	28,706	- 1.5	- 1.5	144,018	- 3.1	- 3.4
Forging and Pressing	3,156	- 5.1	+ 5.2	16,762	- 5.4	+ 12.1
Founding	8,283	- 2.9	+ 0.9	47,268	- 1.9	+ 3.6
Other Departments	7,811	- 5.4	+ 0.6	43,211	- 4.7	+ 0.1
Mechanics, Labourers	17,218	- 0.5	- 5.7	98,788	- 0.4	- 5.7
TOTAL	78,893	- 1.1	- 2.5	423,734	- 1.9	- 3.1
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	15,680	- 2.6	- 3.8	86,577	- 2.9	- 4.2
Sheffield and Rotherham	19,393	- 1.2	+ 1.0	103,807	- 1.5	+ 2.5
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	2,528	- 0.6	+ 10.4	13,832	- 0.8	+ 10.6
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	6,876	- 13.0	- 12.0	35,318	- 16.2	- 14.8
Staffordshire	8,157	+ 4.9	- 1.6	44,009	+ 4.8	- 2.5
Other Midland Counties	4,281	- 2.0	+ 0.3	23,210	- 0.9	+ 2.8
Wales and Monmouth	9,297	+ 1.2	+ 3.2	49,880	- 2.2	+ 0.2
Total, England and Wales	66,212	- 1.9	- 1.4	356,633	- 2.8	- 1.8
Scotland	12,681	+ 3.2	- 7.6	67,101	+ 3.7	- 9.6
TOTAL	78,893	- 1.1	- 2.5	423,734	- 1.9	- 3.1

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted in March to 825,200 tons, compared with 767,600 tons in February and 802,500 tons in March, 1923.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good during March. At the end of the month 545 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 539 in February and 511 at the end of March, 1923.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.8 on 24th March, compared with 4.0 on 25th February.

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

* 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.

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate	78	+ 1	+ 4	415	+ 7	+ 23
Steel Sheet	14	- 1	..	130	- 1	+ 11
TOTAL	92	..	+ 4	545	+ 6	+ 34

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in March, 1924, amounted to 96,447 tons, or 1,025 tons more than in February, 1924, but 4,165 tons less than in March, 1923.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during March was still bad on the whole, although showing continued improvement. In the railway, electrical, and motor and cycle sections it remained fairly good; in marine and general engineering, though still bad, it showed a slight upward tendency, but in the textile machinery section no improvement was recorded.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 24th March, 1924, and the increase or decrease as compared with 25th February, 1924 :—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 24th March, 1924.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as com- pared with 25th Feb., 1924.
	Engi- neering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding.	Electri- cal Engi- neering.	Marine Engi- neering and Marine Boiler Making.	Con- struc- tional Engi- neering.	TOTAL.	
London	10,641	366	120	118	11,245	- 1,283
South Eastern ..	4,492	234	135	50	4,911	- 590
South Western ..	2,721	64	563	48	3,396	- 90
Midlands	11,549	1,146	43	836	13,574	- 1,627
North Eastern ..	23,769	431	6,276	867	31,273	- 2,241
North Western ..	32,934	939	348	189	34,400	- 2,785
Scotland	19,717	173	2,825	956	23,671	- 550
Wales	660	30	17	11	718	- 16
Northern Ireland }	1,857	7	625	13	2,502	+ 66
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. }	108,340	3,390	10,882	3,088	125,700	- 9,116
Males	106,028	2,814	10,847	3,050	122,739	- 8,939
Females	2,312	576	35	38	2,961	- 177

Divisions.	Percentage Unemployed at 24th March, 1924.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in per- centage as com- pared with 25th Feb., 1924.
	Engi- neering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding.	Electri- cal Engi- neering.	Marine Engi- neering and Marine Boiler Making.	Con- struc- tional Engi- neering.	TOTAL.	
London	11.2	5.3	23.5	7.1	10.8	- 1.2
South Eastern ..	10.4	3.0	3.8	6.3	8.9	- 1.1
South Western ..	7.6	2.4	9.0	8.9	7.5	- 0.2
Midlands	12.4	5.5	2.5	15.0	11.2	- 1.3
North Eastern ..	16.6	7.5	21.6	12.6	16.9	- 1.3
North Western ..	21.2	5.9	12.9	10.4	14.5	- 1.6
Scotland	21.2	8.5	16.2	15.6	20.0	- 0.4
Wales	8.4	8.6	34.0	2.9	8.3	- 0.2
Northern Ireland }	22.4	6.4	10.8	65.0	17.6	+ 0.5
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. }	16.1	5.4	16.3	13.0	15.2	- 1.1
Males	16.7	5.6	16.5	13.3	15.8	- 1.2
Females	5.8	4.9	3.2	4.5	5.6	- 0.3

On the North-East Coast employment was still very bad in the general and marine engineering sections, although a further improvement was experienced, especially in the latter section; at locomotive works conditions were fair, but a decline was reported on the Tyne. In Yorkshire the slow improvement continued, especially at Sheffield; railway engineering work was fairly good, and printing machinery makers at Otley continued well employed. In Lincolnshire employment remained bad, the agricultural machinery section being still much below normal. In Lancashire and Cheshire the textile machinery section remained depressed, much short time being still reported; but in other sections a steady improvement was noted, increased activity being observed chiefly in the motor, locomotive, electrical and mining machinery sections, while with patternmakers employment was fair on the whole.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district

the motor and cycle industries continued to improve, especially in the light car and motor-cycle sections. Activity was most pronounced at Coventry, where night shifts were in operation at many works. In locomotive and electrical engineering employment was good. General engineering was slack, but improving; there was a considerable demand for small tools, and employment in the machine tool section, although still very bad, continued to show a slight improvement. At Nottingham employment was slack, except in the cycle section. At Derby, Leicester and Newark it was fair, and better than in February.

Little change was observed in the Eastern Counties, but the tendency was towards improvement; at Norwich employment remained fair, while at Colchester it continued bad. In London and the Southern Counties employment on motor, aircraft and railway work continued good; in general engineering it was very moderate, but showed a slight improvement. In South Wales employment was moderate on the whole.

In Glasgow and the West of Scotland employment still remained bad, though a further slight improvement was recorded, and patternmakers were fairly well employed in some branches. Conditions were also a little better at Edinburgh. At Aberdeen and Dundee employment remained slack. No improvement was experienced at Belfast, where employment remained bad.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries remained very bad during March, though generally there was a further slight improvement.

On the North-East Coast employment was very bad, but it continued slowly to improve; with ship-joiners it was fair on the Tyne and good on the Wear. On the East Coast it continued bad. On the Thames it was still bad, but showed some improvement. On the South Coast employment was slack, but showed a slight improvement, except at Southampton, where the wages dispute, which commenced in February, continued throughout the month. On repair work at the Bristol Channel Ports there was considerable fluctuation in employment; at the end of the month it was bad and rather worse than at the end of February. On the Mersey employment on repair work was fairly active, and showed a further slight improvement. At Barrow employment continued bad, but was better than in February. Employment on the Clyde was bad on the whole, but showed a further improvement compared with the previous month; with ship-joiners it was good. At Dundee employment was moderate. At Aberdeen it was good, and better than in February. At Belfast it remained bad, and showed some decline.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 24th March, 1924, and the increase or decrease as compared with 25th February, 1924:—

Divisions.	Total number of insured workpeople unemployed at 24th Mar., 1924.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with 25th Feb., 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at 24th Mar., 1924.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with 25th Feb., 1924.
London	4,144	— 422	29.2	— 3.0
South Eastern ..	1,126	— 138	11.9	— 1.5
South Western ..	5,474	+ 408	17.6	+ 1.3
Midlands	168	+ 33	33.6	+ 6.6
North Eastern ..	25,370	— 1,973	35.0	— 2.7
North Western ..	10,018	— 1,328	27.9	— 3.7
Scotland	18,888	— 1,045	26.3	— 1.5
Wales	4,119	+ 122	32.3	+ 0.9
Northern Ireland ..	7,801	+ 584	31.9	+ 2.4
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	77,108	— 3,759	28.3	— 1.4
Males	76,849	— 3,717	28.6	— 1.4
Females	259	— 42	6.5	— 1.0

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH, 1924.

ACCORDING to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1924, amounted to 1,473,629 tons, as compared with 1,395,181 tons at the end of December, 1923, and 1,492,138 tons at the end of March, 1923. These figures include a considerable amount of tonnage (about 101,000 tons at the end of March, 1924) on which work had been suspended. When allowance is made for this the tonnage actually under construction at the end of March, 1924, amounted to about 1,373,000 tons. The average tonnage building during the twelve months immediately preceding the war was 1,890,000 tons.

A slight decrease is shown in the tonnage commenced during the quarter, viz., 227,786 tons, as compared with 244,506 tons during the previous quarter.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels under 100 tons gross.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a slight further improvement in these trades, and was moderate on the whole. The improvement was mainly in the woollen sections of the industry.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.0 on 24th March, as compared with 6.6 on 25th February.

Employment with wool sorters and warehousemen showed little net change as compared with the previous month, a decline with some firms being counterbalanced by an improvement with others. With wool combers there was an improvement in the crossbred section, where employment was described as good; no improvement was reported in other sections, where there was much short time. In the worsted spinning section employment was reported as moderately good, with some all-round improvement; the previously noted improvement in the crossbred spinning section was maintained, and employment in the botany spinning section was also slightly better than a month earlier.

In the manufacturing section the conditions of employment were irregular; with some firms employment was good, with others it was bad. In the fine cloth trade of Huddersfield, Leeds and Halifax, and in the coating trade of Bradford and Keighley employment was reported as bad; in the Bradford dress goods trade it remained moderate.

In the Huddersfield area, a noticeable improvement was reported with firms engaged in the medium worsted trade. In the tweed trade of the Colne Valley and the Heavy Woollen District of Dewsbury and Batley, in Saddleworth and the Calder Vale, employment was described as good. The improvement previously noticed in the low woollen trade in the Leeds and Morley districts was maintained. In the flannel and blanket trade employment was reported as good.

In Scotland employment was better than in February. At Galashiels it was reported as fair, with some overtime, and as better than in February; at Hawick it was described as dull, with much short time, especially in the tweed trade. At Dumfries orders were said to be increasing, and at Alloa woollen manufacturers also received a large number of orders.

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:—

	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 29th March, 1924	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month ago	Week ended 29th March, 1924	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month ago	Year ago.*

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	398	+ 3.1	+ 3.9	937	— 2.2	+ 1.1
Spinning	3,435	+ 1.0	— 1.3	7,061	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
Weaving	5,118	+ 0.6	— 1.5	10,775	+ 3.7	— 2.1
Other Departments ..	4,751	+ 0.7	— 2.3	9,896	+ 2.6	— 4.3
Not specified	907	— 0.9	+ 0.3	1,915	+ 3.6	— 13.5
TOTAL	14,809	+ 0.7	— 1.5	30,384	+ 2.3	— 2.8
Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Huddersfield District ..	1,179	— 0.4	— 2.7	2,719	+ 2.5	— 10.5
Leeds District	1,159	+ 0.7	+ 4.0	2,653	+ 2.3	+ 13.3
Dewsbury and Batley District ..	1,619	— 0.6	+ 2.3	3,675	+ 1.2	+ 0.5
Other Parts of West Riding	1,586	+ 0.5	— 0.9	3,649	— 1.8	— 1.6
Total, West Riding ..	5,543	+ 0.0	+ 0.6	12,696	+ 0.8	— 0.4
Scotland	4,572	+ 2.3	— 3.3	9,318	+ 7.8	— 2.2
Other Districts	4,694	— 0.0	— 2.0	8,370	— 1.0	— 6.8
TOTAL	14,809	+ 0.7	— 1.5	30,384	+ 2.3	— 2.8

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting and Combing	3,893	+ 0.4	— 6.5	10,020	+ 3.4	— 9.7
Spinning	13,707	+ 0.1	— 4.6	21,052	+ 1.3	— 7.7
Weaving	4,481	+ 0.3	— 6.5	9,052	— 2.9	— 9.5
Other Departments ..	2,404	— 0.5	— 0.0	6,164	— 3.9	— 9.6
Not Specified	1,946	— 3.1	— 13.8	2,960	— 2.9	— 25.9
TOTAL	26,431	— 0.1	— 5.6	49,248	+ 0.0	— 10.0
Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bradford District	14,341	— 0.3	— 7.1	28,323	— 0.6	— 10.7
Keighley District	3,965	— 0.1	— 1.3	7,349	— 0.0	— 1.6
Halifax District	2,641	— 1.0	— 7.2	4,392	— 1.3	— 13.1
Huddersfield District ..	2,669	+ 0.8	— 10.9	4,745	+ 6.3	— 19.5
Other Parts of West Riding	1,690	+ 1.4	+ 6.7	2,783	— 3.5	— 5.1
Total, West Riding ..	25,306	— 0.1	— 5.8	47,592	— 0.1	— 10.3
Other Districts	1,125	—	+ 1.1	1,656	+ 3.7	— 0.6
TOTAL	26,431	— 0.1	— 5.6	49,248	+ 0.0	— 10.0

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

Returns from firms in the *woollen* section employing 14,558 workpeople in the week ended 29th March showed that about 29 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time to the extent, on the average, of six hours in that week. In the *worsted* section returns from firms employing 24,655 workpeople in the same week showed that about 14 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time to the extent of about ten hours on the average.

The *imports* (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs') were 75,447,900 lbs. in March, 1924, compared with 42,768,700 lbs. in February, 1924, and 44,557,600 lbs. in March, 1923.

The *exports* of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,557,800 lbs., compared with 4,635,600 lbs. in February, 1924, and 4,157,000 lbs. in March, 1923.

The *exports* of woollen and worsted tissues were 14,769,300 square yards, compared with 19,822,200 square yards in February, 1924, and 14,381,500 square yards in March, 1923.

The *exports* of blankets were 204,346 pairs, 157,102 pairs and 98,466 pairs in March, 1924, February, 1924, and March, 1923, respectively.

The following Table shows the number of men and women registered at 3rd March as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges in the principal centres, at which approximately 62 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted trades were registered:—

Departments.	3rd March, 1924.			Increase (+) Decrease (—) as compared with 4th February, 1924.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting ..	89	2	91	+ 15	— 3	+ 12
Wool Washing and Preparing ..	488	98	586	— 147	— 19	— 166
Wool Combing ..	486	435	921	— 212	— 255	— 467
Wool Carding ..	443	80	523	— 295	— 49	— 344
Wool Spinning ..	228	102	330	— 132	— 64	— 196
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ..	152	1,038	1,190	— 120	— 674	— 794
Wool Winding and Warping ..	146	90	236	— 31	— 56	— 87
Worsted Winding and Warping ..	47	203	250	—	— 156	— 156
Wool Weaving ..	282	959	1,241	— 118	— 597	— 715
Worsted Weaving ..	72	1,010	1,082	— 35	— 403	— 443
Other Processes ..	1,037	139	1,176	— 224	— 45	— 269
TOTAL ..	3,470	4,156	7,626	— 1,299	— 2,326	— 3,625

COTTON TRADE

DURING March employment showed little general change as compared with February. Practically all the employers in the section spinning American cotton adopted the proposal to work short time, and the mills engaged in that class of work, with very few exceptions, were running 26½ hours per week, or were reducing their production in proportion by the stoppage of an equivalent number of spindles. Spinners of Egyptian cotton continued to be fully employed. In the weaving section of the trade increased employment was reported among operatives engaged in the manufacture of fancy goods and of fine plain goods, but operatives employed on medium and coarse cloths continued very slack. It was reported that many manufacturers were adapting their machinery to meet the present demand, but some difficulty was experienced in securing weavers with sufficient skill to weave cloth to which they were not accustomed.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15·4 on the 24th March, as compared with 15·7 on the 25th February.

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts employment in the spinning section was reported as bad and worse than in February; organised short time of three days per week was in force during the month in the American section of the trade. In the manufacturing section also employment was very slack, and short time was very prevalent. A slight improvement was, however, reported with velvet weavers. At Bolton, Leigh and Chorley employment with spinners continued good. With weavers in the Bolton district employment was reported as fair; with cardroom workers it continued fairly good. In the Bury and Rochdale districts employment with spinners was reported as bad; with weavers there was a slight improvement.

Employment with weavers in the Burnley, Blackburn, Preston and Darwen districts continued slack. There was some slight improvement in the Burnley and Blackburn districts; in Burnley the total production was reported to be rising rapidly up to 70 per cent. of normal, as compared with about 60 per cent. in February. At Blackburn it was reported that about 15,000 looms (out of a total of 97,000) were idle during March, as compared with over 17,000 looms in the previous month, and with 19,600 in November last. In Preston it was reported that the volume of unemployment was less than for many months past, but that there was, on the other hand, an increase in the volume of under-employment; about 3,000 weavers were reported to be working alternate weeks during March. At Darwen a large number of weavers were reported to be working with a reduced

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 29 h Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month ago. Year ago.	Week ended 29 h Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month ago. Year ago.
Preparing.. ..	11,288	— 1·1 + 2·0	17,298	— 6·8 + 0·6
Spinning	21,147	— 0·8 + 1·4	34,567	— 4·5 + 1·9
Weaving	36,152	— 2·8 — 4·1	61,018	— 0·9 — 4·9
Other	8,163	— 1·4 — 2·5	18,445	— 3·4 — 6·1
Not specified ..	8,606	— 0·2 + 4·3	15,528	— 4·4 + 11·2
Total	85,356	— 1·7 — 1·0	146,856	— 3·1 — 1·4
DISTRICTS.				
Ashton	3,974	— 0·3 + 1·4	6,172	— 10·2 + 0·1
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	7,433	— 0·3 — 5·7	11,962	— 5·1 — 9·0
Oldham	9,554	— 4·0 + 2·7	15,200	— 16·7 + 2·4
Bolton and Leigh ..	16,041	— 0·4 + 1·2	28,028	+ 0·8 + 0·8
Bury, Rochdale, Hey- wood, Walsden, and Todmorden ..	8,589	+ 1·9 — 0·1	12,335	— 3·3 + 0·1
Manchester	5,205	— 0·8 + 5·1	8,185	— 1·4 — 1·1
Preston and Chorley..	6,538	+ 1·9 — 4·6	11,244	+ 3·6 — 7·0
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ..	8,659	— 3·3 — 0·2	16,990	+ 3·1 + 3·5
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ..	9,563	— 3·5 — 6·4	19,627	— 3·1 — 9·6
Other Lancashire Towns	3,030	— 12·0 — 8·2	5,184	— 7·5 — 2·1
Yorkshire Towns ..	3,857	— 3·4 + 1·9	7,087	— 1·7 + 13·6
Other Districts ..	2,913	— 0·7 + 0·9	4,842	+ 4·3 + 5·7
Total	85,356	— 1·7 — 1·0	146,856	— 3·1 — 1·4

Returns from firms employing about 76,865 workpeople showed that about 28 per cent. of the workpeople reported on were on short time, to the extent of about 18½ hours on the average, in the week ended 29th March.

The *imports* (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 72,608,200 lbs. in March, 1924, compared with 135,494,500 lbs. in the previous month and with 116,854,500 lbs. in March, 1923.

The *exports* of cotton yarn were 13,172,000 lbs. in March, 1924, compared with 14,121,900 lbs. in February, 1924, and 13,030,200 lbs. in March, 1923.

The *exports* of cotton piece goods were 353,983,100 square yards, as compared with 397,070,200 square yards in the previous month, and with 337,411,500 square yards in March, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 3rd March, in the principal centres, at which approximately 93 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the cotton trade were registered.

DEPARTMENT.	3rd March, 1924.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on previous month.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card and Blowing Room	2,902	13,642	16,544	+ 643	+ 3,805	+ 4,448
Spinning	15,230	11,429	26,659	+ 5,904	+ 1,689	+ 7,593
Beaming, Warping and Winding ..	2,575	11,405	13,980	— 254	+ 1,178	+ 924
Weaving	4,629	11,956	16,585	+ 77	— 414	— 337
Other Processes ..	964	495	1,459	— 54	— 31	— 85
Total	26,300	48,927	75,227	+ 6,316	+ 6,227	+ 12,543

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in March was only moderate, and, taken as a whole, showed little change compared with February; the heavy boot section, in particular, was still very quiet. Employment was, however, somewhat better than in March, 1923. Although overtime was worked to a small extent in one or two centres, a considerable proportion of the industry was still working short time during the month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9·5 on the 24th March, 1924, as compared with 9·1 on the 25th February, 1924.

In London employment was still very slack, though a little better than in the previous month. At Leicester it was fair; only a few factories were on short time, while here and there overtime was worked. Employment at Northampton showed a slight improvement; some firms were still on short time, but,

on the other hand, overtime was occasionally necessary at some factories; employment was considerably better than in March of last year. At Kettering there was a further decrease in short time working, and employment was fair and somewhat better than in February. In the Hinckley district and in the Desborough, Higham and Rushden, and Wellingborough districts employment was slack, and worse than in the previous month; short time working was prevalent in all these centres. At Leeds employment was still very depressed, short time being again in general operation. Employment remained fair at Stafford.

A further improvement was reported at Norwich, employment being generally good and much better than this time last year; there was very little unemployment or short time, and overtime was worked in some factories. In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment was very poor, and worse than in February, much unemployment and irregular time being reported. Employment in the Rossendale Valley was good, some overtime being reported.

Employment was bad, with much short time, at Arbroath and at Ayr. There was a slight decline at Edinburgh and at Maybole, but in Glasgow employment improved, and was fairly good, a little overtime being worked.

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 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
England and Wales:—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	2,066	- 0.9	- 1.4	4,790	+ 1.1	- 2.5
Leicester	8,776	+ 0.1	- 2.7	22,876	- 1.1	- 7.1
Leicester Country District	2,440	+ 0.2	- 0.0	5,647	+ 1.1	+ 3.7
Northampton	6,487	+ 0.7	+ 6.1	16,272	+ 2.5	+ 10.3
Northampton Country District	8,290	- 0.0	+ 7.6	18,698	- 0.9	+ 7.3
Kettering	3,407	+ 0.6	+ 6.3	8,853	+ 1.0	+ 5.1
Stafford and District	2,602	..	+ 3.2	5,003	- 12.6	- 18.9
Norwich and District	4,356	+ 4.7	+ 7.9	9,470	+ 5.7	+ 18.9
Bristol, Kingswood and District	1,958	- 2.8	- 8.7	3,401	- 7.3	- 16.8
Leeds and District	1,999	- 0.7	+ 1.8	3,964	- 2.5	- 1.6
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	4,189	+ 3.0	+ 3.0	9,079	+ 5.0	- 4.6
Birmingham and District	994	- 2.0	- 1.9	2,115	+ 5.1	+ 20.4
Other parts of England and Wales	1,543	+ 1.8	+ 8.0	2,954	- 0.5	+ 8.2
England and Wales	49,087	+ 0.6	+ 2.8	113,102	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Scotland	2,651	+ 2.0	+ 10.8	5,791	+ 1.4	+ 14.7
Great Britain	51,738	+ 0.7	+ 3.2	118,893	+ 0.2	+ 1.7

Returns from firms employing about 40,645 workpeople in the week ended 29th March, 1924, showed that nearly 31 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time in that week to the extent of about 12½ hours each on an average.

The exports of boots and shoes in March, 1924, amounted to 97,548 dozen pairs, or 8,354 dozen pairs less than in February, 1924, but 18,521 dozen pairs more than in March, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of men and women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 3rd March, in the principal centres, at which approximately 73 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the boot and shoe industry were registered.

Department.	3rd March, 1924.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on previous month.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:						
Preparing Department	154	45	199	+ 3	+ 7	+ 10
Rough Stuff Department	338	12	350	- 28	- 3	- 31
Closing Department	709	18	727	+ 55	+ 4	+ 59
Closing Department	37	789	826	+ 5	-	+ 5
Making Department	2,522	95	2,617	+ 91	+ 70	+ 120
Finishing Department	1,413	264	1,677	- 133	- 79	- 212
Slipper Making	589	361	950	- 135	- 73	- 208
Clothing	43	1	44	+ 3	+ 1	+ 4
Repairing and Hand Sewn Work	903	4	907	+ 70	-	+ 70
Total	6,708	1,589	8,297	- 70	- 113	- 183

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the building trade again showed a general improvement during March; it was good, on the whole, with skilled operatives (except painters) and slack with unskilled workers.

It was reported as very good with craftsmen, other than painters, in several districts, including Harrogate, Blackpool, Southport, Burton-on-Trent, West Middlesex, North-west Surrey and Bournemouth, and as good at many other centres, a little overtime, mainly on urgent work, being worked in some cases; on the other hand, it was slack or quiet in a few districts, including Grimsby, St. Helens and Coventry, and a few instances of short-time working, generally due to unfavourable weather conditions, were reported.

As regards individual occupations employment was very good generally with bricklayers, and good with masons, plasterers and 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 improved considerably with painters, as is usual at this time of the year, but was slack in most districts; 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 24th March, and the increase or decrease in the percentage as compared with 25th February:—

Occupations.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 24th March, 1924.	Approximate percentage* Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with 25th February, 1924.
Carpenters	3,960	3.2	- 0.8
Bricklayers	903	1.6	- 0.2
Masons	608	2.7	- 0.6
Slaters	383	7.4	-
Plasterers	360	2.2	- 0.8
Painters	11,659	10.9	- 11.1
Plumbers	2,331	6.8	- 0.4
Labourers of above	29,353	11.5	- 1.7
All other occupations	23,026	24.1	- 1.8
Total	72,583	10.1	- 2.7
Divisions.			
London	19,238	12.0	- 3.0
South Eastern	7,426	6.9	- 2.9
South-Western	7,059	8.1	- 2.3
Midlands	8,232	10.6	- 2.9
North Eastern	8,445	10.0	- 2.8
North-Western	10,521	11.3	- 2.7
Scotland	6,640	10.1	- 2.5
Wales	2,223	8.5	- 1.7
Northern Ireland	2,799	21.9	- 1.0
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	72,583	10.1	- 2.7
Males	72,335	10.2	- 2.8
Females	248	2.9	+ 0.2

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 143 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,273,000, show that in March, 1924, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,860,500, as compared with £5,038,100 in February, 1924, and £4,148,100 in March, 1923. Of the total for March, 1924, dwelling houses accounted for £3,515,400; factories and workshops for £416,900; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £492,200; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,436,000. (For figures for the three months ended March, see p. 143.)

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in March was fairly good on the whole, and showed an improvement as compared with February. In the Peterborough, Birmingham and Coventry districts employment was reported as good.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges on 24th March, was 6.9, as compared with 8.1 on 25th February.

The following Table summarises the information received as to the number of workpeople employed and the 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 23 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 29th Mar. 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,806	Per cent. + 7.6	Per cent. + 24.0	£ 4,434	Per cent. + 7.6	Per cent. + 25.6
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,952	+ 2.2	+ 31.6	9,656	+ 7.0	+ 40.9
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,083	+ 1.4	+ 12.9	2,694	+ 4.7	+ 17.6
Other Districts	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	6,841	+ 3.5	+ 26.3	16,784	+ 6.8	+ 32.4

Returns from firms employing 6,214 workpeople showed that about 2 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time to the extent of eight hours each, on an average, during the week ended 29th March.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, though still slack on the whole, showed some improvement as compared with the previous month. In the tile, sanitary earthenware and fireclay sections employment generally was good.

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

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 24th March, 1924, was 11.9, as compared with 13.4 at 25th February, 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 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 29th Mar., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
China Manufacture ..	1,496	+ 0.9	+ 1.0	3,078	- 1.8	+ 10.5
Earthenware Manufacture ..	8,375	+ 0.7	+ 1.8	15,377	+ 2.2	- 3.3
Other Branches (including unspecified) ..	1,764	- 1.3	+ 2.4	3,058	+ 1.4	- 6.9
TOTAL ..	11,635	+ 0.4	+ 1.8	21,513	+ 1.5	- 2.1
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries ..	8,876	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	15,701	+ 0.5	- 4.1
Other Districts ..	2,759	- 0.2	+ 5.1	5,812	+ 4.4	+ 3.8
TOTAL ..	11,635	+ 0.4	+ 1.8	21,513	+ 1.5	- 2.1

Returns from employers relating to short-time working showed that of 9,739 workpeople employed 2,722, or 28 per cent., were working on an average 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 29th March, 1924.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during March remained poor on the whole. There was generally a substantial surplus of men disengaged, although at a few ports the supply of able seamen and other deck hands was reported to be inadequate. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 24th March was 19.0, compared with 21.9 at 25th February.

On the Thames the demand for men was generally moderate, and declined towards the end of the month. On the Tyne it was very quiet, but a scarcity of deck hands was reported. It was poor on the Wear. On the Tees it improved towards the middle of the month, but became quiet afterwards. Employment at Hull was good. At Southampton it was very quiet, being adversely affected by the strike of local shipyard workers. At Avonmouth it was quiet during the first half of March, but revived later. The demand at Bristol was quiet. At Newport it was fairly good. The demand at Cardiff was generally fair, a shortage of white deck hands being again reported. Employment at Swansea was good until the last week of the month, when a decline set in. The demand in the foreign-going trade on the Mersey varied from quiet to moderate. At Manchester it was fair in the first half of March, and declined subsequently. The demand on the Clyde and at Leith was quiet on the whole. At Belfast it was poor.

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 March:—

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	Mar. 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Three months ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar. 1924.	Mar. 1923.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool† ..	9,655	+ 2,246	- 762	28,191	30,822
Manchester ..	776	+ 119	+ 172	2,316	2,077
London ..	7,612	+ 1,578	+ 674	21,507	21,858
Southampton ..	6,681	+ 1,245	- 755	17,882	20,368
Tyne Ports ..	1,456	- 335	+ 107	4,444	4,454
Sunderland ..	56	- 65	- 45	283	583
Middlesbrough ..	338	- 72	+ 33	1,156	1,231
Hull ..	1,567	+ 306	+ 204	4,655	4,324
Grimsby ..	..	- 22	- 4	24	25
Bristol‡ ..	653	- 43	- 226	2,229	2,590
Newport, Mon. ..	920	+ 82	- 41	2,785	3,290
Cardiff§ ..	2,221	- 986	- 116	8,283	8,615
Swansea ..	832	+ 191	+ 185	2,454	2,063
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ..	401	+ 94	- 93	1,029	1,267
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ..	141	- 126	- 99	609	921
Glasgow ..	1,937	- 544	- 1,011	6,579	6,202
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast ..	209	- 7	- 36	530	575
TOTAL ..	35,455	+ 3,656	- 1,821	104,946	111,265

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during March was only moderate, the increased activity following the recent stoppage of work not having been maintained. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service 24.1 per cent. were unemployed at 24th March, the same percentage as at 25th February.

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 Dock 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—					
8th Mar., 1924 ..	5,915	2,951	8,866	8,452	17,318
15th " ..	5,320	3,023	8,343	8,234	16,577
22nd " ..	5,038	2,588	7,626	8,105	15,731
29th " ..	5,016	2,643	7,659	8,028	15,687
Average for 4 weeks ended 29th Mar., 1924 ..	5,322	2,801	8,123	8,205	16,323
Average for 3 weeks ended 16th Feb., 1924¶	5,314	2,378	7,692	7,912	15,604
Average for Mar., 1923	4,807	2,905	7,712	8,127	15,839

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in the four weeks ended 29th March was 832, as compared with 826 in the three weeks ended 16th February and with 870 in March, 1923.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers on the Tyne and at Blyth continued good. With other classes of workers on the Tyne it was fair, and better than in February. At Blyth it declined and was slack. At Middlesbrough and Grimsby employment was fair, though at the latter port it was not as good as in February. At Hull it remained slack.

Western and Southern Ports.—At Liverpool employment continued moderate. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 31st March was 15,554, compared with 15,203 in the three weeks ended 18th February and with 15,289 in March, 1923. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the Clearing Houses was £44,462 in the four weeks ended 31st March, compared with £38,475 in the three weeks ended 18th February.

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

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment continued moderate at Glasgow and slack at Leith. At Dundee there was a decline. At Belfast it remained 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.

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 31st March, 1924, was 1,057,031,† of whom 790,932 were men, 31,126 boys, 204,440 women, and 30,533 girls. Compared with 25th February there was a decrease of 98,873, which was distributed as follows:—Men, 66,866; women, 22,759; juveniles, 9,248.

During the five weeks ended 31st March, the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 118,635, of which 74,014 were for men, 25,327 for women, and 19,294 for juveniles. The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the five weeks ended 31st March, 1924:—

Week ended	Applications by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople	From Employers
25th February, 1924 ..	25,528	23,152	1,155,904	19,071
3rd March, 1924 ..	27,686	23,049	1,137,291	20,412
10th " " ..	27,440	22,799	1,115,773	21,763
17th " " ..	28,946	24,378	1,093,392	22,530
24th " " ..	30,582	24,855	1,063,488	24,422
31st " " ..	28,416	23,554	1,057,031	25,747
Total (5 weeks) ..	143,070	118,635	—	—

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraph is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 3rd March are dealt with below:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of 730,740 applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 3rd March showed a daily average of 30,447. Of this daily average, men accounted for 19,560, women for 8,372, and juveniles for 2,515. In the preceding month the corresponding averages were: Men, 23,145; women, 8,800; juveniles, 3,198.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 3rd March there were 105,253 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 4,386. Of this daily average, 2,584 were for men, 1,084 for women, and 718 for juveniles, compared with a daily average, during the previous month, of 2,354 men, 1,059 women, and 648 juveniles.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 89,981, a daily average of 3,749, as compared with 3,538 during the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 2,332, women for 805, and juveniles for 612. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 2,159; women, 793; and juveniles, 586.

Juveniles.—During the period, 29,062 applications were received from boys, and 31,302 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 8,807, and 7,650 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 8,419 vacancies were notified and 7,054 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 16.6 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 3rd March have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below.

In the building trades 8,813 vacancies were notified for men, and 7,404 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were: Carpenters, 2,185 vacancies notified and 1,806 filled; bricklayers, 1,179 vacancies notified and 759 filled; painters, 2,146 vacancies notified and 1,979 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,493 vacancies notified and 1,421 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 76,593† at 3rd March, compared with 92,148 at 4th February.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service for the four weeks ended 3rd March was 13,650. Of this number, 5,408 were for resident domestic servants, 3,051 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,744 for charwomen, and 763 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 684.

Of the 9,406 vacancies filled, 2,425 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,367 as non-resident, 3,489 as charwomen, and 585 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 3rd March for work in domestic service was 32,900, compared with 34,225 on 4th February.

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 3rd March was 1,538.

* The figures exclude workpeople on systematic short time, but include workpeople "suspended" or "stood off." For Great Britain alone the figures as published in the Press, show that on 31st March, 1924, there were on the Registers 783,400 men, 211,300 women, and 63,600 juveniles, as compared with 947,000 men, 267,000 women, and 72,000 juveniles at 31st December, 1923. These figures include 37,000 persons on 31st March, 1924, and 35,500 on 31st December, 1923, who were employed on a basis of systematic short time, but were not actually at work on the date in question.

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 31st March, 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 31st March, 1924.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 25th Feb., 1924.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London	128,906	33,042	10,203	172,151	— 16,782
South Eastern Division..	44,201	7,809	4,399	56,409	— 9,350
Brighton	2,272	668	458	3,398	— 505
Chatham	3,050	298	658	4,006	— 138
Ipawich	2,588	442	209	3,239	— 478
Norwich	2,990	341	77	3,408	— 794
Rest of South Eastern	23,301	6,060	2,957	42,318	— 7,435
South Western Division..	58,791	10,131	4,859	73,781	— 1,557
Bristol	10,818	3,579	1,084	15,481	+ 887
Plymouth	4,739	607	439	5,785	+ 92
Portsmouth	6,107	676	693	7,476	+ 186
Reading	1,487	179	267	1,933	+ 45
Southampton	6,140	545	443	7,128	+ 576
Swindon	455	76	92	623	— 171
Rest of South Western	24,045	4,469	1,841	30,355	— 3,082
Midlands Division ..	87,637	29,487	4,545	121,669	— 18,291
Birmingham	21,928	8,114	382	30,424	— 4,976
Coventry	1,436	202	24	1,661	— 662
Cradley Heath	2,882	1,015	128	4,015	— 735
Derby	1,485	327	90	1,902	— 597
Leicester	1,730	495	26	2,251	— 367
Northampton	1,280	335	77	1,692	— 319
Notttingham	4,745	1,604	124	6,473	— 1,310
Smethwick	3,015	1,019	202	4,236	— 556
Stoke-on-Trent	5,558	3,605	183	9,351	— 1,343
Walsall	4,018	713	658	5,389	+ 12
West Bromwich	2,096	461	99	2,656	— 190
Wolverhampton	4,291	1,917	288	6,496	— 879
Rest of Midlands ..	33,174	9,690	2,119	45,183	— 6,369
North Eastern Division..	143,662	19,218	10,036	172,916	— 21,736
Barnsley	845	129	61	1,035	— 113
Bradford	3,092	1,715	109	4,916	— 1,731
Darlington	1,499	149	152	1,790	+ 175
Dewsbury	346	161	65	572	— 462
Doncaster	273	171	223	667	— 172
Gateshead	5,374	623	573	6,570	— 225
Grimby	2,733	212	184	3,129	— 177
Halifax	1,508	521	65	2,094	— 86
Hartlepool	6,285	241	202	6,728	— 519
Huddersfield	2,019	870	120	3,009	— 1,807
Hull	8,092	844	851	9,787	— 2,785
Leeds	10,273	1,510	224	12,007	— 2,191
Lincoln	2,468	317	205	2,990	— 568
Middlesbrough	8,005	375	332	8,712	— 317
Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	14,019	1,256	1,397	16,672	— 702
Rotherham	1,215	232	233	1,680	— 185
Sheffield	17,477	2,651	1,037	21,165	— 2,333
South Shields	4,743	401	353	5,497	— 295
Stockton-on-Tees	4,838	169	166	5,173	— 262
Sunderland	9,453	792	77	10,972	— 625
York	1,835	349	650	2,834	— 34
Rest of North Eastern	37,802	5,524	2,117	45,443	— 6,322
North Western Division	166,891	70,267	15,020	252,178	— 18,559
Accrington	1,978	869	173	3,020	— 212
Ashton-under-Lyne ..	2,273	1,218	147	3,638	— 1,539
Barrow	4,899	433	617	5,949	+ 824
Birkenhead	4,174	568	377	5,119	— 684
Blackburn	3,129	2,119	284	5,542	— 1,821
Blackpool	861	731	212	1,804	— 364
Bolton	5,707	1,231	373	7,311	— 272
Burnley	2,259	1,893	10	4,262	— 2,912
Bury	2,183	1,555	227	3,965	— 678
Chorley	938	532	72	1,542	+ 65
Liverpool	41,536	7,154	3,229	51,919	— 2,372
Manchester	19,579	7,130	1,307	28,016	— 2,259
Nelson	812	407	21	1,240	— 424
Oldham	16,727	8,262	1,404	26,393	+ 1,326
Preston	3,404	1,765	111	5,280	— 800
Rochdale	4,891	4,746	631	10,268	+ 131
St. Helens	1,334	262	147	1,773	— 215
Salford	7,315	3,895	862	12,072	+ 59
Stockport	2,902	2,514	220	5,636	— 366
Warrington	2,301	331	152	2,784	+ 411
Wigan	1,414	3,474	537	5,445	— 635
Rest of North Western	36,195	19,178	3,827	59,200	— 5,822
Scotland Division ..	110,990	24,949	3,941	145,880	— 8,804
Aberdeen	4,170	833	207	5,210	— 1,147
Clydebank	1,861	297	119	2,277	— 28
Dundee	6,147	2,076	182	8,405	+ 214
Edinburgh	8,894	1,969	1,106	11,969	— 1,192
Glasgow	53,523	11,451	5,636	70,610	— 1,713
Greenock	4,166	672	267	5,105	— 683
Motherwell	1,009	125	69	1,203	— 276
Paisley	3,866	891	358	5,115	— 413
Rest of Scotland ..	27,354	6,635	1,997	35,986	— 3,566
Wales Division ..	26,468	3,933	1,935	31,336	— 3,556
Cardiff	5,257	733	377	6,367	— 172
Llanelli	295	191	64	550	— 29
Newport	2,041	190	143	2,374	+ 55
Swansea	2,204	181	176	2,561	— 407
Rest of Wales ..	16,671	1,638	1,175	19,484	— 3,003
Northern Ireland ..	28,386	6,604	731	35,721	— 238
Belfast	19,018	4,416	462	23,896	+ 369
Londonderry	1,617	443	65	2,125	— 170
Lurgan	294	78	12	384	— 98
Lisburn	506	54	8	568	— 140
Newry	976	172	16	1,164	+ 95
Rest of Northern Ireland	5,975	1,441	158	7,574	— 294
Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland	790,932	204,440	61,659	1,057,031	— 98,873

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 24th March, 1924. "Unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 24th March, 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 UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 24TH MARCH, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 24TH MARCH, 1924.				INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (—) AS COMPARED WITH 25TH FEBRUARY, 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	3,256	53	3,309	13·8	10·0	13·7	13·1	— 0·8	— 1·7	— 0·8
Mining:—													
Coal Mining	1,258,650	8,200	1,266,850	26,061	375	26,436	2·1	4·6	2·1	2·1	— 0·3	— 0·4	— 0·4
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	19,670	50	19,720	4,449	2	4,451	22·6	4·0	22·6	22·4	+ 2·3	+ 2·0	+ 2·4
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,000	70	5,070	777	3	780	15·5	4·3	15·4	15·4	— 2·3	— 1·4	— 2·3
Stone Quarrying and Mining	32,060	270	32,330	1,383	13	1,396	4·3	4·8	4·3	3·9	— 0·6	— 0·8	— 0·6
Slate Quarrying and Mining	8,000	20	8,020	138	1	139	1·7	5·0	1·7	1·7	— 0·4	— 5·0	— 0·4
Other Mining and Quarrying	24,960	1,580	26,540	1,299	176	1,475	5·2	11·1	5·6	5·3	— 1·2	— 3·3	— 1·2
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	12,520	170	12,690	608	25	633	4·9	14·7	5·0	4·8	— 1·3	+ 1·8	— 1·3
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—													
Coke Ovens and By Product Works	15,070	200	15,270	874	13	887	5·8	6·5	5·8	5·8	+ 0·6	— 5·0	+ 0·5
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	10,090	660	10,750	1,446	71	1,517	14·3	10·8	14·1	14·1	— 1·1	— 0·7	— 1·0
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	16,081	620	16,700	1,427	26	1,453	8·9	4·2	8·7	8·7	— 2·9	— 1·1	— 2·8
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	54,340	7,500	61,840	3,437	835	4,272	6·3	11·1	6·9	6·8	— 1·4	— 0·5	— 1·2
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	35,750	36,380	72,130	3,698	4,892	8,590	10·3	13·4	11·9	11·9	— 1·6	— 1·4	— 1·5
Glass Trades:—													
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	22,880	4,990	27,870	2,920	396	3,316	12·8	7·9	11·9	11·9	— 0·3	— 0·5	— 0·4
Glass Bottle Making	14,950	1,650	16,600	2,950	125	3,085	19·8	7·6	18·6	18·5	— 2·2	— 1·0	— 2·1
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.:—													
Chemicals Manufacture	80,430	24,940	105,370	7,393	1,681	9,074	9·2	6·7	8·6	8·6	— 0·8	+ 0·2	— 0·6
Explosives Manufacture	13,960	5,120	19,080	1,473	500	1,973	10·6	9·8	10·3	10·3	— 0·1	— 0·3	— 0·3
Paint Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	10,920	2,950	13,870	498	164	662	4·6	5·6	4·8	4·8	— 0·3	+ 0·5	— 0·2
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	57,530	21,620	79,150	3,664	1,645	5,309	6·4	7·6	6·7	6·6	— 1·5	— 0·3	— 1·2
Metal Manufacture and Secondary Processes:—													
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	29,310	240	29,550	3,473	26	3,499	11·8	10·8	11·8	11·8	+ 1·6	+ 5·8	+ 1·7
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	210,150	4,480	214,630	34,767	305	35,072	16·5	6·8	16·3	16·3	— 0·5	— 0·1	— 0·5
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	38,510	4,000	42,510	4,500	427	4,927	11·7	10·7	11·6	11·6	— 1·4	— 0·2	— 1·3
Manufacture of Tin Plates	25,860	4,330	30,190	934	201	1,135	3·6	4·6	3·8	3·7	— 0·4	+ 0·8	— 0·2
Iron and Steel Tube Making	23,930	1,450	25,380	3,477	191	3,668	14·6	13·2	14·5	14·4	+ 0·2	— 0·9	+ 0·1
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	20,650	3,940	24,590	1,889	339	2,228	9·1	8·6	9·1	9·1	+ 1·1	+ 0·6	+ 1·1
Engineering and Ironfounding:—													
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	635,260	39,660	674,920	106,028	2,312	108,340	16·7	5·8	16·1	16·0	— 1·3	— 0·7	— 1·2
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	79,020	6,890	85,910	9,718	786	10,504	12·3	11·4	12·2	12·1	— 0·4	— 0·5	— 0·4
Electrical Engineering	50,570	11,710	62,280	2,814	576	3,390	5·6	4·9	5·4	5·4	— 0·4	+ 0·6	— 0·3
Marine Engineering and Marine Boiler Making	65,760	1,110	66,870	10,847	35	10,882	16·5	3·2	16·3	16·8	— 1·6	— 0·2	— 1·6
Constructional Engineering	22,940	840	23,780	3,050	38	3,088	13·3	4·5	13·0	12·9	+ 1·8	—	+ 1·8
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—													
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft	174,590	19,830	194,420	13,769	1,079	14,843	7·9	5·4	7·6	7·6	— 1·2	— 0·9	— 1·2
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	25,540	2,400	27,940	3,026	193	3,219	11·8	8·0	11·5	11·4	— 1·2	— 0·9	— 1·2
Railway Carriage, Wagon, and Tram-car Building	50,560	1,280	51,840	2,059	34	2,093	4·1	2·7	4·0	4·0	— 0·5	+ 0·7	— 0·5

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.—continued.

INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.										INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (—) AS COMPARED WITH 25TH FEBRUARY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)		
				NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 24TH MAR H, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 24TH MARCH, 1924.									
	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	4,010	272,530	76,849	259	77,108	23.6	6.5	23.3	27.9	— 1.4	— 1.0	— 1.4			
Metal Trades :—																
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ..	11,010	860	11,870	1,057	27	1,084	9.6	3.1	9.1	9.0	— 0.2	—	— 0.2			
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ..	48,480	24,360	72,840	3,887	1,965	5,853	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.1			
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making ..	22,760	7,340	30,100	3,870	1,034	4,904	17.0	14.1	16.3	16.3	— 0.7	— 1.5	— 0.9			
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ..	17,510	12,730	30,240	2,085	1,662	3,747	11.9	13.1	12.4	12.4	— 1.3	— 0.2	— 0.9			
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ..	20,450	12,000	32,450	3,331	1,970	5,301	16.3	16.4	16.3	16.3	— 2.7	— 1.4	— 2.2			
Heating and Ventilating Engineering ..	5,340	420	5,760	276	15	291	5.2	3.6	5.1	5.2	— 0.5	+ 0.7	— 0.4			
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ..	29,380	20,450	49,830	4,231	2,111	6,342	14.4	10.3	12.7	12.7	— 0.5	— 0.4	— 0.5			
Other Metal Industries ..	107,180	60,310	167,490	10,411	7,084	17,495	9.7	11.7	10.4	10.4	— 1.3	— 0.5	— 1.0			
Textile Trades :—																
Cotton Industry ..	211,010	365,280	576,290	32,226	56,355	88,582	15.3	15.4	15.4	15.4	— 0.7	— 0.9	— 0.3			
Woolen and Worsted Industry ..	119,630	153,700	273,330	6,235	7,408	13,703	5.3	4.8	5.0	5.0	— 1.8	— 1.5	— 1.6			
Silk Industry ..	14,320	23,820	38,140	891	1,852	2,742	6.2	7.8	7.2	7.2	— 0.1	— 1.5	— 1.0			
Linen Industry ..	25,700	55,370	82,070	3,395	4,175	7,570	13.2	7.4	9.2	10.4	— 0.1	— 0.8	— 0.6			
Jute Industry ..	14,190	27,340	41,530	1,843	2,296	4,144	13.0	8.4	10.0	10.0	+ 1.2	+ 1.0	+ 1.1			
Hemp, Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ..	7,620	12,540	20,160	881	1,901	2,782	11.6	15.2	13.8	11.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.2			
Hosiery Industry ..	19,990	71,330	91,320	1,065	4,703	5,771	5.3	6.6	6.3	6.2	— 1.2	— 1.6	— 1.6			
Lace Industry ..	9,330	12,240	21,570	2,062	1,448	3,510	22.1	11.8	16.3	16.3	— 1.8	— 1.3	— 1.5			
Carpet Industry ..	11,220	14,540	25,760	415	949	1,364	4.0	6.5	5.4	5.3	—	+ 1.4	+ 0.8			
Other Textile Industries ..	13,480	29,940	43,420	1,293	3,652	4,945	9.6	12.2	11.4	11.2	— 1.3	— 0.5	— 0.7			
Textile, Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ..	85,560	31,400	116,960	11,273	3,078	14,351	13.2	9.8	12.3	12.7	—	— 1.2	— 0.3			
Leather and Leather Goods :—																
Tanning, Currying and Leather Dressing ..	33,230	8,590	41,820	3,313	1,036	4,379	10.0	12.4	10.5	10.5	— 0.2	— 0.2	— 0.2			
Saddlery, Harness and Other Leather Goods Manufacture ..	16,800	12,550	29,350	1,834	1,259	3,093	10.9	10.0	10.5	10.5	— 0.3	— 0.1	— 0.2			
Clothing Trades :—																
Tailoring ..	65,910	120,300	186,210	6,572	8,022	14,594	10.0	6.7	7.8	7.7	— 3.0	— 3.8	— 3.6			
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ..	12,250	104,160	116,410	971	7,237	8,208	7.9	6.9	7.1	6.8	— 0.9	— 2.7	— 2.4			
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ..	13,810	20,830	34,640	1,671	1,280	2,951	12.1	6.1	8.5	8.5	— 1.2	— 1.0	— 1.1			
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ..	6,640	60,880	67,520	306	3,341	3,647	4.6	5.5	5.4	4.9	— 0.8	— 0.9	— 0.9			
Other Dress Industries ..	12,470	20,470	32,940	1,341	1,838	3,209	10.8	9.1	9.7	9.7	— 0.2	— 2.7	— 1.8			
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades ..	93,620	50,230	143,850	10,590	3,106	13,696	11.3	6.2	9.5	9.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.4			
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—																
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ..	104,290	54,840	159,130	10,908	4,805	15,713	10.5	8.8	9.9	9.8	— 0.8	— 0.2	— 0.6			
Grain Milling ..	26,460	3,100	29,560	1,241	210	1,451	4.7	6.8	4.9	4.7	— 0.6	+ 0.9	— 0.4			
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ..	25,040	45,740	70,780	2,162	7,175	9,337	8.6	15.7	13.2	13.1	+ 0.5	+ 3.8	+ 2.7			
Other Food Industries ..	49,070	49,220	98,290	3,794	8,380	12,174	7.7	17.0	12.4	12.3	— 1.0	—	— 0.5			
Drink Industries ..	81,500	20,850	102,350	4,483	2,645	7,133	5.5	12.7	7.0	6.7	— 0.1	— 0.2	— 0.1			
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture ..	14,960	30,360	45,320	1,131	3,244	4,375	7.6	10.7	9.7	9.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	+ 0.7			
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—																
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork ..	54,700	3,300	58,000	5,803	279	6,082	10.6	8.5	10.5	10.3	— 0.9	— 0.4	— 0.9			
Wood Box and Packing Case Making ..	10,710	2,020	12,730	1,585	267	1,853	14.8	13.2	14.6	14.4	— 1.6	— 0.7	— 1.4			
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc. ..	76,540	17,810	94,350	6,115	1,354	7,469	8.0	7.6	7.9	7.8	— 0.9	— 0.6	— 0.8			
Other Woodworking ..	20,610	6,840	27,450	2,195	772	2,967	10.7	11.3	10.8	10.7	— 0.2	— 0.2	— 0.3			
Printing and Paper Trades :—																
Paper and Paper Board Making ..	40,440	16,120	56,560	3,765	1,291	5,056	9.3	8.0	8.9	8.9	— 0.5	— 1.1	— 0.7			
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ..	19,740	35,900	55,640	1,154	2,949	4,103	5.8	8.2	7.4	7.2	— 0.4	— 0.2	— 0.2			
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining ..	3,510	1,270	4,780	145	143	288	4.1	11.3	6.0	6.0	— 1.1	+ 2.1	— 0.3			
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ..	1,950	2,850	4,800	123	157	280	6.3	5.5	5.8	5.8	— 1.1	—	— 0.5			
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding ..	150,870	80,140	231,010	8,449	5,057	13,506	5.6	6.3	5.8	5.8	— 0.5	— 0.2	— 0.4			
Building and Construction of Works :—																
Building ..	708,640	8,480	717,120	72,335	248	72,583	10.2	2.9	10.1	9.9	— 2.8	+ 0.2	— 2.7			
Public Works Contracting, etc. ..	126,900	860	127,760	21,605	13	21,618	17.0	1.5	16.9	16.8	— 1.5	— 0.9	— 1.5			
Other Manufacturing Industries :—																

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 59, as compared with 56 in the previous month and 52 in March, 1923. In these new disputes about 63,000 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 13,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 21 disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 80, involving about 76,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during March of about 730,000 working days. The principal stoppage was that involving nearly 40,000 tramway and omnibus employees in London, which was in progress from 22nd to 31st March (see article on page 121).

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in March 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 March.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in March.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in March.
	Started before 1st March.	Started in March.	Total.		
Mining & Quarrying	6	17	23	13,000	106,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	12	17	10,000	201,000
Transport .. ..	..	9	9	46,000	365,000
Other	10	21	31	7,000	58,000
Total, Mar., 1924 ..	21	59	80	76,000	730,000
Total, Feb., 1924 ..	20	56	76	144,000	699,000
Total, Mar., 1923 ..	27	52†	79†	83,000†	762,000†

Causes.—Of the 59 disputes beginning in March, 19, directly involving 23,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 4, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, against proposed reductions in wages; 11, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 9, directly involving 4,000

workpeople, on details of working arrangements; 7, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 6, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and 3, directly involving 25,000 workpeople, in sympathy with workpeople involved in other disputes.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 34 new disputes, directly involving 47,000 workpeople, and 13 old disputes, directly involving 2,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 13, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 25, directly involving 42,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 9 disputes, directly involving 8,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1923 AND 1924.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first three months of 1924, in comparison with the corresponding period of 1923 :—

Groups of Industries.	January to March, 1923.			January to March, 1924.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Agriculture ..	2	8,000	66,000	..	..	..
Mining and Quarrying ..	50	52,000	400,000	49	34,000	313,000
Engineering .. and Shipbuilding ..	19	3,000	25,000	19	10,000	245,000
Other Metal ..	13	1,000	15,000	10	3,000	26,000
Textile	10	32,000	330,000	8	1,000	10,000
Clothing	6	3,000	19,000	11	2,000	7,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	5	6,000	117,000	..	..	..
Building, Decorating, etc.	14	13,000	175,000	14	2,000	34,000
Transport	8	1,000	11,000	23	230,000	1,370,000
Public Administration Services ..	5	2,000	15,000	6	4,000	34,000
Other	32	4,000	41,000	19	2,000	29,000
Total	164	125,000	1,214,000	159	288,000	2,068,000

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING MARCH, 1924.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. ||	Result. ||	
	Directly.	Indirectly. ||	Began.	Ended.			
MINING AND QUARRYING :—							
Coal miners, etc.	Wakefield (near) ..	2,015	1923. 4 Dec.	1924. ..	Dispute respecting wages, alleged victimisation and other grievances	No settlement reported.	
	Swansea (near) ..	850	1924. 21 Jan.	..	Dispute respecting rates of wages payable when working with "conveyors."	No settlement reported.	
	Newport, Mon. (near).	2,000	8 Mar.	17 Mar.	Dispute respecting allowances to hauliers consequent upon shortage of trams.	Work resumed pending negotiations.	
METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIP-BUILDING :—							
Engineers, shipwrights, joiners and other shipyard workers—Southampton.	7,000¶	{	19 Feb.**	}	..	For advance in wages	No settlement reported.
Workpeople engaged in the manufacture of electrical accumulators—London.	287		25 Feb.††				
		76	12 Mar.	..	For payment for statutory bank holidays and for one week's annual holiday with pay.	No settlement reported.	
TRANSPORT :—							
Railway carters, motor drivers and attendants, vanlads and goods shed staff—London.	4,284	..	10 Mar.	14 Mar.	For payment of extra rate of wages to motor drivers required to work with trailers, and against non-provision of vanlads to accompany certain vanmen.	Work resumed pending negotiations.	
Tramway employees—London	16,200	{	22 Mar.	31 Mar.	(See article on page 121.)		
Omnibus employees—London	22,500						
OTHER INDUSTRIES :—							
Paviors, masons, labourers, etc., employed in Paving, etc., and Tramways Departments—Manchester.††	1,460††	..	12 Mar.	..	Against proposed substitution of civil engineering rates of wages and hours of labour, with certain modifications, for those observed in the building trades.	No settlement reported.	
Electricians—Wembley, Middlesex.	400	..	25 Mar.	27 Mar.	Refusal to work with non-members of the Electrical Trades Union.	Non-members withdrawn.	

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

† Revised figures.

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

§ A dispute involving 29,000 jute workers at Dundee was in progress in March, 1923.

|| 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.

¶ Estimated number. A lock-out of shipyard workers, except boilermakers and shipwrights, was imposed on 12th April in federated yards throughout Great Britain.

** Engineers. †† Other workpeople.

‡‡ A sympathetic strike in support of these workpeople was begun on 31st March by bricklayers, masons, etc., on Manchester municipal housing schemes, etc.

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 March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £30,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 600,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of about £7,500 in the weekly wages of over 180,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	495,000	183,000	£ 17,200	£ 7,500
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	13,500	—	2,200	—
Metal	16,000	—	1,200	—
Public Utility Services ..	34,500	—	4,000	—
Other	36,000	1,000	4,900	50
Total	595,000	184,000	29,500	7,550

In the mining group the principal changes affected coal miners, whose wages were increased in the Yorkshire and East Midland area and in Scotland by about $1\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. respectively on current rates, while they were reduced by about $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on current rates in Durham and by $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates in the Forest of Dean. There were also increases of 1d. and 2d. per shift respectively in the wages of iron ore miners in Cumberland and Furness.

In the brick, chemical, etc., group there were increases of 4s. and 2s. per week in the wages of men and women respectively employed in the soap trade in England. Chemical workers in Scotland received increases of 2s. per week in the case of time-workers and 2s. 6d. per week in the case of pieceworkers. Brickmakers at Peterborough received an increase equivalent to over 5 per cent. on their previous earnings.

The principal increases in the metal group affected iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland, the increases amounting to about 5 per cent. on current rates in the former district and to over $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the latter district. Workpeople employed in the penmaking, etc., trade at Birmingham received increases amounting to 1s. 4d. or 1s. per week in the case of men and 5d. per week in the case of women.

In the public utility services the principal changes affected workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities, for whom there was an increase of 10 per cent. on the basis rates in the majority of towns in Lancashire and Cheshire, and a general increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in the East Midland counties, and also at Sheffield and a few other towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Under the Trade Boards Acts a new Order for the boot and shoe repairing, etc., trade resulted in an increase in the minimum rates of wages of certain classes of workpeople, and a decrease in those of certain other classes.

In industries other than the above the principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in wages in March included

those employed in the textile making-up and packing trade at Manchester, brewery workers at Burton, furniture trade operatives in Scotland, and men employed by electrical contractors in Scotland.

Of the increases taking effect in March, 17, amounting to over £18,100 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry; 10, amounting to £4,200 per week, were arranged by standing joint bodies of employers and workpeople (including over £2,000 incorporated below under cost of living sliding scales); 27, amounting to £3,200 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; four, amounting to over £200 per week, were arranged by arbitration or mediation; and the remaining 29 cases, amounting to £5,800 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties or took effect under a Trade Board Order. In eight cases, involving nearly £300 per week, the increases were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Of the decreases, three, amounting to nearly £7,500 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry; two, amounting to £25 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; two, amounting to £60 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties or took effect under a Trade Board Order. In only one case, involving under £50 per week, was a decrease preceded by a dispute causing a stoppage of work.

Summary of Changes in January—March, 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 three months of 1924, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	494,000	451,000	£ 73,550	£ 27,800
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	26,000	50	3,850	5
Iron and Steel ..	17,500	114,000	2,200	5,000
Engineering, Shipbuilding, and other Metal ..	37,000	3,100	2,500	700
Textile	9,000	350	2,250	50
Clothing	2,000	11,600	150	1,150
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	20,000	250	2,200	150
Woodworking	16,000	30	2,000	5
Building and Allied Trades ..	459,000	—	47,100	—
Transport	335,000	4,700	45,800	400
Public Utility Services ..	182,000	1,300	19,650	250
Other	41,500	3,250	5,400	300
Total	1,724,000	589,630	206,650	35,810

In the corresponding three months of 1923 there were net reductions of over £160,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 1,600,000 workpeople, and net increases of about £19,500 in the weekly wages of nearly 190,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in March.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE.				
Agriculture	Lancashire (except Furness district)	8 Mar.	Agricultural labourers ...	Rates previously agreed upon extended up to 31 May, viz., (a) Northern Area—teamsmen and stockmen, 37s. 6d.; other adult male workers, 35s.; (b) Eastern Area—teamsmen and stockmen, 40s.; (c) Southern Area—teamsmen and stockmen, 35s.; other adult male workers, 32s. 6d., with proportionate rates for youths and female workers.†
	Shropshire	1 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rates previously agreed upon extended up to 1 November, viz., 30s. for a guaranteed week of 54 hours for adult workers, and for youths varying from 2½d. per hour at 14 to 15 years to 6½d. at 20 to 21 years.†
	Devonshire	26 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rate previously agreed upon for adult workers extended up to 28 June, viz., 30s. for a week of 51 hours, and proportionate rates adopted for youths.†
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Durham	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 3·80 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 116·60 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower-paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day (as previously fixed).

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

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Coal Mining (cont'd.)	Yorkshire and East Midland Area* Forest of Dean ...	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 2.81 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, making wages 58.47† per cent. above the standard of 1911. Decrease of 5.60 per cent. on standard base rates of 1919, leaving wages at the minimum of 62 per cent. above the standard of 1919.
	Scotland ...	1 Mar.		Increase of 1.08 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1888, making wages 147.45 per cent. above the standard of 1888, subject to a subsistence allowance for surface workers, operative from 1 January, 1922. (See p. 80 of February, 1922, GAZETTE.)
Coke and By-products Manufacture	Durham ...	1 Mar.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Decrease of 3.80 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 116.60 per cent. above the standard, subject to lower-paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day (as previously fixed.)
	South Yorkshire Cleveland ...	18 Feb.	Face deputy helpers at iron-stone mines Iron ore miners ...	Increase of 2.81 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 58.47 per cent. above the standard. Base rates varying from 3s. 8d. to 4s. 7d. per shift increased to 4s. 7d. to 5s. per shift.‡
Iron Mining	Cumberland ...	10 Mar.	Winding enginemmen ... Other underground and surface workers	Increase of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (10s. 1d. to 10s. 2d.), and of 1d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 5d. to 7s. 6d.). Increases of ¾d. per shift (8s. 9½d. to 8s. 10½d.). Increases of ¼d. per shift for men and of ¼d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: underground, 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 5½d. per shift; joiners, 9s. 2½d. per shift, plus 6d. per shift tool money; blacksmiths, 9s. 2½d. per shift.
	Furness District...	10 Mar.	Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements)	Increase of 2d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. 11d. to 9s. 1d.); of 2d. per shift in the minimum wage (8s. 2d. to 8s. 4d.); of 1½d. per shift for surfacemen, and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16 years.
Quarrying	West Cumberland	10 Mar.	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. 9d.; haulage enginemmen, 8s. 5d.; blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 8½d.; day borers (1st class), 8s. 3d.; day labourers, 7s. 7d.; ruddmen, 7s. 1d.
	Portland ...	3 Mar.	Limestone quarry labourers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour.
BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES.				
Brick-making	Peterborough and District	First full pay week in Mar.	Pressed brickmakers ...	Bonus of 5 per cent. on weekly wages withdrawn, and an increase of such amount as will restore the 10 per cent. reduction made in February, 1923; also an amount equivalent to half the reduction made in rates of pay for extras as from May, 1922, restored. Rates after change: burners, 10s. 11d. per shift; oilers, 1s. 0½d. per hour; fitters, 1s. 3½d.; labourers, 11d.; press boys, 5d.
Chemical Manufacture	Scotland¶ ...	13 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of heavy chemicals (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades)	Increase of 2s. per week for timeworkers and of 2s. 6d. per week for shiftworkers.
Soap Manufacture	England** ...	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the soap trade (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades)	Increase of 4s. per week for male workers 21 and over, and 2s. per week for female workers 18 and over.** Minimum rates after change: male workers 21 and over—large industrial centres (including Port Sunlight and Bromborough Pool), 56s.; other centres, 54s.; female workers 18 and over, 30s.††
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay in Mar.	Blastfurnacemen ...	Increase of 2 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 39½ per cent.‡ above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus. Minimum rates after change: general labourers, 4s. 10d. per shift, plus 39½ per cent.; shift labourers, 5s. per shift, plus 39½ per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	North of England	31 Mar.	Iron puddlers ...	Increase of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 55 per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	31 Mar.	Iron millmen ...	Increase of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 52½ per cent. above the standard.
	South and West Wales	Feb.	Merchant millmen ...	Increase of 7½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 52½ per cent. above the standard.
	West of Scotland	31 Mar.	Bricklayers employed in Siemens steel works Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Increase of 1½d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.). Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 57½ per cent. above the standard.
ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.				
Engineering	Derby ...	First making up day after 11 Jan.	Acetylene welders ...	Minimum rate of 42s. per week fixed for men at present engaged as acetylene welders, and minimum rates adopted for men starting without any previous experience as follows: first year, 36s.; second year, 38s.; third year, 40s.; afterwards, 42s. per week; subject, in each case, to the addition of 10s. war wage.
	Mansfield ...	1 Mar.	Skilled coremakers§§ ...	Increase of 2s. per week (54s. to 56s.).§§
Shipbuilding, etc.	Great Britain ...	First full pay after 18 Mar.	Qualified joiners, plumbers, bricklayers, masons and painters ||| employed in H.M. Dockyards and Admiralty Establishments	Increase of 1s. per week in basic rate when engaged on craftsmen's work. Rates after change: joiners, plumbers, bricklayers and masons, 41s.; painters, 40s.; plus, in each case, a war advance of 17s. per week. (See I.C. Decision No. 882 on p. 149.)

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

† In West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to standard from 1st March was 56.81 Eastern Area, and 53.47 Western Area.

‡ The rates quoted are subject to the current percentage addition of 81.50.

§ The 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 direct negotiation.

¶ The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Scottish Committee of Chemical Manufacturers without agreement with the Trade Unions concerned.

** The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Soap and Candle Trades Employers' Federation. It is understood that the increases did not generally apply in the candle section.

†† At Port Sunlight, rate of 32s. 6d. is paid to those with more than 1 year's service.

‡‡ The scale percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slagers, fillers, enginemmen, etc., is 76½ in the Workington Area and 71½ in the Furness Area.

§§ The above increase took effect under an arrangement between the Nottingham and District Engineering Employers' Association and the National Union of Foundry Workers, by which the federated firms agreed to pay the moulders' rate to coremakers who, in their opinion, have skill in their trade equal to the skill of the average first-class moulder in his trade, and who have in addition, had at least five years continuous experience in the production of skilled cores; the definition of a skilled coremaker not to include repetition work, which however intricate, can be produced by unskilled man, boy, or female labour. It was further agreed that skilled coremakers and moulders should be interchangeable, and that the firms were entitled to employ unskilled labourers on unskilled coremaking.

||| Men who by their apprenticeship or long training have become fully qualified in their respective trades.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Spelter Manufacture	Swansea	1 Mar.	Workpeople, other than furnace hands, employed in the spelter industry	Increase of 6d. per day.
Tinplate Manufacture	South Wales and Monmouthshire	30 July, 1923*	Loco drivers and shunters ...	Daily rates adopted resulting in increases of from 7d. to 11d. per day, the new rates varying as follows: loco drivers—Group "A" works, 7s. 6d.; Group "B," 7s.; Group "C," 6s. 7d.; shunters—Group "A," 6s. 6d.; Group "B," 6s.; Group "C," 5s. 7d.; plus, in each case, a consolidated bonus of 25 per cent., 11½ per cent. sliding scale addition, and 7½ per cent. special allowance.
Lock, Latch and Key Manufacture	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall Districts; also London, Bolton and Wigan	First pay day after 1 Mar.	Apprentices and youths employed in the lock, latch and key industry	Rates adopted, varying according to age, from 15s. per week at 15 years to 31s. 6d. per week at 19 years for apprentices, and from 16s. per week at 15 years to 33s. per week at 19 years for other youths.†
Manufacture of Steel and Metal Pens and other Small Ware.	Birmingham and District	Pay day following 3 Mar.	Male timeworkers over 21 years of age	Increases‡ of 1s. 4d. per week for skilled men and charge hands, and of 1s. per week for others. Rates after change: toolmakers over 25 years of age, 80s. 8d. and 71s. 2d.; toolmakers 21 to 25 years, 61s. 2d.; charge hands in hardening shops and rolling mills, 73s. 2d.; charge hands in shaking mills and tempering and colouring shops, 65s. 2d.; others, 50s.
			Male timeworkers under 21 years of age	Increases‡ of amounts, varying according to age, from 3d. to 9d. per week.
			Apprentices	Increases‡ of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 6d. per week.
			Female dayworkers and learners	Increases‡ of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 5d. per week. Rate after change for dayworkers 18 years and over, 25s. 1d. per week.
Cotton	Nelson... ..	1st pay day in Mar.	Female pieceworkers	Increase‡ of 5d. per week (26s. 2d. to 27s. 6d.) in the basic piecework rate.
			TEXTILE TRADES.	
Elastic Web Weaving Making up and Packing	Leicester ... { Manchester ... {	{ 18 Feb. } 24 Mar. } Pay preceding 1st pay day in April	Cotton drawers and twistors on grey work (shadow stripes)	Extra payments fixed for one beam, where the ends are laid in approximately to pattern at 2d. per 1,000 ends on ordinary list prices: and for one beam where the ends are not laid in approximately to pattern at 3d. per 1,000 ends on ordinary list prices: for two beams, the same price as one beam not laid in approximately to pattern.
			Elastic web weavers (males)... }	Bonus increased‡ from 15s. to 16s. in the pound.
Boot and Shoe Making and Repairing	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Workpeople employed in the making-up and packing industry	Bonus reduced‡ from 16s. to 15s. in the pound.
			Male and female workers wholly or mainly employed in making bespoke hand-sewn leather footwear (including hand-sewn surgical work)	Increase‡ of 3d. per week for men 21 and over, and of 2d. per week for women 18 and over. Rates after change for certain classes: Men—hydraulic packers and makers-up (prints), 68s. 11d.; makers-up (greys), 63s. 4d.; lappers, 54s. 3d.; general warehousemen, 52s. 10d.; porters, 49s. Women—markers-off, 36s. 1d.; cutters, 33s. 4d.; other classes, 27s. 9d. to 31s. 11d.
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Male learners (other than male indentured apprentices) and female learners	Minimum rate of 65s. per week fixed under the Trade Boards Acts.§
			Female workers employed as foremen and managers	New scale of minimum weekly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases of 1s. for those of 15 and under 17 years, and in an increase of 1s. for those 19 and under 21 years, the rates for other ages remaining unchanged. Minimum rates after change: 13s. at 14 years, increasing to 43s. at 20s.
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Pieceworkers	Increase of 4s. per week (70s. to 74s.) in the guaranteed time rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts.§
			FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.	
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Bakers and confectioners ...	Revised list of piece rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, subject to a deduction of 5 per cent. for bespoke hand-sewn, bespoke hand-sewn surgical, bespoke pegged and bespoke riveted work and certain classes of surgical repair work, and of 7½ per cent. for repairing (including surgical repair work other than the above).§
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase‡ of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for Tablehands, 62s. 9d.
				Increase‡ of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for Tablehands, 63s. 6d.
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase‡ of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change, 4 a.m. start, 78s. 6d.; 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. start, 76s.
				Increase‡ of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 71s.
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase‡ of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 76s. 6d.
				Increase of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 76s. 6d.¶
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase‡ of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 71s.
				Increase‡ of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 76s. 6d.
Baking and Confectionery	Great Britain ...	3 Mar.‡	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase‡ of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 71s.
				Increase‡ of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 71s.

* The change took effect from the date mentioned under an agreement dated 10th March, 1924.

† In future wages will vary in accordance with fluctuations in the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

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

§ See p. 112 of March GAZETTE.

¶ Including Auchincloch, Dalmellington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, Maybole, Stevenston, and Troon.

¶ The changes took effect under the terms of an agreement made between the firms concerned and the Scottish Union of Bakers and Confectioners, by which wages were to be regulated in accordance with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO TRADES —(continued).				
Brewing	Burton-on-Trent ...	Payable on 1st pay day in April	Male workers	Increase of 6s. per week for men 21 and over, and of proportionate amounts for boys and youths. Standard rates after change for men 21 and over:—labourers, 56s., loaders and stowers, 59s.; shiftmen, 60s.; loco. drivers, 77s. 6d.; enginemen (48 hours), 68s.; stokers (48 hours), 65s. 6d.; lorry drivers, 66s.; lorry steersmen, 61s.; carters—one-horse, 56s.; two-horse, 58s.
			Female workers	Increase of 4s. per week (31s. to 35s.) for those 21 and over, and of proportionate amounts for girls.
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.				
Mill Sawing	Manchester, Salford and District, and Ashton-under-Lyne	1 Feb.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
		29 Mar.	Timber yard labourers, slingers and power driven crane drivers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: timber yard labourers, 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; slingers, 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; crane drivers, 1s. 2d.
	Preston and District	1 Feb.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Bristol	1 Mar.	Labourers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 1d. to 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
		7 Mar.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Leicester	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in saw-mills	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: machinists and sawyers, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.
	Nottingham	1 Mar.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 6d.).
Packing Case Making	Scotland	1st full pay in Mar.	Woodcutting machinists	Increase of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for journeymen and of proportionate amounts for apprentices. Minimum rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 5d.
	Manchester, Salford and Bolton (except Aberdeen)	1 Feb.	Woodcutting machinists	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
		1st full pay week in Mar.	Packing case makers and woodcutting machinists	Increase of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for journeymen and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for apprentices. Rates after change: packing case makers—Glasgow, 1s. 5d.; Edinburgh, Leith, Dunfermline and Dundee, 1s. 4d.; woodcutting machinists (all districts), 1s. 5d.
Furniture Trades	Aberdeen	13 Mar.	Packing case makers and woodcutting machinists	Increase of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for time-workers (1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 3d.), and of 20 per cent. on pre-war rates for pieceworkers, leaving wages 100 per cent. above pre-war rates.
	Nottingham	1 Mar.	Cabinet makers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, sanders by hand or machine (single band) packers, etc.	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: sanders and packers, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; other classes, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	Beith, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch	1st full pay week in Mar.	Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, upholstery sewers and sand paperers.	Increase* of 1d. per hour for men, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for women, 5 per cent. for pieceworkers and proportionate amounts for apprentices. Minimum rates after change: Glasgow—men, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; women, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.. Beith, Lochwinnoch, Dundee and Kirkcaldy—men, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; women, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Paper Making	Great Britain ...	22 Feb.	Boys and youths employed in paper mills (except those employed in hand-made paper mills and board mills)	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for those of 16 and 18 years of age, of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for those of 17 years, and increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for those of 20 years, the rates for those aged 14, 15 and 19 years remaining unchanged. Rates after change: 14 years, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour increasing to 8d. per hour at 18 years and to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. at 20 years; Scotland, West of England and Wales: 14 years, 3d., increasing to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. at 18 years and to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. at 20 years.
Printing	Manchester... ..	1st full pay after 4 Mar.	Engineers, fitters and turners, electrical fitters and assistants employed in certain morning and evening newspaper offices	Bonus of 5s. per week granted. Minimum rates after change: daywork—electricians (mechanics) and engineers, 105s.; electricians' assistants, 90s.; nightwork—electricians (mechanics) and engineers, 135s.; electricians' assistants, 100s. (See Decision No. 876 on p. 149.)
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Building	Plymouth and Devonport District	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: painters, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.†
	Keynsham† ...	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.†
	Torquay	17 Mar.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) and $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour for labourers (1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 2d.).‡
	Abergavenny ...	31 Mar.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 7d.) and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for labourers (1s. 2d. to 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.).‡
	Aberdeen	14 Feb. 7 Mar.	Plasterers Masons, joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters and plumbers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
Electrical Installation	Elgin and District Huntly and Inverurie Districts	21 Mar. 10 Mar.	Joiners Masons	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.). Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Peterhead	7 Mar.	Masons, joiners, slaters and plumbers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 7d.).
	Scotland§	Week's pay payable 14 Mar.	Qualified men employed by electrical contractors	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d.).
TRANSPORT TRADES				
Dock, Wharf, etc., Labour	Grimsby	26 Feb.	Deal carriers employed in the timber trade	Increase of 5 per cent. on the 1920 tariff, leaving a total decrease of 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 30 per cent. on list prices.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
† This change was in accordance with the agreement of the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry referred to in the March GAZETTE, and took effect from the same date as in the rest of the country. Confirmation in respect of these particular towns, however, did not reach the Department in time for their inclusion in the list of towns published on p. 104 of the March GAZETTE.
‡ This increase took effect as the result of the district having been up-graded under the Grading Scheme of the National Wages and Conditions Council (see p. 104 of March GAZETTE).
§ The change took effect under an agreement made between the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland and the Electrical Trades Union.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
Road Transport	Newcastle-on-Tyne	17 Mar.	TRANSPORT TRADES—(continued).	
			Road transport workers ...	Increase of 3s. per week. Rates after change: one horse drivers, 53s.; two horse drivers, 56s.; petrol wagon drivers (2 tons and over), 63s.; steam wagon drivers, 63s.; steerers, 57s.; loaders and mates, 53s.
	Sunderland... Nottingham	17 Mar. 1st pay after 3 Mar.	Road transport workers ... Road transport workers ...	Increase of 3s. per week. Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: one horse drivers, 53s.; two horse drivers, 58s.; petrol wagon drivers, 2 tons and over, 63s.; 15 cwt. to 2 tons, 58s.; under 15 cwt., 53s.; electric vehicle drivers, 1 ton and over, 60s.; under 1 ton, 53s.; loaders and garage hands, 53s.
	Cambridge ...	24 Mar.	Carters, coal porters, etc. ...	Rate of 40s. adopted for carters and motor mates, of 46s. for coal carters, and 45s. for coal yardmen.
	Bristol ...	Pay preceding 1st pay day in April	Road transport workers ...	New schedule of rates adopted resulting in an increase of 3s. per week for adults and 1s. 6d. per week for boys and youths. Rates after change: one horse drivers 59s.; two horse drivers, 63s. 6d.*; three horse drivers, 65s. 6d.; mechanical vehicle drivers, under 1 ton, 66s., over 1 and under 2 tons, 68s., 2 tons and over, 73s.; steersmen, 68s.; loaders, 66s.; horse-keepers, 61s.
	Forfarshire ...	17 Mar.	Road transport workers ...	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change at Dundee: one horse carters, 52s.; two horse carters, 54s.
	Belfast ...	10 Mar.	Road transport workers ...	Increase of 3s. per week. Rates after change: one horse carters (first 6 months), 54s.; (after 6 months), 57s.; two horse carters (light), 62s.; (heavy), 65s.
	Londonderry ...	14 Mar.	Carters ...	Increase of 3s. per week (54s. to 57s.).
			PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES	
	Scarborough ...	Week ended 6 Mar.	Manual workers ...	Increase of 1s. 3d. per week. Rates after change: general and road labourers, scavengers and refuse collectors, 50s. per week; road paviers, 52s.
Non-trading Services of Local Authorities	West Riding of Yorkshire†	1st full pay in Mar.	Male manual workers ...	Revised area grading scheme adopted whereby three intermediate grades, B 1, C 1 and D 1, are created in addition to the four grades A, B, C and D previously existing, resulting in an increase of ½d. per hour in the scheduled minimum rates for the towns included in the three new grades. Minimum hourly rates for labourers after change: Grade B 1 areas, 1s. 0½d. (i.e., ½d. less than Grade A); Grade C 1, 11½d. (i.e., 1½d. less than Grade A); Grade D 1, 10½d. (i.e., 2½d. less than Grade A). The minimum rates for Grade A, Grade B (now B 2), Grade C (now C 2) and Grade D (now D 2) remain unchanged at 1s. 1d., 1s., 11d. and 10d. respectively.‡
	Sheffield ...	12 Mar.	Manual workers (excluding those whose wages are governed by Trade Union rates)	Increase in bonus or allowances of 2s. per week, or ½d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 1s. 2d. per hour; scavengers, 8s. 1d. per day; refuse collectors: motor drivers, 57s. 6d. per week, labourers, 54s. 6d., horse drivers, 51s. 6d., labourers, 49s. 6d.
	Lancashire and Cheshire§	1 Mar.	Male manual workers ...	"Cost of living" bonus increased from 75 to 85 per cent. on basic rates.¶ Minimum weekly rates after change: labourers, Zone A, 51s. 10d.; Zone B, 48s. 1d.; Zone C, 46s. 3d.; Zone D (roadmen), 38s. 10d.; Zone E (roadmen), 37s.; street sweepers, Zone A, 48s. 1d.; Zone B, 44s. 5d.; Zone C, 42s. 7d.; Zone D, 38s. 10d.; Zone E, 37s.
	East Midlands||	1st pay day in Mar.	Manual workers:— Men paid hourly rates ... Men paid weekly rates (including attendants, caretakers, porters, cleaners, lamplighters, etc.) Women (baths, library and lavatory attendants)	Increase of ½d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change for road and general labourers and scavengers: Grade A areas, 1s. 2d. (gardeners and gardeners' labourers, 1s. 1d.); Grade B, 1s.; Grade C, 11d.; Grade D, industrial areas, 11d.; agricultural areas, 10d.||
	Middlesex¶	1st pay day after 1 Mar.	Male manual workers ...	Increase of 1s. 11d. per week for Grade A areas, of 1s. 9d. for Grade B areas, and of 1s. 6d. for Grade C areas. Scheduled minimum rates after change: Grade A areas, 50s. 11d.; Grade B areas, 47s. 1d.; Grade C areas, 40s. 3d.
				Increase of 11d. per week in Grade A areas. Scheduled minimum rate after change for Grade A areas, 25s. 8d. per week.
				Area grading scheme adopted whereby minimum basic rates were recommended for three zones as follows:—Zone I, districts: Grade A workpeople (including bath and lavatory attendants, scavengers, lamplighters, etc.), 30s.; Grade B (including dust collectors, gardeners, yardmen, labourers, etc.), 32s.; Grade C (including stokers, asphalters, etc.), 34s.; Grade D (including motor drivers not required to do running repairs, sewer men, etc.), 36s.; Grade E (including motor drivers capable of doing running repairs, steam roller drivers, etc.), 38s.; Grade F (including horse keepers, foremen sewer men, etc.), 40s. Grade G (no occupations fixed), 42s. Zone II, rates to be 5 per cent. less than Zone I. Zone III, rates to be 12½ per cent. less than Zone I. The above rates are to be subject to a bonus as follows: 22s. 6d. on the first 30s., plus 50 per cent. on the balance, such bonus to vary in future in accordance with the cost of living.¶

* The rate for two-horse drivers was reduced to 58s. 6d. per week as reported on p. 217 of the June, 1923, GAZETTE, but was subsequently (in December, 1923) increased to 60s. 6d. per week by mutual agreement between the parties.

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

‡ The Authorities affected are those which recognise the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include:—Grade B1: Ringley, Castleford, Conisborough (no change on previous rates). Doncaster (change made from 1st April). Kellingley, Queensbury, Rawmarsh, Spenborough, Whitwood, Rotherham R.D.C. (no change). Grade C1: Horbury, Hunsworth, Selby, Kiveton Park R.D.C. Grade D1: Pontefract R.D.C. (no change). Todmorden R.D.C. (no change).

§ Under the "cost of living" sliding scale an increase of 5 per cent. became due, but it was agreed by the Lancashire and Cheshire Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services that a further increase of 5 per cent. should be made from the same date. The Authorities affected include the following, which are shown in their respective Zones: the Authorities printed in *italics* pay general var. labourers the same rate as a builder's labourer:—Zone A: Bolton, Liverpool (Engineer's Department), Manchester, Southport, Abram, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Atherton, Stretford. Zone B: Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Colne, Crewe, Darwen, Dukinfield, Eccles, Haslingden, Hyde, Middleton (unskilled men in Highways Department), Nelson, Preston, St. Helens, Stalbridge, Wallasey, Warrington, Altrincham, Andenshaw, Barrowford, Brierfield, Chadderton, Crompton, Droylsden, Failsforth, Golborne, Ince-in-Makerfield, Littleborough, Little Lever, Newton-in-Makerfield, Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Porton, Swinton and Pendlebury, Tottinoton, Tulseley-with-Shakerley. Zone C: Chester, Chorley, Clitheroe, Gloss, Lytham St. Annes, Macclesfield, Morecambe, Alderley Edge, Ashton-upon-Mersey, Aspull, Bollington, Dalton-in-Furness, Hale, Hazel Grove and Bramhall, Kirkham, Little Hulton, Milnrow, Northwich, Ormskirk, Padfield, Sale, Skelmersdale, Standish-with-Langtree, Turton, Urmston, Whitefield, Worsley. Zone D: Trawden, Withnell, and R.D.C.s of Burnley and Leigh. Zone E: Lancashire County Council, Fylde R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ from the actual minima quoted above. The following Authorities, while not recognising the Zone rates recommended by the Joint Industrial Council, made the percentage increase shown above:—Ashton-under-Lyne, Leigh, Mossley, Rochdale, Wilnes, Wigan, Blackrod, Haydock, Hindley, Hurst, Norden, Ulverston.

|| The Authorities affected are those which follow the recommendations of the East Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services.

¶ The above zones and rates were recommended by the Middlesex Joint Industrial Council. The following Authorities are reported to have adopted the recommendations:—Zone 1: Brentford (from 27 March), Tottenham; Zone 2: Friern Barnet, Hanwell, Southall-Norwood, Twickenham.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 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.)	Portsmouth... ..	1 Feb.	Labourers Manual workers in non-trading and Water Departments	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0¾d.).
	Aberdeen	1 Mar.		Increase* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: general labourers and labourers in Waterworks Department 50s. per week; scavengers and refuse collectors, 53s.; pipe layers, 57s. 6d.
	Glasgow	3 Mar.	Settmakers	Increase* of 1d. per 110 stones. Rate after change: 4s. 11d. per 110 stones.
Saddlery, etc., Trade	London (Metropolitan Area)	1st pay day in Mar.	MISCELLANEOUS TRADES	
			Gig saddlers, harness makers, etc.	Increase* of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and 7½ per cent. for pieceworkers, leaving wages 90 per cent. and 75 per cent. above the list for heavy and light work respectively. Minimum rate after change for time-workers, 1s. 6d
				Brown saddlers ... ..	Increase* of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and 7½ per cent. for pieceworkers, leaving wages 75 per cent. above pre-war list prices. Minimum rate after change for timeworkers, 1s. 6d.
Other Trades and Occupations	London (City and Metropolitan Police District†)	1st pay day after 1 Mar.	Packers and porters employed by certain large retail drapery, etc., shops (new entrants):—	
			Packers	New scale of minimum weekly rates adopted, starting for males at 18s. at 16 years and increasing to 60s. at 24 years; and for females at 15s. at 16 years and increasing to 36s. at 23 years.†
				Porters ... ..	New scale of minimum weekly rates adopted, starting for males at 18s. at 16 years and increasing to 53s. at 24 years; and for females at 15s. at 16 years and increasing to 34s. at 23 years.†
	Liverpool	26 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the cold storage industry	
	Yorkshire‡	Pay day in week beginning 3 Mar.	Managers, secretaries, and heads of departments employed by co-operative societies	
				Increase of 5s. 6d. per week for permanent men and of 1s. per day for casual men.. Rates after change: permanent labourers, 62s. 6d. per week; casual men, 12s. per day; engine drivers, 64s. 2d. per week; firemen, motormen and greasers, 60s. 6d.; hydraulic men, cranemen and snowmen, 63s. 6d.
				Decrease of 2½ per cent. on basic rates, subject to a minimum of £4 per week.‡

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
† The new rates took effect under an agreement made between the London Employers' Association, Ltd. and the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers. It is understood that the rates are to be applied to new entrants only and that generally the rates of existing staffs will not be reduced.
‡ The change took effect as the result of an award to which the Co-operative Union, Ltd. (North Eastern Section) and the National Union of Co-operative Officials were parties.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN APRIL, 1924.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in April, all the changes mentioned being increases:—Flint glass cutters; paint colour and varnish workers; blast furnacemen in the Cleveland district; iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands; electrical cable makers; workpeople employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry; vehicle builders in Scotland; house painters in Scotland; tramwaymen in London; workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Particulars of the changes will be included in the May issue of the GAZETTE.

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:				
Cleveland (No. 3) ..	1924 Jan.-Mar.	s. d. 95 9	s. d. + 0 8	s. d. + 2 10½
Cumberland ..	Jan.-Feb.	101 6	+ 1 7½	+ 5 11
(Hematite mixed numbers.)	Jan.	101 1½	+ 0 11	+ 6 7½
	Feb.	101 9½	+ 0 8½	+ 5 3½
Manufactured Iron:				
North of England ..	Jan.-Feb.	243 1½	+11 7½	+36 1½
(Bars and angles.)	Jan. Feb.	244 6½	+ 3 5½	+27 6½
West of Scotland ..				
(Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.)				

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

Pig Iron.—The rise in the ascertained selling price of Cleveland pig iron for the quarter ended March, 1924, resulted in an increase of ½ per cent. on the standard wages of blastfurnacemen (with effect from 6th April). The rise in the ascertained selling price of Cumberland pig iron for the two months January and February resulted in an increase of 2 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 minimum wage of iron-ore miners in the Furness district. As a result of the increase in the ascertained selling price of Cumberland pig iron for January, the wages of iron-ore miners in that county were increased from 4th February by 1d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage; while the wages of limestone quarrymen were increased from 11th February by ¾d. per shift under the same ascertainment. The ascertained price of Cumberland pig iron for February resulted in a further increase from 10th March of 1d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage of iron-ore miners, and ¾d. per shift in the wages of limestone quarrymen.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the wages of puddlers and millmen were increased by 7½ per cent. on standard rates, with effect from 31st March, in consequence of the rise in the ascertained price of manufactured iron in that district. In the West of Scotland an increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates took effect from 31st March as the result of the increase in the ascertained price. Particulars of these increases are given on page 138.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 143 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the first three months of this year. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Local Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1923.

In the localities to which the figures relate, plans were passed in the first quarter of 1924 for buildings of an estimated cost of over £15,400,000, of which dwelling-houses accounted for over £10,000,000. In the corresponding quarter of 1923, plans were passed in the same localities for buildings of an estimated cost of over £10,500,000, dwelling-houses accounting for nearly £6,000,000 of this total.

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 143 towns from which returns have been received.					
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations.	TOTAL.
(a) FIRST QUARTER OF 1924.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (917,000)	397,800	16,300	37,100	13,400	88,400	553,000
Yorkshire .. (2,337,000)	1,237,400	130,400	202,500	44,300	295,900	1,910,500
Lancashire and Cheshire (3,035,000)	1,750,400	123,400	481,000	626,500	264,300	3,245,600
North and West-Midland Counties .. (2,911,000)	1,697,200	179,800	67,200	118,900	594,500	2,657,600
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (581,000)	709,000	11,400	54,600	16,000	127,800	918,800
Outer London* (2,068,000)	1,913,200	72,300	113,400	99,500	243,700	2,442,100
South-Eastern Counties (1,012,000)	821,200	22,600	157,300	6,000	182,800	1,189,900
South-Western Counties (432,000)	426,900	5,100	7,600	4,000	61,400	505,000
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (834,000)	419,600	64,300	38,800	40,000	53,900	616,600
SCOTLAND .. (2,146,000)	781,900	172,600	78,200	82,700	269,900	1,385,300
Total .. (16,273,000)	10,154,600	798,200	1,237,700	1,051,300	2,182,600	15,424,400
(b) FIRST QUARTER OF 1923.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (917,000)	198,100	34,400	50,600	29,100	73,000	385,200
Yorkshire .. (2,337,000)	775,600	151,900	151,700	196,800	306,800	1,582,800
Lancashire and Cheshire (3,035,000)	1,017,200	165,400	148,600	52,700	220,300	1,604,200
North and West-Midland Counties .. (2,911,000)	777,200	145,600	170,400	173,600	315,200	1,582,000
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (581,000)	457,600	42,000	37,100	16,200	56,400	609,300
Outer London* (2,068,000)	1,300,400	79,600	219,100	135,200	211,500	1,945,800
South-Eastern Counties (1,012,000)	621,600	20,400	44,300	32,800	200,800	919,900
South-Western Counties (432,000)	177,000	3,800	8,000	13,000	40,400	242,200
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (834,000)	214,000	20,600	37,900	21,200	42,700	336,400
SCOTLAND .. (2,146,000)	427,100	83,700	24,600	158,700	629,600	1,323,700
Total .. (16,273,000)	5,965,800	747,400	892,300	829,300	2,096,700	10,531,500

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during March, 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 Mar., 1924	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Mar., 1924	Total Departures.	
		1922 and 1923	Jan.-Mar., 1924		1922 and 1923	Jan.-Mar., 1924
Assisted Passage Schemes :						
To Australia ..	2,116	32,977†	6,241	3,026	31,067	7,369
" New Zealand ..	746	7,599†	2,010	540	6,839	1,447
" Canada :						
Dominion of Canada ..	1,244	3,559†	1,685	1,186	3,519	1,627
Province of Ontario ..	—	1,343	24	—	1,312	44
Minor Schemes ..	79	1,619†	359	44	1,581	247
TOTAL ..	4,185	47,097†	10,319	4,796	44,318	10,734

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

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

† 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 March, 1924, was 52. Two deaths‡ were reported during the month, one due to lead poisoning in the pottery industry and one due to epitheliomatous ulceration from contact with oil. In addition, six cases of lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during March, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—

Smelting of Metals ..	2
Plumbing and Soldering ..	...
Shipbreaking ..	7
Printing ..	1
Tinning of Metals ..	...
Other Contact, with Molten Lead ..	...
White and Red Lead Works ..	2
† Pottery ..	4
Vitreous Enamelling ..	...
Electric Accumulator Works ..	5
Paint and Colour Works ..	...
Indiarubber Works ..	1
Coach and Car Painting ..	2
Shipbuilding ..	2
Paint used in other Industries ..	1
Other Industries ..	1
TOTAL OF ABOVE ..	28

HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING .. 6

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Mercury Poisoning ..	...
Phosphorus Poisoning ..	...
Arsenic Poisoning ..	...
Toxic Jaundice—	
Arseniuretted Hydrogen Gas ..	...
Benzene, etc., derivatives ..	...
Epitheliomatous Ulceration—	
Paraffin ..	1
Pitch ..	2
Tar ..	1
Oil ..	9
Chrome Ulceration—	
Manufacture of Bichromates ..	1
Dyeing and Finishing ..	1
Chrome Tanning ..	...
Other Industries ..	1
TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ..	16

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—

Wool ..	2
Handling of Horsehair ..	...
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ..	...
Other Industries ..	...
TOTAL, ANTHRAX ..	8

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 March, 1924, was 231, as compared with 227 in the previous month and with 196 a year ago.

RAILWAY SERVICE.		Factories and Workshops (continued):	
Brakemen and Goods	...	Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft	3
Guards ..	1	Other Metal Trades	3
Engine Drivers ..	3	Shipbuilding	7
Firemen ..	...	Wood ..	4
Guards (Passenger) ..	...	Gas ..	1
Permanent Way Men ..	9	Electric Generating Stations ..	2
Porters ..	3	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ..	6
Shunters ..	1	Chemicals, etc. ..	6
Mechanics ..	1	Food and Drink ..	5
Labourers ..	...	Paper, Printing, etc. ..	4
Miscellaneous ..	6	Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	...
Contractors' Servants ..	...	Rubber Trades ..	...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	24	Other Non-Textile Industries ..	3
MINES.		PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.	
Underground ..	103	Docks, Wharves, etc. ..	7
Surface ..	7	Buildings ..	7
TOTAL, MINES ..	110	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ..	...
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep		4	
Factories and Workshops.		TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, AND PLACES ..	
Cotton ..	1	90	
Wool, Worsted, & Shoddy ..	3	Use or Working of Tramways ..	
Other Textiles ..	2	1	
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ..	1	Construction or Repair of Tramways ..	
Metal Extracting and Refining ..	3	1	
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ..	13	Construction or Repair of Canals ..	
Metal Founding ..	2	1	
Engineering and Machine Making ..	6	Total (excluding Seamen) ..	
Boiler Making & Constructional Engineering	1	231	

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

† Cases include all attacks reported 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 three 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 March, 1924, or in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 827,934, or 8.1 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 9.1 per cent. less than in March, 1923. The numbers relieved at these dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 468, 509 and 525§ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in March, 1924, was 682,741, or 437 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 145,193, or 702 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in March numbered 127,621, or 1.7 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 1.0 per cent. more than in March of last year. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 700,313, a decrease of 9.2 per cent. on the previous month, and of 10.8 per cent. on a year ago.

Twenty-nine districts showed decreases and two districts showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in March, 1924, as compared with February. Districts showing the most marked decreases were East London (119 per 10,000), Glasgow (116 per 10,000), West Ham (103 per 10,000), Paisley and Greenock (89 per 10,000) and Hull (83 per 10,000). Compared with March, 1923, twenty-nine districts showed decreases and two showed increases. The chief decreases were recorded in the districts of Sheffield (237 per 10,000), Coatbridge and Airdrie (200 per 10,000), Birmingham (197 per 10,000), Paisley and Greenock (169 per 10,000) and Stockton and Tees (141 per 10,000). There were no marked increases.

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons‡ in receipt of poor law relief on one day* in March, 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	9,163	8,357	17,520	213	— 12	— 38
North District	10,628	22,576	33,204	327	— 28	— 53
Central District	2,549	3,160	5,709	428	— 23	— 9
East District	10,422	53,633	64,055	998	— 119	— 40
South District	19,915	80,831	100,746	523	— 71	— 58
TOTAL, Metropolis ..	52,677	168,557	221,234	487	— 56	— 49
West Ham	4,374	72,628	77,002	1,021	— 103	+ 30
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ..	2,679	27,866	30,545	618	— 42	— 85
Stockton and Tees District ..	1,168	18,162	19,330	714	— 57	— 141
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	4,109	7,826	11,935	150	— 1	+ 9
Wigan District	1,791	10,734	12,525	281	— 9	— 51
Manchester District ..	9,125	29,389	38,514	312	— 9	— 54
Liverpool District ..	10,066	64,130	74,196	529	— 39	— 46
Bradford District ..	1,788	3,834	5,622	151	— 10	— 33
Halifax and Huddersfield ..	1,309	3,275	4,584	120	— 4	— 8
Leeds District	2,540	8,888	11,428	234	— 14	— 28
Barnsley District ..	878	7,415	8,293	257	— 3	— 41
Sheffield District ..	2,660	36,045	38,705	753	— 60	— 237
Hull District	1,747	13,642	15,389	485	— 83	— 20
North Staffordshire ..	2,173	5,667	7,840	189	+ 1	— 10
Nottingham District ..	2,162	9,327	11,489	246	— 9	— 8
Leicester District ..	1,264	2,378	3,642	153	— 10	— 18
Wolverhampton District ..	3,407	21,513	24,920	343	— 31	— 96
Birmingham District ..	7,260	36,510	43,770	463	— 35	— 197
Bristol District	2,419	12,919	15,338	373	— 61	— 13
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,421	14,019	16,440	349	+ 2	— 44
TOTAL "Other Districts"	60,966	323,539	384,505	372	— 25	— 65
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ..	118,017	564,724	682,741	437	— 37	— 56
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District	5,456	94,081	99,537	1,025	— 116	— 40§
Paisley & Greenock Dist. ..	806	12,939	13,745	715	— 89	— 169
Edinburgh and Leith Dis. ..	1,604	15,571	17,175	406	— 20	— 20
Dundee and Dunfermline ..	787	3,047	3,834	174	— 2	— 40
Aberdeen	544	4,342	4,886	306	— 40	— 99
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	407	5,609	6,016	591	— 16	— 200
TOTAL for the above } Scottish Districts	9,604	135,589	145,193	702	— 71	— 64§
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in March, 1924 }	127,621	700,313	827,934	468	— 41	— 57§

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 29th March, and those for Scotland to 15th March.

† 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 March, 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.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Rise. Date
UNITED KINGDOM ..	158	120	80	62	67	Apr. '24
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Austria (Vienna)	9,700†	323,600	1291000	1392900	Mar. '24
Czechoslovakia§	1,246	1,330	821	817	Feb. '24
Denmark	153	136	84	88	Jan. '24
Finland	882	1,178	1,005	868	Feb. '24
France (Paris)§	273	206	197	221	Jan. '24
" (other towns)§	288	250	212	249	Nov. '23
Holland (The Hague)	113	80	60	Jan. '24
" (Amsterdam)	111	80	36	Jan. '24
Italy (Milan)	345	406	396	Mar. '24
Norway	219	195	118	Mar. '24
Poland (Warsaw)	45,555	129,711	241,062‡	Jan. '24
Sweden §	197	132	79	Mar. '24
Switzerland	110	57	Feb. '24
United States	115	45	Feb. '24
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.						
Australia	61	48	Jan. '24
Canada	127	48	Mar. '24
India (Bombay)	88	74	Mar. '24
Irish Free State	85†	Jan. '24
New Zealand	67	64	Jan. '24
South Africa	97	39	Feb. '24

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; 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. ‡ 4,150,917-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.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Rise. Date
UNITED KINGDOM ..	A, B, C, D, E	152	119	84	69	73 Apr. '24
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Austria (Vienna) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	9,700§	264,400	1,090,200	1,199,500 Mar. '24
Belgium	A, C, D, E	353	279	266	329	410 Mar. '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	51 Jan. '24
Finland	A, B, C, D, E	811	1,039	1,018	990	1,026 Feb. '24
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	225,16	597,320 Jan. '24
Italy (Milan) ..	A, B, C, D, E	341	394	388	387	421 Mar. '24
Luxemburg	A, C, D	..	284	259	340	400 Feb. '24
Norway	A, B, C, D, E	202§	202§	155§	139§	149 Mar. '24
Poland (Warsaw) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	25609	78,698	209,354	.. Jan. '24
Spain (Madrid) ..	A, D	90‡	84	79	72	90 Feb. '24
" (Barcelona) ..	A, D	91‡	78	73	65	70 Feb. '24
Sweden	A, B, C, D, E	170	136	90	74	73 Apr. '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‡	52 4th Qtr. 1923
Canada	A, B, D	90	52	46	46	48 Mar. '24
India (Bombay) ..	A, B, C, D	89	77	65	53	53 Mar. '24
Irish Free State ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	85§	80	88 Jan. '24
New Zealand ..	A, B, D	49	57	44	45	49 Dec. '23
South Africa ..	A, B, D, E	..	..	35	30	34 Feb. '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, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May. ** 2,988,671-fold increase.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES

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

[N.B.—The method by which the index-numbers in the following table have been computed was explained in an article in the issue of this 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 its 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 February, 1924. (London=100.)

Occupation.	London.	Amsterdam	Berlin.	Brussels.	Christiania	Copenhagen	Madrid.	New York.	Ottawa.	Paris.	P'rague.	Stockholm.	Sydney.	Vienna.	Warsaw.
BUILDING TRADES.															
<i>Skilled :</i>															
Mason	100	98	58	53	80	—	—	—	263	—	75	97	—	—	91
Bricklayer ..	100	98	58	53	80	—	—	—	263	—	—	97	—	—	91
Carpenter ..	100	98	58	57	76	—	—	—	197	—	73	97	—	—	89
Joiner	100	98	60	59	76	—	—	—	197	—	—	97	—	—	—
Plumber	100	98	58	52	76	—	—	—	210	—	—	90	—	—	—
Painter (General)	100	97	63	47	84	—	—	—	180	—	94	113	—	—	96
<i>Unskilled :</i>															
Labourer (General)	100	108	69	48	100	—	—	—	140	—	77	115	—	—	75
ENGINEERING TRADES.															
<i>Skilled :</i>															
Fitter	100	100	57	67	96	—	—	—	203	—	122	81	—	—	80
Ironmoulder (Hand)	100	86	—	66	96	—	—	—	200	—	108	81	—	—	80
Patternmaker ..	100	93	53	89	89	—	—	—	220	—	—	76	—	—	74
Turner	100	100	57	68	96	—	—	—	203	—	101	81	—	—	80
<i>Unskilled :</i>															
Labourer	100	103	64	68	126	—	—	—	190	—	95	97	—	—	71
FURNITURE TRADES															
<i>Skilled :</i>															
Cabinetmaker ..	100	77	72	56	76	—	—	—	138	—	75	82	—	—	—
PRINTING & BOOK-BINDING TRADES.															
<i>Skilled :</i>															
Compositor (Book and Job) Hand	100	78	47	43	75	—	—	—	181	—	—	78	—	—	140
Do. Machine ..	100	81	47	48	69	—	—	—	168	—	87	80	—	—	182
Machine Minder ..	100	78	—	42	75	—	—	—	181	—	—	78	—	—	40
Bookbinder ..	100	87	48	52	87	—	—	—	194	—	78	79	—	—	156
Average, 1st Feb., 1924 ..															
	100	93	58	58	86	—	—	—	196	—	90	89	—	—	103†
<i>Do. 1st Jan., 1924 ..</i>															
	100	92	48	60	89	—	—	—	190	83*	92	88	—	47	50†
<i>Do. 1st Dec., 1923 ..</i>	100	91	36	61	89	—	—	217	189	86	89	87	173	49	59†
<i>Do. 1st Nov., 1923 ..</i>	100	92	—	58	89	—	—	214	188	88	90	86	—	49	73†
<i>Do. 1st October, 1923 ..</i>	100	100	—	60	94	—	63	320	190	91	90	86	—	51	60†
<i>Do. 1st Sept., 1923 ..</i>	100	99	—	59	92	—	69	317	190	88†	74	84	—	50	91†
<i>Do. 1st August, 1923 ..</i>	100	100	—	57	94	—	66	319	183	91†	77	88	—	50	91†
<i>Do. 1st July, 1923 ..</i>	100	99	—	62	90	134	62	—	186	90†	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	102	57	70	93	139	—	309	174	—	62	85	155	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	66	—	61	77	108	42	187	181	—	84	74	—	69	93

The noteworthy increase since January, 1924, in the index number for Warsaw is mainly due to the fact that while money-wages rose on an average by about 125 per cent. between that month and February, the average increase in food-prices was about 22 per cent. only.

TRADE UNIONS IN GERMANY: MEMBERSHIP IN 1923.

ACCORDING to the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* for 16th January, 1924, the total membership of the German trade union organisations during 1923 was 13,308,721, an increase of 778,483 over the total number for the previous year. The total figures for both years, distinguishing manual from non-manual workers, are as follows:—

Year.	Manual Workers.	Non-Manual Workers.		Total.
		In Private Employment.	In Public Employment.	
1922 ..	9,459,089	1,682,486	1,388,663	12,530,238
1923 ..	9,679,466	1,691,088	1,938,167	13,308,721

Among the non-manual workers in public employment are railway servants, among whom would be counted a certain number of manual workers.

* Provisional figures.

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

‡ Revised figures.

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. 125-126 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 March.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges on 29th March was 10,129 (6,924 men and 3,205 women). At the end of February the corresponding figure was 11,239 and on 31st March, 1923, 8,868. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 11,980 (6,986 for men and 4,994 for women), as against 9,086 at the end of February and 9,112 on 31st March, 1923. During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 28,668 persons (including 11,402 dock workers) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 4,786 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns, three departmental and 29 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 3rd April, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 1,022 (786 men and 236 women). The corresponding total for the preceding month is 1,042 and that for March, 1923, 2,560. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully represent the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

GERMANY.†

Employment in February.—The statistics relating to the labour market all indicated a further improvement during the month of February. The difficulties in the way of a definite restoration of German industry, particularly in the heavy metal trades, were still so great that the general improvement could only be described as slight. The membership returns of health insurance societies show that in extensive areas of Germany the mining, metal and engineering, and electrical and chemical trades had not yet emerged from the depression. The increase in the numbers employed, particularly of women and girls, throughout the unoccupied area of the country, is due to a revived demand in branches of industry manufacturing articles of minor importance.

As regards unemployment among organised workers, the improvement noted in January was maintained. Returns received from 34 trade unions, and covering 4,195,393 members, showed that 1,052,390 of these were unemployed on 23rd February, a percentage of 25.1, as against 26.5 in January and 5.2 in February, 1923.

Percentages for the principal unions included in the foregoing figures are given in the following Table:—

UNIONS.	Member-ship reported on at end of Feb., 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Feb., 1924.	Jan., 1924.	Feb., 1923.
S. D. = Social-Democratic H. D. = Hirsch-Duncker (non-Social-Democratic) C. = Christian				
All Unions making Returns ..	4,195,393	25.1	26.5	5.2
Building (S. D.) ..	389,000	72.6	71.5	16.9
" (C.) ..	40,000	78.7	75.7	13.1
Painters (S. D.) ..	41,000	50.6	59.0	14.7
Metal (S. D.) ..	1,129,000	27.5	24.4	2.3
" (H. D.) ..	117,000	35.4	53.9	0.5
Textile (S. D.) ..	477,000	9.7	10.0	4.8
" (C.) ..	107,000	3.7	9.2	4.4
Clothing (S. D.) ..	74,000	13.7	21.3	2.9
Boot and shoe (S. D.) ..	83,000	6.2	10.1	4.6
Saddlers and bagmakers (S. D.)	30,000	14.1	25.4	4.8
Transport (S. D.) ..	352,000	19.1	18.5	2.6
Printing (S. D.) ..	63,000	13.0	18.8	8.4
Bookbinding (S. D.) ..	61,000	19.6	27.6	4.4
Woodworking (S. D.) ..	327,000	15.0	21.2	2.7
Baking and confectionery (S. D.) ..	55,000	12.9	16.5	9.0
Food preparation (S. D.) ..	67,000	17.5	10.4	2.1
Tobacco (S. D.) ..	55,000	9.4	16.8	27.9
Factory workers (trade not specified) (S. D.) ..	289,000	22.4	26.0	4.8
Engine drivers and firemen (S. D.) ..	57,000	19.7	18.6	1.9
Factory and transport workers (S. D.) ..	93,000	32.0	42.4	4.1
Municipal and State workers (S. D.) ..	152,000	6.4	5.0	2.5

Short time was less prevalent in February on the evidence of trade union returns. Out of 3,624,531 members 17.1 per cent. were partially unemployed, as compared with 23.4 per cent. in January; for February, 1923, the corresponding percentage was 14.9.

* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 4th April, 1924. Paris.† *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 1st April, 1924. Berlin.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation fell from 1,307,035 on 15th February to 1,172,646 on 1st March, and 988,752 on 15th March. Partially unemployed persons in receipt of donation, who numbered 251,550 in the middle of February, were 90,133 in number only on 15th March. This fall is partly due to the further restrictions imposed upon the payment of donation for partial unemployment. These totals do not include figures for the occupied area of Germany.

Returns from Employment Exchanges showed a further improvement. Evidence of the more favourable position of the labour market is afforded by an increase of 14 per cent. in the number of vacancies offered by employers. At the same time the number of workers applying for situations fell by 4 per cent. The increased demand for men and boys was particularly noticeable. On an average there were 770 applications for each 100 vacancies for men and 239 for each 100 for women; in January the corresponding figures were 936 and 301.

Statistics of health insurance societies show that in 4,574 societies making returns, the membership rose from 9,525,015 on 1st February to 9,686,510 on 1st March, an increase of 1.7 per cent.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in January and February.—The latest figures available relate to February, but are provisional only. Returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,535 approved unemployment insurance societies with a total membership of 657,034 show that 23,713 of these were either totally or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The total days lost through unemployment in February numbered 296,377, or 1.88 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 2.30, and in February, 1923, 1.87.

Revised figures are given for January, in which month returns were received applying to 658,176 members of unemployment insurance societies. Of these 10,054 (or 1.5 per cent.) were totally unemployed and 14,697 partially so on the last working day of the month. The percentage totally unemployed both in December, 1923, and in January, 1923, was 1.7.

During February 13,125 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 15,829 in the preceding month. Vacancies notified by employers in February numbered 10,283, as against 9,950 in January. There were thus on an average 128 applicants for each 100 situations registered as vacant, as compared with 159 in January.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in January.—According to information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, the percentage of members unemployed at the end of January in certain trade unions making returns to the Bureau was as shown below, where comparative figures are also given for the previous month and for January, 1923:—

Unions.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Jan. 31, 1924.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Jan. 31, 1923.	Jan. 31, 1924.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Jan. 31, 1923.
Bricklayers and masons (Christiania)	910	910†	871	12.6	47.3†	9.2
Carpenters	768	768	801	9.0	9.0	20.1
Painters (Christiania) ..	350	452	449	20.0	24.1	20.3
Metal workers	5,763	5,627	6,763	9.0	10.9	13.8
Boot and shoe makers ..	8.7	863	933	8.7	11.7	13.6
Printers	2,524	2,478	2,393	6.7	6.2	4.1
Bookbinders (Christiania)	947	937	810	10.2	6.2	12.3
Cabinetmakers	452	452	501	6.2	4.0	16.4
Bakers (Christiania) ..	590	589	609	9.2	11.0	13.3
Total	13,191	13,076†	14,130	9.1	12.4†	12.4

SWEDEN.†

Unemployment in January.—Trade unions with an aggregate membership of 180,065 reported 24,487, or 13.6 per cent., as unemployed on the last day of January, as compared with 14.1 per cent. on 31st December, 1923, and 20.5 per cent. on 31st January, 1923. The following Table gives particulars for the principal unions included in the returns:—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Jan., 1924.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Jan., 1924.	31st Dec., 1923.	31st Jan., 1923.
All Unions making Returns ..	180,065	13.6	14.1	20.5
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Iron and steel	13,568	5.9	8.1	40.5
Engineering	39,276	11.0	10.3	25.9
Textile	8,790	2.6	2.9	4.0
Clothing	3,242	6.6	12.4	26.6
Boot, shoe and leather ..	8,314	6.2	4.0	7.5
Food preparation	5,164	11.1	19.1	12.5
Tobacco	2,958	2.1	2.2	2.7
Sawmilling	15,275	24.1	47.3	
Paper and pulp	12,689	5.6	5.4	6.7
Municipal workers	9,454	4.4	3.8	3.7
Commercial employees ..	6,090	7.5	6.8	
General and factory workers (trades not specified)	18,897	31.0	24.8	28.2

* *Revue du Travail*, 31st March, 1924. Brussels.

† Revised figures.

‡ *Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 3, 1924. Stockholm.

DENMARK.*

Unemployment in February.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that, out of 254,310 workpeople, 21.3 per cent. were unemployed on 29th February last, as compared with 21.0 per cent. on 25th January, and with 23.2 per cent. at the end of February, 1923.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in February.—According to *Statistische Nachrichten*, the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics, for 25th March, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 126,734 at the end of February, as compared with 119,613 at the end of the preceding month, and 167,417 at the end of February, 1923. In Vienna alone there were 61,177 in receipt of benefit at the end of February, 60,354 at the end of January, and 87,050 at the end of February, 1923.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in March.—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 8th March, out of 276,672 members of unemployment funds making returns, 32,723 (11.8 per cent.) were unemployed for six days in the week, and 9,024 (3.3 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 9th February) the percentages were respectively 12.8 and 2.9, and in the week ended 10th March, 1923, 10.8 and 2.7.

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in February.—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 February was 27,120, as compared with 28,480 at the end of the preceding month and with 52,734 at the end of February, 1923. Of these, 6,174 were employed on relief works, leaving 20,946 entirely without work. The 27,120 applicants included 5,428 normally occupied in the building trades, 3,108 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 2,286 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons who were entirely without work, 11,985 were reported as partially unemployed, including 6,492 in the textile trades and 2,629 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades.

Taking February as a whole, there were on an average 340 applications for each 100 vacancies for men and 82 for each 100 for women. In January the corresponding figures were 380 and 127 respectively.

UNITED STATES.‡

Employment in February.—The Federal Department of Labour publishes preliminary figures relating to the volume of employment in February, based on returns from 8,222 establishments in 52 manufacturing industries, covering 2,693,636 workpeople. These establishments in January reported 2,661,233 persons employed, and the February figures consequently indicate a net increase of 1.2 per cent. in numbers employed. The aggregate wages paid show for the same period an increase of 6.7 per cent., and the average weekly earnings an increase of 5.4 per cent. The end of the January inventory season accounts for a part of these increases, although the reports received show a decided and general upward tendency, both in employment and in full-time and full-capacity working. Thirty-five of the 52 industries show increases in the number of workpeople employed in February. The sugar refining industry (owing to a general resumption of work) shows the greatest increase (41 per cent.); large increases are also shown in the stove making industry (15.4 per cent.) and the fertilizer industry (12.6 per cent.).

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1923, returns from 4,689 establishments in 43 industries show practically no change in the number of persons employed, and increases of 8.6 per cent. both in aggregate wages paid and average weekly earnings. Seventeen of the 43 industries show increases in the number of workpeople employed, that recorded for the automobile industry amounting to 18 per cent.

CANADA.

Employment in March.§—For 1st March, 1924, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa from 5,886 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 748,537. This total shows practically no change when compared with the corresponding figure for 1st February. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index of employment for 1st March, 1924, is 90.7, as compared with 90.6 for 1st February, 1924, and 89.9 for 1st March, 1923.

Trade Union Unemployment at the end of February.||—At the end of February 7.8 per cent. of the members of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 7.5 per cent. in the previous month and 6.4 per cent. on 28th February, 1923.

* *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 22nd March, 1924. Copenhagen.

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

‡ *Employment in Selected Industries, February, 1924*. Washington, D.C.

§ *The March Employment Situation, 1924*. Ottawa.

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

OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

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, at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 6084, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—RETAINING FEES—APPLICANT WAS PAID HALF WAGES DURING SUSPENSION FOR PLANT REPAIRS—PAYMENT NOT EX-GRATIA BUT MADE PURSUANT TO TRADE CUSTOM—DECISION SHOWING GENERAL PRINCIPLES IN SUCH CASES.

The applicant, a finisher, was one of a number of employees at some glass bottle works who were working on alternate weeks only, under a short-time system. In May, 1923, the applicant and some others were wholly suspended for four weeks during repairs to machinery and, during these weeks of suspension, they were paid half wages (i.e., amounts varying from £1 7s. 7d. to £1 11s. 7d.), in respect of the weeks when they would have worked but for the fact that the repairs were in progress.

The applicant's case was taken as a test case, and his claim for benefit was disallowed for the weeks in respect of which the payment of half wages was made, on the ground that the payment was equivalent to a retaining fee and that consequently the applicant could not be regarded as unemployed.

On behalf of the applicant it was contended that the weekly payment was not a retaining fee and was made merely as a gratuity to compensate him for loss of work. The receipt of such money would not have prevented him from taking other work if he had found any, and the payment of the money had, in fact, been continued in similar circumstances to men who had been transferred to other work on the firm's premises. It was submitted that the decisions on Cases Nos. 6209 (O.W.D.) and 522 and 1367 applied. A representative of the employers stated that the half wages were paid to the applicant as compensation for loss of work in accordance with an old custom of the trade, and the men were not prevented from seeking work elsewhere. When receiving the payments, however, they were regarded as being at the call of the firm and if the men found work elsewhere the half wages would cease to be paid.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Court thought at first that a contract of service was involved, but in view of the employers' evidence they held that the case was covered by the decisions on Cases Nos. 6209 (O.W.D.) and 1367.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. In his view the half wages did not appear to have been an *ex-gratia* payment, but a retaining fee, and, accordingly, the decisions on Cases Nos. 6252 (O.W.D.) and 332 applied.

The Umpire originally gave a decision on 18th October, 1923, disallowing the case on the ground that it was indistinguishable in principle from No. 6252 (O.W.D.), but he subsequently issued the decision appended hereto.

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

“I have been invited to revise my decision in this case on new facts being brought to my notice and, though I see no reason for altering my decision, I think it may be convenient to give reasons at greater length.

“(1) It has been held in a number of cases that when in accordance with the terms of his employment an employee is entitled to receive, and does receive, from his employer part wages during periods when his actual services are not required, he continues during such periods to be in employment and is not unemployed. The fact that the payments are made pursuant to the customary or expressly agreed terms of the employment indicates that the relation of employer and employee continues so long as the payments are made.

“The decisions on Cases Nos. 539 and 1819 (Benefit, 1911 Act), 6252 (O.W.D.), and 55, 332, 365 and 469, establish this rule.

“In Cases Nos. 772 and 1925 payment of part wages was not made pursuant to any agreement, but the Umpire inferred from the substantial amount paid weekly and other circumstances that in effect the employer was, by paying his employees reduced wages during the time when he had no work for them, keeping them in his employment, and the applicants were regarded as not unemployed.

“(2) When, however, weekly payments are made to ex-employees entirely as an act of grace on the part of the employer with the intention of assisting the recipients whilst out of work, the relation of employer and employees no longer sub-

sists and the recipients are properly regarded as being unemployed, and in receipt of charity, not wages.

“The decisions on Cases Nos. 6209 (O.W.D.) and 522 were decided on this principle.

“(3) In another group of cases, applicants for benefit have been found to be in receipt of small periodical payments made to them, simply as an inducement to hold themselves in readiness for immediate employment when called upon either in occasional emergencies (see Cases Nos. 224, 4021 and 5019) or [as in No. 1465 (Benefit 1911 Act) and Nos. 1367 and 4937] at certain seasons when it was known that their services would be required. In all these cases the retaining fees were small in amount relatively to the wages paid when the applicants were in actual employment, and the applicants were expected to obtain, and did normally obtain, other employment whilst in receipt of the retaining fees, but as at the time when they claimed benefit they in fact had no other employment, they were held to be unemployed.

“This case seems to me to fall within the first rule. It is clear that the weekly sum paid to the applicant was paid pursuant to a well-established custom, which is fully set out in the rules of applicant's Trade Union, and was payable therefore pursuant to the terms of applicant's engagement and not as charity, and the circumstances under which it was paid, as well as the reasons for which the payment is insisted on as due, show that it was paid not to secure the future services of the applicant, but as part wages payable because the employment continues though there is temporarily no work for him to do.”

CASE No. 6714, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION AS INSURANCE AGENT—WORK DONE ON TWO DAYS PER WEEK ONLY—WORKING DAYS NOT SO RESTRICTED BY EMPLOYER, BUT FACTS KNOWN TO HIM—DECISION SHOWING GENERAL POSITION OF PART-TIME INSURANCE AGENTS.

The applicant had for a number of years followed a spare-time occupation as insurance agent, in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual occupation as a blacksmith. His claim for benefit, lodged on 9th July, 1923, was disallowed, however, on the ground that the remuneration derived from his additional occupation exceeded 3s. 4d. per day on the daily average.

It appeared that the applicant had bought the agency, which was a part-time one, in June, 1912, for £90, and at that time the collections amounted to £5 per week. He had, however, since doubled the value of his book, and now collected £10 per week. He had previously furnished accounts showing that his average earnings from the agency were from £1 11s. 6d. to £2 10s. per week.

At the Court of Referees the applicant stated that he had always done his collections on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening of each week, after finishing his day's work as a blacksmith, and he continued to work on this system when he lost his usual employment in July, 1923. He had to make from 50 to 80 collections weekly. He submitted that he should not be penalised for his thriftiness in saving up to buy the agency and for putting his leisure time to the best advantage.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed under Section 7 (1) (ii). The Court were influenced by the Umpire's decision on Case No. 4751.

The applicant's association appealed to the Umpire. They contended that the claim should be disallowed only in respect of the two days per week on which the applicant actually worked as an agent.

The district manager of the assurance society for which the applicant acted as agent, stated, in reply to an inquiry from the Umpire, that he understood that the applicant did all his business relating to the agency on Fridays and Saturdays, but he was not restricted to working on any particular number of days. The applicant's earnings for the months of July and August, 1923, were £8 14s. 5d. and £10 9s. 4d. per month respectively.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be allowed except in respect of Fridays and Saturdays.

“I have to consider in many cases whether insurance agents and collecting agents whose work does not occupy them full time are to be regarded as being employed throughout the week or only on those days on which they are actually at work. And it may be convenient to explain the principles on which these cases have been decided by my predecessor or myself.

“(1) It is quite clear that an agent who is engaged as a whole-time agent expressly, or in such circumstances that it should be inferred that he was expected to make the agency his sole or principal occupation, is employed throughout the week, even though owing to slackness of trade he finds that he can conveniently get through his work in two or three days in each week, and does in fact confine his activities to those days. Cases Nos. 252, 368 and 369 are of this kind.

“(2) More difficulty arises in the case of spare-time agents or part-time agents; that is to say, persons who take up agencies not as their sole or principal occupation, but who work as agents in their spare time whilst normally following some other whole-time employment, or, if they take them

up whilst out of work, expect to continue when they are in work to do the work of the agency in their spare time. The work of agents of this kind is often done mainly on two or three days at the week-end, but is not necessarily restricted to certain days; and the agent (if he is a canvasser, and not a mere collecting agent) is usually at liberty to canvass for new business whenever he finds it convenient to do so. An agent of this kind, although in fact he does all his collecting on certain days, and does not canvass on other days, is *prima facie* to be regarded as employed throughout the week. He cannot be regarded as being in the same position as a worker who by the act of the employer is put on short time and is therefore unable to follow his employment on certain days. Cases Nos. 279, 1171, 2142, 4751 and 4752 are of this kind.

"(3) In another group of cases the applicants have been able to show not only that the work is done only on certain days of the week, but that the limiting of the employment to those days was contemplated by the employer at the time of the engagement, or assented to by him, so that the contract of employment may fairly be regarded as one for those days only. To determine whether an agency is of this kind regard must be had to its nature and possibilities and to all the circumstances, and it is especially desirable, if possible, to obtain the applicant's agreement with his employer (if in writing) or the evidence of the employer (where there is no written agreement). In Cases Nos. 4753, 5074 and 5853 it was clearly shown by the employer's evidence, or by the terms of the applicant's engagement, that the employers understood that the applicant would only work for them on certain days of the week, although the applicant was at liberty to work on other days, and I was satisfied that the applicants in fact were engaged on the work of the agency on those days only.

"In cases of this class a further question may arise as to whether the applicant is unable to find suitable employment on the days of the week when he is not employed. The answer must in each case depend on the prospect which the applicant would have of so increasing his connection that the employment would be suitable having regard to Section 7 (1) (b).

"I may add that when it is necessary to ascertain the daily average of the applicant's remuneration, this is found by dividing the weekly remuneration by the number of days in the week on which it is determined that the applicant is employed.

"In the case now under consideration there was no express agreement limiting the employment to particular days, but the applicant appears to have done the work on Fridays and Saturdays only for eleven years, and this was known to the district agent. The agency was on a considerable scale, and this itself would suggest the inference that some collecting or canvassing or clerical work must have been done on days other than Fridays and Saturdays, but in the face of the applicant's explicit statement to the contrary I should not be justified in drawing that inference.

"Accordingly I come to the conclusion that the employment was by tacit agreement with the employers an employment for Fridays and Saturdays only in each week, and was in fact only exercised on those days, and that the applicant is unemployed from Mondays to Thursdays (inclusive) in each week."

CASE NO. 6783, SECTION 8 (1).—TRADE DISPUTE, EMPLOYMENT LOST OWING TO—LABOURERS IN GENERAL STORES PUT ON SHORT TIME THROUGH BOILERMAKERS' LOCK-OUT—75 PER CENT. OF WORK FOR MARINE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND REMAINDER FOR SHIPYARD—STORES FOR BOILERMAKERS NOT HANDLED.

The employers, a shipbuilding and iron company, reported that the applicants, two general store labourers employed in the shipyard department and engine works, had been suspended under a short-time system whereby they worked for two weeks in four. The short-time system, which was instituted on 10th October, 1923, was necessary owing to a stoppage of work caused by the boilermakers' lock-out which began in April, 1923. If there had been no dispute the applicants would have had full-time employment.

The applicants, whose claims for benefit, lodged on 10th October, 1923, were disallowed under Section 8 (1), appealed to the Court of Referees. They stated that all the stores were dealt with in their department, but they spent only 25 per cent. of their time in dealing with the stores for shipyard workers, such as joiners, cabinet makers, plumbers, painters, electricians, blacksmiths and riggers. They handled nothing for the boilermakers, the men who were actually in dispute and whose materials were dealt with in another depot some distance away by the quayside. The remaining 75 per cent. of their time was spent in dealing with stores for the marine engineering department and the blast furnaces; these departments used to have a separate store, but a few years ago it had been amalgamated with the shipyard stores under one head foreman. The applicants contended that their unemployment was due to slackness of work in the marine engineering and blast furnaces departments. One of the applicants stated that his case differed from the other man's because he was on the shipyard pay list, although prior to the amalgamation of the stores he was on the engineering pay list.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed under Section 8 (1) on the ground that the applicants were mainly engaged in a separate depart-

ment and on work which was commonly carried on as a separate business in separate premises from the work of the boilermakers.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation because, in his opinion, the applicants were to be regarded as having lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

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

"The applicants were employed in a general store, in which are handled the stores for both the shipbuilding department and the marine engineering department. There was a trade dispute in the shipbuilding department, but none in the marine engineering department, and by reason of the stoppage of work due to that trade dispute the applicants lost employment.

"It was contended on their behalf that as only 25 per cent. of their work was in connection with stores for the shipbuilding department they should be treated as having been employed not in that department, but only in the marine engineering department.

"It seems to me that they were employed in both departments and that having lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute in one of the departments in which they were employed, they are disqualified for receiving benefit.

"The decisions on Case No. 2757 and Case No. 4563 (O.W.D.) are to the same effect.

"If it had been shown either that the stores belonged to the marine engineering department exclusively, but that the applicants' duties in connection with that store occasionally took them into the shipbuilding department to do work incidental to their duties as employees in the marine engineering department, or that the amount of work they did in the shipbuilding department was so small as to be negligible, I should have been prepared to hold (following decision 4562 (O.W.D.)) that they were not employed in the shipbuilding department."

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

NOTICE is hereby given of decisions given by the Minister of Labour upon questions submitted to him for determination under Section 10 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

The Minister has decided that the following employments are employment within the meaning of the Acts, and that contributions are accordingly payable in respect of them:—

Employment by a farmer and wood dealer in cutting up lengths of underwood purchased standing by the employer, shaving the said wood, making it pliable and cutting the said wood into the required lengths for hoops. *Decision 283.*

Employment by a farmer and wood dealer in making hurdles from underwood purchased standing by the employer. *Decision 286.*

Employment by a farmer and wood dealer to cut copse and underwood purchased standing by the employer and to trim and cut the said underwood into lengths for sale. *Decision 287.*

Employment by a public trainer of racehorses as a groom in a training stable to ride horses at exercise, groom racehorses and keep the racing establishments clean. *Decision 289.*

Employment by the governors of a voluntary hospital as a senior staff nurse before 1st July, 1922, was employment within the meaning of the Act. *Decision 294.*

Employment by a farmer, florist and horticulturist as a flower packer. *Decision 295.*

Employment by the proprietor of a distillery to do all minor repairs and painting to the distillery buildings, plant and water supply and to houses in the occupation of tenants of the employer, to assist the Excise Officer in his visits to the distillery, to assist in the despatch of goods and to keep the premises tidy and in order. *Decision 297A.*

Employment by the proprietor of a distillery to assist the previous employee to do all clerical work necessary, to keep books of accounts, to receive rents from tenants of the employer, and, when necessary, to assist in the overhaul of valves in the machinery at the distillery. *Decision 297B.*

[NOTE.—The decisions numbered 297A and 297B have been upheld on appeal by the Scottish Court of Session.]

Employment by a farmer, florist and horticulturist as cashier and correspondent. *Decision 298.*

Employment by a farmer, florist and horticulturist as clerk and seed dresser whose employment includes clerical and typing duties. *Decision 299.*

Employment by a farmer, florist and horticulturist as a clerk. *Decision 300.*

Employment by a Co-operative Dairy, Limited, of a class of persons engaged in cheese-making, milk-cooling, pig-feeding and work incidental thereto. *Decision 305.*

Employment as a handyman in "Service Flats." *Decision 308.*

Employment as a fisherman for salmon by a net from a boat fixed to the shore by a wire of which the employee is the sole occupant and for which employment he is remunerated by a half share of the value of the fish caught by him calculated on the price obtaining at the local market irrespective of whether the fish is sold at that price or not. *Decision 310.*

Employment by a farmer and butcher as part time assistant salesman in the butcher's business. *Decision 312.*

Employment by a farmer and butcher as a part time assistant slaughterer. *Decision 314.*

Employment by a dental surgeon in dusting the surgery, washing the instruments after use, making appointments with patients, sending out accounts and giving receipts. *Decision 315.*

Employment by the Trustees of a Philosophical Institution as cashier and sub-librarian, to issue books to members, to keep the cash books, pay accounts, sign receipts for money received, sell tickets and generally to do the bulk of the clerical work entailed by the financial business of the institution. *Decision 316.*

Employment by a timber haulier, sawyer and general contractor to drive a water-cart. *Decision 317.*

Employment by a timber haulier, sawyer and general contractor as a labourer, waggoner and driver of a water-cart. *Decision 318.*

Employment by a timber haulier, sawyer and general contractor as a labourer and to assist in sawing timber. *Decision 319.*

Employment by a timber haulier, sawyer and general contractor to drive a steam engine for sawing timber, to drive horses for the haulage of timber and to assist occasionally with sawing of timber. *Decision 320.*

Employment as a probationer nurse at an isolation hospital was, prior to 1st July, 1922, employment within the meaning of the Act. *Decision 321.*

Employment as a nursing sister at an isolation hospital was, prior to 1st July, 1922, employment within the meaning of the Act. *Decision 322.*

Employment as a mason's labourer. *Decision 323.*

Employment by a firm of carting contractors as a driver. *Decision 324.*

Employment in making bricks by hand, digging clay, counting bricks delivered and writing out tickets therefor. *Decision 326A.*

Employment in making bricks by hand. *Decision 326B.*

Employment as a daily servant engaged in preparing breakfasts for and in cleaning bedrooms of lodgers. *Decisions 327A and B.*

Employment by a game, poultry and egg dealer, in rabbit and vermin trapping for the purpose of killing game and rabbits sold by the employer in his business. *Decision 328.*

Employment by a farmer and miller as a miller and in hauling by traction engine in connection with the work of the mill. *Decision 329.*

Employment by a farmer in milk distribution while also employed as a farm hand. *Decision 330.*

The following employments have been decided not to be employment within the meaning of the Acts; no contributions are therefore payable in respect of them:—

Employment by a dairy farmer to convey milk from cows to dairy, to cool milk, to fill bottles with milk and cap them down, to take the bottles and load them in milking van and wash and sterilise dairy utensils, to take care of boiler and attend to general cleanliness of dairy for the production of Grade A Certified Milk on a farm. *Decision 303.*

Employment by H.M. Office of Works as a night watchman. *Decision 304.*

Employment by a Life Assurance Society as cook and housekeeper at a holiday home carried on by the society for the benefit of their employees at the seaside. *Decisions 307A and B.*

DECISIONS UNDER SECTION 10 (1) (b).

Salvage men employed by the Glasgow Rate and Salvage Association are a class of persons to whom the Insurance Industry Unemployment Insurance Scheme applies. *Decision 306.*

Persons employed by a firm of Incorporated Insurance Brokers are not a class of persons to whom the Insurance Industry Unemployment Insurance Scheme applies. (The firm were not members or subscribers of Lloyd's.) *Decision 325.*

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

SHOP ASSISTANTS—AGREEMENT, CONSTRUCTION OF—NORMAL WORKING WEEK.—The National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks v. The Northern Co-operative Society, Ltd. *Decision.*—The agreement does not provide for a working week of the employees concerned being reduced from 52½ hours to 48 hours. Issued 3rd March, 1924. (875.)

NEWSPAPER OFFICES, MANCHESTER—ENGINEERS AND OTHERS IN NEWSPAPER OFFICES.—APPLICATION FOR BONUS.—The Electrical Trades Union and the Amalgamated Engineering Union v. The Newspaper Society (acting on behalf of certain morning and evening newspaper printing offices in Manchester). *Decision.*—As from the beginning of the first full pay following the date

of the decision, the men concerned shall be paid a bonus of 5s. a week, on the same conditions as the bonus is at present payable to members of the Typographical Association and of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants. Issued 4th March, 1924. (876.)

CAP MAKERS—PIECE PRICES—REVISION OF.—Messrs. B. Prager and Co., Ltd., v. The Tailors' and Garment Workers' Trade Union. *Decision.*—Reductions of ¼d. per dozen should be made in the existing piece price for peaks with fasteners and stiff bands, but the remainder of the claim has not been established. Provided that in no case during the currency of the Decision shall wages be reduced below the minimum rate payable under the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918. The parties had agreed that the Decision should operate as from the date of resumption of work. Issued 7th March, 1924. (877.)

DEMARCATON—SHEET IRON WORKERS AND SHEET METAL WORKERS—ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENTS.—Messrs. Douglas and Grant, Ltd. v. The United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders and the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Braziers. *Decision.*—Having regard to the circumstances of this particular establishment, the Court decide in respect of sheet iron (black and galvanised) and sheet steel:—(a) that the sheet iron workers work from the heavier sheets down to and including 16 B.W.G.; (b) that the sheet metal workers work from the lightest sheets up to and including 16 B.W.G.; (c) that the sheet iron workers may work down to and including 24 B.W.G., and sheet metal workers may work up to and including 12 B.W.G. Issued 11th March, 1924. (878.)

SPRINGSMITHS, KILMARNOCK—LAMINATED SPRINGS—VARIATION IN PRACTICE IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS—RELATION TO PARAGRAPH 29 OF DECISION No. 728.—The Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society v. The London Midland and Scottish Railway. The Society claimed the payment of an additional 2s. per week. *Decision.*—The springsmiths at Kilmarnock are paid a rate equivalent to the rate of the fully-skilled smith, and on a matter of interpretation, as this application is, it is not open to the Court to declare a different rate. Issued 12th March, 1924. (879.)

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE—RUNNING SHEDS—47 HOURS' WEEK—ROTATING SHIFTS—SATURDAY AFTERNOONS AND SUNDAYS.—The National Union of Railwaymen v. The London and North Eastern Railway. *Decision.*—Saturday afternoon: For the purpose of calculating overtime each day is to stand by itself, and where Saturday morning has not been rostered, and where no time is worked on Saturday morning, there is no overtime by working on Saturday afternoon. The extra rates which Decision No. 728 provides for the week-end are for the period after 6 p.m. on Saturday, all Sunday and before 6 a.m. on Monday. It does not, therefore, provide for an extra rate in running sheds before 6 p.m. on Saturday. In this respect work in running sheds differs from work in production shops. Sunday: The standard week of 47 hours, which does not include work done on Sunday, is made up of certain shifts. Sunday duty is paid for at one uniform rate, namely, double ordinary rate, whereas different rates are paid on weekdays according to the shift. Decision No. 728 does not prescribe a guaranteed week, but only a standard week. Issued 14th March, 1924. (880.)

RATES OF PAY—LOCAL AUTHORITY WITHDRAWING FROM JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL—EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT—HOW FAR RECOMMENDATION OF JOINT DISTRICT COUNCIL MAY BE APPLIED.—The National Union of General Workers v. Lincoln Corporation. Owing to the depressed state of the staple industry of the city of Lincoln, the lack of employment and the large sums paid in relief schemes, the Corporation were unable to accept the recommendations of the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and therefore withdrew from that Council. The Corporation then resolved to pay a uniform rate to non-skilled workers employed by them in their trading and non-trading services of 49s. per week. The Union claimed an advance of 1d. per hour. *Decision.*—The circumstances now prevailing in Lincoln are exceptional and peculiar. In the meantime no change should be made in the rates payable to the unskilled workmen in the non-trading departments of the Corporation. Issued 18th March, 1924. (881.)

JOINERS, PLUMBERS, BRICKLAYERS, MASONS AND PAINTERS IN H.M. DOCKYARDS AND ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS—BASIC RATES—CLAIM FOR INCREASE—RELATION TO RATES OF OTHER CRAFTSMEN.—The Trade Union Side of the Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments v. The Official Side. *Decision.*—(a) Joiners, plumbers, bricklayers and masons who have become fully qualified in their respective trades shall, when engaged on craftsmen's work, be included within the group of occupations rated at a basic rate of 41s. per week; and (b) painters who have become fully qualified in their trade shall, when engaged on craftsmen's work, be placed on a basic rate of 40s. per week. These rates are exclusive of the war advance at present amounting to 17s. per week. The Decision is to operate as from the beginning of the first full pay period following its date. Issued 18th March, 1924. (882.)

STEEL WORK ERECTOR—DEFINITION.—The Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co., Ltd., v. The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. In connection with Decision No. 865 the parties were unable to agree as to which of the men were in fact steel work erectors, and evidence was tendered by both sides as to what constitutes a steel work erector. *Decision.*—Steel work erectors, employed as such, are men who are capable of working aloft, capable from experience of carrying out all the

various stages of their work, and subject only to the general supervision of the foreman or charge hand. They must be able to appreciate the security of knots, splicing, etc., of ropes and the strength of ropes and chain slings for any particular job. Men employed aloft, and required only to work under the specific instructions of steel work erectors as above defined, and not themselves capable of carrying out the various stages of a steel work erector's work, are not entitled to benefit by the provisions of Decision No. 865. Men not employed aloft are to benefit by the provisions of the Decision only in so far as the work for which they are engaged requires in its execution the ability and experience of a steel work erector as above defined. Failing agreement between the parties as to whether any individual is a steel work erector as above defined, it is open to either party to come back to the Court to have the matter finally settled. Shuttering and putting in expanded metal is not part of the work of a steel work erector as above defined. Issued 21st March, 1924. (883.)

MACHINISTS, DERBY—GRADING UNDER DECISION NO. 728.—Workers' Union *v.* The London Midland and Scottish Railway. *Decision.*—The Court, having viewed the work, gave definite decisions in a number of typical cases, so that remaining cases might be dealt with on the basis of analogy. Issued 24th March, 1924. (884.)

GENERAL LABOURERS, DERBY—DISTINCTION BETWEEN GRADES I. AND II., DECISION NO. 728, SCHEDULE E.—The Workers' Union *v.* The London Midland and Scottish Railway. *Decision.*—The general interpretation which the Union seek to place upon Decision No. 728 is not one in which the Court are able to concur; and no evidence was submitted by the Union to indicate that the Company are rating the men concerned otherwise than in the manner laid down in the main Decision and in Decision No. 777. Issued 24th March, 1924. (885.)

STEAM WAGON AND LORRY DRIVERS AND MATES—MEN EMPLOYED AT CENTRAL REPAIR DEPOT OF TRAMWAYS SYSTEM—DEPOT DEEMED TO BE ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENT—QUESTION OF REGULATION OF WAGES BY ENGINEERING PRACTICE OR BY ROAD TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS.—The Transport and General Workers' Union *v.* The London County Council. *Decision.*—It is too early to seek to revise the principle laid down in Decisions 417-419, that the Central Repair Depot should be deemed to be an engineering establishment for the purposes of wage regulation. In the case of the electric lorries which run only on the tracks of the County Council tramways system, there would not appear to be vehicles of a precisely similar nature employed by private firms, and the rates of remuneration of the drivers thereof should be settled by analogy. Issued 24th March, 1924. (886.)

PATTERNMAKERS—CREWE—WITHDRAWAL OF "MERIT ALLOWANCES"—DECISION NO. 728, PARAGRAPH 29—INDIVIDUAL CASES—EXERCISE OF DISCRETION OF MANAGEMENT.—The United Patternmakers' Association *v.* The London Midland and Scottish Railway. *Decision.*—The question of whether the ability of a particular individual is worth to the management something above the awarded standard rate is in the end a question falling within the discretion of the management. Taking this view, the Court can only point out to the parties that the main Decision does not in any way order the reduction of specially qualified or specially skilled men to the scheduled rates. It would not appear that the general body of patternmakers in the shop are called upon to do the special work required of the men in question, and in these circumstances the Court recommend the management to consider further the cases of these latter men. Issued 25th March, 1924. (887.)

MARYLEBONE POWER HOUSE—"SWITCH HANDS"—CLAIM FOR GRADING AS SWITCHBOARD ATTENDANTS.—The National Union of Railwaymen *v.* The London and North-Eastern Railway. *Decision.*—The claim that the men concerned should be graded as "Electricians in Charge or Switchboard Attendants up to 5,000 k.w.," as contemplated by the agreements referred to at the hearing and rated under "Schedule H" has not been established. Issued 27th March, 1924. (888.)

PAPER CUTTERS AND PAPER WAXING ATTENDANT—MEN ON PAPER CUTTING MACHINES AND PAPER WAXING MACHINE IN EXPLOSIVES FACTORY—CLAIM FOR PRINTING TRADE RATE OF PAY.—The Glasgow Men's Branch, Printing Section, of the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers *v.* The Explosives Trade Employers' Association (representing Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd.). *Decision.*—The three men on the guillotine cutters are engaged on work which brings them within the description of a cutter in the printing trade. It is the almost universal practice of firms employing cutters in an ancillary capacity to pay such men in accordance with the printing trade agreements, and in these circumstances the wages of these three men should be regulated accordingly. In the case of the waxing attendant the claim has not been established. Effective as from the beginning of first full pay period following date of issue. Issued 28th March, 1924. (889.)

CUTLERY TRADE, SHEFFIELD—TABLE AND BUTCHER BLADE GRINDERS AND FINISHERS—RENTS FOR HEAVY TROUGHS—LIGHTING CHARGES FOR TROUGHS.—The Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers' Association (acting on behalf of certain Trough Owners) *v.* The National Amalgamated Union of Labour (acting on behalf of the Table and Butcher Blade Grinders and Finishers). *Decision.*—The trough owners have not substantiated and justified their claim to the full amount of the charges proposed, and the Court fix the following rates:—Maximum rent for heavy troughs, 3 deep, 10s. per trough per week; maximum

rent for heavy troughs, 2 deep, 8s. 6d. per trough per week. (Men to find their own tools, stone and material; light extra.) Maximum charge for lighting, 9d. per trough per week. Due notice to give effect to the Decision should be issued so soon as may be after its date. Issued 31st March, 1924. (890.)

The decisions of the Industrial Court issued during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1923, have now been printed in volume form and placed on sale. Copies of the volume may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office direct or through any bookseller (price 3s. 6d.).

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

CLOTHWORKERS: LONDON AREA.—Workpeople *v.* Employers in the Clothworking Section of the Joint Industrial (District) Council for the Industries of the Making-up and Packing of Textiles for Export and of Clothworking in trust and/or on commission (London Area). Difference: As to the ability of the clothworking trade to increase wages. Conciliator: Sir Richard Redmayne, K.C.B. Report: The industry could not at the moment meet an advance in wages. Dated 20th March, 1924. (I.R. 365/3/1924.)

FURNACEMEN: DOWLAIS WORKS, CARDIFF.—Iron and Steel Trades Confederation *v.* Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Dowlais Works, East Moors, Cardiff. Difference: Claim by the firm for a reduction in the number of men employed for reheating slabs from five heaters to one heater and one helper, and that the rate of heating be reduced from 8-02d. plus sliding scale percentage to 3d. per ton plus percentage, and this to be apportioned between the heater and the helper in the following proportion:—

Heater, 2d. per ton plus sliding scale percentage.

Helper, 1d. per ton plus sliding scale percentage.

Board of Arbitration: Mr. W. Addington Willis (chairman), Mr. M. L. Simpson (Employers' representative) and Mr. W. T. Griffiths (Workpeople's representative). Award: It was held that the claim had not been established. Issued 11th March, 1924. (I.R. 216/3/1924.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

QUARRYMEN AND LABOURERS: CHEPSTOW.—Altogether Builders' Labourers' and Constructional Workers' Society *v.* Beaufort Quarries, Limited, Chepstow. Difference: Application by the Union for rates of 1s. 3d. per hour for quarrymen and 1s. 2d. per hour for labourers. Agreement: A rate of 1s. 1d. per hour would be paid to all the men concerned. Agreed 19th March, 1924. (I.R. 645/1924.)

COAL MINERS: TARBRAX.—National Union of Shale Miners and Oil Workers *v.* Pumpherston Oil Company (Scottish Oils, Limited), Woolford Mines, near Tarbrax. Difference: Proposal by the employers to reduce wages. Agreement: A reduction of 6d. per ton on tonnage rates should be made on 12th March, with a further reduction of 3d. per ton on tonnage rates when the third shift is withdrawn. Agreed 12th March, 1924. (I.R. 322/1924.)

BOOT AND SLIPPER WORKERS: MANCHESTER.—National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives *v.* Messrs. Gregg and Company, Strangeways, Manchester. Difference: Action of employers in making reductions in wages in excess of those allowed by the National Agreement. Agreement: Work would be resumed on the minimum wage rate of 36s., pending discussion of the questions in dispute. Agreed 18th March, 1924. (I.R. 628/1924.)

JOINERS: ELGIN AND DISTRICT.—Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers *v.* Elgin and District Master Carpenters' Association. Difference: Application for an increase of 4d. per hour, together with doubling of country allowances, and the substitution of weekly for fortnightly payments. Agreement: An increase of 1d. per hour would be granted as from the 21st March, and a further increase of 1d. per hour on 2nd June, 1924. Weekly payments would take place from and after the 20th March. The agreement would remain in force until the 1st March, 1925, subject to not less than two months' notice being given by either party of termination. Signed 25th March, 1924. (I.R. 202/1924.)

CHEMICAL WORKERS: BURRY PORT.—National Union of General Workers *v.* Burry Port Chemical Company (Fricker's Metal Company, Limited), Burry Port, near Llanelli. Difference: Objection of the workers to the wages paid by the firm and to the excessive number of hours worked. Agreement: A three-shift system would be adopted, and the men would receive a rate of 1s. per hour, with 1s. 6d. per hour for Sunday work, the men to work alternate shifts to equalise earnings. The above conditions apply only to furnaces and collecting plant. In the other departments men other than skilled men would receive a rate of 1s. per hour, with time and a half for overtime. The working hours would be 48 per week, and no

employee would be compelled to work overtime. Agreed 16th March, 1924. (I.R. 222/1924.)

COAL CARTERS AND YARDMEN : CAMBRIDGE.—National Union of General Workers v. Cambridge Coal Merchants' Society. Difference: Claim for an advance of wages. Agreement: Carters would receive an advance of 4s. per week and yardmen 2s. per week. Agreed 19th March, 1924. (I.R. 409/1924.)

CARTERS AND MOTOR MATES : CAMBRIDGE.—National Union of General Workers v. Cambridge Cartage Contractors. Difference: Claim for an advance of wages. Agreement: A rate of 40s. would be paid to the men concerned. Agreed 21st March, 1924. (I.R. 409/1924.)

OMNIBUS DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS : NEWBRIDGE.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. Lewis and James, Limited (proprietors of the Western Valleys Garage and Engineering Company), Newbridge, Mon. Difference: As to the terms of a wages and conditions agreement which the Union desired to draw up with the firm. Agreement: An agreement was reached providing for a rate of £4 per week for drivers of Leyland vehicles and of £3 10s. per week for drivers of Daimler vehicles. Conductors would receive 1s. 2d. per hour. A week's holiday per annum, on half pay, would be granted after twelve months' service. The firm would provide uniforms and privilege tickets would be provided for each man and his wife. Signed 14th March, 1924. (I.R. 565/1924.)

TROLLEY BOYS : SALFORD.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Salford Corporation (Tramways Department). Difference: Proposal to dispense with the services of trolley boys. Agreement: Strike notices were withdrawn upon an agreed formula. Agreed 23rd February, 1924. (I.R. 375/1924.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

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

Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order P. (10), dated 2nd April, 1924, confirming certain additional variations of rates for female workers for periods dependent upon the "Cost of Living" Index Figure, and specifying 7th April, 1924, as the date from which these variations should become effective.

This Order merely reinstates certain provisions governing the employment of female workers which were inadvertently omitted from the Board's Notice P. (9), 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.

Fur Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order Z. (14), dated 9th April, 1924, confirming certain general minimum time rates, piece-work basis time rates and overtime rates for the undermentioned classes of workers, and specifying 14th April, 1924, as the date from which the rates, as varied, should become operative.

General Minimum Time Rates:—

1. Male workers of 21 years of age or over, employed as "Cleaners," 58s. per week of 48 hours.
2. Female workers employed as:—
 - (a) Fur Machinists, 45s. per week of 48 hours.
 - (b) Liners and/or Finishers and/or Hand Fur Sewers and/or Machinists other than Fur Machinists, 40s. per week of 48 hours.
3. Learners to Hand Fur Sewing, certain lower rates as previously fixed for learners to Machining, Lining or Finishing.

Piece-work Basis Time Rates:—

Female Workers as in 2 (a) above, 60s. per week of 48 hours.
Female Workers as in 2 (b) above, 50s. per week of 48 hours.
Apprentices may now be indentured in the form prescribed by the Trade Board or in such other form as may be approved by the Trade Board.

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.

TRADE BOARDS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1923.

ORDERS.

Order made by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland, under Section 9 (2) of the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the under-noted Trade Board:—

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Northern Ireland)

Order N.I.B.B. (29, 30 and 31), dated the 29th March, 1924, confirming general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for certain male and female workers, and specifying the 4th April, 1924, as the date from which these rates are effective.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.T.R.B. (N. 18), dated 26th March, 1924, to vary general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of female workers, and to fix piece-work basis time-rates for certain classes of female workers.

VACANCIES ON STAFF OF MINES INSPECTORATE.

THE Secretary for Mines is prepared to receive applications for nominations to attend competitive examinations that will be held shortly to fill vacancies on the staff of the Mines Inspectorate, viz.:—*Sub-Inspector of Mines*: 2 in the Midland and Southern Division, 3 in the York and North Midland Division, 3 in South Wales, and 1 each in Scotland, the Northern Division and the Lancashire and North Wales Division. *Sub-Inspector of Quarries*: 1 vacancy in the Midland and Southern Division. Forms of application and full particulars of these posts can be obtained from the Establishment Branch, Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W. 1. Applications for nomination will not be considered unless the prescribed forms, duly completed, are received in the Mines Department not later than Wednesday, 7th May, 1924.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

CENSUS.—*Census of England and Wales, 1921.* (a) *County of Pembroke*, (b) *County of Cardigan*, (c) *Counties of Merioneth and Montgomery*, (d) *County of Flint.* (S.O. publications: price 6s., 5s. 6d., 9s., 5s. 6d. respectively.)

COAL-TAR INDUSTRIES.—*Report of H.M. Inspector on instruction in England in the manufacture and applications of coal-tar products.* Board of Education. (S.O. publication: price 6d.)

HOUSING.—(1) *Interdepartmental Committee appointed to survey the price of building materials. Chairman's report for the months of January and February, 1924.* Ministry of Health. (Cmd. 2078: price 6d.) (2) *Report on the present position in the building industry, with regard to the carrying out of a full housing programme, having particular reference to the means of providing an adequate supply of labour and materials.* 10th April, 1924. (Cmd. 2104: price 9d.) (See p. 120.)

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.—*On the extent and effects of variety in repetitive work.* Report No. 26. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.) (See p. 122.)

LABOUR STATISTICS.—*Report on the International Conference of Representatives of Labour Statistical Departments held at Geneva, 29th October to 2nd November, 1923.* Studies and Reports, Series N., No. 4. International Labour Office. (Geneva, March, 1924: price 1s. 3d.)

MINING.—*Coal dust explosions, Eskmeals, 1923.* Paper No. 3. Safety in Mines Research Board. (S.O. publication: price 4d.)

POLICE.—*Report of the Committee appointed to consider possible re-adjustments in the standard conditions of service of the police forces in Great Britain.* (Home Office. Cmd. 2086: price 2d.) (See page 113 of March, 1924, GAZETTE.)

ROAD FUND.—*Abstract account of the receipts into and payments out of the Road Fund in the year ended 31st March, 1923, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.* Exchequer and Audit Department. (H.C. 28: price 3d.)

SEAMEN.—*Return of shipping casualties to and deaths on vessels registered in the United Kingdom, 1919, 1920 and 1921, with comparative figures for the years 1900 to 1914.* Board of Trade. (S.O. publication: price 5s.)

TRANSPORT SERVICES.—*Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Report by a Court of Enquiry concerning the stoppage of the London tramway and omnibus services, 1924.* Ministry of Labour. (a) *Interim report.* (Cmd. 2087: price 2d.) (b) *Final report.* (Cmd. 2101: price 6d.) (See p. 121.)

UNEMPLOYMENT.—*Statistics relating to financial provisions for relief of unemployment (including post-war resettlement of ex-members of His Majesty's Forces), from the Armistice.* (Cmd. 2082: price 3d.) (See p. 119.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Bill, 1924. Report by the Government Actuary on the financial provisions of the Bill.* (Cmd. 2109: price 3d.) (See p. 117.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—*Memorandum on the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1906 and 1923.* Home Office. (S.O. publication: price 1d.) (See p. 123.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MARCH, 1924.

ADMIRALTY.

(Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department.)

H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: **Steelwork:** Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge. **Paint Materials:** N. J. Fenner & H. B. Alder & Co., London, E.C. **Flexible Metallic Hoses:** The United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex.—*Devonport:* **Bathing and Washplaces and Cook House:** Wakeham Bros., Tothill, Plymouth.—*Forton, Gosport:* **Steelwork:** E. C. & J. Keay, Ltd., Birmingham.—*Portsmouth:* **Timber:** W. Crundall & Co., Dover.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Aluminium Ingots: The British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Beech Wedges:** Bartlett, Bayliss & Co., Ltd., Bideford; Bowerman & Sons, Ltd., Bridgwater; East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted; J. D. Foster, Emsworth.—**Blocks, Gravity Lowering:** H. Wharton, Ltd., Stockport.—**Blocks, Thrust, Michell:** Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd., Loughborough.—**Boots, Sea:** Regulation Boot Co. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds.—**Boxes, Junction, Distribution, etc.:** Ewart & Son, Ltd., London, N.W.; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; L. Weekes, Ltd., Luton; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton, Kent; Accles & Pollock, Ltd., Birmingham; Wm. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brass and Copper Tubes:** Muntz's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham; The Broughton Copper Co., Ltd., Manchester; C. Clifford & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Grice, Grice & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; The Birmingham Battery & Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Allen Everitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brass Bars, High Tension:** The Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Bronze Strip, Extruded and Loop Nuts:** The Delta Metal Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brushes, Shaving:** C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham.—**Buttons:** Buttons, Ltd., Birmingham; Firmin & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; H. Gill & Whitehouse, Ltd., Birmingham; Smith & Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cans, Oil:** J. G. Carrick & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cap Covers, Marcel-line:** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Capstans, Steam Warping:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Carpets, Rugs and Mats:** Carpet Trades, Ltd., Kidderminster; Tomkinson & Adam, Kidderminster.—**Castings, Malleable Iron:** Wycliffe Foundry Co., Ltd., Lutterworth; The Court Works, Ltd., Madeley; H. W. Lindop, Walsall; J. Crowley & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Chamois Skins:** The Pavlova Leather Co., Ltd., Mitcham, Surrey; W. J. Turney & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Cloths, Sponge:** C. E. Austin & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Coffee:** Ridgways, Ltd., London, E.—**Cotton Sliver, Press Packing and Bleaching of:** The Cotton Cellulose Co., Ltd., Rawtenstall.—**Cotton Sliver (Unbleached Carded):** The Croft Mill, Ltd., Rochdale.—**Duck Cloth, Fine White:** Thos. Adair, Ltd., Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.—**Electric Welding Equipment:** Handstock, Ltd., Wokingham, Berks.—**Envelopes, Silica and Caps for Wireless Valves:** The Thermal Syndicate, Ltd., Wallsend.—**Fireclay:** R. Brown & Son, Ltd., Paisley; J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Flags:** Adam & Lane & Neeve, Ltd., London, E.; Walter Cockshaw, Leeds; Kirk, Hall & Co., Leeds; E. Riley & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Flour:** W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Spillers & Bakers, Ltd., Bristol; E. Marriage & Son, Ltd., Felixstowe.—**Gearing, Turbine:** D. Brown & Sons (Huddersfield), Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Generators, Turbo:** British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Gloves, Leather, Various:** E. & W. C. French, Ltd., Taunton; J. S. Deed & Son, Ltd., London, W.C.; C. Ockwell & Co., Cricklade; J. J. William & Sons, Canterbury; North of England Chamois Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Hides, Buffalo, etc.:** Bryant & Co., London, S.E.; George Brooker & Co., London, E.C.; John T. Hart & Sons, London, S.E.—**Hides, Leather and Leather Goods:** John Tullis & Son, Ltd., Glasgow; Geo. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Barrowfield Leather Co., Glasgow; H. Densham & Son, Ltd., Bristol; J. S. Deed & Son, Ltd., London, W.C.; Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; J. & F. J. Baker, Ltd., Colyton, Devon.—**Leather Straps or Millbands:** Harbord & Poole, Ltd., London, S.E.; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Lime Juice:** L. Rose & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Linen Goods:** A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy; Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast; C. Gallen & Co., Balbriggan, Co. Dublin; J. Gunning & Son, Ltd., Belfast; Thos. McLaren & Sons, Kirkcaldy; R. Stocks & Co., Kirkcaldy; Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast; York St. Flax Spinning Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Machine, Testing:** W. & T. Avery, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Manganese Bronze Tubes:** The Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Mopheads:** A. Smart & Sons, Manchester.—**Mustard:** Keen, Robinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Oils, Linseed:** James Arnott & Sons, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dixon & Cardus, Ltd., Southampton; F. F. Fox & Co., Ltd., Bristol; J. M. Hamilton & Co., Ltd., Hull; Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Smith Bros. & Co., London, E.—**Paraffin Wax:** Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Piping, Flexible Voice and Gear:** The Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.; The United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex; The Interlock Metal Hose Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Pump, Motor-driven:** Drysdale & Co., Ltd., Yoker, Glasgow.—**Putty:** Pilchers, Ltd., London, S.E.; Storry, Witty & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Razors, Hand Forged:** Needham, Veall & Tyzack, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Screws:** The British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds; Butler,

Spragg & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Henry Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; T. Eaves, Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; T. Haddon & Co., Birmingham; The London Screw Co., Ltd., Smethwick; A. Stokes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Seacocks and Valves:** Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Serge, Blue:** The Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Buckfastleigh.—**Shoes, Brown Canvas:** Owen Smith, Raunds.—**Shorts, Cellular:** Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Silver Solder:** E. W. Oakes & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Socks, Black Cashmere:** I. & R. Morley, Heanor; Hanford & Miller, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Steel Sections:** Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe; Pease & Partners, Ltd., Saltburn-by-the-Sea.—**Steel Wire Hawsers:** Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Steel Wire Rope:** Craven & Speeding Bros., Sunderland; Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Bullivant & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Surgical Dressings:** Dacca Twist Co., Manchester; Fastnet Surgical Dressing Co., Ltd., London, N.; W. G. Taylor, Birmingham.—**Table for Punching Machine:** Churchin & Watson, London, E.C.—**Thermometers, Hydrometers, etc.:** B. Black & Son, London, E.C.; A. C. Cossor & Son, London, N.; Heath & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; T. A. Reynolds, Son & Co., London, E.C.—**Timber, English:** Bartlett, Bayliss & Co., Ltd., Bideford; R. Batcheller & Sons, Ltd., Maidstone; Bowerman & Sons, Bridgwater; C. R. Claridge, Exeter; East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted; J. D. Foster, Emsworth; W. Ivens & Sons, Rugby; C. Miles & Sons, Stamford; G. Randle & Son, Ltd., Bridgwater; W. J. Taylor & Sons, Ltd., Bath; A. Turner & Sons, Ltd., Lewes; E. C. White & Sons, Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Towelling, Terry:** Stott & Smith, Ltd., Manchester.—**Trolley and Pulley Blocks, Alterations to:** The Vaughan Crane Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Trucks, Electric Platform:** Gillespie Partners, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tubes, Steel:** John Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury; Stewarts and Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Winches, Electrically-driven:** Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Wire:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor, Staffs; Bruntons, Musselburgh; The Darlington Wire Mills, Ltd., Darlington; Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; J. Rigby & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.—**Wire Work:** G. Baker, Ltd., Birmingham; Patent Process Wire Weaving Co., Glasgow; G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; J. Dickson, London, W.C.; H. W. Carter & James, Ltd., Birmingham; T. P. Hawkins & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Nichols & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; S. Ramsey & Co., London, E.C.; Tower Manufacturing Co., Worcester.

WAR OFFICE.

Alcohol: Hammersmith Distillery Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Asbestos Metallic Belting:** G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Bentham; Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., Rochdale.—**Ball Bearings:** Auto Machinery Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Blocks for Construction of Walls:** National Brick Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Brass Sheet:** P. H. Muntz & Co., Ltd., W. Bromwich.—**Brushes, Horse:** G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., Hemel Hempstead.—**Canvas, Staying:** Lamb & Scott, Ltd., Brechin, N.B.—**Caps, S.D. Stiff:** L. Silberston, London, E.—**Cloth, Serge (Service Dress):** Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington; R. Gaunt & Sons, Leeds; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley; J. Harper & Sons, Eccleshill, Bradford; J. Watkinson, Holmfirth, Huddersfield.—**Cooking Apparatus:** Adams & Son, London, W.C.; Richmond Gas Stove & Meter Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Cotton Waste:** Cotton Cellulose Co., Rawtenstall.—**Curry Combs:** Samuel Parker & Co., Ltd., Willenhall.—**Drawers, Cotton:** G. Braund, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Drill, Dark Drab and Khaki:** Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Manchester.—**Drill, Cotton:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Flannel, Silver Grey:** J. Bradbury & Co. (Saddleworth), Ltd., Uppermill, near Oldham; John Smith (Milnrow), Ltd., Milnrow, Rochdale.—**Hose Tops:** Moore, Eady & Murcott Goode, Leicester.—**Inspection and Guarantee of Boilers:** Manchester Steam Users Association, Manchester.—**Lamps, Head Acetylene:** H. Miller & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lamps, Acetylene, Motor Cycle:** Powell & Hammer, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Machine, Surface Grinding:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Medicines:** Burgoyne, Burdidge & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Milling Machine, Universal:** J. Parkinson & Sons, Shipley.—**Motor Spirit:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow; Shell-Mex, Ltd., London, W.C.; Union Petroleum Products Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Sleepers, Creosoted:** Christie & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Soles, Half:** Collinson's Cut Soles, Ltd., Liverpool; G. Looms, Market Harborough.—**Tin Plates:** C. G. Biggs, Swansea; Everitt & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Twill, Grey:** Howe & Coates, Ltd., Heywood, Lancs.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** Lydd: G. H. Bates, Lydd. Portsmouth: F. Bevis, Ltd., Portsmouth. Windsor: Burfoot & Son, Windsor. Dunbar: G. Cunningham, Dunbar. Woolwich: Edwards & Co., Whyteleafe, Surrey. Warrington: Huxley & Co., Malpas. Sandhurst: J. McLean Keil, Camberley. Freshwater: Playfair, Toole, Ltd., Southampton. Sandown: Playfair, Toole, Ltd., Southampton. Richmond, Yorks, and Hipswell Camp: Wade & Son, Richmond, Yorks.—**Building Works and Services:** Dover, Western Heights Pumping Station, Provision of Water Elevator: Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich. Dunbar, Castle Park Barracks: Fisher Bros., Edinburgh. Lichfield: Additions and Alterations to Institute, Whittington Barracks: Perks & Son, Ltd., Long Eaton.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester; Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Woolston, Southampton.—**Aircraft Hull:** S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes.—**Aircraft Model:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester.—**Aircraft Repairs:** Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil; Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning Ailerons:** H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft Spares:** Geo. Parnall & Co., Bristol; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Handley Page, Ltd., Cricklewood; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton; Armstrong, Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry.—**Aircraft Trials:** Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft Undercarriages:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Alternator, Engine Driven:** Parsons Motor Co., Ltd., Southampton.—**Benzol:** The National Benzol Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Walter Waugh & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Blankets:** Priestley Bros., Halifax.—**Building Works Services:** Married Quarters (Uxbridge): J. Laing & Son, Ltd., London, W.C. Spinning Tower (Farnborough): General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Re-roofing Flight Sheds (Old Sarum): Playfair & Toole, Ltd., Southampton.—**Camera Magazine (All Metal):** Williamson Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Cases, Slip:** C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Colours, Nitro Identification:** British Celanese, Ltd., London, S.W.; Cellon (Richmond), Ltd., Richmond.—**Deflector Tubes (Rapson):** Rapson Tyre & Jack Co., Ltd., New Malden, Surrey.—**Desks, School:** North of England School Furnishing Co., Ltd., Darlington.—**Coal:** Cranwell, Dinham, Fawcus & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Harlescott: Peake, Oliver & Peake, Ltd., London, E.C. Milton: Judd, Budd, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Coke:** Cranwell; Halton; Harlescott: Peake, Oliver & Peake, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Dope (Cellulose Acetate):** British Celanese, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Electrical Measuring Instruments:** The Weston Electrical Instrument Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Engines, Aircraft:** The Sunbeam Motor Car Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Engines, Aircraft, Duration Test on:** Rolls, Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine, Aircraft, Spares:** The Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Rolls, Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Ford Touring Car and Delivery Vans:** W. Harold Perry, London, N.—**Furnace Fuel Oil:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Generator, Double Purpose:** W. Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Generators:** G. R. Mortley, Sprague & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Paints and Varnishes:** Jenson & Nicholson, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paraffin:** Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Petrol, M.T.:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Switchboards:** Erskine, Heap & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Valve Unit (Large Sleeve):** Ricardo Engineers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Water Cooling Plant:** Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—**Wheels, Steel Disc:** The Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works: Aston (Birmingham) Employment Exchange—Erection: Harry H. Crump, Birmingham. Bangkok—Steelwork: Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe. Barrow-in-Furness Housing Estates—Mason, Slater, Plasterer, etc.: W. H. Paul, Barrow-in-Furness. Plumber, Painter and Decorator: T. Lloyd, Barrow-in-Furness. Basingstoke P.O.: Joinery: Elliotts, Ltd., Newbury. Belfast (Stormont Castle)—Erection of Pump House: J. & W. Stewart, Belfast. Bodmin P.O.—Asphalte: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E. Brierley Hill P.O.—Alterations, etc.: E. Woodward, Birmingham. Brighton Sorting Office, etc.—Granite Work: Fenning & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Joinery: Allensor, Ltd., Watford. Catterick Telephone Repeater Station—Joinery: The Building Equipment Co., Ltd., Chesterfield. Painting: Elliot & Reoch, Annan. Plastering: Pollock Bros., Annan. Chapelton Telephone Exchange—Plastering: J. Phillips, Leeds. Plumbing and Painting: G. Thompson, Leeds. Cheltenham Telephone Exchange—Adaptation of Wolseley House: W. J. B. Halls, Ltd., Gloucester. Chesterfield P.O.—Alterations, etc.: George Longden & Son, Ltd., Sheffield. Enfield Telephone Exchange—Erection: Albert Monk, London, N. Gateshead Telephone Exchange—Erection: Stanley Miller, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Gloucester Telephone Repeater Station—Steelwork: John Lysaght, Ltd., Bristol. Gosforth P.O., etc.—Glazier and Painter: John G. Cole, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Halifax P.O.—Painter: R. Rawlinson & Sons, Burnley. Plumber, Glazier, etc.: W. Ward & Sons, Halifax. Hereford Station Sorting Office—Asphalte: La Brea Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Steelwork: Rubery, Owen & Co., London, W.C. Leigh (Lancs) Telephone Exchange—Erection: T. Collier & Sons, Leigh. Asphalte: Bolton Stone, Concrete & Asphalte Co., Ltd., Bolton. Steelwork, etc.: Joseph Webb & Sons, Ltd., Bury. Newton (Edinburgh) Telephone Exchange—Erection: John Taylor, Clydebank. New Malden Telephone Exchange—Fencing: W. Turner, Riley & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Newport (Mon.) Telephone Repeater Station—Erection: William Bowers & Co., Hereford. Asphalte: La Brea Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, E.C. North Telephone Exchange—Plumber: J. Knight & Son, London, S.W. Northwich P.O.—Extension: Joseph H. Molyneux, Northwich. Port Isaac (Cornwall)—Erection of Cottages: Carkeek & Sons, Ltd., Redruth. Sloane Telephone Exchange—Stonework: The South Western Stone Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engineering Service:** Somerset House (East Wing)—Heating: Buckleys (London), Ltd., London, W.C.—**Miscellaneous:** Chimney Sweeping—London (North): J. Hutchins, London, N.W. London

(South): Phillips & Lewis, London, S.W. London (East): C. J. Miller, London, N. London (West): T. Freebury, Senr., London, W. London (Central): The Westminster Chimney Sweeping Co., London, S.W. Flooring (Wood Block): R. W. Brooke & Co., Ltd., Liverpool; A. M. Macdougall & Son, Glasgow. Glass for Museum Cases: Pilkington Bros., Ltd., St. Helens. Horse and Cart Hire: R. Deards, London, N.W. Kerosene: Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow. Motor Spirit: Shell-Mex, Ltd., London, W.C. Museum Cases: Wylie & Lochhead, Ltd., Glasgow. Timber: The Whilwood Co., Ltd., Westerham. Uniform Clothing: John Hammond & Co. (1922), Ltd., Newcastle, Staffs. Window Cleaning—Houses of Parliament and London Generally: The Great Metropolitan Window Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Royal Mint: The Daylight Window Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, E.C.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Helsby; British L. M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston; General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Woolwich; Sterling Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham; Telegraph Condenser Co., Ltd., Kew; Western Electric Co., Ltd., North Woolwich.—**Apparatus, Wireless:** Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Arms, Wood:** British Australian Timber Co., Ltd., London, E.; Alexander, Bruce & Co., Grays, Essex; Millar's Timber & Trading Co., Ltd., Purfleet.—**Balances:** Geo. Salter & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Barrows:** Bradford Patent Truck & Trolley Co., Bradford.—**Blocks, Terminal:** Ebonestos Insulators, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brackets:** F. W. Male & Son, Wolverhampton; McGregor Bros., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs.—**Cables:** Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Belvedere, Kent; Connolly's (Blackley), Ltd., Manchester; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham.—**Casing and Cover:** W. D. Tucker & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—**Cells:** Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Clothing:** D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill; W. P. Jackson & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Redman Brothers, Hebden Bridge.—**Ducts:** Albion Clay Co., Ltd., Woodville; Doulton & Co., Ltd., Dudley; Hepworth Iron Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Oates & Green, Ltd., Halifax; Stanley Brothers, Ltd., Nuneaton; Sutton & Co., Overseal; J. H. Turner & Lisney, Ltd., Overseal.—**Handcarts:** Bradford Patent Truck & Trolley Co., Bradford; W. Goodyear & Sons, Ltd., Dudley; S. Rawlinson, Ltd., Blackburn.—**Huts, Portable:** Boulton and Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—**Insulators:** Bullers, Ltd., Hanley.—**Kiosks, Concrete:** D. G. Somerville & Co., Ltd., Charlton.—**Laundry Work:** Wm. Whiteley, Ltd., Kensington, W.; Woodbridge Laundry, Ltd., Guildford.—**Motor Cycle Combinations:** Triumph Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Ratchets and Tongs:** Wynn, Timmins & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Reinforcing Material:** British Reinforced Concrete Co., Ltd., Trafford Park.—**Saddles, Galvanised:** Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Spirit, Motor:** Flight Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Tarpaulins:** C. Groom, Ltd., Limehouse, E.; Woods, Sons & Co., London, E.—**Thread:** J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tyre Covers:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham; D. Moseley & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Wire:** Callender's Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs.—**Wire, Bronze:** Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton.—**Conveyance of Mails:** Ards Motor Transport Co., Ltd., Newtownards; Long Bros., Exeter.—**Telephone Kiosks, B.E.E., Wembley:** Sir Robert McAlpine & Son, London, S.W.

Cable—Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing: Maryland-Walthamstow, Wanstead-Woodford and East Woolwich Jc.: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Holborn-North Dalston-Tottenham Junction: W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Nottingham-Mansfield: W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Saxondale (Nottingham)—Grantham: Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton, S.E.—**Conduits—Laying:** Bishop Auckland, Barnard Castle, Willington and Ferryhill: W. Turner (Ardwick), Ltd., Ardwick, Manchester. Thornton (Bradford) & Bingley: W. Turner (Ardwick), Ltd., Ardwick, Manchester. Birmingham-Redditch-Evesham: F. Mitchell & Son, Ltd., Manchester. Lapworth (Warwickshire): F. Mitchell & Son, Ltd., Manchester. Coventry: F. Mitchell & Son, Ltd., Manchester. Whitefield (South): W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Warrington. Heathfield Tower and Hartfield (Sussex): J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., 41, Ebury Bridge Road, S.W. Streat-ham-Balham: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., 41, Ebury Bridge Road, S.W. Rochdale (South): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Pool Street, St. George's Road, Bolton. New Mills (Derbyshire): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Pool Street, St. George's Road, Bolton. Holborn-North Junction: H. Farrow, 1, Russell Parade, Golders Green, N.W. Newcastle-under-Lyme and Silverdale (Staffs): E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Llandudno: Wyatt Bros., Wayland Works, Whitchurch, Salop. Greenford (Middlesex): G. J. Anderson, 26, Lower North Street, Poplar, E. Pett (Hastings) and Crowhurst (Sussex): G. E. Taylor & Co., 7, Suffolk Lane, Cannon Street, E.C. Victoria West, Victoria N, and New Western Exchange: W. Muirhead, Macdonald, Wilson & Co., Ltd., 41, Parliament Street, Westminster, S.W. Knottingley and Castleford: E. A. Greaves, Townville, Castleford. Truro: T. Shaddock, Mutley, Plymouth. Taunton: E. Ireland, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.—**Electric Light and Power Installation:** Birmingham Post Office, Factory Extension: Manley & Regulus, Ltd., Birch Street, Wolverhampton.—**Storage Battery:** Mount Pleasant Sub-Station: The Tudor Accu

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