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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change, on the whole, during May. There was an improvement in the clothing and furnishing trades, but a further marked decline in the coal-mining industry.

Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 25th May, 1925, was 11·2, as compared with 11·2 at 27th April, 1925, and with 9·5 at 26th May, 1924. Among the members of those Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 10·1 at the end of May, 1925, compared with 9·4 at the end of April, 1925, and with 7·0 at the end of May, 1924. The total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 25th May, 1925, was approximately 1,253,000, of whom 963,000 were men and 226,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 27th April, 1925, it was 1,251,000, of whom 948,000 were men and 231,000 were women; at 26th May, 1924, it was 1,057,000, of whom men numbered 786,000 and women 204,000.

Employment was good, on the whole, with coach-builders, upholsterers and brickmakers, with skilled operatives in the building trades, and in the tailoring and dressmaking trades; it was fairly good with cotton weavers, mill-sawyers, brushmakers, in the furnishing, silk and carpet trades, and in some sections of the printing and metal trades. In the wool textile industry, in coal mining, in the iron and steel industry, in tinsplate and steel-sheet manufacture, in the marine and heavy engineering trades, and in the shipbuilding industry, employment continued bad.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported in May resulted in an aggregate reduction of £16,400 in the weekly full-time wages of over 500,000 workpeople and in an aggregate increase of £3,350 in the weekly wages of 36,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced were coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, where there was a slight decrease in the percentage addition to basis rates (amounting to 0·3 per cent. on current rates); and steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, whose wages were reduced by about 1 per cent. on current rates. Other important groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced included iron-ore miners in Cumberland, blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and Scotland, Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales, tinsplate makers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, electrical cable makers, hosiery workers at Hawick, coopers, furniture trade operatives in London, road transport workers in Scotland, leather belt and roller leather makers,

and workpeople employed in the non-trading services of most of the local authorities in London.

Among the workpeople who received increases in rates of wages were heating and domestic engineers, coal miners in the Radstock district, the lower-paid men in ironstone mines in Cleveland, and blastfurnacemen in Lincolnshire. There were also increases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for most classes of workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade.

During the first five months of 1925 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, have resulted in net increases amounting to £70,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 700,000 workpeople and in net reductions of nearly £40,000 in those of nearly 690,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1924 there were net increases of about £480,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,480,000 workpeople and net reductions of £13,500 in the weekly wages of nearly 250,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 2nd June the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 72 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 73 per cent. at 1st May. For food alone the corresponding percentages were 66 and 67 respectively. The fall in the percentages is mainly due to reductions in the prices of butter, milk and sugar in the food group and in the prices of coal.

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in May was 47. In addition, 34 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in May (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 27,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during May was about 202,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 25,000 workpeople involved and 122,000 days lost in the previous month.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first five months of 1925 was about 658,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 102,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1924 were 2,963,000 days and 356,000 workpeople, respectively.

REPORT ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT: [NOVEMBER, 1924.]

THE Ministry of Labour have issued a Report* on an investigation into the personal circumstances and industrial history of 10,903 claimants to unemployment benefit during the week ended 29th November, 1924, all of whom were individually interviewed.† Except for some additional information, and with some minor alterations, the Report is on the same lines as one published in March, 1924‡; and a comparison of the two Reports reveals a remarkable similarity in the results obtained. Where divergencies appear, they may usually be traced either to changes in the unemployment situation, or to administrative changes affecting eligibility for benefit. The principal divergencies are noticed in the Report, under each heading; and in most cases the probable reasons for the divergencies are suggested.

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

Classification by "Employability."—As in the previous inquiry, each person interviewed was classified by the interviewing officer (the Employment Exchange manager or his deputy) according to his degree of employability. Managers were asked to state, from their knowledge or impressions, into which of certain categories each person interviewed fell. The four principal categories were as follows:—

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

With reference to Category (d), it should be noted that persons who were absolutely unemployable would, under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, be excluded from benefit, since it is a statutory condition that, to receive benefit at all, a claimant must be "capable of work." That they were not "unemployable" in the strict sense of the word was shown by their employment records.

62.7 per cent. of the males interviewed were placed in Category (a), and 85.1 per cent. in Categories (a) and (b) taken together; the corresponding figures for females were 77.2 per cent. and 90.2 per cent. Only 3.6 per cent. of the males and 1.4 per cent. of the females were placed in Category (d), and these were very largely made up of elderly or aged persons. Over two-thirds of the men placed in this category, and nearly one-half of the women, were 60 years of age or over. A very large proportion, also, suffered from poor physique, poor health, or some manifest physical defect.

Age of Claimants.—Less than half of the male claimants were under 35, but over three-quarters of the female claimants were under that age. The largest absolute numbers, both of men and of women, of any one age were in the age-group 20-24: the largest numbers relatively to the working population generally were in the age-group 20-24, and in the age-group 55 and over, for men; and in the age-group 18-24, for women. These groups are the same as those which showed the highest figures in the 1923 inquiry.

Marital State of Claimants.—Three-eighths of the males, and nearly three-fifths of the females, were single. There has been an increase, as compared with the last inquiry, in the proportion of married to single women among claimants, in all age-groups from 20 to 44 inclusive. This is presumably due to the removal of the administrative restrictions on the receipt of "uncovenanted" (now "extended") benefit in the case of certain classes of married women in February, 1924. Among the classes affected by this alteration were "married women living with their husbands who were in employment," and whose incomings were, until February, 1924, deemed sufficient to justify the withholding of benefit from the wife.

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

	Physique.			Health.		
	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.
Males ...	67.8	28.1	4.1	76.1	20.3	3.6
Females ...	73.5	24.2	2.3	81.2	16.7	2.1

These figures agree closely with those of the 1923 inquiry. The proportion of persons of poor physique was much higher in Category (d)

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 4s. net.

† The number actually reported on was over 11,000, but this number was reduced for the purpose of tabulation to 10,903, being one in a hundred of the number of claimants at all local offices (including branch offices), at the date of the inquiry. These 10,903 include 8,683 men, 167 boys, 1,957 women, and 96 girls, the ratio of 1 to 100 being preserved in each case.

‡ H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. net. A summary of this Report appeared in the March, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE (pp. 79-80).

—those "verging on the unemployable"—than in Category (a); nearly a third of the males and a quarter of the females in Category (d) were of poor physique.

The health of claimants, both men and women, fell off steadily from the age of 45 onwards; and at 60 and over little more than half the male and two-fifths of the female claimants were described as of "good" health.

Physical Defects.—No apparent physical defect was recorded in the case of 81.0 per cent. of the males and 87.9 per cent. of the females. The defects most frequently recorded were bad eyesight, deafness, lameness, and amputation; the two last-named occurring principally among men who had been of military age at the time of the war. The proportion of persons with some physical defect was much higher among those over 45, and particularly among those over 60, than in the younger age-groups. The proportion of persons with no physical defects was highest in the case of Category (a) and lowest in Category (d). Category (c) included a large proportion of men who were lame or maimed, or suffered from miscellaneous physical defects.

Age of Leaving School and of Starting Work.—93.9 per cent. of the boys and young men under 30, and 93.1 per cent. of the girls and young women, had left school before turning 15; 90.4 per cent. of the boys and young men, but only 69.4 per cent. of the girls and young women, had started work before turning 15. The inference is that the boys and young men interviewed had entered employment almost immediately after leaving school, but that the girls who had left school at 14 did not, in general, enter employment until some time afterwards.

The great majority (about 95 and 94 per cent., respectively) of the boys and girls had attended only elementary schools.

Apprenticeship and Training.—Of the males interviewed, 23.1 per cent. were stated to have been apprenticed, 24.6 per cent. trained, and 51.7 per cent. neither apprenticed nor trained; the corresponding figures for females were 11.1, 53.3 and 35.6 per cent., respectively. It is pointed out in the Report that "training" in the case of a woman often means something more meagre and casual than in the case of a man.

Casuals and Non-Casuals.—A new feature of the 1924 inquiry was a question whether each claimant was a casual worker; and, if not, whether he or she was definitely out of work or only suspended or "stood off." Of the male claimants, 11.6 per cent. were casual workers, 75.5 per cent. were definitely out of a situation, and 12.9 per cent. were suspended or "stood off"; the corresponding percentages for females were 1.2, 69.0, and 29.8. The high proportion of female claimants who were returned as suspended or "stood off" is probably due in part to the working of short time in the cotton industry at the date of the inquiry. Category (a) has a disproportionately small percentage of casuals (5.0 per cent. among males and 0.4 per cent. among females), and a disproportionately high percentage suspended or "stood off" (18.9 and 34.4 per cent., respectively). Category (b), which contains the men who would, in normal times, obtain a fair amount of employment, but not steady employment, contains a disproportionately high percentage of casuals (24.9 per cent., for males).

Number of Dependants.—55.3 per cent. of the males, but only 10.6 per cent. of the females, had dependants; the average number of dependants in the case of those who had dependants was 2.6 in the case of males and 1.5 in the case of females.

The proportions drawing Dependants' Benefit, however, were smaller—47.6 per cent. in the case of males, and 2.1 per cent. in the case of females. Of the men drawing Dependants' Benefit and having dependent children, 34.7 per cent. drew benefit in respect of only one child, 27.9 per cent. in respect of two children, 17.1 per cent. in respect of three children, and 20.3 per cent. in respect of four or more children.

"Standard" and "Extended" Benefit.—Another new feature of the 1924 inquiry was the examination of the claims of the persons interviewed to ascertain whether they were authorised in respect of "standard" or of "extended" benefit, or, if the claim was not authorised, the reason therefor. ("Standard" benefit is benefit payable in proportion to the number of contributions standing to the claimant's credit; and "extended" benefit is benefit payable to claimants who have not sufficient contributions to their credit to entitle them to receive standard benefit, or who have exhausted their rights to standard benefit for the benefit year, or who have not satisfied the condition that at least 20 contributions must have been paid in respect of the claimant since the beginning of the insurance year next before the beginning of this benefit year.)

In the case of males it was found that 95.1 per cent. of the claims were authorised for benefit and 4.9 per cent. not so authorised. Of the authorised claims slightly under one-half were authorised for "standard" benefit and slightly over one-half for "extended" benefit. For females, 6.1 per cent. of the claims were not authorised, and of the authorised claims approximately two-thirds were authorised for "standard" and one-third for "extended" benefit. The higher proportion of "extended" benefit among men is attributed, partly (i) to the greater severity of unemployment in men's trades than in women's trades, partly (ii) to the greater opportunity of offering alternative employment in the case of women, and partly (iii) to the large proportion of ex-servicemen who had not had the opportunity of qualifying for "standard" benefit.

The proportion of "standard" to "extended" benefit falls, both for men and for women, in correspondence with the descending grades of employability.

The principal cause of non-authorisation of benefit was that the "waiting period" had not been satisfied.

Contributions and Benefit.—The average number of contributions paid by the claimants since their entry into insurance was 193 for males and 139 for females, and the average number of days' benefit drawn during the same period was 381 for males and 177 for females; that is to say, males had drawn 1.98 days' benefit per contribution paid, and females 1.27. The least benefit in proportion to contributions was drawn, among males, by boys under 18, and the most by men of 25-29 years of age. Among females, the least benefit was drawn by girls and young women from 18 to 29 years of age, and the most by women over 60.

The proportion of benefit drawn to contributions paid rose, with one slight exception, in correspondence with the descending grade of employability. For Category (a) the proportion was 1.68 days' benefit in the case of males and 1.20 days in the case of females; for Category (d) the proportions were almost exactly double, viz., 3.13 days and 2.39 days, respectively.

The proportion of benefit drawn to contributions paid is largely affected by the question whether the claimant first came into insurance under the original Insurance Act of 1911, or under the Acts of 1916 or of 1920; and also (in the case of males) by the interruption of contributions by military service. Of the males, 21.7 per cent. entered under the 1911 Act, 25.3 per cent. under the 1916 Act, and 53.0 under the 1920 Act. The corresponding figures for females were 1.5, 15.8, and 82.7. The absence from industry on military service of the younger men who entered insurance under the 1911 Act reduced the number of contributions paid by them, and thereby increased their ratio of benefit drawn to contributions paid, and "in general, it is the fewer contributions paid, and not the more days' benefit drawn, which causes the benefit per contribution to vary widely."

The "One-in-Six" Rule.—Under the Act of 1920 an insured person might claim, provided he was not otherwise disqualified, one week's benefit for every six contributions paid. It is shown in the Report that 68.3 per cent. of the males, and 48.2 per cent. of the females, had drawn more benefit than they would have been entitled to under the "one-in-six" rule. The excess was highest among men and women of 60 and over, and among men aged 25-29.

The excess was highest among those in Category (d) and lowest among those in Category (a); the figures were 87.9 per cent. and 61.5 per cent., respectively, in the case of males, and 65.5 per cent. and 47.0 per cent., respectively, in the case of females.

Poor Law Relief.—Information was obtained from the Poor Law authorities as to whether the claimant was in receipt of poor relief, and, if so, at what weekly rate. It was found that 4.7 per cent. of the males, and only 0.3 per cent. of the females, were in receipt of such relief. The heaviest proportions of male claimants in receipt of poor relief were between the ages of 25 and 44; in the age-groups 30-34 and 35-44 between 9 and 10 per cent. of the male claimants were in receipt of relief. The commonest cases were of men drawing from 23s. to 31s. a week in benefit (i.e., man and wife, or man, wife, and from one to four children), and also receiving poor relief ranging from 2s. 6d. to 10s. a week.

There has been a great diminution, since the 1923 inquiry, in the number of persons receiving simultaneously unemployment benefit and poor relief; last year no fewer than 10.3 per cent. of the males were in this position. The reduction is no doubt associated with the increase in the rate of unemployment benefit (from 15s. to 18s. in the case of men, from 12s. 6d. to 15s. in the case of women, and from 1s. to 2s. in the case of dependent children), and in the granting of dependants' benefit in respect of two classes of dependants not previously admitted.

How Long Unemployed?—An analysis was made of the total number of contributions paid by the claimants interviewed since 3rd July, 1922, the beginning of the 1922-23 insurance year; and it was found that 4.7 per cent. of the claimants who had entered insurance before that date had had no insured employment whatever since then. The proportions according to categories were 3.0 per cent. in Category (a), 4.6 per cent. in Category (b), 12.7 per cent. in Category (c), and 20.1 per cent. in Category (d). The proportion of male claimants who had had no insured employment was more than twice as great among men of 60 and over than among those in the other age-groups.

Taking males of all ages and categories together, it was found that 23.3 per cent. had done some insured employment in from 0 to 29 of the 125 weeks of the period—this, of course, includes those (mentioned above) who had had no insured employment at all; 22.7 per cent. had done some insured employment in from 30 to 59 weeks; 23.5 per cent. in from 60 to 89 weeks; and 30.5 per cent. in from 90 to 125 weeks. These proportions are considerably better than those found in the 1923 inquiry.

Ex-Service and Non-ex-Service.—The men between the ages of 20 and 55 were found to be almost equally divided between ex-service and non-ex-service, the figures being 3,111 ex-service and 3,248 non-ex-service. There was only a slight difference in degree of employability between these two classes, the figures for the four principal classes being:—

	Categories.			
	A.	B.	C.	D.
Ex-Service ...	66.0	25.6	4.6	1.1
Non-ex-Service ...	71.9	19.0	3.3	1.0

Confining the analysis to those between the ages of 20 and 45, who had entered insurance before the 3rd July, 1922, the following result was obtained:—

Contributions since 3rd July, 1922.				Ex-Service.	Non-ex-Service.
				Per cent.	Per cent.
0-29 weeks ...	...	...	...	22.8	17.7
30-59 " ...	...	...	...	24.3	21.8
60-89 " ...	...	...	...	22.9	24.4
90-125 " ...	...	...	...	30.0	36.1
				100.0	100.0

It will be seen that the non-ex-service men had had a somewhat better industrial history than the ex-service men, but the difference is not substantial. In both classes it was found that the claimants interviewed had a better industrial history in 1924 than in 1923; for example, the ex-service men who had had 60 or more weeks' employment (as expressed by contributions) were 52.9 per cent. in 1924, as compared with 44.5 per cent. in 1923. For civilians the corresponding percentages were 60.5 and 49.4.

Trustworthiness of Sample.—In respect of male claimants the 21 industry groups with the largest number of insured workpeople were represented by 75.6 per cent. of the claimants interviewed, and accounted for 76.7 per cent. of the total number of unemployed insured males at about the same date. The same close correspondence was found in each industry-group taken singly, the most marked deviation being in coal mining, where the sample, to be strictly representative, should have been 11.7, instead of 8.3 per cent. of the total number of male claimants interviewed. The explanation probably is that the inquiry was confined to Employment Exchanges, the Branch Employment offices of the Ministry being excluded; and it so happens that a large number of the collieries shut down or suspended were in the areas of Branch Employment offices, particularly in South Wales and Monmouthshire and in Northumberland and Durham.

The following Table shows, for males, the representation of the seven principal industries in the sample and in the total number unemployed at the date of the inquiry:—

	1 per cent. Sample.	Total Unemployed.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Coal mining ...	8.3	11.7
Engineering, etc....	9.3	9.1
Building ...	8.6	8.1
Shipbuilding and ship-repairing ...	7.5	7.5
Distributive trades ...	6.9	6.1
Canal, river, dock, etc., service...	4.8	5.3
Steel melting and iron puddling furnaces, iron and steel rolling mills and forges	4.4	5.0
All other industries ...	50.2	47.2
	100.0	100.0

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE RESEARCH BOARD: FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued their fifth annual Report*, for the year ending 31st December, 1924.

The first part of the Report is mainly devoted to an account of the investigations and researches in which the Board has been engaged. Among the subjects dealt with are rest-pauses in repetition work; accident causation; the design of machinery; the physiology of ventilation; the speed with which proficiency can be attained in industrial occupations; sickness in cotton weaving sheds (with special reference to artificial humidification); weight lifting and carrying; telegraphists' cramp; lighting of factories, etc.; employment of females as placers and as dippers in the pottery industry; vocational selection† and guidance of children entering industry, etc., etc.

The Board express some disappointment that the suggestion made in their last annual Report,‡ that a small committee, representative of employers and workmen, should be formed in each important industry to deal with questions affecting the human factor, and to test experimentally the conclusions reached by the Board and by the Institute of Industrial Psychology, has not been more generally taken up. They again emphasise two features of their work which have clearly emerged during the last six years, viz., (i) that the worker's well-being is not antagonistic to production, but that, on the contrary, maximum production is contingent on maximum fitness on the part of the worker; and (ii) that it is doubtful whether the extent of the loss which arises from the present indifference to the physiological and psychological aspects of industry is fully realised. It has been estimated, for example, that the loss of time due to sickness, most of which is preventable, probably costs the country not less than ten times more than that which it loses owing to strikes and labour disputes.

Appended to the Report proper are six personal contributions from investigators, on learning curves in industry (i.e., rate of attaining proficiency); exceptional work curves (as shown, for example, by "nervy" or over-anxious persons); tests of accident proneness; industrial sickness; output as a test of industrial efficiency; and personal evidence as data.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 9d. net.

† In this connection, reference may be made to a Report on "Performance Tests of Intelligence," by Frances Gaw, B.A., recently issued by the Board (Report No. 31, H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net).

‡ See the June, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE (p. 197).

PROFIT-SHARING AND CO-PARTNERSHIP IN 1924.

A Report on Profit-Sharing and Labour Co-Partnership, prepared by the Ministry of Labour in 1919,* gave an account of the progress of the Profit-Sharing and Labour Co-Partnership movement in this country up to October in that year, together with statistics showing the results of the operation of profit-sharing and co-partnership schemes up to and including the year 1918. In the issues of this GAZETTE for July, 1920, September, 1921, October, 1922, September, 1923, and September, 1924, supplementary statistics were given relating to the operation of schemes (other than schemes in Co-operative Societies) in subsequent years up to and including 1923. Enquiries have now been made as to the schemes in operation in 1924, and the information collected is summarised below. The figures relate only to definite schemes under which employees participate in profits on some pre-arranged basis; schemes consisting in the giving of bonuses or gratuities at the discretion of the employer without any specified basis, and schemes providing for bonuses which depend on output, sales, etc., and not on profits, are therefore excluded from these statistics.

NUMBER OF SCHEMES IN OPERATION.

According to the returns received in connection with the enquiries made this year, 225 firms in Great Britain and Northern Ireland were practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of 1924; six of these firms had each two separate schemes. In addition there were five schemes as to which no recent returns have been received, but which are still in existence, so far as is known to the Department; making totals of 230 firms and 236 schemes. Six other schemes were suspended, though not definitely terminated, at the end of 1924.

The number of workpeople employed by the 225 firms covered by the returns received was about 340,000, of whom it is estimated that about 172,000 were eligible to participate in the benefits conferred by the schemes. It should be observed that in the case of a considerable number of schemes, such participation is available only to those who are able and willing to deposit savings with the firm, or to purchase shares in the undertaking. In most schemes, also, employees have to fulfil certain conditions, such as serving for a minimum period, in order to qualify for benefit.

Of the 225 firms, 37 (employing over 40,000 workpeople) were gas, water or electricity supply undertakings; 32 (employing 57,000 workpeople) were in the engineering, shipbuilding or other metal trades; 33 (employing 32,000 workpeople) were merchants, warehousemen or retail traders; 24 (employing 43,000 workpeople) were textile manufacturing firms; 22 (employing 37,000 workpeople) were food or drink manufacturing firms; 18 (employing 6,000 workpeople) were engaged in paper manufacture, or in printing, bookbinding, etc.; and 13 (employing 43,000 workpeople) were in the chemical, soap, oil, etc. trades. The remaining firms were distributed among a number of different trades.

In the majority of industries the number of schemes which have been started is very small in proportion to the total number of firms engaged in the industry. In many of the groups of industries, also, less than one-half of the schemes started still remain in operation. An exception is the gas industry, in which a large proportion of the principal company-owned undertakings have introduced schemes, comparatively few of which have been terminated.

TYPES OF SCHEME.

In the simplest, and most numerous, type of profit-sharing scheme, the employees' bonus consists of a specified proportion of the profits, or is a sum which automatically rises and falls with the rate of dividend paid on capital. The type of scheme which has been largely adopted by gas companies provides for a bonus on the employees' wages at a rate varying inversely with the price charged for gas. With some gas companies the rate of bonus depends directly upon the rate of dividend paid on the company's capital; such dividends, however, are usually regulated either absolutely or to a considerable extent by the price charged for gas. A type of scheme which has become prominent in recent years consists in the admission of employees to a share in the profits by the issue of employees' shares, either free, or on specially favourable terms as to price or dividend; 37 such schemes are at present known to be in operation. Twenty further schemes are based on arrangements for the payment of interest, at a rate varying with the profits, on money deposited with the firm by its employees.

The majority of schemes provide for the payment of employees' bonuses in cash, or in credits to savings or deposit accounts from which amounts may readily be withdrawn. In 16 cases (including six gas companies) the whole bonus is retained for investment in the capital of the undertaking, or the bonus itself is paid in the form of shares. In other cases the bonus is partly invested in this way; gas companies account for no fewer than 30 out of 37 such cases. In nine schemes the bonus is wholly set aside for provident purposes, superannuation, etc.

BONUSES PAID UNDER CERTAIN SCHEMES.

In the case of a considerable number of schemes information has been collected as to the bonuses paid or credited to employees. For

certain schemes, however, these particulars cannot be obtained, owing in some cases to the firms' inability to furnish the required information, and in others to the nature of the scheme itself, which makes it impracticable to state the amount of the bonus and the proportion which it bears to earnings. Where, for example, shares are allotted to employees on specially favourable terms, the "bonus" is that part of the dividends on the shares which represents the advantage given to the employees over other shareholders—an advantage sometimes almost insusceptible of exact calculation.

The following Table gives details of the bonuses paid or credited during 1924 under 174 schemes, for which these particulars can be given:—

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

Percentage Addition made by Bonus to Earnings.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Total number of Employees.	Number of Employees participating in 1924.*	Amount of Bonus paid (or credited) in 1924.
Nil	47	55,496	19,457	£ Nil.
Under 2 per cent. {	39	17,710	15,360	Nil.
2 and under 4 per cent. {	12	27,877	16,082	63,260
4 " 6 " {	9	15,299	14,189	61,639
6 " 8 " {	19	26,319	18,397	95,952
8 " 10 " {	29	30,844	28,080	217,226
10 " 12 " {	18	8,125	7,282	71,113
12 " 16 " {	7	5,265	4,346	52,622
16 " 20 " {	10	14,392	8,039	130,366
20 per cent. or over ... {	2	197	177	2,775
Percentage not stated {	2	648	547	14,980
	9	5,530	4,602	150,175
	19	82,725	42,497	421,534
	13	50,347	37,545	412,841
Total ... {	174	257,418	149,506	1,220,003
	157	174,676	138,564	1,209,689

The results of the same schemes, showing the average bonuses paid in each of a number of groups of industries, are shown below:—

Industry or Business.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Number of Employees participating in 1924.*	Average amount of Bonus per head.†	Average Percentage Addition to Earnings.†
Agriculture	5	205	£ s. d. 1 10 6	Per cent. 1.7
Engineering, Shipbuilding, and other Metal {	24	14,415	1 9 10	1.4
Textile {	17	10,174	2 0 5	2.3
Food and Drink (manufacture) ... {	18	11,498	4 1 2	3.4
Paper, Printing, Bookbinding, Publishing, etc. ... {	15	10,055	4 11 0	3.8
Glass, Chemical, Soap, Oil, Paint, etc. ... {	19	16,340	9 12 3	7.3
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ... {	16	18,518	9 18 10	7.5
Insurance and Banking {	16	4,268	7 15 0	5.8
Merchants, Warehousemen and Retail Traders ... {	15	4,101	8 1 3	6.1
Other Businesses ... {	11	24,223	9 3 5	6.1
	10	24,132	9 3 6	6.1
	36	35,437	7 8 9	4.6
	35	35,239	7 9 6	4.6
	4	24,633	12 0 9	†
Total ... {	19	5,042	15 1 2	9.8
	22	10,445	7 2 3	7.6
	21	6,465	10 12 5	7.6
	174	149,506	8 3 2	4.9
	157	138,564	8 14 7	5.2

It will be seen from the foregoing Tables that of the 257,418 workpeople employed by the firms in question, 149,506 (or under 60 per cent.) were entitled to participate in profits in 1924. But if the "deposit" schemes be excluded (see note at head of preceding Tables) the proportion was about 80 per cent. The actual recipients of bonuses in 1924 under these 174 schemes numbered only 130,049; this resulted from the fact that in about one-quarter of the total number of schemes no bonus was payable in consequence of insufficient profits.

The average amount of bonus paid, or credited, per head under the 174 schemes in 1924 was £8 3s. 2d., as compared with £7 7s. 1d. in 175 schemes in 1923. It is not possible in certain cases to express the bonus as a percentage addition to the earnings of those participating, but, averaging all the schemes for which this information is available, the bonuses in 1924 and 1923 represented additions to earnings of 4.9 per cent. and 5.1 per cent. respectively. In calculating these averages, schemes which failed to pay a bonus, numbering 47 in 1924 and 59 in 1923, have been included.

As was the case in 1923, a comparatively high rate of bonus was paid in 1924 by firms in the groups "merchants, warehousemen and retail traders" (£15 1s. 2d. per head), "food and drink manufacture"

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

† Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included for the purpose of calculating the average amount of bonus per head, and the average percentage addition to earnings; but in calculating the latter figure it has been necessary to omit certain schemes in which the percentage could not be stated.

‡ Not available.

(£9 12s. 3d. per head), "glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc., manufacture" (£9 3s. 5d. per head), and "insurance and banking" (£12 0s. 9d. per head). Gas companies showed an improvement as compared with 1923, the average bonus per head having increased from £6 4s. 6d. to £7 8s. 9d. Metal, engineering and shipbuilding firms again paid a low rate of bonus, averaging £1 9s. 10d. per head; and in one-half of the schemes the employees received no bonus at all. Of the five schemes in agriculture, two failed to pay a bonus, and the average for all five schemes amounted to only £1 10s. 6d. per head.

NEW SCHEMES IN 1924.

The following Table briefly summarises the particulars of six new schemes which have come to the notice of the Department as having been introduced during the year 1924 :—

Industry or Business.	Approximate Number of Employees.	Type of Scheme.
Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery manufacture.	10,800	Annual allocation to a "Welfare Fund" of a sum equivalent to the average of the dividends (free of income tax) payable annually during the previous three years on an assumed block of shares. The Welfare Fund is utilised in the first place to supplement earnings of all employees on short time, and any balance is divided (in cash) among those employees with at least five years' service.
Woolcombing ...	3,300	Deposits up to a maximum limit received from employees, interest being paid at a rate not less than the rate of dividend on Ordinary Shares, and in any case not less than 5 per cent. per annum.
Manufacture of Mustard, Starch, Blue, etc.	2,800	After payment of 8 per cent. on capital and setting aside sums, within specified limits, to reserve, one-half of the remaining profits is allotted to an "Employees' Fund." Part of this fund is utilised to assist employees temporarily unemployed or on short time, and the remainder is divided among employees according to earnings and length of service.
Gas Works ...	90	Bonus on wages and salaries at a rate varying inversely with the price charged for gas. One half of the bonus is retained for investment in the Company's stock and the remaining half is credited to a withdrawable account.
Butcher, Poulterer, etc.	50	Ordinary shares set aside for free distribution to employees.
Carton and Folding Box manufacture.	50	One half of excess of profits over a certain fixed limit is divided (in cash), at quarterly intervals, among employees in proportion to earnings.

SCHEMES DISCONTINUED IN 1924.

The following Table gives brief details of six schemes reported to have been terminated in 1924 :—

Date of starting.	Industry or Business.	Approximate No. of Employees.	Reasons for termination.
1907 ...	General Merchants	2	Lack of financial success and sale of part of business.
1912 ...	Gas Works ...	200	Transfer of business.
1918 ...	Farming ...	8	Transfer of business.
1920 ...	Merchants ...	20	Abandoned in favour of higher wages, by agreement with employees.
1920 ...	Steel manufacture	400	Depression in trade, resulting in withdrawal of deposits by employees.
1920 ...	Textile manufacture	400	Expiration of specified period during which scheme was to operate.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

For a period of about two years immediately following the war—a period of great industrial activity—there was a marked advance in the profit-sharing movement; but this advance received a severe check in the succeeding period of industrial depression. Thus in 1919 the number of schemes known to have been introduced was 51, and in 1920 a further 50 schemes were started; only 13 schemes, however, were brought to the notice of the Department as coming into existence in 1921; while in 1922, 1923 and 1924 the numbers so reported were, respectively, only seven, eight and six. Nine schemes were discontinued in 1919, thirteen in 1920, ten in 1921, six in 1922, ten in 1923 and six in 1924.

The following Table shows the total number of firms known to have been practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of each of the years 1913-24 and the total number of schemes in operation in connection with these firms; and also gives particulars, so far as available, of the average bonus paid. As explained above, it is not possible in the case of a number of schemes to obtain statistics of bonuses paid, and the figures given in the last two columns therefore relate only to certain schemes for which this information is available.

Year.	No. of Firms.*	No. of Schemes.*	Bonuses paid under Schemes for which details are available.		
			Number of Schemes.	Average Amount per head.†	Average Percentage addition to earnings.‡
1913	144	146	111	£ s. d.	Per cent.
1914	155	159	117	5 6 0	5.9
1915	154	158	99	5 4 9	6.7
1916	146	151	101	3 18 0	5.3
1917	149	155	105	3 4 3	4.6
1918	153	158	107	3 15 2	5.3
1919	196	200	120	3 13 9	5.1
1920	231	237	155	5 0 8	4.9
1921	231	237	175	9 18 9	6.4
1922	235	240	175	6 14 5	3.6
1923	231	237	175	6 6 9	3.9
1924	230	236	174	7 7 1	5.1
				8 3 2	4.9

Of a total of 493 schemes of profit-sharing that are known to have been adopted up to the end of 1924, slightly under one-half were still in operation at the end of that year. Although a large number of existing schemes are of comparatively recent origin, four have been in operation for over 50 years, and 30 for over 25 years; slightly over 100 (or about 44 per cent.) date from before the war.

The following Table shows the total number of schemes started in various periods, the number of such schemes no longer in existence, and the number still in operation at the end of 1924 :—

Period in which started.	Total schemes started.	Schemes discontinued by end of 1924.	Schemes suspended at end of 1924.	Schemes still in operation at end of 1924.*
Up to 1880	35	30	...	5
1881-90	79	67	1	11
1891-1900	77	63	...	14
1901-05	26	19	...	7
1906-10	55	22	2	31
1911-15	64	22	2	40
1916-18	22	6	1	15
1919-20	101	21	...	80
1921-22	20	1	...	19
1923	8	...	...	8
1924	6	...	...	6
Total	493	251	6	236

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

THE London Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment, appointed by the Minister of Labour on the 5th March, 1924,† have presented their first annual Report.§

The Report gives a historical survey of the steps which have been taken in the past to meet the need for guidance and assistance to boys and girls leaving school to enter industrial life, and a synopsis of the present procedure adopted in regard to the entry of juveniles into employment through the agency of the Juvenile Advisory Committees, of which there are 22, one for each of the Employment Exchange areas in London.

In a review of the activities of the Council and of the Juvenile Advisory Committees the Report states that there are approximately 900 elementary schools in the administrative county of London, from which some 60,000 boys and girls go each year to enter industrial life. During the twelve months covered by the Report approximately 59,000 boys and girls were placed in work with the assistance of the local Juvenile Advisory Committees and of the officers of the Juvenile Departments of the Employment Exchanges. These figures, however, relate to the whole age period from 14 to 18 years, and only about a quarter of these placings relate to the first entry into employment of boys and girls fresh from school; in most cases the applicants had already been in work, which might or might not have been found for them by the Committees.

The industrial supervision of young persons who have been placed in employment is carried out largely in conjunction with visits to employers for the purpose of obtaining the notification of vacancies, etc. Over 25,000 such visits have been paid during the year.

A special Committee was appointed by the Council to examine the particulars recorded in respect of every tenth boy or girl on the registers of Employment Exchanges in London, and to compare the results so obtained with information contained in a Report to the London Education Committee in October, 1924. The following is a summary of some of the principal conclusions of this special Committee :—

(i) Unemployment over the whole juvenile period (14-18) might be estimated to have been for some time in the neighbourhood of 4 per cent. This showed a very substantial improvement over recent years.

(ii) The Report to the Education Committee showed that, of those included in the inquiry (all of whom had left school for periods

* Certain schemes as to which no recent returns have been received, but which were still in operation when the last return was furnished, are included in this column; schemes reported to have been definitely suspended are excluded.

† Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included for the purpose of calculating the average amount of bonus and the average percentage addition to earnings.

‡ See the March, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE, page 78.

§ H. M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

varying between one and two years, and therefore belonged roughly to the age group 15-16), about 62 per cent. had worked in one place only, and no less than approximately 90 per cent. had worked in not more than two places. The Committee concluded that, on the whole, employment among juvenile workers was considerably more stable than was generally supposed.

(iii) There was little evidence of the supposition that, owing to the operation of Trade Board Rates and of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, juveniles are discharged on reaching the age of 16 to make way for younger and cheaper workers.

(iv) Thirty per cent. of the juveniles on the Exchange registers at the dates of the inquiry were classed as below normal, physically or mentally—though not so far below normal as to be classed as physically or mentally defective—or of inferior type and neglected appearance.

An analysis of the figures obtained as a result of the investigations and extracts from the Report to the Education Committee of the London County Council are given in some detail.

As a consequence of a recommendation of the Council, the Ministry of Labour are preparing two handbooks, one dealing with trades and occupations which afford an opening for boys, and the other with trades and occupations for girls.

The Report concludes with a proposal for a National Consultative Council for Juvenile Employment. The functions of the London Advisory Council are confined to the Administrative County of London, but the questions arising for their consideration are frequently of wider application. Hence, they are conscious of the disability they suffer owing to the absence of any opportunities for conferring with similar advisory bodies in Greater London or in other industrial areas. The National Council which they have in mind would represent the views of the country as a whole on all questions bearing on young persons in industry.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

STANDARD AND EXTENDED BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1st August, 1924, applicants for benefit who satisfy certain statutory conditions and have paid a minimum of 20 contributions since the beginning of the insurance year next before the beginning of their individual benefit year are entitled to benefit for a period not exceeding in the aggregate twenty-six weeks in a benefit year, in the proportion of one week's benefit for every six contributions. Such benefit is termed "Standard" benefit.

Benefit may also be authorised to applicants who have not sufficient contributions to their credit to receive standard benefit, or who have exhausted their rights to standard benefit for the benefit year, or who have not satisfied the condition that at least 20 contributions have been paid since the beginning of the insurance year next before the beginning of their individual benefit year. Such benefit is termed "Extended" benefit. Statistics are not regularly collected in respect of the proportion of applicants authorised for Standard and Extended benefit respectively, but the results of a special inquiry made on 18th May are now available.

The following Table shows the numbers of applicants in Great Britain authorised for standard and extended benefit respectively, together with the numbers of those whose claims had not been authorised at the date of the inquiry:—

	Authorised for		Claims not Authorised.	Total.
	Standard Benefit.	Extended Benefit.		
Men	391,075	409,625	40,944	841,644
Boys	7,923	7,230	2,629	17,782
Women	115,912	51,636	14,163	181,711
Girls	5,377	3,371	1,921	10,669
Total	520,287	471,862	59,657	1,051,806

Of the 1,051,806 claims to benefit current at the date of the inquiry, 59,657, or 5.7 per cent., had not then been authorised. These cases would include applicants who had made their claim so recently that it had not been possible to determine whether they were entitled to benefit, and if so, which class of benefit was to be paid. It would also include a number of cases in which investigation was necessary before benefit could be granted. Excluding such cases the percentage proportions under each class of benefit is as under:—

	Percentage authorised for	
	Standard Benefit.	Extended Benefit.
Men	48.8	51.2
Boys	52.3	47.7
Women	69.2	30.8
Girls	61.5	38.5
Total	52.4	47.6

It will be seen that, while in the total rather more than half the claims were authorised for standard benefit, considerable variation is shown in the details. Thus, in the case of men the proportion is roughly half-and-half, while for women over two-thirds were authorised for standard benefit and rather less than one-third for extended benefit.

FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE fifty-seventh Annual Congress of delegates from Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom was held at Southport on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd June, 1925, and was attended by 1,709 delegates representing 550 Societies. There were also representatives from various outside bodies in the United Kingdom and from co-operative organisations in Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ukraine. The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a federation of about 1,300 Societies, with an aggregate membership of some 4,500,000. The Congress President was Mr. W. E. Dudley, J.P., O.B.E., a director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd.

Several resolutions were passed with regard to co-operative labour conditions. One expressed satisfaction that about sixty Societies had now established superannuation schemes for their employees, and urged all other Societies to follow their example. Another resolution approved a scheme submitted by the Labour Adviser's Committee for the establishment by Societies of Joint Advisory Councils representing the Management Committees of the Societies and their employees, and recommended all Societies to consider the advisability of establishing such Councils. A report on Welfare Work, submitted by the Labour Adviser's Committee, was accepted, and the scheme of welfare work therein was approved, Societies being urged to consider how they could best take action on the lines suggested. On the question of conciliation machinery a resolution was carried in favour of the settlement of all disputes by conciliation and arbitration, and instructing the Labour Adviser's Committee to prepare a scheme for the establishment of machinery for dealing with disputes, and to take all possible steps to that end in conjunction with the Trades Union Congress.

At the 1924 Congress a resolution was carried in favour of the establishment of an agricultural department of the Co-operative Union; at this year's Congress a resolution was passed welcoming the fact that such a department had been set up, and instructing the Union to develop the department "for the help of Societies with agricultural interests, and to establish direct trading relations with the agricultural industry."

On the question of unemployment the following resolution was carried:—

"That this Congress is of the opinion that the continuance of abnormal unemployment in this country, involving from one to two million persons and their dependants for the fifth year in succession, constitutes a serious menace to the industrial efficiency and well-being of the State, and that it calls for exceptional treatment if it is not to be permanent in its character and effect. It considers that the fundamental cause of unemployment is the failure of the existing economic system based on private enterprise, which antagonises the functions and interests of capital and labour, leads to waste, over-production, under-consumption, and the exploitation of the consumer. The co-operative movement places on record its view that unemployment can only be permanently eradicated by the substitution of co-operative methods of production for use in the place of private enterprise; but considers that the volume of unemployment could be lessened by a vigorous home development policy by the Government in the direction of—

- (1) A national scheme for the development of electric power.
- (2) The modernisation of the transport system—national and local.
- (3) An intensive development of agriculture and afforestation.
- (4) The raising of the school age to fifteen years, with maintenance after fourteen years, and the payment of adequate old-age pensions at an earlier age than seventy.
- (5) A genuine peace policy making for disarmament and the restoration of normal trading relations with all nations."

The relations between the Co-operative Political Party and the Labour Party were discussed, and a resolution was carried instructing the Co-operative Party to negotiate a definite arrangement or agreement with the Labour Party regarding constituencies, etc., which would be binding both nationally and locally on both parties.

Another resolution declared that the appointment of a Food Council on the lines suggested by the Royal Commission on Food Prices would exercise no real check upon profiteering and urged the Government to legislate on the matter, and also demanded adequate representation for the Co-operative movement on any bodies established by the State to deal with food supplies and prices.

Other resolutions affirmed adherence to a Free Trade policy, and criticised the Government's Pensions Bill.

The next Congress is to be held in Belfast in Whit-week, 1926.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 28,000 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-service men employed by these firms is approximately 360,000.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 26th May, 1925, the number of men in training was 5,089, and the number awaiting training, 1,302. Since 1st August, 1919, 92,221 men have terminated training.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST
(RESTRICTIONS CONTINUATION)
ACT, 1925.

THE Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions Continuation) Act, 1925,* received the Royal Assent on the 28th May. Under Section 1 of this Act the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, as amended by any subsequent enactment, is continued in force until the 25th December, 1927 (28th May, 1928, in Scotland); and Part II of the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Act, 1923, which deals *inter alia* with the Protection of "sitting" tenants, is continued in force until five years after the expiration of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, so amended as aforesaid.

ARBITRATION FOR THE CIVIL
SERVICE.

FOLLOWING the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider what arrangements could best be made to give practical effect to the acceptance by the Government of the principle of arbitration for the Civil Service, it has now been agreed that the machinery for arbitration will be the Industrial Court established under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919.

Claims in respect of classes with salaries in excess of £700 a year exclusive of bonus (except in cases of classes for which the scale of pay commences at a figure less than £700 a year but rises to a figure above £700 a year, in both cases exclusive of bonus) will not be referred to the Court, unless by the consent of both parties concerned in the claim.

Subject to this limitation, failing agreement by negotiation, arbitration by the Court will be open to Government Departments on the one hand and to recognised Associations of Civil Servants within the scope of the National Whitley Council for the Administrative and Legal Departments of the Civil Service, and of Departmental Whitley Councils allied thereto, on the other hand, on application by either party in regard to certain matters affecting conditions of service.

The matters which may be taken to the Court will be claims affecting the emoluments, weekly hours of work, and leave, of classes of Civil Servants. Cases of individual officers will be excluded. The word "emoluments" means pay, and allowances of the nature of pay, bonus, overtime rates, subsistence rates, travelling and lodging allowances. The word "class" means any well-defined category of Civil Servants who for the purpose of a particular claim occupy the same position, or have a common interest in the claim.

The Court will consist of a Chairman, who will be either the President of the Industrial Court or the Chairman of a Division of the Court, together with one member drawn from a panel of persons appointed to the Industrial Court by the Minister of Labour as representing the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the time being, and one member drawn from a panel of persons appointed to the Industrial Court by the Minister of Labour as representing the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service. Civil Servants, and officials of Associations and Federations of Classes of Civil Servants, will be regarded as ineligible for appointment as members of the Court for this purpose.

The following persons have been appointed Members of the Court:—

Representing the Chancellor of the Exchequer: Sir Andrew Duncan; Mr. D. Milne Watson; Sir Felix J. C. Pole.

Representing the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council: Mr. Frank Hodges; Mr. J. J. Mallon; Miss Madeline Symons; Mr. A. G. Walkden.

WASHINGTON HOURS CONVENTION.

On the 10th June the British Minister of Labour met the German Minister of Labour at Frankfurt-on-Main. The two Ministers had an informal conversation about a number of Labour questions of interest to the two countries. Among other things they discussed the difficulties arising out of the Washington Hours Convention in respect of interpretation, ratification, and enforcement.

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

WORKS COUNCILS IN
LUXEMBURG: NEW DECREE.*

By a Decree of 26th April, 1919, works councils for all industrial undertakings employing at least 50 workers were established in Luxemburg. The powers of these councils were extended by later Decrees, but the whole works councils system was abolished by a Decree of March, 1921. A Decree of 8th May last provides for the establishment (within one month of the coming into force of the Decree) of works committees in all industrial undertakings which regularly employ at least 20 workers. The function of these committees will be to foster a good understanding between employers and workers by a systematic regulation of their common affairs. They are empowered to deal with, and advise the employers on, all questions relating to the material and moral welfare of the workers, in particular the contract of labour, the welfare and other institutions of the undertaking, and problems relating to wages and other working conditions. If a worker is dismissed without notice, the reasons for the dismissal must be communicated to the committee. If changes in the undertaking make the dismissal of a large number of workers necessary, the committee must be informed of it beforehand in time to take the necessary measures. The committees must be consulted on the fixing of wage rates of a permanent and general character, on the working out of collective agreements, the regulation of holidays and apprenticeship, and the drawing up or modification of shop rules. They have also the right to assist the factory inspectors and other competent officials in preventing risks of industrial disease and accident.

The number of workers' representatives is to vary from 1 to 15, according to the size of the undertaking. A deputy must be elected for each member. Sectional committees may also be established, if the main committee thinks it necessary, for the various sections of an undertaking, provided that at least 150 workers are regularly employed in the section. For undertakings consisting of several separate branches, the General Director of Social Welfare and Labour may establish a central committee made up of delegates from the main committees. The functions of the sectional and central committees are similar to those of the main committees.

All workers of 18 years and over, irrespective of nationality and sex, who are in possession of civil rights and who have been occupied for at least 6 continuous months (12 months for foreigners) are eligible to vote. Persons eligible for election must have the same qualifications, but must be over 25, have been employed for 12 continuous months in the undertaking, and have been occupied for at least 3 consecutive years in the industry. All committees are elected for a period of 2 years. The procedure of election is regulated by a special Ministerial Decree of the same date.

The main committee may meet once a month in working hours by giving 24 hours' notice to the management. The chairman of the main committee may convene the sectional committees in working hours not more than six times a year. All other meetings must be held out of working hours. A meeting of the committee must be held if one-third of the members demand it. The employers' representative has also the right to convene the committee. The Government may send an official to meetings of the committee, and this official has the right to speak. The employer has to provide the committee with a room suitable for its meetings. After meetings with the management, a summary of the results obtained must be posted by the management in the factory.

Disputes arising out of the interpretation of the provisions of the Decree shall be decided in the first instance by the competent factory inspector or mining engineer, and, if necessary, shall be referred to the General Director of Social Welfare and Labour, whose decision is final.

Persons contravening the Decree will be liable to a fine of from 51 to 3,000 francs.

The Decree will be administered by the General Director of Social Welfare and Labour.

EXTENSION OF WORKING HOURS IN
BELGIUM.

By a Royal Decree† dated 8th April, 1925, an extension of working hours has been granted to the undermentioned industries, under Article 6 of the Belgian Eight-Hour Day Act of 14th June, 1921, which admits of such extensions in industries in which the period necessary for the execution of work cannot definitely be determined in advance, or in which the materials used are liable to deteriorate during the process of manufacture.

(1) *Manufacture of Glucose.*—100 supplementary hours per annum may be worked, subject to a maximum of two hours a day. Certain categories of workers, including furnace hands, coopers, millers, oil pressers, etc., are excluded.

(2) *Manufacture of Mixtures of Cement and Stone.*—100 supplementary hours per annum may be worked, subject to a maximum of two hours a day.

* Text of Decree supplied in a despatch from H.M. Representative at Brussels, dated 12th May, 1925.

† *Moniteur Belge*, 20-21 April 1925, in a despatch from the Commercial Secretary, Brussels.

WAGES IN GERMANY IN MARCH AND APRIL, 1925.

THE issue of *Wirtschaft und Statistik* (the organ of the Federal Statistical Office) for the second half of May contains statistics of wages in certain important industries in March and April, 1925. The wages are weighted averages based on the rates fixed by collective agreements in the principal centres of the industries concerned. In the case of miners, metal workers, textile workers (male), workers in chemical industries, paper mill workers and railway workers, the rates include a family allowance for a wife and two children.

The hourly rates of wages of skilled and unskilled workers in the various industries are shown in the following Table:—

Industry.	Skilled Workers.		Unskilled Workers.	
	Mar., 1925.	Apr., 1925.	Mar., 1925.	Apr., 1925.
	Pfennige.*	Pfennige.*	Pfennige.*	Pfennige.*
Mining	90.4	92.1	53.2	53.7
Building	93.1	97.9	78.2	82.4
Wood working ...	81.4	83.9	71.0	73.2
Metal	78.6	81.7	53.8	55.5
Textiles:				
Male	57.2	57.2	47.4	47.4
Female	45.3	45.3	35.1	35.1
Chemical	74.5	76.4	63.4	65.1
Paper making ...	58.7	60.4	53.0	54.6
Printing	83.9	83.9	73.2	73.2
Railways	73.5	75.1	58.1	59.6
Weighted average ...	80.6	83.0	57.5	58.9

THE COTTON INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

WAGES AND HOURS, 1912 TO 1924.†

THE Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, Washington, has recently completed an inquiry into wages and hours of labour in the cotton goods manufacturing industry of the United States. The investigations covered 77,995 wage-earners employed in the year 1924 in 114 representative establishments situated in 12 States. Data were extracted from representative pay-rolls during January, February and March, 1924. A general increase in earnings is reported since 1st January, 1923, averaging approximately 13 per cent.; while, as compared with 1913, average hourly earnings in the industry as a whole in 1924 were higher by 151 per cent.

The information given in the Table below shows, for 1924, the average full-time hours worked per week, and the average earnings per hour and per week. Index numbers are added showing the average full-time earnings per week in certain years from 1912 to 1924. (Data were not collected for 1915, 1917, 1919, 1921 and 1923.)

Occupation and Sex.	Average Full-Time Hours per Week, 1924.	Average Earnings per Hour, 1924.	Average Full-Time Earnings per Week, 1924.	Index Numbers of Average Full-Time Earnings per Week (1913 = 100).						
				1912.	1914.	1916.	1918.	1920.	1922.	1924.
MALES.										
Drawing-frame tenders ...	54.9	·295	16.20	99	106	116	180	366	230	257
Speeder tenders	54.3	·394	21.39	97	104	116	175	331	222	245
Spinners, mule	49.1	·746	36.63	99	102	121	169	259	205	235
Spinners, frame	53.2	·369	19.63	101	101	114	167	298	193	243
Slasher tenders	53.0	·467	24.75	102	98	111	155	250	186	205
Loom fixers...	52.9	·553	29.25	99	101	117	168	276	204	226
Weavers ...	52.8	·449	23.71	99	102	119	172	305	210	244
FEMALES.										
Drawing-frame tenders ...	51.3	·311	15.95	96	100	116	175	288	219	245
Speeder tenders	51.2	·411	21.04	98	101	121	175	283	219	244
Spinners, frame	53.1	·319	16.94	95	102	112	176	302	216	231
Weavers ...	51.8	·429	22.22	100	100	120	168	286	211	239
Trimmers or inspectors...	52.7	·268	14.12	100	100	113	161	269	202	221
ALL OCCUPATIONS AND BOTH SEXES COMBINED†	} ...	...	...	99	101	118	176	292	205	231

The above Table shows that the full weekly earnings for the industry were 192 per cent. higher in 1920 than in 1913, that is, nearly three times as high, and 131 per cent. higher in 1924 than in 1913, which indicates a decrease from 1920 to 1924 of approximately 21 per cent., but still leaves the weekly earnings more than twice as high as in 1913.

* 100 pfennige = 1 Reichsmark = (approximately) 1s.

† *Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics*, No. 371: Wages and Hours of Labour in Cotton Goods Manufacturing, 1924.

‡ Including occupations not shown in the Table.

TRADE UNIONS IN CANADA: LATEST STATISTICS.

THE Fourteenth Annual Report on Labour Organisation in Canada, relating to the calendar year 1924, shows that the slight gain in trade union membership recorded for 1923 has been followed by a decline.

The report states that in 1911 there were 133,132 members in all labour organisations. At the close of 1913 the corresponding total was 175,799. During the following three years the membership fluctuated, but in 1917 rose to 204,630; the highest level reached was in 1919, when there were 378,047 trade unionists in Canada. During the three following years this total showed a decline, being 276,621 at the close of 1922, 278,092 at the end of 1923 and 260,643 at the end of 1924.

The following Table shows the number of members and local branches in the various groups of organisations in 1924:—

	Branches.	Membership.
International*	2,034	201,981
Non-international	268	21,761
Independent Units	33	11,901
National and Catholic	94	25,000
Total	2,429	260,643

According to the trades followed, the railway employees stand first with about 29 per cent. of the total; the building trades second with slightly over 10 per cent.; public employees, personal service and amusement trades third with rather less than 10 per cent. The percentages of other principal groups stand as follows:—Mining and quarrying 9, other transportation and navigation trades 8, metal trades 6, clothing, boot and shoe trades 5, printing and paper-making trades 5.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR ESTABLISHED FOR SOUTH AFRICA.†

ON the 24th July, 1924, a Ministry of Labour was established by the Government of the Union of South Africa. The new Department assumes several of the functions affecting labour which were exercised by various other departments. It has, for example, taken over from the Labour Division of the Mines and Industries Department the administration of the Industrial Conciliation Act, the Apprenticeship Act, the Juveniles Act, and the Regulation of Wages Act.

The matters with which the new Ministry will be primarily concerned are the following:—(1) employment generally, including Government and relief works; (2) conciliation boards, industrial councils, the registration of trade unions and employers' organisations, private registry offices, etc.; (3) juvenile affairs; (4) apprenticeship; (5) wages boards; (6) International Labour Office affairs; and (7) factories.

In order that the Ministry may get into effective touch with the views of people outside the range of its own machinery and personnel, an Advisory Council, representative of various national interests, has been appointed by the Minister of Labour to investigate and advise upon the problems of labour and unemployment. This Council is an advisory body only, and is not responsible for the policy of the Ministry.

The Ministry has also a local organisation. In eight of the principal centres of the Union—the Cape Peninsula, Port Elizabeth, East London, Kimberley, Durban, Witwatersrand, Pretoria and Bloemfontein—employment exchanges exist, each under the control of an Inspector of Labour. Besides acting as local employment offices, they also keep in touch with general labour and industrial conditions. The inspectors are, in fact, the executive agents of the Ministry in their respective areas. Subsidiary employment exchanges exist at a number of other points, and these are regularly visited by officers of the Department. Moreover, as the result of an arrangement entered into with the Post Office authorities, a large number of post offices throughout the Union will act as employment exchanges. In this way it is considered that a network of information offices and employment exchanges will be available in every part of the country.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE Advisory Council of the Ministry of Labour of the South African Government was recently charged with the consideration of the question of unemployment in the Union. The Committee appointed to deal with the matter has now presented its Report.† The main recommendations of the Committee relate to the classification and registration of the unemployed, methods of securing complete information as to unemployment, methods of dealing with the unemployed and the responsibilities for administration. The essence of the scheme recommended is a uniform grading and classification, a gradual collection and final sorting of the unemployed, and a reasoned and comprehensive plan of action designed to give the maximum of encouragement and assistance with a minimum of compulsion.

* That is, organisations having jurisdiction over the United States as well as Canada.

† *The Official Labour Gazette of the Union of South Africa*, Vol. I., No. 1, April, 1925. Pretoria.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 2nd JUNE.*

Summary : Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	72%
Food only	...	...	66%

FOOD.

At 2nd June* the average level of retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a slight decline as compared with that at 1st May. This decline was mainly attributable to reductions in the prices of butter, milk and sugar.

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 was about 66 per cent. at 2nd June, as compared with about 67 per cent. at 1st May and 60 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1924.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st May and 2nd June, 1925 :—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest ½d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 2nd June, 1925, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st May, 1925.	2nd June, 1925.	July, 1914.	1st May, 1925.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ...	s. d. 0 10	s. d. 1 6	s. d. 1 6	+ 0 8	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3½	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 7½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 3½	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	0 10½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 10	...
Breast ...	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 5	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 6½	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 6	...
Breast ...	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	...
Bacon (streaky)†	0 11½	1 6	1 6½	+ 0 7	+ 0 0½
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 7½	1 7½	+ 0 8½	...
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 4½	...
Tea ...	1 6½	2 5½	2 5½	+ 0 11½	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3½	0 3½	+ 0 1½	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 2	— 0 0½
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 2½	2 0	1 10½	+ 0 8½	— 0 1½
Salt ...	1 2½	1 10½	1 9½	+ 0 7½	— 0 0½
Cheese‡ ...	0 8	1 2	1 1½	+ 0 5	— 0 0½
Margarine ...	0 7	0 7½	0 7½	+ 0 0½	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 1½	0 1½	+ 0 0½	...
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 5½	...

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 2nd June, 1925, as compared with July, 1914.			Corre- sponding figure for 1st May, 1925.
	Large Towns (Popula- tions over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs ...	82	77	80	80
Thin Flank ...	49	52	50	50
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	47	44	45	46
Thin Flank ...	17	18	18	18
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	99	97	98	98
Breast ...	82	74	78	79
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	93	81	87	88
Breast ...	37	35	36	37
Bacon (streaky)†	66	62	64	62
Fish ...	131	101	116	112
Flour ...	79	84	82	82
Bread ...	83	80	82	83
Tea ...	58	63	60	60
Sugar (granulated) ...	86	77	82	88
Milk ...	56	65	61	67
Butter—				
Fresh ...	55	58	57	65
Salt ...	53	54	53	58
Cheese‡ ...	58	61	60	63
Margarine ...	7	1	4	4
Eggs (fresh) ...	34	25	30	27
Potatoes ...	132	96	114	113
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	68	64	66	67

* As 1st June fell on Whit Monday, the statistics relate to 2nd June.

† 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.

§ The decrease between 1st May and 2nd June was very small, but sufficient to lower the average as expressed to the nearest farthing.

|| Decrease of about ½d.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 2nd June, 1925, 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 2nd June the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged about 130 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. Details with regard to the increases in the prices of clothing since 1914 were given on pages 156-7 of the May, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE.

In the *fuel and light* group the retail price of coal was reduced in many districts; at 2nd June the average price was between 85 and 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. The price of gas remained about 50 per cent. above the pre-war level, and the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches also showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 2nd June, as compared with July, 1914, was about 80 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 2nd June is, approximately, **72 per cent.**† over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 73 per cent. at 1st May and 69 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1924.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1925 as in 1914) is to show the *average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families* (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1925.

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, etc.)

Month (beginning of)	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80
February ...	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79
March ...	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79
April ...	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75
May ...	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73
June ...	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72
July ...	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	...
August ...	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	...
September ...	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	...
October ...	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	...
November ...	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	...
December ...	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	...

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.

* See note * in previous column.

† If allowance is made for the changes in taxation on commodities since July, 1914, the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change, on the whole, during May. There was an improvement in the clothing and furnishing trades, but a further marked decline in the coal mining industry. Employment was good with coachbuilders, upholsterers, and brickmakers, with skilled operatives in the building trades, and in the tailoring and dressmaking trades; it was fairly good with cotton weavers, mill-sawyers, brushmakers, in the furnishing, silk, and carpet trades, and in some sections of the printing and metal trades. In the wool textile industry, in coal mining, in the iron and steel industry, in tinplate and steel sheet manufacture, in the marine and heavy engineering trades, and in the shipbuilding industry employment continued bad.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000 and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 25th May, 1925, was 11.2, the same percentage as at 27th April, 1925. At 26th May, 1924, the percentage unemployed was 9.5. For males alone the percentage at 25th May was 12.1, as compared with 12.0 at 27th April; for females the figure at 25th May was 8.9, as compared with 9.1 at 27th April. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage of unemployed was 10.1 at the end of May, 1925, compared with 9.4 at the end of April, and with 7.0 at the end of May, 1924. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered* at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 25th May, 1925, was approximately 1,253,000, of whom 963,000 were men and 226,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 27th April, 1925, it was 1,251,000, of whom 948,000 were men and 231,000 were women; and at 26th May, 1924, it was 1,057,000, of whom men numbered 786,000 and women, 204,000.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines was bad and showed a marked decline in nearly every district. In many districts, notably in Northumberland, Durham and South Yorkshire, additional mines were closed down and short time was introduced or extended. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd May, 1925, was 1,095,744, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. as compared with April, 1925, and of 8.1 per cent. as compared with May, 1924. The average number of days worked by the pits in the week ended 23rd May, 1925, was 4.93, as compared with 5.28 in April, 1925, and 5.31 in May, 1924.

At iron mines employment continued bad in the Cleveland district; it was slack in Cumberland and Lancashire and moderate in other districts. At the mines covered by the returns there was an increase of 5.7 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with the previous month, and of 2.8 per cent. compared with May, 1924. The average number of days worked per week by the mines that were working was 5.34, compared with 5.52 in April, 1925, and 5.28 in May, 1924. At shale mines employment was fairly good generally. At limestone quarries employment was reported as good at Buxton and Clitheroe, and as bad in the Weardale district. At chalk quarries it was described as slack. Employment was fairly good at china-clay quarries; it was good at slate quarries in North Wales and at tin mines in Cornwall. At granite quarries in Wales and at Aberdeen employment was reported as good; at whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it was fair.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment continued bad; of a total of 482 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of May was 157, as compared with 158 in April, and with 191 in May, 1924. At iron and steel works some improvement was reported, but employment was still bad. Employment in the tinplate and steel sheet trades, though still bad, showed an improvement; the number of mills in operation at the end of the month was 468, as compared with 466 in April, 1925, and with 539 at the end of May, 1924.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and other Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment showed some improvement but was still bad on the whole, and very bad in the marine engineering section. In the electrical and motor and cycle sections employment continued fairly good; in the railway engineering section it was fair; in the heavy engineering section it was still bad. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment continued very bad. Employment in the other metal trades continued moderate on the whole. It was fairly good in the hollow-ware, stove and grate, and saddle and harness furniture trades; fair in the brasswork, needle and fishing tackle, sheet metal, metallic bedstead, nut and bolt, file and tube trades; and slack or bad in the cutlery, wire, jewellery and plated ware, copper, chain and anchor, and anvil and vice trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade showed a slight decline in the spinning section; in the weaving section generally it continued fairly good, and a scarcity of weavers was reported in some districts. In the woollen and worsted trades employment showed a further decline, and was bad.

In the hosiery trade employment continued bad; in the lace trade it also remained bad. In the silk trade employment was fair in the Macclesfield, Leek, and Congleton district, and good in the Eastern Counties; in the carpet trade employment was fairly good;

in the jute trade it also showed a decline, but was still fair; in the Irish linen trade employment was bad, and worse than during the previous month. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment continued slack generally, short-time working being fairly general, but there was some improvement in the bleaching section; with silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek employment was fair, but at Congleton it showed a decline.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade showed a further seasonal improvement, and was fairly good on the whole, overtime being worked in some districts. In the dressmaking and millinery trades there was also a seasonal improvement, and employment was good in most districts. In the corset, and shirt and collar trades, employment continued fair on the whole, but it was reported as slack, with much short-time working, in certain districts; in the felt hat trade employment continued slack. In the boot and shoe trade employment continued depressed, and much short time was worked.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying sections of the leather trades again declined and was generally slack, but in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections there was little change. With saddlery and harness makers employment continued depressed.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades continued good in most districts with skilled operatives, but slack, on the whole, with unskilled workers. It remained very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers; good with carpenters and joiners, and with masons at most centres; with slaters there was a slight decline but employment was fairly good. With painters the seasonal improvement continued, and employment was good in most centres; with plumbers employment showed a slight improvement, and was fair; with builders' labourers it was still slack on the whole. In the brick trade employment continued good.

In the furnishing trades employment showed a further slight improvement and was fairly good; with upholsterers it was good. With coopers it showed a slight decline and was fair; with coachbuilders it continued good on the whole; with mill sawyers it showed a slight decline and was fairly good. Employment with packing case and basket makers improved slightly but was still slack; with brushmakers it was fairly good.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued fair on the whole. With letterpress printers employment continued fairly good; in London it showed an improvement, but at Leeds and Cardiff there was a slight decline. With electrotypes and stereotypers employment continued good, but showed some decline at Manchester; with lithographic printers it was generally fairly good; with lithographic artists it continued fair in London and slack at Manchester. With bookbinders in London employment was slack; among other districts it continued fair at Edinburgh, and was slack and worse than during the previous month at Leeds and Manchester.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trades employment showed little change, and there was still much unemployment and short-time working. In certain sections, however, employment continued good. In the glass trade employment continued moderate on the whole.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In England and Wales the supply of agricultural labourers was generally sufficient, but in some districts there was a scarcity of temporary workers. In the fishing industry employment continued fairly good.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With seamen and dock labourers employment continued slack.

The following Table shows, month by month since May, 1924, (a) the percentages unemployed among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, (b) the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (c) the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) registered as unemployed at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentage Unemployed among				Number of Unem- ployed Registered at Ex- changes.*†	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.*				
		Males.	Females.	Total.		
1924.						
May	7.0	9.9	8.1	9.5	1,057,000
June	7.2	10.0	7.8	9.4	1,049,000
July	7.4	10.5	8.1	9.9	1,089,000
August	7.9	11.3	8.8	10.6	1,191,000
September	8.6	11.5	8.8	10.8	1,243,000
October	8.7	11.9	9.0	11.1	1,247,000
November	8.6	11.8	8.9	11.0	1,233,000
December†	9.2	11.7	9.0	10.9	1,319,000
1925.						
January	9.0	12.1	9.6	11.5	1,287,000
February	9.4	12.3	9.5	11.6	1,287,000
March	9.0	12.1	9.2	11.4	1,249,000
April...	9.4	12.0	9.1	11.2	1,251,000
May	10.1	12.1	8.9	11.2	1,253,000

* 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.

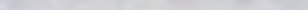
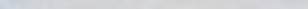
* Owing to legislative changes and to changes in the administration of unemployment insurance, these figures somewhat under-emphasize the improvement in employment during the first half of 1924 and over-emphasize the decline in the latter half of the year.

† See note * to previous column.

‡ The figures for insured workers relate to 22nd December.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

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

Thick Curve  = 1925.
Thin Curve  = 1924.
Chain Curve = Mean of 1919-24.

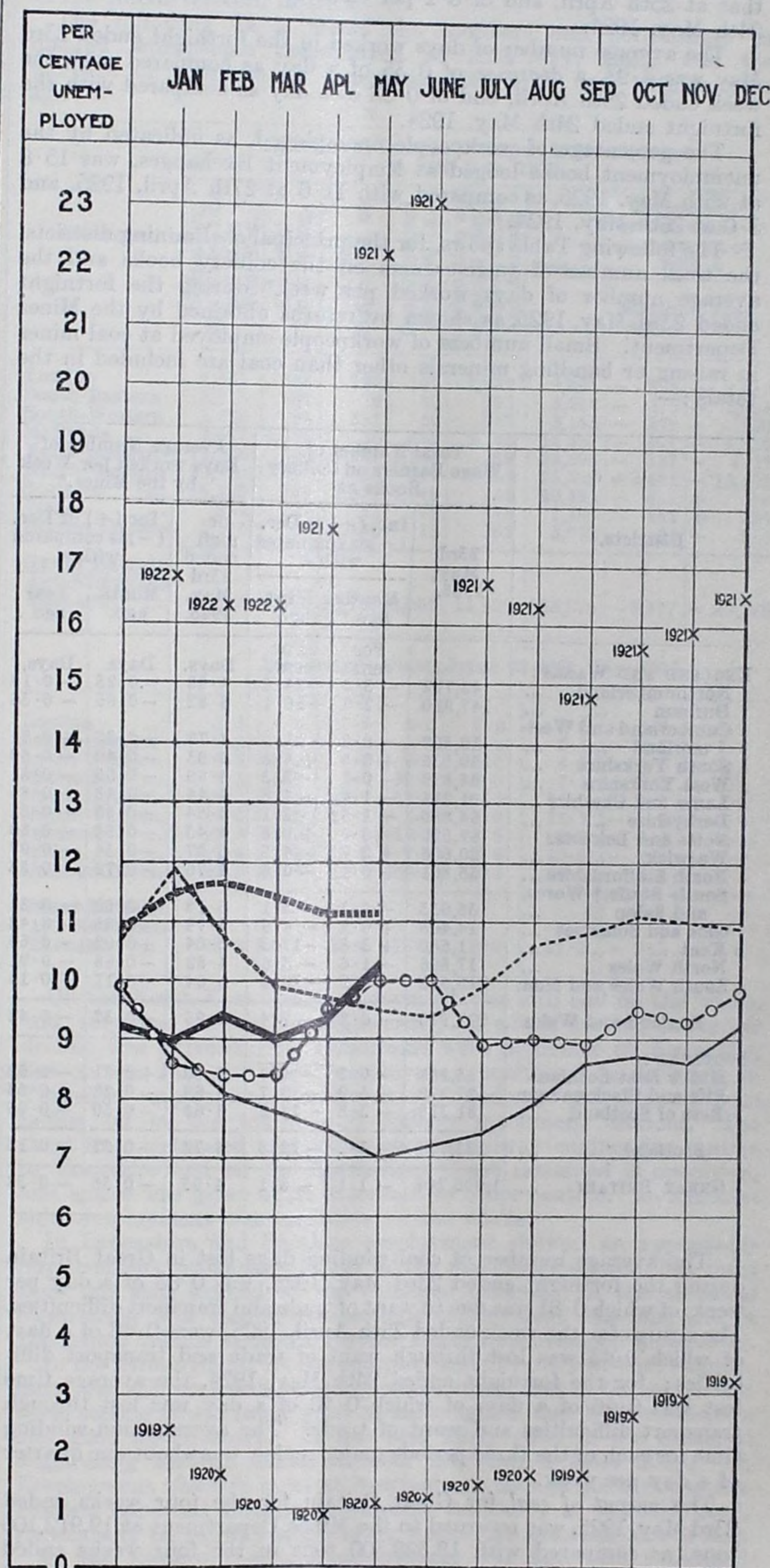
(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORK-
PEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT
UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT :—

Thick Dotted Curve ----- = 1925.

Thin Dotted Curve ----- = 1924.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·2 per cent. (males 12·1 per cent., females 8·9 per cent.) at 25th May, 1925, as compared with 11·2 per cent. (males 12·0 per cent., females 9·1 per cent.) at 27th April, 1925, and 9·5 per cent. (males 9·9 per cent., females 8·1 per cent.) at 26th May, 1924. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 206 and 207.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in May, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 200 to 205.



Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Textiles :—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton	88,729	— 0·8	+ 1·3	166,009	— 1·8	+ 7·8
Woollen... ..	14,960	— 0·8	— 3·2	29,490	— 1·6	— 10·9
Worsted... ..	28,274	— 1·0	— 8·0	50,767	— 1·8	— 14·8
Boot and Shoe ...	52,676	— 0·2	+ 0·1	121,408	+ 0·9	— 4·0
Pottery	12,638	+ 0·2	+ 0·9	23,940	+ 3·3	+ 2·8
Brick	8,665	+ 1·4	+ 12·7	23,841	+ 2·2	+ 24·2
Total	205,942	— 0·5	— 0·3	415,455	— 0·5	— 0·0

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 206 and 207.

* 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.

† 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.

§ The figures for May and April, 1925, exclude building trade operatives, which were included in May, 1924. The percentage for May 1924, excluding these operatives, is 10.3.

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

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 to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May was bad, and showed a marked decline in nearly every district as compared with the previous month. The decline was partly seasonal owing to the smaller demand for house coal and partly due to a further decline in the export trade. In many districts, notably Northumberland, Durham and South Yorkshire, additional mines were closed down and short time was introduced or extended.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd May, 1925, showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. as compared with that at 25th April, and of 8.1 per cent. as compared with that at 24th May, 1924.

The average number of days worked in the fortnight ended 23rd May was 4.93, a decrease of 0.35 of a day as compared with the week ended 25th April, and of 0.38 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th May, 1924.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.8 at 25th May, 1925, as compared with 11.6 at 27th April, 1925, and 3.0 at 26th May, 1924.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1925, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals :—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*			
	23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	or high ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND AND WALES :		Per cent.	Per cent.			
Northumberland ...	48,712	— 3.2	— 24.5	4.88	— 0.23	— 0.13
Durham ...	147,910	— 2.6	— 16.1	4.82	— 0.05	— 0.36
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	10,807	— 0.6	— 11.5	4.78	— 0.35	— 0.71
South Yorkshire ...	120,535	+ 0.5	+ 4.8	5.03	— 0.40	— 0.59
West Yorkshire ...	68,878	— 0.2	— 2.3	4.69	— 0.65	— 0.81
Lancs and Cheshire ...	101,214	— 1.4	— 4.8	4.44	— 0.48	— 0.84
Derbyshire ...	64,885	— 1.3	— 2.1	4.54	— 0.85	— 0.51
Notts and Leicester ...	67,520	— 0.4	+ 0.8	4.43	— 0.55	— 0.80
Warwick ...	20,606	+ 0.2	— 4.5	5.27	— 0.34	— 0.07
North Staffordshire ...	35,801	+ 0.1	— 0.6	4.76	— 0.72	— 0.83
South Staffs,† Worcs. and Salop ...	35,633	— 0.3	— 3.1	5.18	— 0.50	— 0.34
Glos and Somerset ...	14,468	+ 0.2	— 4.9	4.79	— 0.85	— 0.42
Kent ...	1,580	+ 3.8	— 17.3	5.04	+ 0.02	— 0.69
North Wales ...	17,896	— 1.6	— 3.6	4.82	— 0.68	— 0.91
South Wales and Mon.	215,525	— 0.0	— 10.8	5.64	— 0.11	+ 0.14
England and Wales	971,970	— 0.8	— 7.4	4.95	— 0.37	— 0.42
SCOTLAND :						
Mid & East Lothians	15,188	— 0.3	— 4.7	5.00	+ 0.21	— 0.02
Fife and Clackmannan	27,276	— 3.0	— 12.7	4.69	— 0.22	— 0.53
Rest of Scotland ...	81,310	— 3.8	— 14.2	4.68	— 0.30	— 0.03
Scotland ...	123,774	— 3.2	— 12.8	4.72	— 0.22	— 0.13
GREAT BRITAIN	1,095,744	— 1.1	— 8.1	4.93	— 0.35	— 0.38

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1925, was 0.83 of a day per week, of which 0.81 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the week ended 25th April, 1925, were 0.48 of a day, of which 0.43 was lost through want of trade and transport difficulties; for the fortnight ended 24th May, 1924, the average time lost was 0.46 of a day, of which 0.40 of a day was lost through transport difficulties and want of trade. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 23rd May, 1925, was returned to the Mines Department at 19,912,100 tons, as compared with 18,328,300 tons in the four weeks ended 25th April, 1925, and with 21,999,600 tons in the four weeks ended 24th May, 1924.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal-equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,280,741 tons in May, compared with 5,948,825 tons in April.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., 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 Cannock Chase.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

EMPLOYMENT during May was again reported as being bad in the Cleveland district. In the Cumberland and Lancashire district it was slack, although there was a temporary improvement owing to the reopening of a mine. In other districts it remained moderate on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.0 at 25th May, 1925, as compared with 17.7 at 27th April, 1925, and 21.8 at 26th May, 1924.

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

Districts.	Number of Work- people employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fort- night ended 23rd May 1925	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as com- pared with a		Fort- night ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as com- pared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland...	3,564	+ 0.8	+ 2.3	5.39	+ 0.16	+ 0.78
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	3,225	+ 15.2	+ 9.6	5.27	– 0.68	– 0.48
Other Districts ...	1,602	– 0.3	– 7.7	5.41	– 0.01	– 0.42
ALL DISTRICTS	8,391	+ 5.7	+ 2.8	5.34	– 0.18	+ 0.06

Shale Mining.

At shale mines employment during May was fairly good generally. At mines employing 4,098 workpeople during the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1925, there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 0.2 per cent. as compared with May, 1924. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.90 in May, 1925, compared with 5.85 in April, 1925, and 5.99 in May, 1924.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued bad. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.7 on 25th May, 1925, compared with 20.4 on 27th April, 1925, and with 13.8 on 26th May, 1924. Returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms, employing 19,428 workpeople, at the end of May showed a decrease of 3.2 per cent. compared with April, and of 12.9 per cent. compared with May, 1924.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 157, a decrease of 1 compared with April and of 34 compared with May, 1924.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, 1925, April, 1925, and May, 1924 :—

Districts.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in May, on a	
		May, 1925.	April, 1925.	May, 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	111	38	38	43	...	— 5
Cumberland and W. Lancs...	47	11	13	10	— 2	+ 1
Other parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield) ...	35	17	18	16	— 1	+ 1
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants ...	73	38	38	42	...	— 4
Lincolnshire ...	23	12	10	18	+ 2	— 6
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...	60	11	11	16	...	— 5
South Wales ...	32	9	9	11	...	— 2
Total, England and Wales	381	136	137	156	— 1	— 20
SCOTLAND ...	101	21	21	35	...	— 14
Total ...	482	157	158	191	— 1	— 34

The production of pig iron in May amounted to 568,000 tons, as compared with 569,800 tons in April, and 650,900 tons in May, 1924.

* See note * in previous column.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during May, although there was, on the whole, some improvement as compared with the previous month. Short time was again reported to have been worked in most districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23·6 on 25th May, 1925, as compared with 26·7 on 27th April, 1925, and 16·8 on 26th May, 1924.

According to returns received from firms employing 71,578 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 23rd May, 1925 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 0·7 per cent. as compared with the previous month, but showed a decrease of 8·0 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5·2 during the week ended 23rd May, 1925, as compared with 5·2 during April, 1925, and 5·4 during May, 1924.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate Number of Shifts.*		
	Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	8,199	+ 9·0	- 7·2	46,622	+ 9·4	- 7·0
Puddling Forges ...	2,989	- 10·7	- 16·9	12,713	- 9·5	- 18·7
Rolling Mills ...	26,558	+ 0·5	- 3·6	126,665	- 0·9	- 9·3
Forging and Pressing ...	3,334	+ 4·3	+ 4·1	17,314	+ 3·8	+ 1·0
Founding ...	8,022	+ 0·0	- 2·2	45,558	+ 0·3	- 2·6
Other Departments ...	7,215	- 1·6	- 7·7	39,478	- 2·8	- 8·1
Mechanics, Labourers...	15,261	+ 1·9	- 8·9	85,772	+ 1·9	- 8·9
TOTAL ...	71,578	+ 1·1	- 5·4	374,122	+ 0·7	- 8·0
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland...	14,197	- 1·5	- 9·5	76,926	- 3·0	- 11·6
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	18,446	+ 2·0	- 6·3	94,308	+ 2·2	- 9·3
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	2,480	+ 23·4	+ 3·6	13,279	+ 22·0	+ 6·8
Cumberland, Lancs and Cheshire ...	7,735	- 2·4	+ 14·1	40,324	- 1·6	+ 12·4
Staffordshire ...	6,209	+ 2·1	- 13·6	33,083	+ 1·5	- 13·9
Other Midland Counties	3,792	- 0·4	- 2·4	20,312	- 0·8	+ 0·0
Wales and Monmouth	7,720	+ 0·4	- 5·0	39,946	- 5·0	- 12·3
Total, England and Wales ...	60,579	+ 0·9	- 5·0	318,178	- 0·1	- 7·4
Scotland ...	10,999	+ 1·8	- 7·6	55,944	+ 5·8	- 11·0
TOTAL ...	71,578	+ 1·1	- 5·4	374,122	+ 0·7	- 8·0

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 651,600 tons in May, 1925, as compared with 597,600 tons in April, 1925, and 809,700 tons in May, 1924.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT showed an improvement during May, but was still bad; many of the mills continued working less than the full number of shifts per week. At the end of the month, 468 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 466 at the end of April and with 539 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of May, 1925, at the works covered by the returns received, together with the increase or decrease compared with April, 1925, and with May, 1924.

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ...	66	- 4	- 12	353	- 4	- 63
Steel Sheet ...	12	+ 1	- 1	115	+ 6	- 8
TOTAL ...	78	- 3	- 13	468	+ 2	- 71

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed on 25th May, 1925, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employ-

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown were actually worked by all the men employed.

ment Exchanges, was 22·7, as compared with 36·8 on 27th April, 1925, and with 2·9 on 26th May, 1924. These percentages include persons working part time and not actually employed on the dates mentioned.

The export of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in May, 1925, amounted to 103,109 tons, or 4,522 tons more than in April, 1925, but 23,389 tons less than in May, 1924.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during May was still bad on the whole and very bad in the marine engineering section. It showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, however, particularly in the textile machinery section in Lancashire, though short time was still worked at the principal centres. In the electrical and motor and cycle sections conditions were still fairly good. In the railway engineering section employment remained fair, although short time continued in operation at a number of centres. In the heavy engineering section conditions were still bad.

Compared with a year ago, there was a slight improvement in nearly all the principal districts and a considerable improvement in the North-Western district.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th May, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with April and with a year ago :—

Divisions.	Numbers of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th May, 1925.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	7,351	388	122	102	1,928	9,891	- 935	- 2,748
South-Eastern ...	2,615	397	79	32	793	3,916	- 376	- 1,484
South-Western ...	1,878	94	351	58	762	3,143	- 279	- 500
Midlands ...	8,311	1,156	35	652	5,103	15,257	- 447	- 4,737
North-Eastern ...	19,105	520	7,234	1,168	669	28,696	- 337	- 471*
North-Western ...	20,020	1,196	338	147	1,628	23,329	- 2,461	- 10,502
Scotland ...	15,159	279	2,971	1,048	734	20,191	- 411	+ 19
Wales... ..	912	27	33	42	145	1,159	- 185	+ 394
Northern Ireland	1,767	15	1,130	13	167	3,092	- 46	- 360
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	77,118	4,072	12,293	3,262	11,929	108,674	- 5,477	- 20,389

Percentages Unemployed at 25th May, 1925.

London ...	8·3	4·4	17·9	5·0	5·8	7·4	- 0·7	- 1·9
South-Eastern ...	6·2	4·6	2·5	6·0	3·5	5·1	- 0·5	- 1·9
South-Western ...	5·5	3·1	5·3	9·5	4·0	4·9	- 0·5	- 1·1
Midlands ...	9·3	5·0	2·2	10·8	6·0	7·5	- 0·2	- 2·2
North-Eastern ...	14·7	7·3	27·9	17·2	6·5	16·0	- 0·2	+ 1·0*
North-Western ...	14·0	7·0	17·9	8·2	8·0	12·7	- 1·4	- 4·8
Scotland ...	17·8	8·2	14·6	18·6	7·5	16·2	- 0·4	+ 0·4
Wales... ..	11·4	7·7	18·3	7·9	7·8	10·6	- 1·7	+ 3·3
Northern Ireland	22·5	12·5	19·9	65·0	10·8	20·3	- 0·3	- 1·8
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	12·3	5·7	18·6	13·6	5·9	11·0	- 0·5	- 1·6

On the North-East Coast employment was still bad on the whole, and very bad in marine engineering, in which section a further decline was experienced. Conditions were moderate at Newcastle, but on the Tees and Wear employment continued to decline. In Yorkshire employment continued very moderate and showed some falling off in the textile and colliery machinery sections. The short time instituted in April at certain railway engineering centres in Yorkshire and on the North-East Coast remained in operation, and notice was given of its extension to other centres. In Lincolnshire employment was moderate on the whole.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment showed an appreciable improvement, principally in the textile machinery section, but short time was still worked at the principal centres. In the electrical engineering and locomotive sections employment was fair, and in the motor vehicle section a further slight improvement was shown.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment was still very dull on heavy engineering; but in the motor and cycle section it was fairly good at Birmingham and Wolverhampton and good at Coventry. It was also fairly good in the electrical engineering section, which showed, however, a little falling off. Employment was still quiet at Nottingham, though hosiery-machine builders remained steadily employed. At Derby it was still good, particularly on railway engineering work. At Leicester it was fair.

In the Eastern Counties employment was fair, with continued improvement, at most centres, although a decline was experienced in a few towns. In the London district employment remained moderate on the whole, and was good in the electrical and motor sections. In the Southern Counties it was still fair on the whole and good in the motor, locomotive and electrical sections. In South Wales it continued bad, but showed some recovery from the previous month's decline.

In Scotland employment remained very bad on the whole, although sewing-machine works in the Glasgow district continued busy. At Belfast it remained very bad, with little change.

* The apparent discrepancy between the actual number and percentage is due to a revision of the number of insured persons between the two dates.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during May and showed little change compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago there was a decline on the whole.

On the North-East Coast employment continued bad in most branches, especially on the Tees and Wear; there was, however, a further improvement on repair work at some of the yards on the Tyne. On the East Coast, the Thames and the South Coast, employment was slack, but showed on the whole a slight improvement compared with the previous month. At the Bristol Channel Ports employment was still bad, except at Swansea, where the improvement previously observed was maintained; an improvement was also reported at Barry. On the Mersey employment continued slack and was rather worse than during the previous month. At Barrow there was a continued demand for some classes of skilled men.

In Scotland employment remained bad and showed a further decline, particularly at Dundee; with shipwrights, however, it continued fair, and with joiners on the Clyde it was good. At Belfast employment remained bad, but showed some improvement.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th May, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with 27th April, 1925, and with a year ago :—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th May, 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 25th May, 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London...	3,726	— 160	— 437	26.1	— 1.1	— 3.3
South-Eastern...	629	— 83	— 390	6.6	— 0.9	— 4.2
South-Western...	4,322	— 420	— 108	15.3	— 1.5	— 1.7
Midlands...	77	— 8	— 46	15.1	— 1.6	— 9.5
North-Eastern...	29,250	+ 129	+ 4,802	41.6	+ 0.1	+ 7.9
North-Western...	10,411	+ 466	+ 330	30.6	+ 1.3	+ 2.5
Scotland...	21,225	+ 536	+ 3,344	32.4	+ 0.9	+ 7.5
Wales...	3,853	+ 479	— 219	34.1	+ 4.2	+ 2.1*
Northern Ireland	6,931	— 740	— 2,550	32.3	— 3.4	— 6.5
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	80,424	+ 199	+ 4,942	31.5	+ 0.1	+ 3.8

COTTON TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight decline in spinning and little change in weaving as compared with a month earlier, but was better than in May, 1924.

During the month the Short Time Organisation Committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations circularised firms engaged in spinning American cotton, asking them to give an undertaking not to exceed the rate of production recommended by the Committee (35 hours weekly or its equivalent). As the result of the replies to this circular, the Committee decided to ballot firms spinning American cotton on a proposal to curtail production by 8½ hours a week, i.e., to work 39½ hours a week (instead of 35), or to curtail production by other means to an equivalent extent.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.6 on the 25th May, 1925, as compared with 7.1 on the 27th April, 1925, and with 15.6 on the 26th May, 1924.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stalybridge, and Stockport districts employment in the spinning section continued slack, with much irregular short time; it showed a decline on April, but was better than a year ago. In the manufacturing section in the Oldham district employment was very quiet, especially with reelers, beamers, and winders. In the Bolton district employment was still described as fair, but the decline previously reported continued; some spinners were unemployed or on short time, and employment with cardroom workers was much worse than in April. Employment with spinners at Leigh was reported as bad. At Manchester, Bury, and Chorley employment with spinners was fair, and there was a demand for weavers at Bury. At Rochdale employment continued slack.

In the principal weaving areas employment, speaking generally, was fairly good; and in many areas there was still an unsatisfied demand for weavers. At Burnley employment was reported as slack, but slightly better than a year ago; many manufacturers were, however, rapidly approaching the end of the orders in hand, and more looms were becoming empty; a surplus of weavers and winders was reported at this centre. Employment was fair at Padiham, and a slight improvement was reported at Colne. At Blackburn there was much unemployment and under-employment in various forms, and about one-eighth of the looms were stopped in the middle of the month; at Accrington, on the other hand, the improvement reported last month was fully maintained. At Preston employment was fairly good, except with winders and warpers. In the Todmorden district employment was much better than in April, but considerable short time was reported, particularly in the Hebden Bridge fustian trade. At Darwen, Nelson, Newton Heath, and Reddish, the mills worked practically full time.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing ...	12,435	— 1.7	+ 2.4	20,952	— 2.6	+ 11.8
Spinning... ..	23,036	— 1.7	— 0.8	40,305	— 3.4	+ 3.2
Weaving... ..	35,973	+ 0.1	+ 2.9	66,236	— 0.4	+ 9.4
Other	8,736	— 1.1	+ 0.0	21,444	+ 0.2	+ 7.0
Not Specified ...	8,549	— 0.9	— 0.4	17,072	— 4.7	+ 9.2
Total	88,729	— 0.8	+ 1.3	166,009	— 1.8	+ 7.8
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	5,741	+ 2.1	— 0.2	9,751	— 4.6	+ 3.6
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	8,778	— 0.7	+ 18.4	15,840	— 1.2	+ 31.6
Oldham	10,724	— 0.8	+ 0.6	20,877	— 3.0	+ 19.7
Bolton and Leigh ...	15,053	— 0.7	+ 0.6	26,702	— 1.6	+ 0.7
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	9,135	— 2.9	+ 1.3	16,242	— 5.1	+ 28.4
Manchester	3,971	— 1.1	— 7.7	6,911	+ 0.2	+ 3.5
Preston and Chorley ...	5,245	— 1.7	— 5.1	9,232	— 1.0	— 5.5
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	9,889	— 0.3	+ 5.4	20,032	— 2.0	+ 8.3
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ...	10,629	+ 0.0	+ 1.3	23,976	+ 1.4	+ 6.0
Other Lancashire Towns	1,970	— 1.6	— 10.3	3,652	+ 0.5	— 5.3
Yorkshire Towns ...	5,284	— 1.7	— 0.6	9,252	— 2.3	— 7.8
Other Districts ...	2,310	— 2.0	— 11.8	3,542	— 2.6	— 21.4
Total	88,729	— 0.8	+ 1.3	166,009	— 1.8	+ 7.8

Returns from firms employing about 78,000 workpeople showed that about 18½ per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of about 12 hours on the average, in the week ended 23rd May.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 4th May, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 82 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the cotton trade were registered :—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 4th May, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with 6th April, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card and Blowing Room	781	4,688	5,469	+ 27	+ 428	+ 455
Spinning	4,539	4,928	9,467	+ 840	+ 534	+ 1,374
Beaming, Warping and Winding	1,004	7,334	8,338	+ 107	+ 754	+ 861
Weaving	898	2,211	3,109	+ 14	— 252	— 238
Other Processes ...	510	510	1,020	+ 9	+ 62	+ 71
Total	7,732	19,671	27,403	+ 997	+ 1,526	+ 2,523

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 85,736,500 lbs. in May, 1925, compared with 133,856,300 lbs. in April, 1925, and with 95,839,500 lbs. in May, 1924.

The exports of cotton yarn were 17,203,200 lbs. in May, 1925, compared with 16,583,300 lbs. in April, 1925, and with 18,029,100 lbs. in May, 1924.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 371,028,200 square yards, as compared with 333,428,800 square yards in the previous month and with 394,513,000 square yards in May, 1924.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in May was again bad, showing a further decline, and at the Whitsuntide holidays works closed down generally for more than the customary two days. As compared with a year ago, the decline was marked in nearly all sections of the trade.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.8 on 25th May, 1925, as compared with 16.6 on 27th April, 1925, and 4.7 on 26th May, 1924.

In wool sorting employment was bad and worse than in April; about 50 per cent. of the Trade Union wool sorters were on short time. In wool combing employment continued bad, and about 40 per cent. of the wool combing machinery in the Bradford district was stated to be idle. An abnormally large number of wool sorters and combers in Bradford were reported to be totally unemployed in May.

In botany spinning employment was bad and rather worse than in April, but in cross-bred spinning a slight improvement was reported. In the weaving departments there was no improvement, except with manufacturers in the fine cloth men's wear trade of Huddersfield, Halifax and Keighley, and in the Bradford coating trade, where a slight seasonal improvement took place; this improvement was only sufficient, however, to make work somewhat more plentiful for those who were already in employment. In the Bradford and Keighley dress goods trade and in the Calder Vale district employment was worse than in April; but in the Silsden dress goods trade most of the operatives employed by firms making

* The apparent discrepancy between the actual number and percentage is due to a revision of the number of insured persons between the two dates.

artificial silk mixtures were reported to be working full time. In the Yeadon and Guiseley district, where women's woollen costume cloths are largely made, employment showed a slight improvement on the whole. In the tweed trade of Huddersfield, the heavy woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley, and in Morley and Leeds, there was little change.

In the Rochdale district employment in the flannel trade was reported as bad; in the Stockport district the operatives were stated to be working only about three days per week.

The position in the Welsh woollen trade showed no improvement; in the Carnarvon district only half the factories were said to be working, and in the Newtown area a number of the larger establishments ceased operations, and others were only working one week in four. In Scotland the depression continued; all the tweed mills in the Galashiels area were stated to be working short time, while at Hawick there was a large increase in unemployment as compared with a year ago. Increasing unemployment with wool spinners was reported at Alloa, Greenock, Ayr and Perth; in the Kilmarnock district, however, it was stated that full-time working had been generally resumed.

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 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.	Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.*

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool sorting ...	432	- 3.6	- 12.6	889	- 4.9	- 15.8
Spinning ...	3,882	- 1.2	- 2.3	7,282	- 3.0	- 14.3
Weaving ...	5,319	- 0.2	- 4.4	9,528	- 0.8	- 12.5
Other Departments ...	4,309	- 0.7	- 1.0	9,539	- 1.9	- 6.5
Not Specified ...	1,018	- 1.6	- 4.9	2,252	+ 2.0	- 8.9
TOTAL ...	14,960	- 0.8	- 3.2	29,490	- 1.6	- 10.9

Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Huddersfield District	1,637	- 0.8	- 5.1	3,740	+ 0.7	- 18.4
Leeds District ...	1,541	- 0.1	- 3.9	3,386	- 2.8	- 11.0
Dewsbury and Batley District ...	1,199	- 3.1	- 6.8	2,391	- 1.7	- 20.7
Other Parts of West Riding ...	2,073	- 1.8	- 4.5	4,502	- 4.9	- 9.9
Total, West Riding	6,450	- 1.4	- 4.9	14,019	- 2.4	- 14.5
Scotland ...	3,767	- 0.8	- 1.9	7,201	- 2.0	- 9.0
Other Districts ...	4,743	+ 0.1	- 1.8	8,270	+ 0.1	- 6.0
TOTAL ...	14,960	- 0.8	- 3.2	29,490	- 1.6	- 10.9

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool sorting and combing ...	3,818	- 2.4	- 14.2	8,759	- 1.5	- 24.2
Spinning ...	14,524	- 0.3	- 8.7	21,101	- 0.1	- 16.4
Weaving ...	5,422	- 1.8	- 2.5	11,163	- 2.8	- 4.8
Other Departments ...	2,931	- 0.9	- 2.8	7,007	- 5.0	- 9.5
Not specified ...	1,579	- 1.2	- 11.8	2,737	- 3.9	- 18.0
TOTAL ...	28,274	- 1.0	- 8.0	50,767	- 1.8	- 14.8

Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bradford District	13,678	- 2.0	- 9.6	25,553	- 4.0	- 17.4
Kelghley District	4,968	+ 0.1	- 5.4	8,559	- 3.6	- 17.4
Halifax District ...	2,476	+ 0.4	- 7.3	4,010	+ 1.3	- 13.8
Huddersfield District	2,491	+ 0.3	- 6.0	4,833	+ 0.0	- 2.7
Other Parts of West Riding ...	3,214	- 0.7	- 8.5	5,421	+ 8.2	- 12.6
Total West Riding	26,827	- 1.0	- 8.2	48,376	- 1.9	- 15.3
Other Districts ...	1,447	- 1.3	- 4.6	2,391	- 0.3	- 3.3
TOTAL ...	28,274	- 1.0	- 8.0	50,767	- 1.8	- 14.8

Returns from firms in the woollen section, employing 14,520 workpeople, showed that about 45 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in the week ended 23rd May, to the extent on the average of about 11 hours. In the worsted section returns from firms employing 25,418 workpeople in the same week showed that about 46 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of about 11 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 4th May, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 67 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted Trades were registered.

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

Departments.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 4th May, 1925.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 6th April, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool sorting ...	952	2	954	+ 311	...	+ 311
Wool washing and preparing ...	1,133	417	1,550	+ 191	+ 49	+ 240
Wool combing ...	1,374	1,357	2,731	+ 126	+ 176	+ 302
Wool carding ...	1,376	183	1,559	+ 126	+ 25	+ 151
Woollen spinning ...	556	282	838	+ 4	+ 53	+ 57
Worsted drawing and spinning ...	691	4,536	5,227	+ 298	+ 1,707	+ 2,005
Wool winding and warping ...	175	186	361	- 5	+ 26	+ 21
Worsted winding and warping ...	154	1,600	1,754	+ 63	+ 859	+ 922
Woollen weaving ...	272	1,856	2,128	+ 7	- 195	- 188
Worsted weaving ...	148	1,234	1,382	+ 23	+ 79	+ 102
Other processes ...	1,434	340	1,774	- 27	+ 110	+ 83
TOTAL ...	8,265	11,993	20,258	+ 1,117	+ 2,889	+ 4,006

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 59,771,800 lbs. in May, 1925, compared with 51,197,500 lbs. in April, 1925, and with 80,886,700 lbs. in May, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,199,300 lbs., compared with 3,226,500 lbs. in April, 1925, and with 5,395,900 lbs. in May, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 11,613,100 square yards, compared with 12,099,800 square yards in April, 1925, and 16,071,500 square yards in May, 1924.

The exports of blankets were 65,773 pairs, 120,309 pairs and 160,238 pairs in May, 1925, April, 1925, and May, 1924.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT remained depressed, and there was no marked general change as compared with April, slight improvements in some districts being counter-balanced by declines in others. There was a slight improvement in the last week of the month, some firms being busy getting out orders; but, speaking generally, the increased activity that usually occurs before the Whitsuntide holiday was almost entirely absent, and much short time was still being worked throughout the industry.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.1 on the 25th May, 1925, as compared with 10.2 on the 27th April, 1925, and with 8.3 on the 26th May, 1924.

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

---	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.	Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.
England and Wales :						
London ...	1,975	- 4.5	- 6.5	£ 4,488	- 4.5	- 10.5
Leicester ...	8,812	- 0.7	+ 1.2	22,962	- 0.9	- 2.1
Leicester Country District ...	2,247	- 1.6	- 1.7	4,862	- 0.6	- 12.4
Northampton ...	7,210	- 1.0	- 0.4	17,264	+ 0.3	- 8.3
Northampton Country District ...	8,241	+ 0.4	+ 2.9	18,785	+ 2.4	+ 0.9
Kettering ...	3,570	- 0.0	+ 0.5	9,211	+ 0.8	- 0.9
Stafford and District	2,487	+ 3.7	+ 2.6	6,229	+ 7.8	+ 5.3
Norwich and District	4,375	+ 0.3	- 1.3	9,143	+ 1.5	- 8.5
Bristol, Kingswood and District ...	1,969	+ 1.9	- 6.1	3,490	+ 5.5	- 13.7
Leeds and District ...	1,568	+ 0.8	- 3.2	3,379	+ 5.9	- 9.4
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	4,934	- 0.0	+ 2.4	10,855	+ 0.3	- 2.3
Birmingham and District ...	1,066	- 1.0	+ 2.0	2,103	- 1.5	- 8.0
Other parts of England and Wales ...	1,688	+ 0.2	+ 3.0	3,164	+ 1.0	- 2.3
England and Wales.	50,142	- 0.2	+ 0.3	115,935	+ 1.0	- 4.3
Scotland ...	2,534	- 0.1	- 4.3	5,473	- 1.6	+ 2.0
Great Britain ...	52,676	- 0.2	+ 0.1	121,408	+ 0.9	- 4.0

Returns from firms employing 37,000 operatives in the week ended 23rd May, 1925, showed that 37½ per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, to the extent of about 11½ hours each, on an average.

Employment continued moderate in London. It was quiet at Leicester and Northampton, with much short time being worked; a decline was reported at Leicester. Employment remained only moderate, on the whole, in the Higham and Rushden area; while at Hinckley it was quiet, and worse than in April. Practically all the operatives were on short time at Wellingborough, and employment was generally slack and worse than in the previous month. At Kettering also it continued slack, and very few firms were on full time.

Much short time was worked during the month at Leeds. Employment improved at Stafford, and was fair; although there was still some unemployment, full time was worked at most factories.

Employment continued fair, on the whole, at Norwich, and showed a slight improvement; but many operatives were working less than full hours. General slackness again prevailed in the Bristol and Kingswood area, with most factories working short hours.

At Street employment was slack. In the slipper trade of the Rossendale Valley employment was only fair, short time being prevalent.

Employment was good, and better than in April, at Kilmarnock. At Aberdeen and Edinburgh it continued fair; while at Glasgow it varied, but, on the whole, was moderate and showed a decline: short time was largely worked. Elsewhere in Scotland employment was usually bad.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 4th May, 1925, 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.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 4th May, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with 6th April, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:						
Preparing Department	138	45	183	+ 5	— 10	— 5
Rough Stuff Department	445	18	463	+ 3	— 3	...
Clicking Department ...	1,097	18	1,115	+ 106	— 5	+ 101
Closing Department ...	22	1,309	1,331	+ 5	+ 246	+ 251
Making Department ...	2,757	54	2,811	+ 211	+ 4	+ 215
Finishing Department	1,407	341	1,748	+ 139	+ 56	+ 195
Slipper Making ...	637	333	970	+ 108	+ 39	+ 147
Clog Making ...	39	3	42	+ 6	...	+ 7
Repairing and Hand Sewn Work...	737	8	745	— 38	...	— 38
Total ...	7,279	2,129	9,408	+ 545	+ 328	+ 873

The exports of boots and shoes in May, 1925, amounted to 102,349 dozen pairs, or 7,923 dozen pairs less than in April, 1925, and 18,141 dozen pairs less than in May, 1924.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade continued fair on the whole. Apart from a certain amount of irregularity in some districts, full time was fairly general, except in the brown paper and hand-made sections.

In the letterpress printing trade employment generally remained fairly good; in London it showed an improvement, but in some provincial towns, including Leeds and Cardiff, it was slightly worse than a month earlier.

With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was again good, but at Manchester there was some decline in jobbing offices.

With lithographic printers employment was generally fairly good; it improved at Manchester, but was not so good as a month earlier at Leeds. With lithographic artists employment continued fair in London and slack at Manchester.

With bookbinders in London employment was reported as slack; among other districts, employment continued fair at Edinburgh, and was slack and worse than in April at Leeds and Manchester.

The percentage of unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 5.1 at 25th May, compared with 5.4 at 27th April and 5.3 at 26th May, 1924. In the paper and paper board industry the percentage was 7.4 at 25th May, compared with 7.0 at 27th April and 8.1 at 26th May, 1924. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery trades the percentage was 6.4 at 25th May, compared with 7.0 at 27th April and 7.4 at 26th May, 1924.

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

	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1925.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) on a	
		May, 1925.	April, 1925.	May, 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Letterpress Printing:						
London ...	34,842	1.7	2.6	2.5	— 0.9	— 0.8
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	13,483	4.0	3.2	3.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.2
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	8,119	2.3	2.0	2.6	+ 0.3	— 0.3
Scotland ...	5,631	3.1	2.3	3.4	+ 0.8	— 0.3
Other Districts ...	6,594	2.8	2.7	2.9	+ 0.1	— 0.1
Total ...	68,669	2.4	2.6	2.9	— 0.2	— 0.5
Lithographic Printing	10,069	2.5	2.8	3.2	— 0.3	— 0.7
Bookbinding ...	15,459	3.4	3.5	4.2	— 0.1	— 0.8

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed very little variation as compared with the previous month, and remained good in most districts with skilled operatives, but slack, on the whole, with unskilled workers; it was slightly better than in May, 1924. In several districts a little overtime was worked by certain classes of skilled operatives.

As regards individual occupations, employment continued very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers, and good with carpenters and joiners and, at most centres, with masons; there was a slight decline with slaters, but their employment was fairly good in most districts. In a considerable number of districts there was again an unsatisfied demand for one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, chiefly bricklayers and plasterers. The seasonal improvement with painters continued, and employment with skilled men was good in most districts; it showed a slight improvement with plumbers and with builders' labourers, and was fair with the former but still slack in many districts with the latter.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 25th May, and the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with April, 1925, and May, 1924:—

Occupations.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th May, 1925.	Approximate Percentage* Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters ...	2,416	1.9	— 0.3	— 0.3
Bricklayers ...	629	1.1	— 0.4	+ 0.1
Masons ...	620	2.8	— 0.2	+ 0.7
Slaters ...	195	3.8	— 0.6	— 1.0
Plasterers ...	196	1.2	— 0.3	— 0.3
Painters ...	4,953	4.6	— 1.5	— 0.3
Plumbers ...	1,796	5.2	— 0.5	— 0.9
Labourers of above ...	22,537	8.9	— 0.8	— 1.2
All other occupations ...	20,594	20.8	— 1.5	— 2.1
Total ...	53,936	7.5	— 0.8	— 0.8
DIVISIONS.				
London ...	13,065	8.4	— 0.6	— 1.2
South-Eastern ...	4,086	3.7	— 0.9	— 1.4
South-Western ...	4,620	5.2	— 1.0	— 1.6
Midlands ...	5,715	7.2	— 1.2	— 1.3
North-Eastern ...	7,213	8.2	— 0.7	+ 0.5
North-Western ...	8,220	8.9	— 1.0	— 0.6
Scotland ...	5,266	7.9	— 0.5	— 0.3
Wales ...	2,716	10.5	— 0.4	+ 2.5
Northern Ireland ...	3,035	23.8	— 1.1	+ 1.6
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	53,936	7.5	— 0.8	— 0.8

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 142 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,090,000, show that in May, 1925, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £7,016,600, as compared with £5,760,200 in April, 1925, and £5,642,500 in May, 1924. Of the total for May, 1925, dwelling-houses accounted for £5,227,700; factories and workshops for £318,600; shops, offices, warehouses, and other business premises for £392,900; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,077,400.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued good on the whole and showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month. A little short time due to bad weather was reported from some districts. In the Peterborough district the yards were reported to have been very busy.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 25th May, 1925, was 6.6, as compared with 7.1 at 27th April, 1925, and with 6.2 at 26th May, 1924.

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

* Figures are not available as to the exact number 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 roughly estimated by applying ratios derived 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 1924 exchange of books. In view of the probability that changes have taken place, since 1922, in the ratios referred to, the percentages of unemployed, as given in the third column, should not be regarded as more than approximate indications of the actual proportions unemployed in the different occupations.

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd May 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd May 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	1,925	+ 1.0	+ 6.1	5,026	+ 2.9	+ 12.6
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	4,937	+ 1.3	+ 17.8	13,757	+ 0.9	+ 30.2
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,624	+ 2.0	+ 9.5	4,541	+ 4.7	+ 22.5
Scotland ...	179	+ 4.7	- 9.6	517	+ 10.2	+ 10.2
TOTAL ...	8,665	+ 1.4	+ 12.7	23,841	+ 2.2	+ 24.2

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed little change during May and there was much unemployment and short-time working. In the sanitary ware, tile and fireclay sections, and in the first-class chinaware trade at Stoke-on-Trent, it was reported to be good.

In the stoneware section in Scotland employment was reported as moderate; at Worcester it continued good.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.0 at 25th May, 1925, as compared with 15.2 at 27th April, 1925, and 11.7 at 26th May, 1924.

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

Branches.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
China Manufacture ...	1,482	+ 2.1	- 1.6	2,941	+ 1.3	- 7.1
Earthenware Manufacture ...	9,303	- 0.1	+ 0.5	17,608	+ 3.9	+ 3.7
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,853	+ 0.3	+ 5.0	3,391	+ 2.0	+ 8.0
TOTAL ...	12,638	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	23,940	+ 3.3	+ 2.8
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire ...	9,701	+ 0.5	+ 1.2	17,350	+ 4.6	+ 2.1
Other Districts ...	2,937	- 0.5	- 0.0	6,590	+ 0.2	+ 4.5
TOTAL ...	12,638	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	23,940	+ 3.3	+ 2.8

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 11,991 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 3,264, or 27 per cent., were working on an average 13½ hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd May, 1925.

SEAMEN.

DURING May employment remained slack on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 25th May, 1925, was 20.8, compared with 21.0 at 27th April, 1925, and 16.8 at 26th May, 1924.

On the Thames the demand for men declined in the first half of May and improved subsequently, being described as fair at the end of the month. On the Tyne it was fair in the early part of the month, but declined later. Employment on the Wear was moderate to quiet; on the Tees it was quiet. At Hull and at Southampton the demand was quiet to moderate. At Bristol it was moderate in the first half of May, but a falling off occurred afterwards. Employment at Avonmouth was fairly good throughout the month. At Swansea and at Newport it was fair on the whole. The demand at Cardiff improved, being reported to be fair to good during the month. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand was fair, a slight decline being noticeable in the second half of May. At Manchester also it was fair, with a small falling off in the middle of the month.

The demand on the Clyde continued generally moderate; at Leith it was quiet. At Belfast it was quiet on the whole.

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 May.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	May, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Five Months ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	May, 1925.	May, 1924.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool† ...	11,677	+ 24	- 991	56,689	54,172
Manchester ...	744	- 104	- 75	4,366	3,906
London ...	6,787	- 917	- 2,378	38,715	38,428
Southampton ...	12,348	+ 2,573	+ 1,781	43,206	36,977
Tyne Ports ...	2,084	+ 372	+ 158	9,685	8,336
Sunderland ...	305	+ 104	+ 3	1,326	887
Middlesbrough ...	452	+ 60	- 83	1,996	2,023
Hull ...	1,181	- 197	- 351	7,439	7,527
Grimsby ...	2	- 15	- 26	19	95
Bristol‡ ...	1,062	- 87	+ 185	4,895	4,195
Newport, Mon. ...	801	+ 99	+ 200	4,057	4,115
Cardiff§ ...	2,810	+ 370	- 715	12,234	14,940
Swansea ...	805	+ 221	+ 4	3,387	3,819
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ...	339	- 88	+ 7	1,657	1,642
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	259	- 74	- 14	1,537	1,032
Glasgow ...	3,362	+ 755	- 808	13,692	13,676
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast ...	40	- 144	- 202	828	975
TOTAL ...	45,058	+ 2,952	- 3,305	205,728	196,745

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued generally slack.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service 32.6 per cent. were unemployed at 25th May, 1925, as compared with 31.1 at 27th April, 1925, and with 25.3 at 26th May, 1924.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month :—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
2nd May 1925 ...	4,591	2,057	6,648	8,076	14,724
9th " ...	4,871	2,678	7,549	8,170	15,719
16th " ...	4,414	2,485	6,899	7,646	14,545
23rd " ...	4,578	2,566	7,144	7,677	14,821
30th " ...	4,523	2,341	6,864	7,592	14,456
Average for 5 weeks ended 30th May, 1925 ...	4,596	2,425	7,021	7,832	14,853
Average for April, 1925	4,091	2,406	6,497	8,025	14,522
Average for May, 1924	4,905	2,201	7,106	8,246	15,352

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in May was 1,009, as compared with 1,038 in the previous month, and with 1,102 in May, 1924.

East Coast.—With coal-trimmers and teemers on the North-East coast employment continued to be bad. With other classes of workers on the Tyne employment, although still slack, was somewhat better than in April. At Blyth and on the Wear it was slack and worse than in April. It continued bad at Hull and Middlesbrough, and showed no improvement at other East Coast ports.

Western and Southern Ports.—Employment at Liverpool was slack and worse than in April. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 1st June was 15,706, compared with 16,084 in the four weeks ended 27th April, and with 15,101 in the four weeks ended 26th May, 1924. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £42,516 in the five weeks ended 1st June, compared with £40,260 in the four weeks ended 27th April, and with £39,719 in the four weeks ended 26th May, 1924.

Employment continued slack at the South Wales ports. At Bristol there was a slight revival, but at Avonmouth slackness continued. It was bad and worse than in the previous month at Southampton. At Plymouth and other South Western ports it was fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was fair at Glasgow and Leith, and slack at Dundee. At Belfast it was moderate.

* 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.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 25th May, 1925. "Unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 25th May, 1925, 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 employed persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Every person so insured is given an Unemployment Book on which *inter alia* the industry of the employer has been recorded. 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 number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is estimated at approximately 11,514,000. This figure is computed annually, and is estimated from a count of the unemployment books which are exchanged annually. This annual exchange commences in the first week of July, but it is not until the end of September that the exchange of books is sufficiently near completion to allow of a satisfactory estimate being made. In making this annual estimate consideration is given not only to the actual number of books exchanged, but also to the number likely to be exchanged in the course of the insurance year.

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:—

(a) Insured persons, unemployed and in receipt of benefit;

(b) Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;

(c) 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.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included amongst the numbers unemployed.

In July, 1923, the classification of insured workpeople was revised so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 census of population. At the same time the classification was put on a strictly industrial basis, all unemployment books being classified according to the industry of the employer, or, in the case of unemployed persons, of the last employer. Consequently the statistics of unemployment industry by industry subsequent to June, 1923, are not strictly comparable with those prior to that date.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.									
				NUMBER OF UNEMPLOY- MENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 25TH MAY, 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH MAY, 1925.				INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 27TH APRIL, 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			<i>Great Britain only.</i>	Males.	Females.	Total.
							Males.	Females.	Total.	<i>Totals.</i>			
Fishing	25,150	600	25,750	3,577	85	3,662	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.1	+ 0.5	+ 7.0	+ 0.6
Mining:—													
Coal Mining	1,252,430	7,920	1,260,350	197,847	1,402	199,249	15.8	17.7	15.8	15.8	+ 4.2	+ 1.6	+ 4.2
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	17,050	40	17,090	3,594	2	3,596	21.1	5.0	21.0	20.9	+ 3.4	— 2.5	+ 3.3
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	4,950	50	5,000	782	4	786	15.8	8.0	15.7	15.7	+ 0.1	...	+ 0.1
Stone Quarrying and Mining	35,840	300	36,140	1,882	9	1,891	5.3	3.0	5.2	5.0	— 0.3	...	— 0.4
Slate Quarrying and Mining	10,120	10	10,130	301	...	301	3.0	...	3.0	3.0	— 1.0	...	— 1.0
Other Mining and Quarrying	20,550	1,610	22,160	1,370	181	1,551	6.7	11.2	7.0	6.7	— 0.6	— 0.5	— 0.6
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	13,270	270	13,540	513	12	525	3.9	4.4	3.9	3.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.1	+ 0.4
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—													
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	13,230	260	13,490	1,609	23	1,632	12.2	8.8	12.1	12.1	— 1.4	— 2.0	— 1.5
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	11,110	690	11,800	1,611	61	1,672	14.5	8.8	14.2	14.2	— 2.0	— 3.2	— 2.1
Cement Limekilns and Whiting Works	15,330	690	16,020	696	46	742	4.5	6.7	4.6	4.6	— 1.0	+ 0.9	— 0.9
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	62,770	7,720	70,490	3,629	1,005	4,634	5.8	13.0	6.6	6.3	— 0.4	— 0.8	— 0.5
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	37,960	35,290	73,250	4,375	6,609	10,984	11.5	18.7	15.0	15.0	— 0.4	— 0.1	— 0.2
Glass Trades:—													
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	21,750	5,230	26,980	2,772	509	3,281	12.7	9.7	12.2	12.1	— 1.0	— 0.2	— 0.8
Glass Bottle Making	16,260	1,780	18,040	3,313	171	3,484	20.4	9.6	19.3	19.2	— 1.2	— 1.6	— 1.3
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.:—													
Chemicals Manufacture	76,010	21,630	97,640	7,449	1,314	8,763	9.8	6.1	9.0	8.9	+ 0.3	— 0.7	+ 0.1
Explosives Manufacture	13,820	5,440	19,260	1,052	379	1,431	7.6	7.0	7.4	7.4	— 0.1	...	— 0.1
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	12,910	3,530	16,440	690	188	878	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	+ 1.0	— 1.3	+ 0.5
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	58,070	21,630	79,700	4,742	1,392	6,134	8.2	6.4	7.7	7.6	— 0.2	— 1.4	— 0.5
Metal Manufacture and Secondary Pro- cesses:—													
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	29,880	310	30,190	5,315	28	5,343	17.8	9.0	17.7	17.7	— 2.7	— 2.0	— 2.7
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Fur- naces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	203,150	4,120	207,270	48,610	345	48,955	23.9	8.4	23.6	23.6	— 3.2	+ 0.2	— 3.1
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	36,500	3,530	40,030	4,636	329	4,965	12.7	9.3	12.4	12.5	— 0.1	— 0.5	— 0.1
Manufacture of Tin Plates	24,960	4,300	29,260	5,961	678	6,639	23.9	15.8	22.7	22.7	— 15.0	— 8.7	— 14.1
Iron and Steel Tube Making	25,690	1,530	27,220	4,620	148	4,768	18.0	9.7	17.5	17.5	— 1.4	...	— 1.3
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manu- facture	20,480	4,010	24,490	3,081	388	3,469	15.0	9.7	14.2	14.2	— 1.1	— 0.7	— 0.9
Engineering, etc.:—													
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	588,500	38,880	627,380	74,973	2,145	77,118	12.7	5.5	12.3	12.2	— 0.8	— 0.2	— 0.8
Electrical Engineering	58,080	13,450	71,530	3,165	907	4,072	5.4	6.7	5.7	5.7	+ 0.1	...	+ 0.1
Marine Engineering, etc.	64,860	1,250	66,110	12,232	61	12,293	18.9	4.9	18.6	18.5	+ 0.3	— 0.1	+ 0.3
Constructional Engineering	23,120	890	24,010	3,220	42	3,262	13.9	4.7	13.6	13.5	— 0.3	+ 0.2	— 0.3
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—													
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	184,500	18,840	203,340	10,929	1,000	11,929	5.9	5.3	5.9	5.8	— 0.5	— 0.3	— 0.4
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Wagons, Locomotives, and Trams	22,090	2,460	24,550	2,159	197	2,356	9.8	8.0	9.6	9.3	— 1.3	+ 0.3	— 1.2
Repairing	51,000	1,180	52,180	3,498	44	3,542	6.9	3.7	6.8	6.8	+ 0.1	— 0.1	...
	251,610	3,480	255,090	80,223	201	80,424	31.9	5.8	31.5	31.5	+ 0.1	— 0.1	+ 0.1

INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.										INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 27th APRIL, 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			
				NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 25TH MAY, 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH MAY, 1925.										
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			Great Britain only. Totals.	Males.	Females.	Total.				
							Males.	Females.	Total.								
Metal Trades :—																	
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ...	74,780	7,090	81,870	8,109	771	8,880	10.8	10.9	10.8	10.7	...	+	0.5	...	...	...	...
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	11,970	880	12,850	1,115	31	1,146	9.3	3.5	8.9	8.9	+	1.2	—	0.3	+	1.1	...
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ...	48,700	26,240	74,940	3,527	2,352	5,879	7.2	9.0	7.8	7.8	—	0.6	—	0.7	—	0.7	...
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	23,540	8,140	31,680	3,017	931	3,948	12.8	11.4	12.5	12.4	...	—	0.9	—	0.1	—	0.1
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ...	15,630	11,860	27,490	2,190	1,615	3,805	14.0	13.6	13.8	13.8	—	0.7	—	1.0	—	0.8	...
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ...	18,600	11,210	29,810	2,321	1,381	3,702	12.5	12.3	12.4	12.4	—	0.8	—	1.1	—	0.9	...
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	5,330	430	5,760	335	12	347	6.3	2.8	6.0	5.9	—	3.7	+	1.2	—	3.4	...
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ...	27,420	19,940	47,360	3,244	2,009	5,253	11.8	10.1	11.1	11.0	—	0.7	—	0.8	—	0.7	...
Other Metal Industries ...	112,180	63,370	175,550	10,328	7,341	17,669	9.2	11.6	10.1	10.0	—	1.1	—	0.7	—	0.9	...
Textile Trades :—																	
Cotton ...	201,450	360,940	562,390	11,835	30,909	42,744	5.9	8.6	7.6	7.6	...	+	0.8	+	0.5	+	0.5
Woolen and Worsted ...	110,650	150,240	260,890	18,379	28,044	46,423	16.6	18.7	17.8	17.7	+	1.0	+	1.5	+	1.2	...
Silk ...	15,880	25,840	41,720	920	2,096	3,016	5.8	8.1	7.2	7.2	—	2.0	—	1.8	—	1.9	...
Linen ...	25,620	57,510	83,130	9,242	24,067	33,309	36.1	41.8	40.1	38.1	+	3.0	+	5.9	+	5.1	...
Jute ...	13,150	28,070	41,220	1,962	3,483	5,445	14.9	12.4	13.2	13.2	+	0.1	+	0.8	+	0.6	...
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ...	7,620	12,980	20,600	819	2,076	2,895	10.7	16.0	14.1	10.7	—	0.9	—	0.7	—	0.7	...
Hosiery ...	20,330	73,080	93,410	1,445	7,438	8,883	7.1	10.2	9.5	9.3	+	0.1	+	0.1	+	0.1	...
Lace ...	8,440	11,890	20,330	2,067	1,523	3,590	24.5	12.8	17.7	17.7	+	0.1	...	...	+	0.1	...
Carpet Manufacture ...	11,810	15,150	26,960	649	1,495	2,144	5.5	9.9	8.0	7.9	—	1.1	+	0.1	—	0.4	...
Other Textile Industries ...	13,230	30,650	43,880	1,151	3,959	5,110	8.7	12.9	11.6	10.9	—	0.3	—	0.7	—	0.6	...
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	83,920	33,600	117,520	9,799	4,015	13,814	11.7	11.9	11.8	11.3	—	1.0	—	1.7	—	1.2	...
Leather and Leather Goods :—																	
Tanning, Currying and Leather Dressing ...	34,020	8,580	42,600	4,058	1,215	5,273	11.9	14.2	12.4	12.4	+	0.5	—	1.3	+	0.2	...
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture ...	15,020	12,760	27,780	1,617	1,311	2,928	10.8	10.3	10.5	10.4	—	0.3	—	0.4	—	0.4	...
Clothing Trades :—																	
Tailoring ...	66,200	123,250	189,450	4,001	4,573	8,574	6.0	3.7	4.5	4.4	—	1.8	—	1.4	—	1.5	...
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ...	11,610	94,780	106,390	834	4,428	5,262	7.2	4.7	4.9	4.4	—	0.7	—	1.5	—	1.5	...
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ...	14,190	19,440	33,630	808	1,149	1,957	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.8	—	2.4	—	1.5	—	1.9	...
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ...	7,340	64,740	72,080	444	4,247	4,691	6.0	6.6	6.5	5.7	—	1.1	—	0.9	—	0.9	...
Other Dress Industries ...	10,790	18,920	29,710	976	1,630	2,606	9.0	8.6	8.8	8.7	—	0.6	—	0.6	—	0.6	...
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	92,220	50,270	142,490	10,602	3,732	14,334	11.5	7.4	10.1	9.9	—	0.5	+	0.6	—	0.1	...
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—																	
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	94,580	49,960	144,540	9,236	3,944	13,180	9.8	7.9	9.1	8.8	—	0.4	—	0.9	—	0.6	...
Grain Milling ...	28,010	3,520	31,530	1,397	173	1,570	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.8	+	0.2	—	2.1	...	...	...
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	25,160	47,010	72,170	1,808	5,282	7,090	7.2	11.2	9.8	9.8	—	1.2	—	1.4	—	1.4	...
Other Food Industries ...	50,670	57,810	108,480	4,723	7,645	12,368	9.3	13.2	11.4	11.3	—	0.2	—	0.4	—	0.3	...
Drink Industries ...	85,890	23,010	108,900	4,673	2,390	7,063	5.4	10.4	6.5	6.1	—	0.3	—	1.6	—	0.5	...
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture ...	13,760	30,090	43,850	830	2,617	3,447	6.0	8.7	7.9	7.1	—	1.0	—	2.6	—	2.0	...
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—																	
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	54,690	2,990	57,680	5,312	279	5,591	9.7	9.3	9.7	9.4	—	0.4	+	1.0	—	0.3	...
Wood Box and Packing Case Making	10,700	1,840	12,540	1,559	330	1,889	14.6	17.9	15.1	14.9	—	1.3	—	2.5	—	1.5	...
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	79,410	17,350	96,760	4,400	1,191	5,591	5.5	6.9	5.8	5.6	—	0.5	—	0.4	—	0.4	...
Other Woodworking ...	20,070	6,430	26,500	1,945	876	2,821	9.7	13.6	10.6	10.0	—	0.7	+	1.9	—	0.1	...
Printing and Paper Trades :—																	
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	39,920	14,690	54,610	2,935	1,093	4,028	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.0	+	0.4	+	0.6	+	0.4	...
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	19,360	35,490	54,850	1,067	2,447	3,514	5.5	6.9	6.4	6.3	—	0.3	—	0.7	—	0.6	...
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining ...	4,100	1,380	5,480	152	74	226	3.7	5.4	4.1	4.1							

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

NUMBER OF CLAIMS TO BENEFIT.

DURING the four weeks ended 25th May, 1925, 759,279 fresh claims were added to the register, while 751,780 claims were removed from the register. As the number of fresh claims may include those of a number of claimants who make a further claim after a short period of employment, it cannot be assumed that the change-over during the month is as great as the statistics below appear to show at first glance; but the figures indicate a substantial fluctuation in the personnel of the unemployed.

Insurance Claims current at 27th April, 1925 ... 1,114,445
Fresh Claims made between 27th April and 25th May, 1925 ... 759,279

1,873,724

Claims removed from the register between 27th April and 25th May, 1925 ... 751,780

Insurance Claims current at 25th May, 1925 ... 1,121,944

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

Claims to "extended" benefit—i.e., benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted for decision to the Local Employment Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople. The following Table shows the number of claims dealt with by these Committees in Great Britain during the period 14th April to 11th May, 1925:—

Applications referred to Committees during period ... 276,720
Applications admitted by Committees during period:—

(a) For 12 weeks ... 87,605
(b) For less than 12 weeks ... 146,407
Applications rejected during period ... 40,028

Of the total number of applications rejected during the period, 3,001 were rejected as not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, 2,333 were rejected on the ground that insurable employment was not likely to be available, 9,943 were rejected as not having served a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years, and 12,480 were rejected as not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment, or not willing to accept suitable employment.

EXPENDITURE ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

The following Table shows approximately the amounts which have been paid during the five weeks ended 29th May, 1925:—

Week ending	Amount paid in benefit		
	By Exchanges, etc.	Through Trade Unions.	Total.
1925.	£	£	£
April 1st ...	815,000	51,000	866,000
" 8th ...	803,000	48,000	851,000
" 15th ...	803,000	59,000	862,000
" 22nd ...	796,000	54,000	850,000
" 29th ...	791,000	57,000	848,000
	4,008,000	269,000	4,277,000

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed on 25th May, 1925, was 1,253,354. Of this number, 962,713 were men, 34,385 boys,† 226,046 women and 30,210 girls.† Compared with 27th April, there was an increase of 2,502. In the men's department there was an increase of 14,935, while in the case of women and juveniles there were decreases of 5,410 and 7,023 respectively.

During the four weeks ended 25th May, the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 109,298, of which 60,614 were for men, 28,144 for women, and 20,540 for juveniles.

Week ended	Applications from Employers.		Vacancies Filled.†	Number of Workpeople Registered as Unemployed.
	During Week.	Outstanding at end of Week.		
27th April, 1925 ...	32,519	23,909	29,184	1,250,852
4th May, 1925... ..	31,730	23,900	27,014	1,238,272
11th " " " " " " "	31,090	23,521	26,821	1,251,912
18th " " " " " " "	32,325	25,169	27,327	1,241,176
25th " " " " " " "	33,268	25,849	28,136	1,253,354
Total (4 weeks) ...	128,413	...	109,298†	...

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and refer to all workpeople on the "Registers" of Exchanges, including persons "suspended" or "stood off," and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, were not actually at work on the date in question. For Great Britain alone, the corresponding figures, as published in the Press, were 925,100 men, 199,800 women, and 61,200 juveniles, as compared with 970,000 men, 239,000 women, and 65,000 juveniles at 29th December, 1924.

† The results of a recent enquiry shows that of the juveniles registered as applicants for work about 5 per cent. were in work or at school.

† This figure includes a weekly average of about 800 placings of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed on 25th May, 1925. In certain cases—e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.—the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Area.	Number of Persons registered as Unemployed on 25th May, 1925.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) a compared with 27th April, 1925.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	111,270	29,177	7,682	148,129	− 17,726
South-Eastern Division ...	31,751	5,641	3,237	40,629	− 6,669
Brighton ...	1,378	393	108	1,879	− 448
Chatham ...	2,279	214	510	3,003	− 405
Ipswich ...	1,676	260	95	2,031	− 611
Norwich ...	2,371	450	52	2,873	− 399
Rest of South Eastern	24,047	4,324	2,472	30,843	− 4,806
South-Western Division ...	48,096	9,024	3,953	61,073	− 2,576
Bristol ...	11,567	2,987	812	15,366	− 26
Plymouth ...	4,666	517	515	5,698	− 277
Portsmouth ...	4,582	659	385	5,626	− 491
Reading ...	1,200	103	139	1,442	− 501
Southampton ...	5,254	328	457	6,039	− 149
Swindon ...	231	45	161	437	− 23
Rest of South Western	20,596	4,385	1,484	26,465	− 1,109
Midlands Division ...	110,393	34,138	5,621	150,152	+ 9,808
Birmingham ...	16,998	7,251	741	24,990	+ 1,982
Coventry ...	1,133	291	13	1,437	+ 12
Cradley Heath ...	3,055	561	81	3,697	+ 1,266
Derby ...	794	418	142	1,354	− 243
Leicester ...	2,415	2,090	55	4,560	+ 332
Northampton ...	1,484	364	61	1,909	− 162
Nottingham ...	10,029	2,176	673	12,878	+ 589
Smethwick ...	2,505	1,293	82	3,880	− 578
Stoke-on-Trent ...	8,074	5,499	409	13,982	+ 33
Walsall ...	4,506	954	271	5,731	− 487
West Bromwich ...	2,879	430	96	3,405	− 149
Wolverhampton ...	3,302	1,072	135	4,509	− 460
Rest of Midlands	53,219	11,739	2,862	67,820	+ 14,169
North-Eastern Division ...	234,952	36,401	15,119	286,472	+ 12,777
Barnsley ...	1,313	106	44	1,463	− 440
Bradford ...	8,728	5,290	457	14,475	+ 992
Darlington ...	2,256	158	118	2,532	+ 379
Dewsbury ...	1,447	1,235	132	2,814	− 70
Doncaster ...	349	231	202	782	− 47
Gateshead ...	7,766	610	741	9,117	+ 1,300
Grimsby ...	2,384	214	322	2,920	+ 291
Halifax ...	2,373	2,498	243	5,114	+ 915
Hartlepool ...	7,232	166	372	7,770	+ 25
Huddersfield ...	3,069	1,808	164	5,041	+ 630
Hull ...	10,789	730	823	12,342	+ 545
Leeds ...	10,380	3,528	229	14,137	+ 1,375
Lincoln ...	2,320	270	172	2,762	− 49
Middlesbrough ...	10,381	362	715	11,458	+ 3
Newcastle-on-Tyne... ..	14,379	1,333	816	16,528	− 449
Rotherham ...	1,968	179	191	2,338	− 602
Sheffield ...	19,807	2,902	867	23,576	− 780
South Shields ...	5,331	461	534	6,326	− 219
Stockton-on-Tees ...	7,694	174	426	8,294	+ 122
Sunderland ...	19,064	747	1,216	21,027	+ 1,875
York ...	1,619	307	216	2,142	− 671
Rest of North Eastern	94,303	13,092	6,119	113,514	+ 13,002
North-Western Division ...	159,198	48,364	11,827	219,389	+ 2,546
Accrington ...	619	220	14	853	+ 24
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	2,020	1,089	101	3,210	− 479
Barrow ...	3,675	236	187	4,098	+ 82
Birkenhead ...	4,846	386	317	5,549	+ 34
Blackburn ...	1,893	1,056	110	3,059	− 116
Blackpool ...	1,128	414	76	1,618	− 198
Bolton ...	4,989	2,777	415	8,181	+ 655
Burnley ...	1,667	839	94	2,600	+ 156
Bury ...	929	445	49	1,423	− 300
Chorley ...	1,748	617	109	2,474	+ 434
Liverpool ...	46,535	6,609	4,497	57,641	+ 1,654
Manchester ...	19,443	7,234	1,002	27,679	− 1,946
Nelson ...	417	202	3	622	− 287
Oldham ...	6,427	3,090	216	9,733	− 1,240
Preston ...	2,525	942	147	3,614	− 332
Rochdale ...	2,474	1,149	88	3,711	− 244
St. Helens ...	2,113	223	175	2,511	+ 63
Salford ...	6,850	3,072	671	10,593	− 113
Stockport ...	2,615	1,484	165	4,264	+ 24
Warrington ...	1,949	443	96	2,488	− 597
Wigan ...	6,238	2,825	575	9,638	+ 1,626
Rest of North Western	38,098	13,012	2,720	53,830	+ 3,646
Scotland Division ...	148,966	33,705	9,198	191,869	+ 4,691
Aberdeen ...	4,417	1,002	126	5,545	− 558
Clydebank ...	2,282	224	107	2,613	+ 29
Dundee ...	6,383	3,006	99	9,488	+ 133
Edinburgh ...	10,453	2,135	542	13,130	+ 525
Glasgow ...	53,532	12,886	3,246	69,664	+ 1,939
Greenock ...	6,756	1,229	530	8,515	+ 789
Motherwell ...	3,770	235	147	4,152	+ 397
Paisley ...	4,334	1,052	207	5,593	+ 300
Rest of Scotland	57,039	11,936	4,194	73,169	+ 5,015
Wales Division ...	80,880	3,347	4,582	88,809	− 3,397
Cardiff ...	6,064	728	512	7,304	− 107
Llanelli ...	2,910	104	148	3,162	− 2,242
Newport ...	2,903	193	302	3,398	− 1,049
Swansea ...	5,007	298	403	5,708	− 916
Rest of Wales	63,996	2,024	3,217	69,237	+ 917
Northern Ireland ...	37,207	26,249	3,376	66,832	+ 3,048
Belfast ...	24,153	17,072	2,172	43,397	+ 2,175
Londonderry ...	2,446	766	126	3,338	+ 63
Lurgan ...	1,036	1,178	117	2,331	− 343
Lisburn ...	423	363	26	812	− 320
Newry ...	959	420	22	1,401	− 74
Rest of Northern Ireland	8,190	6,450	913	15,553	+ 1,547
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	962,713	226,046	64,595	1,253,354	+ 2,502

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

IN the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, resulted in an aggregate reduction of £16,400 in the weekly full-time wages of over 500,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £3,350 in the weekly wages of 36,000 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	6,300	303,000	£ 230	£ 3,000
Iron and Steel ...	2,700	99,000	60	3,250
Engineering and Other Metal ...	8,000	42,000	1,550	3,200
Other ...	19,000	70,000	1,510	6,950
Total ...	36,000	514,000	3,350	16,400

In the mining group there was a small reduction (about 0·3 per cent. on current rates) in the percentage addition to the basis rates of coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. Iron ore miners in Cumberland sustained reductions of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d. per shift, under a selling-prices sliding scale, with a further reduction, in some cases of 4d. per shift, under a cost-of-living sliding scale. In the case of coal miners in the Radstock district, the percentage addition to basis rates was increased by an amount equal to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates. There were also increases in the wages of lower-paid men at ironstone mines in the Cleveland district, varying in amount from 1d. to 5d. per shift.

The principal change in the iron and steel group was a reduction, equivalent to about 1 per cent. on current rates, in the wages of steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, with a corresponding reduction in the wages of a large number of subsidiary classes of workers in the iron and steel trades whose wages are regulated under the smelters' sliding scale. There were also reductions of about 1 per cent. on the current rates of blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and Scotland, with further reductions under a cost-of-living sliding scale in Cumberland, varying from 5·2d. to 1s. 2d. per week. There was a decrease of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the standard rates of Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales. Increases occurred in the wages of blastfurnacemen and maintenance engineers, etc., in iron and steel works in Lincolnshire.

In other metal trades there was a reduction of about $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the current rates of tinplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and electrical cable makers sustained reductions amounting to 1s. 6d. or 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week in the case of men and 1s. per week in the case of women. Pipe fitters in the heating and domestic engineering trade in England and Wales had their wages increased by 1d. per hour.

In the other industrial groups the principal changes were reductions of 1d. per hour in the wages of coopers, of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in those of furniture trade operatives in London, of 1s. per week in those of

road transport workers in Scotland, and of one-ninth of the bonus paid to the employees of most of the local authorities in London. Reductions also occurred in the wages of hosiery workers at Hawick, and roller leather and leather belt makers. Under a Trade Board Order there was an increase, generally of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour, in the minimum rates payable to workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade.

Of the total decrease of £16,400 in May, over £7,700 took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or selling prices; nearly £7,000 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales (including £3,600 which took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople); nearly £1,500 resulted from settlements effected by arbitration; and the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between the parties. Of the total increase of £3,350, over £2,200 was the result of direct negotiation between the parties; £650 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales (nearly all of which was the result of Trade Board Orders); nearly £300 took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or selling prices; and the remainder under arbitration awards or arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-MAY, 1925.

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 five completed months of 1925, 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...	80,000	315,000	£ 5,600	£ 13,900
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	21,500	650	3,400	110
Iron and Steel ...	14,000	171,000	1,000	13,800
Engineering and Ship-building ...	5,000	600	650	50
Other Metal ...	35,000	45,000	5,000	4,450
Textile ...	25,000	138,000	1,750	5,500
Clothing ...	3,000	250	500	15
Food, Drink and Tobacco	20,000	4,500	2,250	475
Woodworking, etc. ...	3,500	3,500	350	300
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	10,000	...	1,400	...
Building and Allied Trades ...	49,000	...	5,400	...
Transport ...	214,000	...	21,000	...
Public Utility Services	191,000	2,500	19,000	200
Other ...	38,000	5,000	2,700	600
TOTAL ...	709,000	686,000	70,000	39,400

In the corresponding five months of 1924 there were net increases of about £480,000 in the weekly wages of 2,480,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £13,500 in the weekly wages of nearly 250,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes in hours of labour were reported during May.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1925.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Agriculture	AGRICULTURE AND FISHING.			
	Cumberland, Westmorland, and the Furness District of Lancashire.	31 May	Male workers hired on half-yearly or yearly engagements.	Increase of 1s. per week in the minimum rates. Minimum rates after change (effective up to 22 May, 1926): 17s. per week at 14 years, increasing to 29s. at 18 and under 20, and to 38s. at 21 and over.†
			Other male workers ...	Increases of 2s. 6d. per week in the minimum rates for summer period and of 1s. per week in those for the winter period. Minimum rates after change (effective to 22 May, 1926): Summer period, for a week of 54 hours, 17s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 32s. 6d. at 21 and over; winter period, for a week of 48 hours, 16s. at 14 years, increasing to 31s. at 21 and over.†
		14 May	Female workers ...	Rates previously in operation§ extended up to 22 May, 1926.†
		11 May	Male and female workers ...	Rates previously in operation§ extended up to 13 May, 1926.†
	Durham ...	1 May	Female workers ...	Rates fixed up to 15 December, varying from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour at 14 and under 15 years to 5d. per hour at 18 and over.†
			Male workers 21 and over employed wholly or mainly as bailiffs, waggoners, stockmen and shepherds.	Rate fixed up to 30 April, 1926, at 36s. per week for all time worked (not exceeding 60 hours).†
Agriculture	Herefordshire ...	1 May	Other male and female workers ...	Rates previously in operation§ extended up to 30 April, 1926.†
			Male and female workers ...	Rates previously in operation§ extended for a further period (not defined).†
	Anglesey and Carnarvonshire.	14 May	Male workers ...	Rates previously in operation§ extended up to 14 February, 1926, but for a week of 54 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter in lieu of 52 and 50 hours, respectively.†
			Female workers ...	Rates previously in operation§ extended up to 14 February, 1926.†
Agriculture	Brecknockshire and Radnorshire.	3 May	Male workers ...	
			Female workers ...	

* 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 changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to full-time rates of wages, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working.

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of 106,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ The minimum rates of wages referred to took effect under Orders of the Agricultural Wages Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

§ For particulars of the actual rates, see the issues of this GAZETTE for January, February, March and April, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE AND FISHING (continued).				
Agriculture (contd.)	Denbighshire and Flintshire, Glamorganshire ...	11 May	Female workers	Rates fixed up to 15 February, 1926, varying from 2½d. per hour at under 16 years to 5d. per hour at 18 and over.*
		11 May	Male workers employed wholly or mainly as stockmen, cattlemen, cowmen, horsemen, shepherds or bailiffs.	Rates fixed up to 1 March, 1926, for a week of 60 hours, varying from 19s. at 14 years to 31s. at 18, and to 40s. at 21 years and over.*
			Male workers 21 years and over ...	Increase of 6d. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change (effective up to 1 May, 1926): 34s. 6d. for a week of 60 hours for stockmen, teamsters, carters and shepherds, and 31s. 6d. for a week of 54 hours for other workers.*
	Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire.	2 May	Male workers under 21 years ... Female workers	Rates previously in operation† extended up to 1 May, 1926.* Rates fixed up to 1 May, 1926, at 5d. per hour for those 18 years and over, 4d. per hour for those 16 and under 18, and 3d. per hour for those 14 and under 16.*
Fishing	Lowestoft	1 May	Crews of sailing trawlers	Decreases of 5s. per week for third hands, 2s. per week for deck hands, and 1s. 6d. per week for cooks.
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Cannock Chase, and Warwickshire. Radstock	1 May	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades.	Decrease of 0.54 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 57.04½ per cent. above the standard of 1911,§ subject to lower-paid men receiving a subsistence allowance up to a maximum of 6d. per shift, provided that the gross daily wage does not exceed 8s. 9d. per shift.||
Coke and By-Products		30 April		Increase of 2.61 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 59.12 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
	South Yorkshire ...	17 Mar.	Labourers employed at coke ovens	Subsistence allowance granted up to a maximum of 6d. per shift, provided that the gross daily wage does not exceed 8s. 9d. per shift.
Iron Mining		1 May	Cokemen and by-product workers	Decrease of 0.54 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 57.04 per cent. above the standard.
	Cleveland	27 April	Lower-paid adult workers employed in ironstone mines.	Increase of 5d. per shift, for men in receipt of a base rate of 3s. 4d. per shift, of 4d. per shift for men rated at 3s. 5d., of 3d. per shift for men rated at 3s. 6d., of 2d. per shift for men rated at 3s. 7d., and of 1d. per shift for men rated at 3s. 8d.¶
	Cumberland... ..	11 May	Workpeople employed at iron-ore mines.	Decrease** of 1d. per shift in the bargain price for iron-ore miners (9s. to 8s. 11d.), of 1d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 4d. to 6s. 3d.), of ½d. per shift for winding enginemen (7s. 11½d. to 7s. 11d.), of ½d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16 years; also bonus reduced†† for certain classes from 11d. to 7d. per shift. Rates after change for underground first-class or leading labourers, 5s. 10d. per shift, plus a bonus of 7d. per shift.
	Furness District ...	10 May	Iron-ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding-scale arrangements).	Decrease‡ of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. 5d. to 8s. 2d.), of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 8d. to 7s. 5d.), of 3d. per shift for surfacemen, and of 1½d. per shift for boys under 16 years.
Quarrying	North Lincolnshire...	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen ...	Increase** of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 44½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
	West Cumberland ...	11 May	Limestone quarryworkers	Decrease** of ½d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of ½d. per shift for other men, and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16 years; also bonus reduced§§ by 1½d. per shift (9d. to 7½d.). Rate after change for day labourers, 6s. 7½d., plus a bonus of 7½d. per shift.
	Buxton (certain firms).	13 May	Limestone quarryworkers	Bonus system instituted for a period up to 27th October whereby a percentage addition is made to wages, varying according to the output of the quarries; minimum time rate increased during operation of system by ½d. per hour (1s. to 1s. 0½d.) for labourers and to 1s. 1½d. per hour for adult waggoners.
	Macclesfield and District.	1 May	Quarrymen, rock-getters, machinememen, dressers and sawyers.	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen, rock-getters, machinememen and dressers, 1s. 6d. per hour; sawyers, 1s. 5d.
Chemical	Aberdeen and Kemnay Districts.	April	Settmakers employed at granite quarries.	Decrease§§ of 4d. per ton.
	Northwich, Middlewich, Runcorn, Sandbach, and Winsford.	10 April	BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES. Engineering artisans employed in chemical works.	Increase of 19 per cent. on the basic engineering industry rates.
Fertilizers*	Plymouth	1 May	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of chemical fertilizers.	Advance of ½d. per hour, plus 5 per cent., previously granted to timeworkers withdrawn, with proportionate decreases for piece and shift workers. Rate after change for general labourers, 1s. per hour.
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay day in May.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work) employed at blast-furnaces.	Decrease** of 1 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 21¼ per cent. above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus; also decreases in bonuses,§§ of amounts varying, according to base rates, from 5.2d. to 1s. 2d. per week. Rates after change for labourers: 4s. 10d. or 5s. per shift, plus 21¼ per cent., plus 5s. 7.8d. per week.
	North Lincolnshire and certain firms in the Leeds District.	3 May	Blastfurnacemen	Increase** of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 44½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Minimum rate for labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 44½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire...	3 May	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces and in steel works.	Increase** of ¼ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 34½ per cent. above the standard, plus a tonnage bonus. Rates after change: pattern-makers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 42s.; machinememen (millers, borers, planers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers (after 1 year's service), 32s. 6d.; plus, in each case, 34½ per cent. and a tonnage bonus.
	West of Scotland ...	3 May	Blastfurnacemen	Decrease** of 1 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 24 per cent. above the standard.

* The minimum rates of wages referred to took effect under orders of the Agricultural Wages Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

† For particulars of the actual rates, see the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1925.

‡ In the case of West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1 May was 55.38 for the Eastern Area and 52.04 for the Western Area (subject to the conditions described in footnote § below).

§ In accordance with the terms of the National Agreement of June, 1924, the above change was subject to the condition that the wages of an adult day-wage workman should not fall below a sum represented by adding 40 per cent. to the standard wages of the lowest-paid class of day-wage workman in the district.

|| The subsistence allowance quoted took effect under an Arbitration Award dated 17 March, and applied generally to men 21 years of age and over, except in West Yorkshire, where the allowance was paid to underground men, 21 years and over, and to surfacemen, 22 years and over. The allowance was generally effected from 17 March, but in Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire) it was made retrospective to November, 1924. In the case of Warwickshire, surfacemen are not to fall below a minimum of 8s. per shift, and underground men 8s. 6d. per shift.

¶ The increases shown are not subject to the current sliding-scale addition. They are to remain in force till January, 1926.

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

‡‡ The reduction in bonus took effect under a cost-of-living sliding scale, and applied to underground shiftmen, underground day-work labourers over 18 years of age, and surface workers over 18 with a shift rate of less than 6s.

§§ A decrease of 5d. per shift was due under the selling prices sliding scale, but it was agreed that only 3d. per shift should be deducted from 10th May, the balance to be deducted from 7th June.

||| The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.

|||| The scale percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slaggars, fillers, enginemen, etc., is 59½ in the Workington Area and 54½ in the Furness Area.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE (continued).				
Iron and Steel	North of England ...	3 May	Bricklayers' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works. Engineers, electricians, strikers, motor attendants, arc lamp trimmers, boilermakers and pattern-makers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works.	Decrease* of 0.1d. per hour (11.53d. to 11.43d.). Decrease* of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of such advance.
	Certain districts in England; also West of Scotland.†	3 May	Bricklayers and masons employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works in England, and steel works in West of Scotland.	Decrease* of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on basis rate, leaving wages 1s. per hour, plus 40 per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
	North of England ...	3 May	Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills, whose wages are based on a 47-hour week.	Decrease* of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of such advance.||
	England and West of Scotland.‡	3 May	Men employed in steel melting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladle-men, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producers and charge wheelers.	Decrease* of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the standard of 1905, leaving wages 40 per cent. (basic process) and 15 per cent. (acid process) above the standard.
			Semi-skilled workers and labourers:— Men on 8-hour shifts§ ...	Decrease* of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.||
			Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week.§	Decrease* of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of such advance.||
	England and Scotland	3 May	Roll-turners	Decrease* of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of such advance.
	North-East Coast area.¶	3 May	Men employed on direct production in steel-rolling mills.	Decrease* of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
	South Yorkshire (certain firms).**	12 April	Blacksmiths' strikers employed on maintenance work in steel works.	Increase of 2s. per week in basis rate (28s. to 30s.).
	South-West Wales ...	3 May	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) engaged in Siemens steel manufacture.	Decrease* of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 28½ per cent. above the standard, plus an additional 30 per cent. to those with base earnings of not more than 30s. per week; an additional 6d. per shift to those with a base rate of 30s. 1d. to 40s. per week; an additional 4d. per shift to those with a base rate of 40s. 1d. to 50s. per week; and an additional 3d. per shift to boys under 18 years of age. Rate after change for labourers, 30s. per week, plus 58½ per cent.
West of Scotland ...	3 May	Men employed in steel rolling mills:— Millmen, gas producers, enginemen, crane-men, firemen, and mill labourers.	Decrease* of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard. Rate after change for mill labourers, 5s. per shift, plus 40 per cent., plus 10d. per shift.	
		Semi-skilled workers and general labourers.	Decrease* of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1 May, 1921, of $\frac{1}{15\frac{1}{2}}$ of such advance.|| Rate after change for general labourers, 41s. 5d. per week.	
		Bricklayers' labourers in steel works	Decrease* of 0.09d. per hour. Rate after change for day-shift men, 9.57d. per hour, plus 1s. per shift.	
ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.				
Engineering, Boilermaking, etc.	Doncaster	2 March	Angle-iron smiths, platers and riveters employed in the Great Northern Section of the London and North Eastern Railway.	Rates fixed at 49s. per week for angle-iron smiths, 47s. per week for platers and 46s. per week for riveters; such rates to be subject to a war wage addition of 16s. 6d. per week. (See I.C. Decisions Nos. 1060 and 1061 on page 219.)
	Northern Counties ... (Great Northern Section of the London and North Eastern Railway.)	2 March	Boilersmiths employed in running sheds.	Rate fixed at 52s. per week for Colwick, Doncaster, and Leeds (Copley Hill) running sheds; the rates for other sheds to be fixed in accordance with the classification scheme already fixed by the Industrial Court, as applied to the schedule of rates adopted by other Railway Companies in 1922; such rates to be subject to a war wage addition of 16s. 6d. per week. (See I.C. Decision No. 1062 on page 219.)
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Tinplate	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	3 May	Workpeople employed in tinplate manufacture (except maintenance craftsmen).	Decrease* of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages (with the temporary allowance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. previously paid), 11½ per cent. above the basis rates (which include 25 per cent. bonus consolidated in 1920). Minimum rate after change for labourers, 45s. 11d. per week.
Electrical Cable.	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire.	3rd pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.).	Decrease†† of 1s. 11½d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 5½d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 6d. per week for boys 15 years, of 5½d. per week for boys 14, 16, and 17 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages correspondingly reduced. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 54s. 10d. to 60s. 8½d.; women 18 years and over, 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.††
	Great Britain, other than the above counties.			Decrease†† of 1s. 6d. per week for men 18 years and over, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages correspondingly reduced. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 49s. 6d. to 55s. 6d.; women 18 years and over, 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.††

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

† This change took effect under an arrangement made by the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the West Coast Ironmasters' Association, the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, and the Lincolnshire Ironmasters' Association, with the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers. The ironworks concerned are those in the North of England, and the steel works are those situated as described in footnote ‡.

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

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

|| Men on base earnings of not more than 7s. per shift have, since August 1924, been in receipt of bonuses varying according to earnings from 2d. to 1s. 2d. per shift (see p. 338 of GAZETTE for September, 1924).

¶ Except certain men employed at Newburn, West Hartlepool and Gateshead.

** The change took effect under the terms of an agreement made between the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society, the Electrical Trades Union, and the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders relating to the wages and other conditions of employment of all classes of men belonging to the Unions mentioned who are employed directly on the maintenance, upkeep and running of the steel plants at the works concerned. The Agreement, while generally continuing wages and the method of regulating them on the previous basis, contained a number of provisions in regard to such matters as overtime, payments for week-ends and holidays, machinery of negotiation and settlement of disputes.

†† This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.

‡‡ Excluding any service bonus that may be due.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES				
Heating and Domestic Engineering.	England and Wales	1st pay day after 16 May.	Heating and domestic engineers (pipe fitters).	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade A district,* 1s. 8d.; Grade B districts,* 1s. 7½d.; Grade C districts,* 1s. 6½d.; Grade D districts,* 1s. 5½d.
Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares.	Great Britain ...	18 May	Certain classes of workpeople employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade.	Scope of existing Trade Board Orders extended to include workers engaged in the manufacture from metal in sheet or strip form by cold stamping or cold pressing of articles known in the trade as metal small wares, and the assembly of such articles, with certain exceptions. (See also page 110 of March GAZETTE.†)
Metallic Bedstead.	Birmingham, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge, Keighley and Glasgow.	1 May	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade.	Decrease‡ in flat-rate bonus of 2s. per week for men 18 years of age and over, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys under 18 years and girls under 18 but over 16 years. Rates after change: men—cupola men, 1s. 3d. per hour (56 hours); frame setters, 1s. 4d. per hour (48 hours); stockfitters in charge, 85s. per week; stockfitters (secondhands, able to fit all classes of stocks), 70s. per week; stockfitters (improvers, not less than 3 years' experience), 30s. per week; bending, 1s. 3d. per hour; cutting off and other sections, 1s. 1½d. per hour; less 12½ per cent. in each case, and subject to the addition of a bonus of 14s. per week; women 18 years and over—wrappers and lacquerers, 7d. per hour; colour painters and transferrers, 8d. per hour; subject, in each case, to the addition of a bonus of 7s. per week.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Hosiery	Hawick ...	1st full pay day in May.	Men and women ... Apprentices ...	Flat-rate bonus of 9s. 9d. per week for men and 7s. 6d. per week for women reduced‡ to 6s. 6d. and 5s. per week respectively, the bonus of 30 per cent. on base rates previously paid remaining unchanged. Flat-rate bonus of 3s. 4½d. per week reduced‡ to 2s. 3d. per week, the bonus of 22½ per cent. on base rates previously paid remaining unchanged.
Lace, etc.	Various districts in England and Scotland.§	1 May	Workpeople employed in the curtain branch engaged in the manufacture of goods composed wholly or partly of silk or artificial silk.	Percentage additions to the current cotton list fixed, varying according to number of points and the proportion of silk or artificial silk threads in use; the minimum wage to be 72s. per week.
Elastic Web	Leicester ...	1st pay day after 17 May.	Elastic-web weavers (male workers)	Bonus reduced‡ from 15s. to 14s. in the pound.
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in June.	Machine calico printers ...	Supplementary cost-of-living wage reduced‡ from 67·15 per cent. to 62·05 per cent. on basis wages, the flat-rate bonus of 10s. per week for journeymen and 9s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 9 May	Workpeople employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trades:— Male workers ... Female workers ...	Decrease‡ of 1s. 3d. per week for those 22½ years and over, 1s. per week for those 21 and under 22½ years, 9d. per week for those 19 and under 21, 6d. per week at 16½ and under 19, and 3d. per week at 14 and under 16½ years. Rates after change: under 14 years, 16s., increasing to 31s. 6d. at 18, to 44s. 9d. at 21, and to 51s. 1d. at 22½ years, plus 2s. for those 21 and over. Decrease‡ of 8d. per week for those 18 years and over. Rate after change, 27s. 10d., plus 1s. 3d. special advance.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Boot and Shoe Repairing.	Great Britain ...	11 May	Male indentured apprentices:— Those indentured on or after 11 May, 1925, and those indentured prior to 11 May, 1925, who were registered with the Trade Board on or after 11 June, 1925. Those indentured prior to 11 May, 1925, and registered with the Trade Board prior to 11 June, 1925.	New scale of minimum weekly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, varying from 5s. 3d. to 11s. 6d. (according to age of starting), and increasing to rates varying from 38s. to 44s. at 20 and under 21 years. (See p. 184 of May GAZETTE.) New scale of minimum weekly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, varying from 7s. to 12s. (according to age of starting), and increasing to rates varying from 32s. to 37s. at 20 and under 21 years. (See p. 184 of May GAZETTE.)
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Baking and Confectionery.	Northumberland, Durham, Middlesbrough and Carlisle.	2 May	Adult male workers ... Women ... Apprentices ...	Increases of 1s. to 3s. per week for doughmen, tablehands, secondhands, singlehands, and ovenmen; and rates fixed at 58s. for chargemen in dispatch department, 48s. for general bakery labourers, and 46s. for packers and cleaners. Rates after change: tablehands, 64s.; doughmen, ovenmen, etc., 66s. New scale of weekly rates adopted for skilled and unskilled workers respectively, starting at 14s., 13s., at 16 years, and increasing to 37s. 6d., 30s., at 21 years. New scale of weekly rates adopted, starting at 14s. at 16 years, increasing to 20s. at 18 years, and to 36s. at 20 years.
	Bristol ...	2 May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease‡ of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 62s. 3d.
	Bath ...	2 May	Ditto ...	Decrease‡ of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s. 6d.
	Ayrshire¶ ...	1st pay day in May.	Ditto ...	Decrease‡ of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 72s.
	Bellshill ..	1st pay day in May.	Ditto ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
	Edinburgh and Leith	23 May	Ditto ...	Decrease‡ of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
	Perth ...	1st pay day in May.	Ditto ...	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 72s. 6d.

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

† Particulars of the minimum rate for male workers 21 years of age and over will be found on page 141 of the April, 1923, GAZETTE, and of the minimum rate for female workers 18 years and over on page 339 of the September, 1923, GAZETTE.

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

§ Viz., Nottingham, Southwell, Draycott, Beeston, Darvel, Newmilns, Galston, Kilmarnock and Stewarton.

¶ Foremen to fix their own minimum, which must not be less than 7s. per week above the rate paid to tablehands.
Auchinleck, Dalmeilington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, Maybole, Stevenston, Troon, Fairlie, West Kilbride, Old Cumnock, New Cumnock, Mauchline, Catrine, Dunlop, Stewarton, Beith, Dalry, Glengarnock, Crosshouse, Hurlford, Darvel, Galston, Newmilns, Kilmaurs, Ardrossan, Salt-coats, etc.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.				
Furniture	London	1 May	Furniture trade operatives:— Adult male and female workers	Decrease* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: spindle and four-cutter hands, 1s. 10d.; other skilled men (cabinetmakers, carvers, woodcutting machinists, upholsterers, etc.), 1s. 9d.; male polishers, 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; carpet and blind section, 1s. 8d.; female polishers, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; upholstresses, 11d.
	Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport.	1 May	Apprentices and improvers ... Gilders Furniture trade operatives ...	Decrease* of 2.32 per cent. on current wages. Decrease* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). Decrease* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for male workers and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for female workers, with proportionate reductions for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinetmakers, carvers, machinists (after 4 years on machines), upholsterers, polishers, etc., 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; upholstresses and female polishers, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	Oldham	1 May	Upholsterers and french polishers...	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Wigan	1 May	Cabinet makers, french polishers, upholsterers, etc.	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
	Birmingham and West Bromwich. Nottingham...	8 May 1 May	Carpet and blind fitters Cabinetmakers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, etc., sanders by hand or machine, and packers.	Decrease* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). Decrease* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for journeymen and of roportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: sanders (single band) and packers, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; others, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Cooperage	Great Britain; also Belfast and Londonderry.	1 May	Coopers	Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers, and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in percentage addition for pieceworkers (making piece rates generally 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above pre-war rates). Rates after change: London, 1s. 8d.; Birmingham, Liverpool, Northwich, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Manchester, Cardiff, Swansea, Wolverhampton, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Greenock, Leith, Paisley, Stirling, Livingston, Alloa, Londonderry, and Belfast, 1s. 7d.; other districts, 1s. 6d.†
PAPER, PRINTING, AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Newspaper Printing.	Principal towns in England and Wales (except London).‡	Pay day in week ending 11 April.	Electrotypers and stereotypers employed in the production of morning, evening and tri-weekly newspapers.	Increases in the extras provided under the terms of the National Agreement of 19 June, 1919, for members of the trade union concerned.§ Minimum rates after change: evening newspapers—Grade I, towns‡ 93s.; Grade II, 89s.; Grade III, 85s.; Grade IV, 82s.; Grade V, 79s.; Grade VI, 76s.; morning and tri-weekly newspapers—9s. 6d. per week more in each case.
			Printers' assistants (21 years of age and over) employed in the production of morning, evening and tri-weekly newspapers.	Increases in the extras provided under the terms of the National Agreement of 10 April, 1919, for members of the trade union concerned.|| Minimum rates after change: Brake and controller hands: evening newspapers—Grade I, towns‡ 76s. 6d.; Grade II, 72s. 6d.; Grade III, 68s. 6d.; Grade IV, 65s. 6d.; Grade V, 62s. 6d.; Grade VI, 59s. 6d.; oilers, strikers, reel hands, reel hoist hands, packers, despatchers, tiers-up, lino assistants and revisers, 4s. less than above rates; flyhands, copyholders, and general assistants, 8s. less than above rates. Minimum rates for morning and tri-weekly newspapers, 6s. above those for evening newspapers for each occupation.
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Building	Gravesend and Northfleet.	1 May	Building trade operatives	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.), and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for labourers (1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.).
TRANSPORT TRADES.				
Road Transport	Scotland (except Forfarshire).	1 May	Road transport workers	Decrease* of 1s. per week for men and of 6d. per week for boys under 18 years.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Electricity Supply Undertakings	Certain Undertakings in the South Coast Area.¶	Beginning of pay week following 14 May.	Adult male workers	Increase of 2s. per week. Scheduled rates after change for labourers—Zone A, 1s. 2.3d. per hour; Zone B, 1s. 1.94d.; Zone C, 1s. 1.58d.; Zone D, 1s. 1.23d.¶
Tramways Undertakings	Great Britain ...	1 May	Youths, under 19 years of age, employed as parcels, messenger, point and trolley boys.	Decrease* of 3d. per week. Rates after change: 14 to 15 years of age, 13s. 9d. per week; 15 to 16 years, 15s. 9d.; 16 to 17 years, 17s. 9d.; 17 to 18 years, 22s. 3d.; 18 to 19 years, 27s. 9d.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Certain Authorities in London.**	1st pay day in May.	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments.	Decrease* of one-ninth of the cost-of-living bonus as revised in July, 1922, making a total reduction of one-ninth from such revision. Scheduled minimum rates after change: general labourers, 62s. 2d. per week; scavengers, 58s. 10d.; female lavatory and bath attendants, 46s.**
	Edinburgh ...	1st full pay after 1 May.	Paviors and settbeaters	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour, or 2s. per week. Rates after change: paviors, 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour; settbeaters, 59s. 6d. per week. (See I.C. Decision No. 1077 on page 219.)
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Coffin Furniture	Great Britain ...	1 May	Male workers employed in the coffin furniture trade:— Timeworkers:— Dressers, stampers, polishers or planishers (including wheelers). Packers, rough warehousemen and despatchers.	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see also p. 184 of May GAZETTE):— Decrease* of 3s. 11d. per week for those 21 and over, and of 1s., 1s. 6d., or 2s. per week (according to age and experience) for those under 21. Decrease* of 1s., 1s. 6d., or 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change for those 21 and over, 47s. to 56s.
			Pieceworkers	Minimum piecework basis time rates fixed at 15 per cent. above the appropriate minimum time rates.
Leather Belt	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in May	Timeworkers	Decrease* of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for skilled men and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for semi-skilled. Rates after change: skilled—London, 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; provinces, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; provinces, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Roller Leather	Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales.	1st pay day in May.	Pieceworkers and cutters on day-work. Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, reduced* from 80 to 75. Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 80 per cent. to 75 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: men—skilled, 9d.; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; women, 5d.; plus in each case 75 per cent.
Saddlery and Harness	London (Metropolitan Police Area).	1 May	Saddlers and harness makers ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.) for timeworkers and of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the percentage payable on piece price list for pieceworkers.

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

† At Burton-on-Trent the rate for those at block and on unions and pressure work is 1s. 7d. per hour, and for vat makers 1s. 8d.

‡ For particulars of the towns in each Grade, see note * on p. 176 of the May GAZETTE.

§ The National Society of Electrotypers and Stereotypers.

|| The National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants.

¶ This increase took effect under Decision 1064 of the Industrial Court (see page 219). The Undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry for the area shown, and include:—Zone A: Bournemouth and Poole Electricity Supply Co., Ltd.; Eastbourne Electricity Department; Portsmouth Corporation Electricity Department; Southampton Electricity Works. Zone B: Basingstoke, Bexhill, Weymouth, Worthing. Zone D: Aldershot.

** The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the London Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include: London County Council, Battersea, Camberwell, Chelsea, Deptford, East Ham, Finsbury, Fulham, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Leyton, St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, Southwark, Stoke Newington, Walthamstow, Wandsworth. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the scheduled rates quoted above.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1925 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES (continued).				
Basket	London ...	2 May	Basket makers ...	Bonus of 50 per cent. on 1916 list reduced* to 45 per cent. Rate after change: timeworkers, 1s. per hour, plus 45 per cent.
	Lancashire and Cheshire.	4 May	Skip and basket makers ...	Decrease* of 5 per cent. on Lancashire price list, leaving wages 95 per cent. and 85 per cent. above list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Brush and Broom	Great Britain ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:—	Cost-of-living sliding scale revised and new schedules of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts in accordance with the revised scale, resulting in the following increases (see also p. 184 of May GAZETTE):—
			Male timeworkers ...	Increases* of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.† General minimum time rate after change for men 21 and over, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.
			Male and female pieceworkers	Increase* in the minimum piece rate of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., leaving wages 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below the list.
			Female timeworkers ...	Increases* of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.† General minimum time rate after change for women 21 and over, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.

TRADE DISPUTES.†

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 47, as compared with 44 in the previous month and 56 in May, 1924. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 17,000. In addition, about 10,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 34 disputes which began before May and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 81, involving about 27,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during May of about 202,000 working days.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in May.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in May.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in May.
	Started before 1st May.	Started in May.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying...	7	18	25	19,000	157,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	6	5	11	3,000	14,000
Textile ...	8	6	14	3,000	8,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc.	4	4	8	1,000	12,000
Other ...	9	14	23	1,000	11,000
Total, May, 1925 ...	34	47	81	27,000	202,000
Total, April, 1925 ...	26	44	70	25,000	122,000
Total, May, 1924 ...	30	56	86	36,000	398,000

Causes.—Of the 47 disputes beginning in May, 8, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 14, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 6, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; 10, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, on

questions of Trade Union principle; and 9, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 27 new disputes, directly involving 10,000 workpeople, and 18 old disputes, directly involving 3,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 11, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 13, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 21, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 3 disputes, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1924 AND 1925.§

Groups of Industries.	January to May, 1924.			January to May, 1925.		
	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.
Mining and Quarrying.	85	62,000	671,000	68	42,000	322,000
Engineering ...	13	2,500	20,000	6	5,000	27,000
Shipbuilding ...	23	30,000	498,000	13	4,000	25,000
Other Metal ...	21	6,000	60,000	20	3,000	23,000
Textile ...	20	4,000	46,000	32	5,000	41,000
Clothing ...	16	2,000	13,000	12	1,000	7,000
Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	5	3,000	17,000	11	3,000	12,000
Woodworking and Furnishing.	8	2,000	34,000	12	2,000	28,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	2	500	4,000	7	16,000	59,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc.	25	8,000	69,000	21	1,000	27,000
Transport ...	31	230,000	1,391,000	17	6,000	12,000
Public Administration Services.	14	3,000	90,000	11	2,000	11,000
Other ...	23	3,000	50,000	23	12,000	64,000
Total ...	286	356,000	2,963,000	253	102,000	658,000

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING MAY, 1925.

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.	Sunderland (near) ...		1925. 14 April	1925. 5 May	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Some of the non-unionists joined the Trade Union.
	South Shields (near) ...		24 April	...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates, and concessions as to payment of minimum wage.	No settlement reported.
	Rhondda Valley ...		4 May	4 May	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Non-unionists joined the Trade Union.
	Rhondda Valley ...		4 May	5 May		
	Llanelli (near) ...		4 May	5 May		
	Newcastle-on-Tyne (near) ...		9 May	16 May	Against proposed reductions in wages.	Certain reductions accepted.
OTHER INDUSTRIES:— Cranemen and other workpeople (shipyard and engine works)—Belfast. Workpeople employed in dyeing and calico printing—Accrington.	104		28 April	6 May	For advance in wages of 10s. per week.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
	1,045		20 May	21 May	Dispute arising out of refusal of clothlookers and stitchers to work with an employee who was in arrears with his Trade Union contributions.	Work resumed pending negotiations.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.
† Excluding those aged 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ –17, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ –18, for whom there was no change. In the case of female learners the increase was confined to those starting at 16 and under 21 in their first and second six months, and those at 21 and over in their third three months.
‡ Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
§ In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information.
|| The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1925, was 50. Eight deaths‡ were reported during the month, four due to epitheliomatous ulceration, three due to lead poisoning and one due to anthrax. In addition, seven cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during May, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—	
Smelting of Metals ...	1
Plumbing and Soldering ...	3
Shipbreaking ...	...
Printing ...	...
Tinning of Metals ...	1
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...	3
White and Red Lead Works ...	1
Pottery† ...	5
Vitreous Enamelling ...	1
Electric Accumulator Works ...	6
Paint and Colour Works ...	1
Indiarubber Works ...	...
Coach and Car Painting ...	1
Shipbuilding ...	1
Paint used in Other Industries ...	1
Other Industries
TOTAL OF ABOVE ...	26

HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING... ..	7
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(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.

Wool	2
Handling of Horsehair
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ...	1
Other Industries ...	1
TOTAL, ANTHRAX	4

(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.

Pitch	5
Tar	2
Paraffin ... ..	...
Oil	9
TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	16

(e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.

Manufacture of Bichromates ... ..	...
Dyeing and Finishing ...	3
Chrome Tanning ... ..	...
Other Industries ...	1
TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION	4

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.§

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during May, 1925, was 193, as compared with 188 in the previous month and with 236 a year ago.

RAILWAY SERVICE.

Brakemen and Goods Guards	1
Engine Drivers	2
Firemen ... ..	...
Guards (Passenger) ... ..	...
Permanent Way Men ...	10
Porters	2
Shunters ... ..	...
Mechanics ... ..	...
Labourers	1
Miscellaneous	7
Contractors' Servants ...	5
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ...	28

MINES.

Underground	76
Surface	11
TOTAL, MINES	87

QUARRIES over 20 feet deep

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	
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Cotton	4
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy
Other Textiles
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing
Metal Extracting and Refining	4
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making	4
Metal Founding	3
Engineering and Machine Making	1

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):

Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering...	1
Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ...	3
Other Metal Trades ...	2
Shipbuilding	4
Wood	1
Gas	3
Electric Generating Stations	1
Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...	2
Chemicals, etc.	7
Food and Drink	3
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...
Tanning, Currying, etc. ...	1
Rubber Trades ... ..	...
Other Non-Textile Industries	1

PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.

Docks, Wharves, etc. ...	8
Buildings	14
Warehouses and Railway Sidings	2

TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, AND PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106

Construction or repair of:	
Bridges	1
Tramways	1

Total (excluding Seamen)

193	
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* 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 five persons affected in the Pottery industry two were females.

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

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in May, 1925, in the thirty-one selected areas named below, was 693,069, or 2·9 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 11·1 per cent. less than in May, 1924.

Selected Urban Areas.	Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in May, 1925.				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 AND WALES.						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District... ..	8,830	6,502	15,332	185	– 5	– 9
North District ...	10,181	17,356	27,537	269	– 12	– 31
Central District ...	2,286	2,575	4,861	362	– 14	– 33
East District ...	9,837	49,542	59,379	920	– 26	– 40
South District ...	19,240	67,195	86,435	445	– 7	– 45
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	50,374	143,170	193,544	423	– 11	– 34
West Ham	4,409	61,372	65,781	865	– 48	– 88
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District	2,625	24,425	27,050	542	+ 8	– 50
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,139	12,216	13,355	489	– 51	– 169
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	4,017	7,183	11,200	141	– 8	– 7
Wigan District ...	1,757	9,992	11,749	262	– 5	– 18
Manchester District	8,587	25,290	33,877	326	– 2	– 13
Liverpool District...	9,688	44,410	54,098	440	– 5	– 84
Bradford District ...	1,729	3,881	5,610	151	– 20	+ 13
Halifax and Huddersfield ...	1,291	3,064	4,355	114	...	+ 7
Leeds†	2,450†	8,291†	10,741†	227†	– 6†	+ 7†
Barnsley District ...	875	8,238	9,113	280	+ 9	+ 27
Sheffield	2,579	23,546	26,125	507	– 39	– 168
Hull District ...	1,723	11,439	13,162	411	– 1	– 47
North Staffordshire	2,129	5,572	7,701	185	– 4	+ 8
Nottingham District	2,119	9,933	12,052	257	– 29	+ 22
Leicester	1,184	2,497	3,681	154	– 6	+ 2
Wolverhampton District ...	3,245	15,922	19,167	261	– 13	– 46
Birmingham ...	7,060	18,417	25,477	269	– 19	– 150
Bristol District ...	2,420	11,263	13,683	331	– 15	– 40
Cardiff and Swansea	2,410	13,752	16,162	340	– 7	+ 18
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	59,027	259,331	318,358	307	– 10	– 43
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	113,810	463,873	577,683	368	– 12	– 42
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	5,093	70,094	75,187	772	– 8	– 182
Paisley and Greenock District ...	786	10,792	11,578	600	+ 12	– 129
Edinburgh	1,642	13,766	15,408	362	– 17	– 78§
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	729	3,106	3,835	174	+ 1	+ 5
Aberdeen	514	2,787	3,301	207	– 8	– 30
Coatbridge and Airdrie	442	5,635	6,077	596	+ 7	+ 7
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	9,206	106,180	115,386	556	– 7	– 115§
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in May, 1925	123,016	570,053	693,069	390	– 11	– 51§

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during May, 1925, 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 Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in May, 1925.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in May, 1925.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1924.	Jan.– May, 1925.		1922 to 1924.	Jan.– May, 1925.
To Australia	2,145	56,082	9,493||	1,813	55,281	9,855
„ New Zealand	738	16,490||	3,076||	824	14,575	3,919
„ Canada:						
Dominion of Canada...	881	12,169	5,300||	1,078	11,623	4,933
Province of Ontario ...	153	1,367	...	131	1,356	...
Minor Schemes ... ..	...	3,308	534||	...	3,105	449
Total	3,917	89,416||	18,403||	3,846	85,940	19,156

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

* Including dependants. The figures exclude casuals, lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only.

† The figures for England and Wales relate to 30th May, and those for Scotland to 15th May.

‡ The numbers in receipt of relief at Leeds relate to the Leeds Union as constituted on 1st April, 1925, after alteration of area. The rate per 10,000 and comparisons with previous months are approximate only.

§ The figures previously published for May, 1924, have been revised.

|| Revised figures.

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 or cities. 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, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	Rise.	Date.
	Per cent. 120	Per cent. 80	Per cent. 62	Per cent. 62	Per cent. 66	1925. June
UNITED KINGDOM ...						
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Austria (Vienna) ...	9,700†	328,600	1,291,000	1436100	1,582,900	Apr.
Czechoslovakia ...	...	...	...	...	801	Apr.
Denmark ...	136	84	88	100	115	Jan.
Finland ...	1,178	1,005	868	916	999	Apr.
France (Paris)† ...	206	197	221	260	318	May
" (other towns)† ...	250§	212§	249§	300§	341	Feb.
Holland (The Hague) ...	113	80	60	62	70	Mar.
" (Amsterdam) ...	80	40	36	38	51	Mar.
Italy (Milan) ...	406	392	396	408	520	Apr.
Norway ...	196	133	118	148	165	May
Sweden† ...	132	79	60	59	69	May
Switzerland ...	110	57	64	68	66	Apr.
United States ...	45	39	44	40	48	Apr.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.						
Australia ...	61	48	64	49†	52	Apr.
Canada ...	48	38	37	34	41	May
India (Bombay) ...	74	60	48	51	51	May
Irish Free State ...	...	85†	82	85	91	Apr.
New Zealand ...	64	44	42	48	50	May
South Africa ...	39	16	16	17	24	Apr.

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, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	Rise.	Date.
		Per cent. 119	Per cent. 84	Per cent. 69	Per cent. 70	Per cent. 72	1925. June
UNITED KINGDOM A,B,C,D,E							
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna) ...	A,B,C,D	9,872	263600	1090200	1239000	1342200	Apr.
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	279	266	329	393	402	May
Chile ...	A,C,D,E	...	...	...	90	96	Feb.
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	137	99	104	114	121	Jan.
Egypt (Cairo) ...	A,D	93	72	52	48	72	Mar.
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,039	1,018	990	1,032	1,078	Apr.
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	195**	189**	231**	267**	286	1st Qr.
Germany¶¶ ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	...	365§	May
Greece (Athens) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	516	933	1,225	1,349	Mar.
Hungary ...	A,B,C,D,E	3,661	15,579	225,167	1635900	1658900	Feb.
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	394	388	387	412	500	Apr.
Luxembourg ...	A,C,D	284	259	340	381	408	May
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	202††	155††	139††	151††	173	Mar.
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	275§	515§	Apr.
Spain (Madrid) ...	A,D	84	79	72	82	89	Apr.
" (Barcelona) ...	A,D	78	73	65	72	74	Apr.
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	136	90	74	71	77	Apr.
Switzerland ...	A,C,D	110	63	67	70	68	Apr.
United States ...	A,B,C,D,E	80††	67††	70††	69††	73	Dec. '24
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia ...	A,B	46**	43**	56**	48**	48	4th Qr.
Canada ...	A,B,D	52	46	46	44	46	May
India (Bombay) ...	A,B,C,D	77	65	53	57	56	May
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	85**	80	83	88	Apr.
South Africa ...	A,B,D,E	...	35	30	32	34	Apr.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States and Chile, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter. †† Figure for June. ‡‡ Figure for May. §§ Based on prices calculated on a gold standard. ¶¶ See article on p. 81 of March, 1925, GAZETTE as to change in the basis of the index number.

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. 198-199 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details as to the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series N (Statistics) No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in May.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges on 30th May was 10,023 (6,813 men and 3,210 women). At the end of April the corresponding total was 12,188, and in May, 1924, 7,917. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 9,508 (5,219 for men and 4,289 for women), as compared with 8,863 at the end of April and 13,210 in May, 1924. During the last week of May the Exchanges succeeded in placing 26,478 persons in situations, including 8,514 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 1,973 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY†

Employment in April.—The improvement in the labour market was, on the whole, maintained throughout the month, with the sole exception of mining, in which industry the situation changed for the worse owing to the cessation of sales. The slackness noticeable in certain districts or industries remained isolated and restricted.

Returns from Trade Unions concerning unemployment show a further decline in the numbers unemployed. Out of 3,616,826 members in the 39 organisations making returns, 157,184, or 4.3 per cent., were out of work on the last day of the month, as against 5.8 per cent. at the end of March and 10.4 per cent. on 30th April, 1924.

The following Table gives percentages for the principal Unions included in the foregoing totals:—

UNIONS.	Member-ship reported on at end of Apr., 1925.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Apr., 1925.	Mar., 1925.	Apr., 1924.
S.D. = Social-Democratic. H.D. = Hirsch-Duncker (non-Social-Democratic). C. = Christian.				
All Unions making Returns ...	3,616,826	4.3	5.8	10.4
Building (S.D.) ...	300,000	5.7	14.3	15.3
Metal (S.D.) ...	779,000	5.1	5.2	17.0
" (H.D.) ...	80,000	4.5	4.7	16.8
Textile (S.D.) ...	320,000	3.4	3.6	3.7
" (C.) ...	85,000	0.8	1.3	0.8
Clothing (S.D.) ...	88,000	1.3	1.4	0.8
Boot and shoe (S.D.) ...	78,000	6.0	6.6	2.6
Transport (S.D.) ...	244,000	6.2	6.5	13.6
Printing (S.D.) ...	70,000	0.4	0.3	3.8
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	57,000	2.5	2.3	9.1
Woodworking (S.D.) ...	296,000	3.5	4.1	6.5
Bakery and confectionery (S.D.) ...	54,000	7.7	8.1	9.7
Food preparation (S.D.) ...	65,000	1.5	1.8	3.0
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	57,000	8.7	10.3	7.2
Factory workers (trades not specified) (S.D.) ...	347,000	5.0	7.0	11.2
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	46,000	6.0	6.1	14.4
Factory and transport (C.) ...	61,000	3.8	13.0	10.0
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	144,000	1.1	1.3	4.4
Porcelain (S.D.) ...	39,000	2.4	3.3	4.5

The figures in the above Table relate solely to persons entirely without employment. In addition, statistics are presented in the German source as to the prevalence of short time. These show that this form of unemployment decreased both as regards the number of cases and the average time lost per case. In the 34 Unions reporting on this point, out of 3,116,405 members, 4.9 per cent. were on short time at the end of April, as against 5.1 per cent. in the preceding month, and 5.8 per cent. on 30th April, 1924.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit throughout Germany fell from 393,287 on 15th April to 319,656 on 1st May and 274,091 at the latest date (15th May) for which figures are available. The figures show only the number of those who have fulfilled the conditions entitling them to benefit from public employment funds, and not the total number of unemployed persons in Germany.

BELGIUM.‡

Unemployment in April.—The latest figures available relate to April, but are provisional only. Returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 604,827, show that 9,817 (or 1.6 per cent.) were totally unemployed and 33,133 (or 5.5 per cent.) partially so at the end of the month. The total days lost through unemployment in April numbered 470,722, or 3.24 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 3.0, and in April, 1924, 1.36.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 5th June, 1925. Paris.

† Reichsarbeitsblatt, 8th June, 1925. Berlin.

‡ Revue du Travail, 31st May, 1925. Brussels.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in April.—The issue of *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (the journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office) for 30th May publishes preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 270,963 members of unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 25th April, 16,467 (6.1 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week and 4,993 (1.8 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 28th March) the percentages were respectively 6.9 and 2.2, and in the week ended 26th April, 1924, 6.9 and 1.7.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in April.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th May, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 148,503 at the end of April, as compared with 175,581 at the end of the preceding month and 82,524 at the end of April, 1924. In Vienna alone there were 78,845 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of May and 81,552 at the end of April.

ITALY.

Unemployment in March.—According to a report issued by the Italian Unemployment Insurance Department,* 142,552 workpeople were totally unemployed on 31st March, as compared with 156,659 at the end of February and 218,740 at the end of March, 1924. In addition, 14,282 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 11,702 on 28th February and 21,654 on 31st March, 1924. On 31st March last the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit, under the statutory unemployment insurance scheme, was 23,537, as compared with 23,445 on 28th February and 46,893 on 31st March, 1924.

SWEDEN.†

Unemployment in March.—Trade unions with an aggregate membership of 216,282 reported 25,824, or 11.9 per cent., as out of work on the last day of March, as against 13.5 per cent. at the end of February and 13.9 per cent. at the end of March, 1924. The following Table gives particulars for the principal unions included in the returns:—

Unions.	Membership of Unions reporting on 31st Mar., 1925.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Mar., 1925.	28th Feb., 1925.	31st Mar., 1924.
All Unions making Returns ...	216,282	11.9	13.5	13.9
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Carpenters and joiners ...	6,252	37.2	36.0	35.1
Iron and steel ...	14,050	11.8	12.1	7.4
Foundry workers... ..	3,627	10.7	9.1	14.3
Engineering	46,218	9.4	10.1	9.9
Textile	8,817	2.1	4.4	2.1
Clothing	4,876	4.3	5.4	3.8
Boot, shoe and leather ...	8,024	5.5	5.3	5.8
Food preparation	7,079	10.7	12.6	11.2
Brewery workers	3,768	3.3	2.7	2.6
Sawmilling	20,230	14.3	25.1	29.5
Woodworking	6,428	10.4	12.0	9.2
Paper and pulp	16,799	4.8	6.0	7.4
Municipal workers	9,075	6.7	6.0	3.8
Commercial employees ...	7,905	8.5	8.2	6.8
General and factory workers (trades not specified) ...	21,387	26.4	28.8	31.2

DENMARK.‡

Unemployment in April.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that, out of 261,490 workpeople, 13.3 per cent. were unemployed on 24th April, as against 15.1 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 8.1 per cent. at the end of April, 1924.

UNITED STATES.§

Employment in April.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in April, based on returns from 9,039 establishments in 52 manufacturing industries, covering 2,835,491 workpeople, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments in March reported 2,833,137 persons employed, and the April figures consequently indicate a net increase of 0.1 per cent. The aggregate wages paid show for April a decrease of 1.7 per cent., and the average weekly earnings a decrease of 1.8 per cent. Twenty-five of the 52 industries record increases in the number of workpeople employed in April, the largest for the most part being purely seasonal, such as fertilizers (11.3 per cent.), automobiles (8 per cent.), brick, tile, etc. (7.9 per cent.), ice cream (7.9 per cent.), carriages (7.1 per cent.), and in the cement industries (6.1 per cent.). The largest decreases in employment are in the cigars and cigarettes (8.1 per cent.), and in the confectionery industries (8 per cent.).

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1924, returns from 8,029 establishments in 52 industries show a net decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the number of persons employed, and a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in aggregate wages, and an increase of 0.2 per cent. in average weekly earnings.

Sixteen of the 52 industries show increases in the number of persons employed (fertilizers 18.8 per cent., automobile tyres 17.8 per cent., dyeing and finishing textiles 10.2 per cent., silk goods 8.8 per cent., rubber boots and shoes 7.3 per cent., agricultural implements 6.9 per cent., and cotton goods 5.1 per cent.), and 36 show decreases, the decrease exceeding 10 per cent. in two cases.

Index Number of Employment in April.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding index number for April, 1925, is 92.1, as compared with 92.3 in the preceding month, and 94.5 in April, 1924.

CANADA.

*Employment in May.**—For 1st May, 1925, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,923 firms, with an aggregate of 748,448 upon their pay rolls. On 1st April the same firms reported 716,866, and the total for 1st May thus shows an increase of 31,582 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st May, 1925, is 90.8, as compared with 87.2 in the preceding month and 91.8 on 1st May, 1924.

Trade Union Unemployment in April.†—On 30th April, 8.7 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 8.5 per cent. at the end of March, and 5.1 per cent. in April, 1924.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND OTHER CAPITAL CITIES.

THE series of computations of comparative "real wages" in London and certain other capital (or quasi-capital) cities made by the International Labour Office on the basis of returns supplied by official statistical departments in the various cities is carried down to the date of 1st January, 1925, in the April issue of the monthly journal of the Office in question.‡ The corresponding index numbers for 1st July, 1924, were reproduced in the November, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE, to which reference should be made for certain particulars as to their origin, method of compilation, significance and limitations, and those for 1st October, 1924, were given in the issue for February last. The figures have for their object a comparison of working-class real wages, so far as these can be gauged by the purchasing power (in terms of food) of the wage paid for an hour's work at the ordinary time-rate (i.e., apart from extra payment for overtime) in certain typical adult male occupations common to large cities. In the compilation of these index numbers an attempt has been made to measure the purchasing power of wages in each city, not only by the working-class standard of food consumption of the country in which that city is situated, but also by standards of working-class food consumption appropriate to each of the other cities represented; and, finally, by a sort of international standard of working-class food consumption (columns 7 and 8).

The final results, as computed by the International Labour Office on the basis of wage rates and retail prices current on or about 1st January, 1925, are reproduced below:—

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages (or Comparative Purchasing Power of Money-Wages) in London and certain Cities Abroad at 1st January, 1925.

Average for all Occupations covered by the Inquiry. (London = 100.§)

City.	Index Numbers based on Quantities of each kind of Food consumed in Working-Class Households in						General Average Index Nos. (based on food only).	General Average Index Nos. (with allowance for rent).
	Belgium and France.	Central European Countries.	Great Britain.	Southern European Countries.	Scandinavian Countries and Netherlands.	Overseas Countries (Canada and U.S.A.).		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
London ...	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Amsterdam ...	84	88	78	81	84	79	82	82
Berlin ...	62	65	59	62	62	61	62	64
Brussels ...	58	59	55	55	58	55	57	61
Lisbon|| ...	42	41	38	41	41	40	41	...
Madrid ...	59	58	50	57	57	55	56	...
Milan|| ...	45	45	42	46	47	45	45	47
Oslo ...	81	82	79	80	85	79	81	83
Ottawa ...	164	163	171	160	175	178	169	152
Paris ...	73	73	68	69	76	68	71	72
Philadelphia ...	224	222	220	216	224	218	221	220
Prague ...	60	63	55	55	59	57	58	63
Rome|| ...	48	46	45	50	48	48	48	51
Stockholm... ..	78	81	79	78	86	82	81	79
Vienna ...	47	48	46	48	48	47	47	51
Warsaw ...	48	49	42	47	47	46	47	50

* *The May Employment Situation*, 1925. Ottawa.

† Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

‡ *International Labour Review*, April, 1925. International Labour Office Geneva.

§ Although London is taken arbitrarily as base (= 100), the ratios would be the same whatever city were chosen as base.

|| The figures for Lisbon, as well as those for Rome and Milan, are relatively low. This may be accounted for in part by the differences in the items of food consumption in the Southern countries from those ordinarily consumed in most of the other countries included in the Table. The budgets used in the comparisons do not make adequate allowance for the consumption of vegetable foods in the Southern European countries.

* *La Disoccupazione in Italia*, 31st March, 1925. Rome.

† *Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 5, 1925. Stockholm.

‡ *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 23rd May, 1925. Copenhagen.

§ *Employment in Selected Industries in April*, 1925. U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics, Washington.

LEGAL CASES; UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS; CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES; TRADE BOARDS ACTS, Etc.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Trade Unions.

INDUCING CUSTOMERS NOT TO DEAL—COMBINATION TO PROTECT TRADE INTERESTS.

This was an appeal from a decision of the Court of Appeal. The appellant was a retail newsagent and a member of a trade union called the National Federation of Retail Newsagents. The respondents were members of a committee of circulation managers of the London daily newspapers, a committee which looked after the interests of the publishers. The federation advocated a policy known as the "distance limit policy," for preventing newcomers from opening shops for the retail sale of newspapers in any area already sufficiently supplied; and they sought to enforce that policy, in the event of a newcomer opening a shop in such an area without their permission, by procuring their members to withdraw their custom from the wholesale newsagent from whom the newcomer obtained his supplies.

In 1922 cases arose of certain newcomers who, in view of the retail federation, came within the "distance limit policy." Some of these newcomers were in the habit of obtaining their supplies of newspapers from a wholesale agent named R..... Bros. As that firm could not be prevailed upon to stop supplies to newcomers, the retail federation, in pursuance of a scheme for bringing pressure upon them to do so, induced the appellant, a retail newsagent, to withdraw his custom from R..... Bros. and transfer it to W., who obtained his supplies of newspapers partly from W. H. Smith and Son and partly from the *Daily Mail* office. The respondents took the view that the federation's "distance limit policy" was opposed to the interests of the publishers, and they accordingly informed W. that if he continued to supply papers to the appellant, his own supplies from the *Daily Mail* office would be stopped; and they also brought pressure to bear on W. H. Smith & Son to discontinue the supply of papers in that event to W. W. ultimately discontinued his supply of papers to the appellant. The appellant brought an action for an injunction to restrain the respondents from interfering with his right to obtain papers from W., or generally with his right to carry on his business as he would. Mr. Justice Russell granted an injunction, but his decision was reversed by the Court of Appeal, which held that the action taken by the respondents was legitimate and was taken for the purpose of defending what was in their opinion the policy which it was necessary for them to maintain in order to sell their papers. The matter was taken to the House of Lords.

The Lord Chancellor stated the law, as applicable to the present case, to be as follows:—

A combination of two or more persons wilfully to injure a man in his trade was unlawful, and, if it resulted in damage to him, was actionable. If the real purpose of the combination was not to injure another, but to protect the trade of those who entered into it, then they had not committed or threatened to commit any wrong and were not liable to any proceedings. The appeal was dismissed. *Sorrell v. Smith*.—House of Lords.—15th May, 1925.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-24.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE Umpire is a judicial authority, independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions* are final and conclusive.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 632/25 (15/4/1925), Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as Amended).—Not Genuinely Seeking Work—

Seamen Living at Place Remote from Seaport Refused Offer of Work as Road Labourers—Alleged Wages too Low and Work Unsuitable—Prospects of Work in District Poor and should have Removed to Seaport Town where Chances of obtaining Seafaring Employment better.

The applicants, who were single men, last employed as seamen, lodged claims for benefit on the 27th September, 1924. They lived

in a place remote from a seaport and their prospects of seafaring work were therefore very poor. At the beginning of November, 1924, they were offered work as road labourers, but they refused the work on the ground that the wages offered were too low and the distance too far from their homes. They had not been accustomed to labouring work, and did not want work in that capacity, but they were willing to accept suitable work in the mercantile service. Their claims were disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (iv).

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that as the applicants were single men they should at least have given the job a trial.

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

"These applicants are usually employed as seamen, and they are seeking employment as seamen through the Employment Exchanges and through their Union, but they are living in places remote from any large seaport and their chances of getting employment as seamen are thereby appreciably diminished.

"If, however, there is a reasonable chance of their getting other employment in their own districts, and they are willing to take, and trying to get it, they satisfy the condition of being genuinely seeking work. If there is no likelihood of their getting local employment, or they are unwilling to take it, they ought to go to a seaport town where there is a better chance of getting employment as seamen. If they do not do so they fail to satisfy the condition of being genuinely seeking work.

"Generally, I think such a seaman should be allowed a reasonable time—say six weeks—to find employment in his own district, and if he fails to do so in that time he should remove to a seaport town, otherwise he fails to show that he is genuinely seeking work.

"These applicants have been registered for Unemployment Benefit more than six weeks, and as there appears to be no prospect of their getting work otherwise than by going to a seaport to find it they should adopt this course."

Case No. 638/25 (15/4/1925), Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as Amended).—Genuinely Seeking Work—

Seamen resident at places remote from Seaport Town were Members of Royal Naval Reserve—Conditions of Engagement Restricted their Employment to Seafaring Work—Endeavouring to get such work—Should go to Seaport Town if unable to find work in six weeks.

The applicants, who were usually employed as seamen, lodged claims for benefit on various dates between September and November, 1924. They were members of the Royal Naval Reserve, and the terms of their enrolment provided that they should be employed entirely at sea. They lived, however, at places remote from a seaport town, and their claims for benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended).

They stated that they had applied at various places for work, but without avail. Their Association also had endeavoured to secure them employment as seamen. They contended that they were genuinely seeking work as seamen, as the term of their enrolment as members of the Royal Naval Reserve restricted their employment to work in that capacity.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicants were genuinely seeking work, but were restricted by the terms of their enrolment in the Royal Naval Reserve to employment at sea.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He said that, being members of the Royal Naval Reserve, they were compelled to take employment of a seafaring nature. They lived, however, remote from a seaport town, and he was therefore of the opinion that they had thereby so restricted their opportunities of obtaining employment that they could not be held to be genuinely seeking work within the meaning of the Insurance Acts.

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

"These applicants are seamen who are living in places remote from a seaport, but are trying to get employment as seamen through the Employment Exchange and through their Union.

"Whilst living in these remote places they ought to register alternatively for some other employment, but I think that failure to do so is not sufficient ground for saying that they are not genuinely seeking work. They appear to be willing to take such work as may be had locally, and I see no reason for doubting that they are trying to get it.

"There is not therefore sufficient ground for saying that they are not genuinely seeking work.

"If after failing to get local or other employment in six weeks from the date of their claims, they continue to reside in places remote from a seaport, it may well be doubted whether they are then genuinely seeking work."

* Volumes containing the collected decisions of the Umpire are published by His Majesty's Stationery Office.

Decisions given after March, 1922, are not published in volume form, but summaries of the cases are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All applications should be made to His Majesty's Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

Case No. 707/25 (27/4/1925), Section 8 (1) of Principal Act and 4 (1) of No. 2 Act, 1924.—Trade Dispute—

Breach of National Agreement by Employers—Employers Alleged had withdrawn from Federation through which they were parties to the Agreement—Resignation before date of Confirmation of Agreement not proved.

The applicant was one of a number of employees in the building trade who lost their employment on the 21st February, 1925, owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute; his claim for payment in lieu of benefit from his Association was disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1).

The dispute had arisen over the payment of certain revised rates of wages which in accordance with the terms of a National Agreement had applied to workers in the building trades in the Frome District as from the 1st February, 1924. The applicant's employers, who refused to pay the revised rates, alleged that they had withdrawn from the Federation which was a party to the Agreement. The applicant contended that the disqualification imposed on his claim for payment in lieu of benefit should be removed in accordance with Section 4 (1) of the No. 2 Act, 1924, inasmuch as the dispute was caused by the employers acting in such a manner as to contravene the terms of a National Agreement to which the employers and employees were contracting parties.

The case was argued fully before the Court of Referees, and the essential facts are shown in the Umpire's Decision below.

Recommended by a majority of the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of opinion that the employers were parties to the Agreement and had acted in such a manner as to contravene its terms, but the Chairman was of the opinion that the claim should be disallowed as no Agreement had been broken and Section 4 of the No. 2 Act, 1924, did not apply. The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation, but agreed with the Chairman of the Court.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that if the above-named employed person had made a claim for unemployment benefit the claim would have been allowed.

"The applicant on the 21st February lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute, but he claims to be entitled to benefit under Section 4 (1) of the Act of 1924 on the ground that the stoppage was due to an employer so acting as to contravene the terms of a National Agreement by which the rates of wages in the building trade for the Frome District were altered as from February 1st, 1924. That agreement was confirmed by the National Council on January 10th, 1924. There is no doubt that employers in Frome refused to pay wages in accordance with the terms of that agreement, but it is contended that they were not contracting parties to the agreement. They were members of a local association (which I may speak of as "The Frome Employers"), and that association was admittedly up to December, 1923, a constituent member of the West Wilts Federation of Employers, who in turn were members of the South Western Building Trades Employers' Federation, who were members of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, but it is suggested that the Frome Employers had ceased to be members of the West Wilts Federation (and therefore of the National Federation) before the agreement was confirmed on the 10th of January, 1924.

"Before the Court of Referees letters were produced which point to the Frome builders having, in June, 1923, given notice of resignation to take effect as from December, 1923, and it was stated that 6 months' notice was sufficient; but it has now been clearly shown by a letter from the Organising Secretary of the South Western Building Trades Employers' Federation (which was not before the Court of Referees) confirmed by oral evidence given by the Assistant Secretary of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers: (1) that no notice of resignation was given by the Frome Employers in 1923, and (2) that even if notice was given in June, 1923, it would not be effective until June, 1924, as by a rule of the West Wilts Federation one year's notice of resignation is required.

"I agree therefore with the majority of the Court of Referees that the Frome Employers were acting in a manner so as to contravene the terms of a National Agreement to which they were contracting parties and that the stoppage was due to their so acting."

INSURANCE YEAR REGULATIONS, 1925.

The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1925, dated 8th May, 1925, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5. c. 30).

THE Minister of Labour, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by Sections 35 and 47 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

1. The period commencing on the 6th day of July, 1925, (being the day next after the last day of the preceding Insurance Year), and ending on the 4th day of July, 1926, shall be an Insurance Year.

2. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1925, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this eighth day of May, 1925.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—ANGLE-IRON SMITHS, PLATERS, RIVETERS.—The Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society, The National Union of Railwaymen *v.* The London and North Eastern Railway. *Difference.*—Rates of pay under Schedule C to Decision No. 728. *Decision.*—The Court determined the rates of pay for the men concerned. The parties agreed that the rates awarded shall apply as from 2nd March, 1925. Issued 6th May, 1925. (1060, 1061.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—BOILERSMITHS—RUNNING SHEDS.—The Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society *v.* The London and North Eastern Railway. *Difference.*—Rates of pay under Schedules B and C to Decision No. 728. *Decision.*—The Court determined the appropriate rates of pay for the men concerned. The rates to operate as from 2nd March, 1925. Issued 6th May, 1925. (1062.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—PAINTERS—EAST CROYDON.—The National Union of Railwaymen *v.* The Southern Railway. *Difference.*—Grading. *Decision.*—The Court are not satisfied that the men concerned are required to do painting work of the highest-class finish, and accordingly the Court decide that the men have not established their claim to be raised to Grade I. Issued 8th May, 1925. (1063.)

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY—SOUTH COAST AREA.—The Workpeople's Side of District J.I.C. (No. 11) South Coast Area Electricity Supply Industry *v.* The Employers' Side. *Difference.*—Wages: Application for flat rate increase. *Decision.*—The claim for an advance of 6s. per week has not been established. The Court have, however, reconsidered the reduction made in 1923, and have decided to restore the 2s. per week. This sum shall become payable as from the beginning of the pay week following this decision. Issued 14th May, 1925. (1064.)

TEDDINGTON U.D.C.—National Union of General and Municipal Workers *v.* Teddington U.D.C. *Difference.*—Claim for rates of pay and conditions of service to be adjusted to those recommended by the Provincial Council for County of Middlesex, Local Authorities, Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers). *Decision.*—The Court revised certain rates of pay but made no alterations in the conditions of employment of the workpeople concerned. Issued 21st May, 1925. (1066.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—LONDON ELECTRIC RAILWAYS—VEHICLE BUILDERS.—The National Union of Vehicle Builders *v.* Metropolitan District Railway, London Electric Railway, City and South London Railway and the Central London Railway. *Difference.*—Claim for increase of Output Bonus. *Decision.*—The whole question of payment should be reviewed by the parties with a view to timing all work, and bringing the amount of bonus payable into more definite relation to the amount of work done on a "timed" basis. The Court accordingly remit the question to the parties for further consideration. Issued 25th May, 1925. (1071.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—FITTERS, ETC.—DURNSFORD ROAD POWER STATION.—The National Union of Railwaymen *v.* The Southern Railway. *Difference.*—Claim for allowances for dirty and dangerous work. *Decision.*—The men concerned shall receive an extra payment of 1s. per day, or part of a day, when working in the ash receiver on repairs or cleaning; and an extra payment of 6d. per day, or part of a day, when engaged in joint caulking of steam mains in high positions adjacent to the boilers, or in places where the heat is excessive (such as the tops of boilers). The Court are unable to find justification for other claims put forward, and accordingly find against them. Effective as from the date hereof. Issued 25th May, 1925. (1072.)

EDINBURGH CORPORATION—MANUAL WORKERS IN NON-TRADING DEPARTMENTS—FIRE BRIGADE—PAVIORS—SETTBEATERS—OVERSEERS.—The National Union of Corporation Workers *v.* The Corporation of the City of Edinburgh. *Difference.*—Wages application. *Decision.*—(Manual workers) The claim is not one that can be conceded at the present time. (Fire Brigade) The Court see no reason to vary their decision of 2nd August, 1923. (Paviors) The wages of the men concerned shall be advanced by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour, or 2s. per week. (Settbeaters) The wages of the men concerned shall be advanced by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour, or 2s. per week. (Overseers) The Court decide to make no alteration in the present rate. Advances of wages to operate from the first full pay following 1st May, 1925. Issued 26th May, 1925. (1077.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—SIGNAL DEPARTMENT.—The National Union of Railwaymen *v.* The London and North Eastern Railway and the Southern Railway. *Difference.*—Grading. *Decision.*—The various workpeople concerned should be classified in the light of certain observations made by the Court. Such classification to operate as from the beginning of the first full pay following the date hereof. Issued 29th May, 1925. (1083-4-5.)

**(B.)—CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS,
AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION
APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.**

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES: SOMERSET.—Messrs. C. and J. Clark, Limited, Street, Somerset *v.* The National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives. *Difference.*—As to the rate to be paid for machining round openings or slots of uppers (Closing Department). *Arbitrator.*—Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E., appointed under Section 2 (2) (b) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. *Award.*—Certain piece rates fixed. Issued 8th May, 1925.

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

ENGINEERING: SCOTLAND.—Workers' Union *v.* Messrs. Shanks and McEwan. *Difference.*—Claim for special increases in connection with the construction of the new Shieldhall Dock. *Agreement.*—Certain increases granted and overtime conditions agreed. Signed 3rd April, 1925. Certain minor differences subsequently arising out of the Agreement were also satisfactorily settled.

TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS: LONDON.—Workers' Union *v.* Eastern Telegraph Company. *Difference.*—200 boys struck work to enforce a claim for a scheme of promotion and regular increases of pay after three years' service. *Agreement.*—Majority of strikers reinstated. Company also decided that in future efforts should be made to place boys in other employment on reaching the age of 17. Agreed 22nd April, 1925.

RAILWAY WAGON BUILDERS AND REPAIRERS: CARDIFF.—Amalgamated Society of Railway Wagon Builders, Wheelwrights, Carpenters and Mechanics *v.* The Taff Wagon Company, Limited, Cardiff. *Difference.*—Claim for bonus payments over and above certain piece-work rates. *Agreement.*—Claim conceded. Agreed 2nd May, 1925.

LACE WORKERS: BARNSTAPLE.—Workers' Union *v.* Messrs. Miller Brothers, Derby Lace Factory, Barnstaple. *Difference.*—Strike of operatives following proposal by firm to institute short-time working arrangements. *Agreement.*—Resumption of work secured. Agreed 4th May, 1925.

BOTTLE WASHERS AND SORTERS: LONDON.—Workers' Union *v.* Messrs. Bagley and Company, Great Northern Railway, King's Cross. *Difference.*—Claim for increased wages, a 48-hour working week and improved conditions. *Agreement.*—Certain increases granted and a 48-hour week conceded. Agreed 5th May, 1925.

FLOUR MILLING: BIRMINGHAM.—Transport and General Workers' Union *v.* J. Appleby and Sons, Limited, Birmingham. *Difference.*—Alteration in hours of shift workers. *Agreement.*—Firm to revert to old system. Agreed 11th May, 1925.

CARTERS AND MOTORMEN: BOOTLE.—Liverpool and District Carters' and Motormen's Union *v.* Messrs. J. Parr, Limited, Bootle. *Difference.*—Claim for payment of overtime and Sunday stable duty rates in accordance with the Liverpool Road Transport Agreement. *Agreement.*—Claim conceded. Agreed 13th May, 1925.

TRAMWAY WORKERS: LANARKSHIRE.—Transport and General Workers' Union *v.* Lanarkshire County Tramways. *Difference.*—Reduction of 4s. per week in wages of motormen and conductors. *Agreement.*—Proposed reduction to be made by two equal instalments. Position to be reviewed at the end of six months. Agreement signed on 15th May, 1925.

BAKERS: PERTH.—Scottish Union of Bakers and Confectioners *v.* Perth Private Bakers. *Difference.*—Claim for increase of 2s. 6d. per week. *Agreement.*—Claim conceded. Agreed 16th May, 1925.

PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES: MALVERN.—Workers' Union *v.* Malvern Urban District Council. *Difference.*—Claim for increases to workmen employed in the Surveyor's Department. *Agreement.*—Certain increases granted. Agreed 22nd May, 1925.

BOX AND PACKING CASE MAKERS: BURTON-ON-TRENT.—National Union of Packing Case Makers (Wood and Tin), Box Makers, Sawyers and Millworkers *v.* Messrs. J. B. Kind, Limited, Burton-on-Trent. *Difference.*—Claim for increases to men, women and juveniles. *Agreement.*—Certain increases granted. Signed 23rd May, 1925.

**NATIONAL WAGES BOARD
(RAILWAYS ACT, 1921).**

RECENT DECISIONS.

The National Wages Board, on 19th May, 1925, issued their decision on two sets of cases in respect to which it was contended that the Great Western Railway had acted contrary to the National Agreement of 1st March, 1920, relative to the rates of pay of railway male clerical staff.

(1) About three years ago, the Great Western Railway began to inform a number of their junior clerks that there were no senior positions to which they could be appointed, and that they could remain in the Company's service only if they were willing to continue on their "present rate of salary" until they had passed the examination and been appointed to senior positions. The examination of the juniors and the payment of the salary laid down in the fifth class scale were postponed until varying dates after the youths had attained the age of 18 years. The Railway Clerks' Association contended that the Company had committed a breach of the National Agreement, and claimed as arrears of salary the difference between the salaries actually paid to the respective clerks who were

not promoted to the fifth class on attaining the age of 18 and the salaries they would have received had they been so promoted and paid according to the scale for clerks of the fifth class.

The Board took the view that the Agreement of 1st March, 1920, is a national agreement, and can be modified or varied only after consultation between the parties. The arrangement with the clerks concerned was in the nature of "contracting out," and there is no provision in the national agreement for contracting out. There is no authority in the agreement for deferring the examination beyond "age 18," but the meaning of "age 18" was the subject of different interpretations. The Company acted in the belief that under the National Agreement they had power to defer the examination and postpone the promotion of the lads as an alternative to dismissal. The whole question resolves itself into one of accommodation on both sides, and it is admitted that the Company acted in what they believed to be the interests of the lads. The lads signed the "acceptance" rather than be dismissed.

With regard to the question of arrears, the Board expressed the opinion that, in the case of any clerk whose promotion to the fifth class was deferred until after he reached 19 years of age, he should be paid the difference between the salary already paid and the salary appropriate to the fifth class as from his reaching 19 to the date of his passing the examination, and that in all other cases the claim for arrears should be deemed to be waived.

(2) The Railway Clerks' Association also complained that the Great Western Railway for a period had not carried out the provisions of the National Agreement in so far as they had promoted men from one class to another and paid them at varying salaries less than the minimum rate of the class to which they had been promoted. The Association, on behalf of the clerks concerned, now claimed the difference between the salaries actually paid to the respective clerks and the salaries they would have received if they had been paid the minima of their respective classes immediately on promotion thereto. These promotions were provisional appointments.

The Board came to the conclusion that these clerks were doing higher-class work and should be paid the appropriate salaries in accordance with the National Agreement from the date of their promotion.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

(a) Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order No. J. 39, dated 5th June, 1925, confirming the variation of the general minimum time rates, guaranteed time rates, piece-work basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates for male and female workers for a period of four months and specifying the 8th June as the date on which such rates should become effective. These rates represent a general increase of approximately 4 per cent. on the basic rates previously in operation.

(b) Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order No. F.H. (23), dated 2nd June, 1925, confirming the variation of general minimum piece rates and overtime rates for male workers employed on weaving canvas, and specifying 8th June, 1925, as the date on which such rates should become effective.

(c) Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order No. S. (11), dated 27th May, 1925, confirming the variations of general minimum time rates, piece-work basis time rates and overtime rates for female workers, and specifying 4th June as the date from which such rates as varied should become effective.

(d) Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order No. W.M. (23), and (24) dated 27th May, 1925, confirming the variation in general minimum time rates, piece-work basis time rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying 4th June as the date from which such rates as varied should become effective.

(e) Milk Distributive Trade Board (Scotland).

Order No. M.D.S. (10), dated 8th June, 1925, confirming general minimum time rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying 15th June, 1925, as the date from which such rates as varied should become effective.

(f) Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order No. Q. (30), dated 13th May, 1925, confirming general minimum time rates, piece-work basis time rates and overtime rates of wages for male and female workers newly brought within the scope of the Trade Board, and specifying the 15th May as the date from which such rates should become effective, together with minimum rates of wages for male and female workers operative under previous Orders unaffected by the Order No. Q. (30).

Copies of the above Orders may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, or through any bookseller, price 3d.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

(a) Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal F.H. (22) to vary the general minimum time rates and overtime rates for certain classes of female spinners.

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

Proposal N.I.H.G. (N. 27), dated 14th May, 1925, to vary certain general minimum time rates for male workers and certain general minimum piece rates for female workers, with consequential variations in the general overtime rates in each case.

PAPER BOX TRADE.**Appointment of Commissioner to inquire into Objections against a recent Draft Special Order.**

FOLLOWING upon certain objections to the Draft Special Order recently issued by the Minister of Labour (see LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1925, p. 31) altering the description of the Paper Box Trade as contained in the Schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1909, the Minister has now appointed Mr. C. E. Dyer, K.C., as Commissioner to hold a public Inquiry in the matter.

The Inquiry will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on 8th July, 1925, at 5, Old Palace Yard, Westminster, S.W.1. Any person desiring to appear and be heard should send to the Commissioner in writing at this address as early as possible, and in any event so as to reach him not later than 24th June, 1925, a summary of the representations and evidence he desires to submit.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906.**IRONWORKERS' CATARACT ORDER, 1925.**

THE Home Secretary has made a new Order* under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, in respect of the application of the provisions of Section 8 of that Act to "ironworkers' cataract" (cataract caused by exposure to rays from molten or red-hot metal).

The Order, which is entitled the Workmen's Compensation (Ironworkers' Cataract) Order, 1925, comes into force on the 1st July next.

Under paragraph (2) of the Order of 15th November, 1921, a workman was entitled to compensation for this disease for not more than six months in all and for not more than four months unless he had undergone an operation. The new Order enables compensation to be continued for further periods in certain circumstances.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 489 of 1925. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES.—*Report of the Committee on Stabilisation of Agricultural Prices.* Economic Series No. 2. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.)

ALIENS.—*Aliens Restriction Acts, 1914 and 1919. Aliens Order, 1920. Statistics in regard to alien passengers who entered and left the United Kingdom in 1924.* (Cmd. 2407; price 4d.)

CENSUS.—*Census of England and Wales, 1921. Dependency, orphanhood and fertility.* (S.O. publication; price 30s.)

FOOD PRICES.—*First Report of the Royal Commission on Food Prices, with minutes of evidence and appendices. Volume III. Appendices.* (S.O. publication; price 15s.)

HEALTH INSURANCE.—*Sickness Insurance. Comparative analysis of national laws. Studies and Reports, Series M. (Social Insurance) No. 4.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1925; price 2s.)

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.—*Fifth annual report of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board to 31st December, 1924 (including personal contributions from investigators).* (S.O. publication; price 1s. 9d.) (See page 191.)

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*The London Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment. First annual report, 1924-5.* (S.O. publication; price 9d.) (See page 193.)

MINING.—(1) *Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended 31st December, 1924.* (2) *Statistical summary of output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry for the quarter ended 31st March, 1925.* (Cmd. 2431; price 1d.) Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

RENT.—*Second report of Rents Tribunal.* Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

TEACHERS' SALARIES.—*The award and recommendations made by the Right Hon. the Viscount Burnham, C.H., in respect of the salaries of teachers (April, 1925).* Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 3d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT.—*Report on an investigation into the personal circumstances and industrial history of 10,903 claimants to unemployment benefit, November 24th to 29th, 1924.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 4s.) (See p. 190.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Unemployment insurance. Study of comparative legislation. Studies and Reports. Series C (Employment and Unemployment) No. 10.* (Geneva, 1925; price 2s.)

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE.—*Performance tests of intelligence.* Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. Publication; price 2s. 6d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.**LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MAY, 1925.****ADMIRALTY.****(Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department.)**

Pembroke District: Macadam Topping: The Tarmac (South Wales), Ltd., Ettingshall, Wolverhampton.—**Portsmouth: Dredger Buckets:** J. Rogerson & Co., Ltd., Wolsingham, Durham.. **Steel Cylinder Shuttering:** Horseley Bridge and Engineering Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. **Timber:** Bailey & Whites, Ltd., Portsmouth. **Hot Water Supply to Warrant Officers' Mess, R.N. Barracks):** Deane & Beale, Ltd., London, E.C.—**H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: Cement:** T. Beynon, Ltd., London, E.C. **Fabric Reinforcement:** Richard Hill & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Battery (electrical installation): Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath.—**Battery (electrical) Spares:** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Battery Panels:** Bertram Thomas, Manchester.—**Branch Breakers, etc.:** Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Blow Lamps and Gear:** Howes & Burley, Ltd., Birmingham; Parkinson & W. & B. Cowan, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brass Foundry:** Bailey & Mackey, Ltd., Birmingham; J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Evered & Co., Ltd., Smethwick; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; W. Rowley, Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Tonks (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Britannia Metal, etc., Articles:** Cooper Bros. & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; J. Dixon & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Walker & Hall, Ltd., Sheffield; T. Wilkinson & Sons, Birmingham.—**Brushes:** G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Brushes, Shaving:** C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham.—**Buttons:** Buttons, Ltd., Birmingham; Carr Bros., Ltd., Leicester; Firmin & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; James Grove & Sons, Ltd., Halesowen; Smith & Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Caps, Blue Cloth with Peaks:** E. Altman, Ltd., Aldershot; J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, S.E.; Zeffertt & Son, Portsmouth.—**Caps, Forage:** E. Altman, Ltd., Aldershot; R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Caps, White Duck:** J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cells, Electrical:** London Battery & Cable Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Cocks, Gunmetal, Steam, Torpedo Fittings, etc.:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; G. Clark & Sons (Hull), Ltd., Hull; Hayward Tyler & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Smith Bros. & Co. (Hyson), Ltd., Nottingham; Shiphams & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Cocks, Water Gauge, Asbestos Packed:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Dewrance & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Condensers, Repair of:** British Insulated & Helsby Cables Co., Ltd., Helsby.—**Conduit**

Accessories (Electrical): Credenda Conduits Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Simplex Conduits, Ltd., Birmingham; Electrical Conduits, Ltd., Walsall; Barton & Sons, Ltd., Walsall; Perfecta Seamless Steel Tube & Conduit Co. (1923), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Diethyl-diphenylurea:** L. B. Holliday & Co., Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Dryers, Ground:** Blundell Spence & Co., Ltd., Hull; John Hare & Co., Bristol.—**Earthenware Basins and Plates:** Mintons, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Bovey Pottery Co., Ltd., Bovey Tracey; W. Adams & Sons (Potters), Ltd., Tunstall; Bishop & Stonier, Ltd., Hanley; W. T. Copeland & Sons, Stoke-on-Trent; Doulton & Co., Ltd., Burslem; Furnivals (1913), Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Keeling & Co., Ltd., Burslem; Myott, Son & Co., Cobridge.—**Earthenware, Medical:** Keeling & Co., Ltd., Burslem; Mintons, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.—**Electric Generating Set:** W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford; Vickers-Petters, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Felt, Brown:** The Bury Felt Mfg. Co., Ltd., Bury.—**Flags:** Adam & Lane & Neeve, Ltd., London, E.; Walter Cockshaw, Leeds; Kirk Hall & Co., Leeds; A. Smart & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; E. Riley & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Frame-works:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Glass Plates for Indicators:** J. Baird, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Glass, Table:** Joseph Fleming & Co., Stourbridge; T. J. Hands & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Robinson, Son & Co., Warrington; Stuart & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge; T. Webb & Corbett, Ltd., Stourbridge; Webb's Crystal Glass Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Glass-ware, Medical:** H. W. Bush & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Beatson Clark & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; May, Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; W. Toogood, Ltd., London, S.E.; Ludford & Co., London, E.; Eclipse Glass Works, Ltd., London, E.; Samuel Pearson (West Bromwich), Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Gunmetal Articles:** Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; Dennystown Brass Works, Ltd., Dumbarton; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Carron Co., Falkirk; Shiphams & Co., Ltd., Hull; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Heterodyne Units:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.—**Hose Fittings, Gunmetal:** Ogden & Lawson, Workington; H. E. Rudge & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Shiphams & Co., Ltd., Hull; The Stroud Metal Co., Ltd., Stroud; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland.—**Hydroplanes:** Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Iron, Bar:** Patent Shaft & Axletree Co., Ltd., Wednesbury; Darlington Rolling Mills Co., Ltd., Darlington; Raine & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Jean, Brown:** Lord Bros., Manchester.—**Kersey:** Wm. Edleston, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge.—**Lamp Fittings, Alloy:** McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lanterns, etc., Navigation:** Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; W. Harvie & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Telford Grier & Mackay, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Lathe, Combination Turret:** Pollock & Macnab (1919), Ltd., Stockport.—**Lathes, Turret:**

H. W. Ward & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Leather**: R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; J. Conyers & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; J. S. & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; Dickens Bros., Northampton; Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; F. C. Jenner & Co., London, S.E.; J. & A. Hillman, Ltd., Dudley; F. C. Jenner & Co., London, S.E.; H. Jeffery & Bros., London, S.E.; Gibbings Harrison & Co., Chichester; H. Nickols, Ltd., Leeds; J. Siderfin & Co., Minehead; Thos. Ware & Sons, Ltd., Bristol.—**Leggings, Web**: Mills Bolton; Western Tanning Co., Bristol.—**Life Buoys**: J. Wilson & Co., Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Locomotives, Steam**: Avonside Engine Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Flattening**: J. Bigwood & Son, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Machine, Piston Ring and Surface Grinding**: Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Plate Edge Planing**: Scriven & Co. (Leeds), Ltd., Leeds.—**Machines, Radial Drilling (Belt Driven and Motor Driven)**: W. Asquith (1920), Ltd., Halifax.—**Machine, Screw Milling**: J. Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Rochdale.—**Machine, Snout Boring**: G. & A. Harvey, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Universal Milling**: W. Muir & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Meat and Vegetables Rations**: C. & T. Harris (Calne), Ltd., Wiltshire.—**Motor Alternator Equipments**: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Motor Generators and Spares**: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Motor Generator Sets and Starters, Repair of**: Electric Construction Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Naval Brass Sheets, Bars, Strip, etc.**: J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham; Elliott Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; P. H. Muntz & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich; Delta Metal Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Bulls Metal & Melloid Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Broughton Copper Co., Ltd., Manchester; British Copper Mfg., Ltd., London, E.C.; British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.; Birmingham Battery & Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Oakum, Black**: Rylance & Sons, Liverpool.—**Oils, Linseed**: Wm. Graham & Co., London, S.E.; Younghusband, Barnes & Co., London, S.E.; Dixon & Cardus, Ltd., Southampton; F. F. Fox & Co., Bristol; Smith Bros. & Co., London, E.—**Red Lead**: Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Retorts and Covers, Cast Iron**: Carron Co., Carron; Easton & Johnson, Ltd., Taunton.—**Rigging Chain**: Woodhouse Bros., Cradley Heath.—**Screwing Tackle, Engineers'**: B. D. & Co. (Edward A. Boynton), London, E.C.; Lehmann, Archer & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; John J. H. Lines, Stafford; Alex. Mathieson & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Nuckey, Scott & Co., London, N.; E. H. Pickford & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Sheffield Steel Products, Ltd., Warrington; H. Williams & Son, London, E.—**Screws**: H. Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Screws and Slips**: Carron Co., Falkirk; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine.—**Shoes, Black Leather**: G. M. Tebbutt & Son, Ltd., Northampton.—**Shorts, Cellular**: Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Gt. Yarmouth.—**Shorts, Cotton Fabric**: Frank Lane, London, E.C.—**Socks, Black Cashmere and White Cashmere**: I. & R. Morley, Heanor.—**Spares for Dynamo**: Laurence, Scott & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—**Spares for Mechanical Stokers**: J. Hodgkinson (Salford), Ltd., Manchester.—**Starters, Automatic and Switches**: Watford Electric & Mfg. Co., Ltd., Watford.—**Switchboards**: Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Switches**: McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Switches and Resistances**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Salford.—**Testing Bench**: Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Ties, Black Silk**: Toms, Steer & Toms, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tin and Japanned Wares**: Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton; Welsh Tinplate & Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Llanelly; M. J. Hart & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Ash Bros. & Heaton, Ltd., Birmingham; T. G. Blood, Birmingham; Lawden & Poole, Birmingham; Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston; Farmer & Chapman, Ltd., Bilston; H. Fereday & Sons, London, N.—**Transmitters**: H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.—**Transporter, Travelling**: Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Twill, Brown**: The Union Mill Co., Manchester.—**Valves, etc.**: Mactaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Valves for Oxygen**: The British Oxygen Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Varnishes, etc.**: Blundell, Spence & Co., Ltd., Hull; Robert Ingham Clark & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Gross, Sherwood & Heald, Ltd., Barking; Naylor Bros. (London), Ltd., Slough; Charles Orme & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Paripan, Ltd., Egham; C. W. Waters, Ltd., London, E.C.; L. G. Wilkinson, Ltd., London, E.C.; S. Wills & Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Vests, Summer**: I. & R. Morley, Heanor.—**Vests, Winter**: T. M. Butler & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Waistbelts**: Frenchs, Ltd., London, E.C.; W. H. Matthews & Sons, London, E.C.—**Weights, Test, Cast Iron**: Fielding & Platt, Ltd., Gloucester.—**Welding Plant**: Handstock, Ltd., Wokingham.—**Winches and Air Engines**: P. Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Wireless Telegraphy, Boards for**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.

WAR OFFICE.

Aluminium: British Aluminium Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Barrels**: W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—**Basins, etc.**: Mintons Ltd., Stoke.—**Batteries, Torch**: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Boots, Ankle**: J. Horrell & Sons, Raunds; S. Walker, Raunds; W. Lawrence, Raunds; C. E. Nicholls, Raunds.—**Brushes, Clothes**: D. Hayward, Ltd., Bloxwich; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Electric**: Western Electric Co., Ltd., Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe; Atkinson & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Wm. Bartlett & Son, Ltd., High Wycombe.—**Cloth**: J. Harper & Sons, Eccleshill; T. & H. Harper, Ltd., Apperley Bridge.—**Curtains, Mosquito**: T. Briggs (London), Ltd., London,

N.—**Files and Rasps**: Thos. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Generating Sets**: W. H. Dorman & Co., Stafford; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Grates**: Bratt, Colbran & Co., London, W.—**Intensifiers, Hydraulic**: West Hydraulic Engineering Co., Ltd., Luton.—**Lead Sheathing**: W. T. Henley's Tel. Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lockers, Metal and Brackets**: G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Metal Sheets**: Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port.—**Motor Cars**: A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—**Nails, Wire**: Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Plates, Dinner, etc.**: Keeley & Co., Ltd., Burslem.—**Poles, C.I., etc.**: British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., Swansea.—**Shoes, Canvas**: Stead & Simpson, Leicester.—**Sleepers**: Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., Southampton; W. Christie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Socks**: J. Glazebrook & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Steel, Bright**: Talbot Stead Tube Co., Ltd., Walsall.—**Steel, Tool**: Wm. Turner & Son, Ltd., Sheffield; A. Balfour & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Stoves and Ranges**: Dobbie, Forbes & Co., Larbert; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge.—**Tables, etc.**: Atkinson & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; J. Barker & Co., Ltd., London, W.; F. East & Co., Ltd., Dundee; **Tartan, Highland**: D. Ballantyne Bros. & Co., Ltd., Peebles.—**Timber**: Louis Bamberger & Sons, London, E.C.; J. B. Lee & Son, London, E.C.—**Torches**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton.—**Trousers, Overall**: D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill; Naylor, Pollard & Co., Leeds; Astin Bros., Hebden Bridge; Hartley, Son & Co., Hebden Bridge; J. B. Hoyle & Co., Hebden Bridge.—**Tyres, Motor Car**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Port Dunlop.—**Wires, Hay Baling**: Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works**: Blackdown: A. Bagnall & Sons Ltd., Shipley. North Aldershot: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Sandhurst: C. J. Else & Co., Matlock. Guildford: T. Swayne & Son, Guildford. Woolwich: Norman S. Long, Blackpool; A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Chattenden and Chatham: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Chelsea Barracks: S. Lupton & Sons, Bradford. *Building Works and Services*: Larkhill (Student Officers' Quarters): W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes. Lydd Camp (Barrack Blocks): Ellis Bros., New Romney. Canterbury (Summer Camp): F. R. Hipperson, Norwich. Fort Victoria Pier, I.O.W.: F. Bevis, Ltd., Portsmouth. *Installations*: Water Plant: Royles, Ltd., Manchester. Steam Boiler at Fort George: Inglis Boiler Syndicate, Ltd., Glasgow.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Coventry; Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft Spares**: Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Air screws**: Airscrew Co., Weybridge.—**Aircrew, Variable Pitch**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; H. S. Hele-Shaw & T. E. Beacham, London, S.W.—**Amplifiers**: Gambrell Bros., London, S.W.—**Ash, Aircraft**: Denny Mott & Dickson, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Attachments, Telephone**: Pyne Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Teddington.—**Bolts, Security, Tyre**: North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Bombs, Practice**: Trojan, Ltd., Croydon.—**Building and Works Services**: Artificers Works (Digby): J. Enock, Sheffield. Concrete Reservoir (Upper Heyford): McCarthy E. Fitt, Reading. (Tangmere and Catterick): L. J. Speight, Ltd., London, W.C. (North Weald, Filton and Wittering): F. Mitchell & Son, Ltd., Manchester. Motor Alternators and Switchboards (Kidbrooke): The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton. Pump House, Water Mains, etc. (Worthy Down): F. Mitchell & Son, Manchester. Pumps (Various Stations): British Electric Plant Co., Ltd., Alloa. Sports Pavilion (Cranwell): J. Burbidge, Grantham. Winches for Mooring Masts (Cardington, India and Egypt): Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cable, Electric**: Enfield Cable Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Cable, Metal Braided**: British Insulated and Helsby Cables Ltd., London, W.C.—**Coal, Steam**: (Milton): The Tredegar Associated Collieries and Shipping Co., Ltd., Cardiff; Stephenson, Clarke & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. (Uxbridge): A. Blackman & Co., London, E.C.—**Coke, Gas**: (Uxbridge): Uxbridge, Maidenhead, Wycombe and District Gas Co., Ltd., Uxbridge.—**Cocking Handles**: Brinjes & Goodwin, Reading.—**Condensers, Anode Stopping**: Dubilier Condenser Co. (1921), Ltd., London, W.—**Covers, Tyre, Aero**: Palmer Tyres, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Crossley Spares**: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Curtains, Mosquito**: Thos. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—**Engine, Aircraft, Connecting Rods**: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Development work on**: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Aircraft**: D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft Spares**: Aircraft Disposal Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Engine, Aircraft Spares**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine, Aircraft, Test on**: Sunbeam Motor Car Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Engine, Aircraft, Work on evaporative cooling of cylinders**: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Extinguishers, Fire**: General Fire Appliance Co., London, E.C.—**Floats, Duralumin**: Short Bros., Ltd., Rochester.—**Hose, Petro-Flex**: Hobdell Way & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Instruments for Transmitters**: E. Turner, High Wycombe.—**Lamps, Filament**: A. C. Cossor, Ltd., London, N.—**Magnetos (Simms) and Spares**: Simms Motor Units (1920), Ltd., London, W.—**Mattresses, Hospital**: Bayswater Bedding Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Motor Cycle (Panther) Spares**: Pheleon & Moore, Ltd., Cleckheaton.—**Oxygen, Gaseous**: British Oxygen Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Paints, Aircraft**: L. Berger & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Parachutes**: Irving Parachute Co., Buffalo, New York.—**Plywood**: Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Borst Bros., London, E.C.—**Pumps, Petrol**: De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware.—**Radiators**: John Marston, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Receivers**:

Gambrell Bros., London, S.W.—**Regulators, Voltage**: British Radio Corporation, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Shock Absorber Cord**: Luke Turner & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Tables, Bedside**: Watt, Torrance & Co. (Woolwich), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tie Rods**: Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Timber, Imported, Swedish**: Denny Mott & Dickson, Ltd., London, E.C.; Harding & Vick, London, E.C.; Witney Hine & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tubes, Inner**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham; D. Moseley & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tyres**: Palmer Tyre Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tyres, Covers, Outer**: Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham; Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Erdington.—**Tyres and Tubes**: Rapson Tyre and Jack Co., Ltd., New Malden.—**Tyres, Solid, Rubber**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wheel Shields, etc., Aircraft**: Palmer Tyre Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Wire, Bowden**: Bowden Wire, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Wire, Steel**: Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Wires, Streamline**: A. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Wood screws**: H. Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wood screws and Screw Caps**: Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham.

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Bag-Cleaning Plant: Mount Pleasant Letter Office (Old Building): Dallow, Lambert & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cable-Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-In and Jointing**: Pontypridd-Tonypanydy; Edinburgh-Falkirk; B. I. and Helsby Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. East Grinstead-Uckfield; Birmingham-Stratford-on-Avon: Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Purley-East Grinstead: W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C. North Shields-Whitley Bay: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Conduits-Laying**: Westminster and Chelsea; Edgware (Middlesex): T. Muirhead & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Waterloo (Liverpool), St. George's Road: Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Bootle, Liverpool. Paddington (Market Street): Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Manchester-Bolton: W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. Baldslow (Hastings); Wigan; Leamington-Warwick: Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. Loughor Bridge-Bynea Bridge, Carmarthen; Swansea-Ammanford (Section I); Swansea-Ammanford (Section II): H. Smith, Newport, Mon. Sloane-Paddington Junc.: Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Harrogate (Yorks): W. Turner (Ardwick), Ltd., Manchester. Hobart Place-Grosvenor Gardens (Sloane-City Junc.): Finsbury, etc.: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. West Bromwich-Birmingham (North)-Birmingham (East) Junc.: E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Finchley Road, N.W.; Primrose Hill-North Junc.; St.

Pancras; Deptford, etc.; Camberwell, etc.; Kensington, Paddington and St. Marylebone: O. C. Summers, London, N. Shipley (Yorks): E. A. Greaves, Townville, Castleford. Hornsey Road, N.: W. Griffiths & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Eaglescliffe and Shildon (Durham) and Richmond (Yorks): Fordyce Bros., Middlesbrough. Linlithgow-Bo'ness; Dumbarton-Alexandria: R. & C. Murray, Paisley. Wickersley (Yorks): C. S. Tomlinson, South Normanton, near Alfreton. Uxbridge Road, W.; Felixstowe (Suffolk); Holborn-Palmer's Green-Enfield Junc. (Sect. II): H. Collingridge, Romford, Essex. Sherwood (Nottingham): E. Somerfield & Sons, West Bridgford, Notts. Holborn-Palmer's Green-Enfield Junc. (Sect. I): H. Farrow, London, N.W.—**Loading Manholes-Constructing**: Liverpool-St. Helens: W. Dobson, Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment**: Maryland; Museum (London); East (London); Mayfair (London); Stanningley (Leeds): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Bexley Heath (Kent): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. Swansea: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Chester; Rusholme; Clissold: Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. A. Balfour & Co., Ltd. (Sheffield); Shell Mex, Ltd. (Glasgow): Relay Automatic Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Telephonic Repeater Station-Cord Circuit Repeater Equipment**: Bristol: General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry.

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