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## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.

### EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT, on the whole, showed a further slight improvement in the first three weeks of December. As usual, however, there was a seasonal decline after Christmas.

Among the 11,892,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 21st December, 1925, was 10·5, as compared with 11·0 at 23rd November, 1925, and with 10·7 at the 22nd December, 1924. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 11·0 at the end of December, 1925, compared with 11·0 at the end of November, 1925, and with 9·2 at the end of December, 1924. The total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 21st December, 1925, was approximately 1,166,000, of whom 933,000 were men and 183,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 30th November, 1925, it was 1,227,000, of whom 974,000 were men and 196,000 were women; and at 22nd December, 1924, it was 1,213,000, of whom 930,000 were men and 226,000 women. At 4th January, 1926, the total number registered was 1,316,000, compared with 1,353,000 at 5th January, 1925.

The reduction, before Christmas, in the numbers unemployed was due principally to the continued improvement in employment in the coal mining industry and to seasonal expansion in the distributive trades. Employment was good, on the whole, with brickmakers, and with electrotypers and stereotypers, and fairly good in other branches of the printing trades, in the furnishing trades, in certain branches of the metal trades, and with skilled operatives, except painters, in the building trades. In the coal mining industry, and in the section of the cotton industry using American cotton, it was still slack; in the iron mining, iron and steel, shipbuilding, and marine engineering industries it continued bad.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in December resulted in an aggregate net reduction of about £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 63,000 workpeople and in an increase of over £1,500 in the weekly wages of 21,500 workpeople.

The principal group of workpeople affected by reductions consisted of over 40,000 workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges in the Midlands, whose wages were reduced by an amount equivalent to rather over 1½ per cent. on current rates. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced included shale miners and

shale-oil workers in Scotland, coal miners in the Radstock district, iron-ore miners in Cumberland, and waterproof garment makers at Manchester.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased included workpeople employed in the textile making-up and packing industry at Manchester, organ builders, packing-case makers in Scotland, and workpeople employed in the non-trading services of various local authorities in the East Midlands.

The changes in wages reported to the Department during 1925, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, resulted in net reductions amounting to about £160,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 850,000 workpeople, and in net increases of about £80,000 in those of nearly 900,000 workpeople. During 1924 there were net increases of £616,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 3,000,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £62,000 in those of 480,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st January 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 75 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 77 per cent. a month ago and 80 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 71, 74 and 78 respectively. The decline in the figures since 1st December, 1925, was due to reductions in the prices of eggs and butter, which more than counterbalanced increases in the prices of flour and bread.

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.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in December was 28. In addition, 34 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in December (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 37,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during December was about 629,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 50,000 workpeople involved and 575,000 days lost in the previous month.

The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes reported as in progress during 1925 was about 7,976,000 working days. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 441,000. In the previous year 616,000 workpeople were involved in disputes having an aggregate duration of 8,424,000 working days.



# EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN 1925.

## EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, on the whole, in 1925, and was rather worse than in the previous year, the average of the monthly percentages unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, being 11.3 in 1925, as compared with 10.3 in 1924. This increase was mainly due to the severe depression in the coal-mining industry, in which the numbers of insured workers recorded as unemployed averaged 198,000 in 1925, compared with 72,000 in 1924. In other industries, taken as a whole, the average number unemployed in 1925 was approximately the same as in the previous year, although in the wool textile industry, in which employment was bad throughout the greater part of the year, the average number of insured workers unemployed was greater by about 19,000 than in 1924.

In the coal-mining industry employment was already declining at the beginning of the year, and the position became rapidly worse until the end of June, when over 300,000 (or 25 per cent.) of the insured persons in the industry were recorded as unemployed. There was a temporary improvement in July, but a further decline in August and September; and although there was a considerable recovery during the last three months of the year, at 21st December there were still over 140,000 (or 11.3 per cent.) of the insured persons recorded as unemployed in this industry. In the wool textile industry, also, employment declined during the first half of the year and the numbers of insured workers recorded as unemployed rose from 23,900 in December, 1924, to 55,500 in July, 1925. After a stoppage of work in Yorkshire, owing to a dispute, in the last week of July and the first fortnight of August, employment gradually improved, and the number of insured persons unemployed in December had fallen to 22,800, or 8.8 per cent.

Among other industries, taken as a whole, the usual seasonal decline in employment at the beginning of the year was followed by a steady improvement in the first half of the year, the numbers of insured workers recorded as unemployed falling from 1,190,000 at the end of January to 1,042,000 at the end of June. After some fluctuation during the second half of the year, the total was slightly higher at 21st December than at the end of June.

At the end of the year the numbers of insured workers recorded as unemployed in industry as a whole were slightly lower than in December, 1924, notwithstanding an increase (estimated at 228,000) in the total number of insured workers between July, 1924, and July, 1925.

The following Table shows, month by month since December, 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) of applicants for employment registered at Ministry of Labour Local Offices in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

As regards the numbers of applicants registered at Local Offices, 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 for employment. As regards insured workpeople, the percentages quoted in respect of months between July, 1924, and July, 1925, have been slightly revised, since they were originally published in the monthly issues of this GAZETTE, in the light of more complete information which has since become available as to the changes in the total number of insured workers between those two dates. The percentages given for the latter half of 1925 have been calculated on the basis of the estimated number of insured workers at July, 1925, and slight revisions may also become necessary in these figures when information becomes available as to the changes in the total numbers insured between that date and July, 1926.

During the year 1925 certain legislative and administrative changes with regard to unemployment benefit have probably had some effect in reducing the numbers registered as unemployed, but from such information as is available, it would appear that the reduction due to this cause was not considerable.

The proportions of insured workers recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in December of each of the years 1921 to 1925 have been as follows:—

December 1921	...	...	...	17.9 per cent.
" 1922	...	...	...	12.8 "
" 1923	...	...	...	10.6 "
" 1924	...	...	...	10.7 "
" 1925	...	...	...	10.5 "

As the Unemployment Insurance Acts, prior to the end of 1920, applied to a much smaller number of industries than at present, the total number of insured persons being about 4 millions in 1920 compared with nearly 12 millions at the present time, comparable figures cannot be given for earlier years. The following Table, however, gives comparative figures for the period 1900–1925 of the percentage of members unemployed in certain Trade Unions making returns to the Department, showing separately (a) the mean of the 12 monthly percentages for each year, and (b) the percentage for the end of December in each year. The aggregate membership of the Trade Unions concerned at the end of 1925 was about 980,000 (see Table on page 13).

Year.	Percentage Unemployed.		Year.	Percentage Unemployed.	
	Mean of Year.	End of December.		Mean of Year.	End of December.
1900	2.5	3.5	1913	2.1	2.6
1901	3.3	4.2	1914	3.3	2.5
1902	4.0	5.0	1915	1.1	0.6
1903	4.7	6.3	1916	0.4	0.3
1904	6.0	7.1	1917	0.7	1.4
1905	5.0	4.5	1918	0.8	1.2
1906	3.6	4.4	1919	2.4	3.2
1907	3.7	5.6	1920	2.4	6.0
1908	7.8	9.1	1921	14.8	16.2
1909	7.7	6.6	1922	15.2	13.8
1910	4.7	5.0	1923	11.3	9.3
1911	3.0	3.1	1924	8.1	9.2
1912	3.2	2.3	1925	10.5	11.0

At the end of 1925 employment was good, on the whole, with brickmakers, and with skilled operatives, other than painters, in the building trades, and fairly good in the furnishing and printing trades, in certain branches of the metal trades, and with coachbuilders and mill-sawyers. In the coal-mining industry it was still slack, and in the iron-mining, iron and steel, shipbuilding and marine engineering industries it was bad.

As compared with the end of 1924, there was an improvement in the tinsplate, hosiery, clothing, furnishing, woodworking, paper manufacture, printing, and certain of the metal trades, but a decline in coal and iron mining, pottery, shipbuilding, marine engineering, and the silk and linen industries.

A summary of the state of employment in some of the principal industries in 1925 is given below:—

**Mining.**—In the coal mining industry employment was slack at the beginning of the year, declined in February and March and became very bad in May and June. At the end of the latter month the proportion of insured workers unemployed had risen to 25.0 per cent. In July there was an improvement, but in August and September employment again declined; and although there was a recovery during the last quarter of the year, it was still slack on the whole in December, the proportion of insured workers unemployed at 21st December being approximately 11.3 per cent., compared with 7.9 per cent. at 22nd December, 1924. The number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 19th December, 1925, showed a decrease of about 4.9 per cent. as compared with the corresponding date of 1924, but the average number of days worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 19th December was 0.10 more than in the corresponding fortnight of 1924.

At shale mines employment was fair until early in November when the industry was brought to a standstill by a dispute, involving a stoppage of work until towards the end of December. At iron mines employment during the first quarter of the year was bad in the Cleveland district, fair in Cumberland and Lancashire, and moderate in other districts; but in June there was a marked decline, and employment was bad on the whole throughout the remainder of the year, though there was a slight recovery in the last two months.

**Metal Trades.**—In the pig-iron industry employment was bad, but improved somewhat during the last quarter of the year. Of a total of 475 furnaces, 141 were in blast at the end of December, 1925, as compared with 167 at the end of December, 1924. At iron and steel works employment was also bad throughout 1925, but an improvement was reported towards the end of the year. During the week ended 19th December the number of workpeople employed by firms from which returns were received showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent., and the number of shifts worked a decrease of 1.2 per cent., as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year. In the tinsplate and steel sheet trades employment was bad during the first half of the year, but in July it improved; the improvement was maintained during the succeeding months and

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentage unemployed among				Numbers registered at Local Offices (In- sured and Uninsured).
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.			
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
1924.					
December* ...	9.2	11.5	8.7	10.7	1,319,000
1925.					
January ...	9.0	11.9	9.3	11.2	1,287,000
February ...	9.4	12.1	9.2	11.3	1,287,000
March ...	9.0	11.9	8.9	11.1	1,249,000
April ...	9.4	11.7	8.8	10.9	1,251,000
May ...	10.1	11.8	8.5	10.9	1,253,000
June ...	12.3	13.0	8.6	11.9	1,368,000
July ...	11.2	11.8	9.5	11.2	1,262,000
August ...	11.4	13.1	9.5	12.1	1,418,000
September ...	11.4	13.3	8.5	12.0	1,401,000
October ...	11.3	12.7	7.7	11.4	1,295,000
November ...	11.0	12.2	7.8	11.0	1,227,000
December* ...	11.0	11.6	7.3	10.5	1,166,000

\* In the case of insured workers, the percentages for December relate to 22nd December, 1924, and 21st December, 1925; for numbers registered, the figures for December relate to 29th December, 1924, and 21st December, 1925.



employment at the close of the year was fair on the whole. At the end of December, 514 tinplate and steel sheet mills were in operation, compared with 442 in December, 1924.

Employment in the engineering trades, though still bad on the whole, was somewhat better than in 1924. In the electrical section it was fairly good and in the motor and cycle section it was fair throughout the year; at railway shops it was also fair on the whole, but declined and was only moderate during the last quarter of the year. In the textile machinery section it was slack but improved during the later months; in heavy engineering employment was bad, and in marine engineering very bad. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry it was also very bad, and worse than in 1924. In the other metal trades it was moderate on the whole but improved towards the end of the year; in the brasswork, stove and grate, and hollow-ware trades it was fair to fairly good throughout the year.

**Textile Trades.**—In the cotton industry employment in the section spinning American cotton was slack throughout the year. By recommendation of the Employers' Federation the working week was restricted to 39½ hours until 16th February, 35 hours from that date until 6th July, and 39½ hours throughout the remainder of the year. The Federation also recommended spinners of American cotton to stop for a full week in August, and again between 24th December and 9th January, over and above the ordinary trade holidays. In the section spinning Egyptian cotton employment was fairly good from January to May, and again in November and December, but only moderate in the summer months: there was no organised short time in this section. In the weaving department employment was fairly good from January to May but declined in June and was slack for the rest of the year, with a slight temporary recovery in October.

In the woollen and worsted industry employment was very slack in January, and remained depressed during the succeeding six months of the year; from 24th July until 14th August it was affected by a dispute in Yorkshire and part of Lancashire. On the termination of the dispute employment improved, and remained better for the rest of the year, though it was still only moderate in December. In the hosiery trade employment was bad, but improved somewhat during the last quarter of the year; in the lace trade it was bad throughout the year. In the silk trade employment was fairly good; in the carpet trade it was fairly good during the first half of the year but declined in the later months. In the jute trade employment was good until May, when it declined and was slack; in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, and finishing trades it was slack throughout the year.

**Clothing Trades.**—At the beginning of the year employment in the tailoring trades was slack in the retail bespoke branch, and moderate to fair in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branches; in March and April it improved and was fair generally until August, when it declined, and was moderate to slack for the remainder of the year. In the boot and shoe trades employment was moderate at the beginning of the year; in April unemployment increased, and the depression continued until November, when employment again became moderate.

**Building and Woodworking.**—In the building trades employment with skilled operatives was good throughout the year, except with painters, who experienced the usual seasonal slackness in the winter months. With unskilled workers it was slack at the beginning of the year; it then improved and was moderate during the later months. In the brick trade employment was good throughout the year, though slightly affected by bad weather in some months. In the furnishing trade, with millsawyers, coachbuilders, and coopers, employment was fairly good.

**Paper, Printing, etc., Trades.**—Employment in paper manufacture was fair on the whole during 1925. In the printing trade it was good with electrotypers and stereotypers; and fairly good, on the whole, in the letterpress and lithographic sections; with bookbinders employment was generally moderate.

**Pottery and Glass.**—In the pottery trades employment was slack on the whole, with much unemployment and short time; though in certain branches, e.g., the sanitary ware, fireclay, and tile sections, it was good. In the glass trades employment was moderate on the whole; during the last three or four months of the year it declined, and was slack, in the bottle making section, but improved to fair in the other sections.

#### CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.\*

The numbers of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages, and the net effect of the changes on the general level of wages, were smaller in 1925 than in any year since 1914.

In the industries and services for which statistics are available† the changes reported during the year resulted in an aggregate net increase of about £80,000 in the full-time weekly wages of nearly 900,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of about £160,000 in those of approximately 850,000 workpeople. In 1924, approximately 3,000,000 workpeople received net increases amounting to £616,000

\* The figures given throughout are preliminary and subject to revision. Those for 1924 and earlier years have been revised in accordance with the latest information available.

† The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, police, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks. They relate to rates of wages for a full week, assuming full employment, and do not take account of variations in actual earnings resulting from changes in the state of employment. In many cases the changes arranged by individual employers, and affecting unorganised workers, are not reported to the Department.

a week and about 480,000 sustained a net decrease of £62,000 a week.

These figures, it should be observed, are exclusive of changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, large numbers of whom obtained increases in rates of wages in 1925. If agricultural labourers were included, the net effect of all the changes in 1925 would be to show a slight increase in weekly wages.

The following Table shows the numbers of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department in 1924 and 1925, and the net amount of the change in their weekly rates of wages, in each of the principal groups of industries for which statistics are available\* :—

Industry Group.	Approximate Numbers of Workpeople obtaining net increases or sustaining net decreases, respectively, in rates of Wages.				Total Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in the weekly Wages of those affected.	
	1924.		1925.		1924.	1925.
	In-creases.	De-creases.	In-creases.	De-creases.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	866,000	357,000	8,800	403,000	£ + 125,100	£ — 66,900
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	223,000	150	29,500	1,200	+ 35,000	+ 4,500
Iron and Steel ...	166,000	47,000	19,000	171,000	+ 17,100	— 36,300
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	149,000	7,800	6,500	600	+ 46,700	+ 900
Other Metal ...	89,000	44,000	31,500	34,000	+ 12,200	— 1,050
Textile ...	182,000	800	67,000	59,000	+ 13,600	+ 500
Clothing ...	28,000	12,500	218,000	6,300	+ 2,100	+ 21,100
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	80,000	1,600	23,200	10,200	+ 14,500	+ 800
Woodworking, etc.	54,000	100	6,000	4,400	+ 9,700	+ 250
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	3,000	1,000	10,000	...	+ 300	+ 1,450
Building and Allied Trades ...	474,000	250	44,000	...	+ 104,900	+ 5,200
Transport ...	332,000	5,500	210,000	151,000	+ 120,200	— 27,300
Public Utility Services ...	274,000	3,300	170,000	7,000	+ 38,400	+ 15,500
Other ...	99,000	1,000	30,500	6,500	+ 14,100	+ 2,150
Total ...	3,019,000	482,000	874,000	854,200	+ 553,900	— 79,200

It should be observed that, as the changes in the wages of adult men have usually been greater than those affecting women, boys and girls, comparisons of the average amount of change per head in different groups of industries, to be deduced from the figures, are affected by the varying proportions of men, women and young persons employed in those industries. It should also be noted that the changes in wage rates reported to the Department consist mainly of those arranged between organised groups of workpeople and employers, and that many changes among unorganised workers, especially those affecting only employees of single firms are not reported.

As already pointed out, if changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers were included in the statistics, the total for all industries would show a slight increase in weekly wages in 1925, instead of the slight reduction indicated by the above Table.

**Reductions in Wages in 1925.**—The industries mainly responsible for the net decrease shown in the Table were coal mining, iron and steel, and transport. As regards the principal reductions which occurred in the various industries, those in the coal mining industry affected mainly the workers employed in the Yorkshire and East Midlands area, where wages were reduced from 59½ to 46½ per cent. on standard rates. In all the other principal coalfields wages had already reached the minimum permissible under the national agreement at the end of 1924, and they remained at that level throughout 1925. The wages of operatives engaged in the smelting, rolling, etc., of iron and steel, which fluctuate in correspondence with variations in the selling prices of pig iron and of manufactured iron and steel, were reduced by successive stages in all the principal districts. In the miscellaneous metal trades the most important body of workers whose wages were reduced were tinplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, who sustained a net decrease of 7½ per cent. on current rates, except in the case of certain lower-paid workers who received a special bonus. In the textile trades the principal body of employees whose wages were reduced were hosiery workers in the Midlands. The reduction in the transport group was mainly accounted for by a decrease in the wages of seamen, which, in the majority of cases, amounted to 20s. a month for men on monthly articles and to 6s. 6d. a week in the case of those on weekly articles.

**Increases in Wages in 1925.**—The increase in wages in the brick, pottery, glass, chemical, etc., group affected cement workers, explosive workers and brick makers in certain districts. In the miscellaneous metal trades the principal increases affected workpeople engaged in the manufacture of light castings and in heating and domestic engineering. The principal bodies of textile workers whose wages were increased were jute operatives, for whom the minimum rates as fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were increased, and woollen operatives in the West of England. Increases in the

\* See † note in previous column.



minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, affecting men and women in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade and the wholesale mantle and costume trades, and women in the shirtmaking trade, also accounted for the greater part of the total increase in the clothing group. The increases in the building trade affected painters in Scotland and operatives generally at certain towns in the Eastern and Southern Counties, which were up-graded under the national grading scheme. In the transport group, a net increase of 1s. a week in the wages of a large number of railwaymen accounted for the greater part of the increase. In the public utility services the principal bodies of workpeople who received increases were employees in the gas supply industry and those in the electricity supply industry and in the non-trading services of local authorities in certain districts.

Among agricultural labourers (who, with certain other groups of workpeople are not covered by the statistics in the foregoing Table) there was a general increase in rates of wages in England and Wales as a result of the fixing of minimum rates by the Agricultural Wages Board, under the provisions of the Agricultural Wages Act, 1924. For ordinary agricultural labourers, the average increase in England and Wales, during the year, is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture at about 3s. 5d. a week.

*Industries in which Wages were at the same level, at the end of 1925, as at the end of 1924.*—Apart from the workpeople included in the above Table, about 325,000 workpeople received increases and also sustained decreases, at different dates during 1925, which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year. Amongst these were electric cable makers, workpeople employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing trades in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, dyers and dry cleaners, paper bag and paper box makers, coopers, furniture trade operatives in London, and workpeople employed in non-trading departments of local authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire, the East and West Midlands, and London.

In a number of important industries rates of wages remained unchanged throughout the year. These included, in addition to coal mining in all but one of the principal districts, engineering, shipbuilding, the cotton and wool textile industries, paper-making, printing and bookbinding, boot and shoe making, dock labour, flour milling, vehicle building, and, apart from certain local adjustments, building.

*Summary for 1925.*—When account is taken of all the information available to the Department, including the changes in the wages of agricultural labourers in addition to those of the groups of workpeople covered by the foregoing Table, it would appear that, at the end of 1925, weekly full-time rates of wages averaged between 1 and 2 per cent. higher than at the end of 1924 and about 75 per cent. higher than in August, 1914. These figures relate to rates of wages for a full normal week, and take no account of changes in earnings resulting from alterations in the state of employment, the effect of which varied in different industries.

#### METHODS BY WHICH CHANGES IN WAGES WERE ARRANGED.

As indicated above, some workpeople obtained increases in wages during 1925, others sustained reductions, and in a considerable number of cases the same workpeople obtained increases and sustained reductions at different dates in the year. The total of all the increases reported to the Department was equivalent to about £145,000 a week, and the total of all the reductions to about £224,000 a week, the net effect being a decrease of about £79,000 a week.

Of the total increase of £145,000 weekly, £8,400 was accounted for by the operation of sliding scales dependent on selling prices, or (in the coal mining industry) on the proceeds of the industry; £62,000 resulted from the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales, including £4,500 under scales embodied in Trade Board Orders; and £34,000 was the result of agreements arrived at by Joint Industrial Councils and other standing joint bodies of employers and workpeople, £21,500 of this amount taking effect under cost-of-living sliding scales agreed upon by such bodies. Increases amounting to £10,300 were the result of arbitration or mediation, nearly 5 per cent. of this amount being conceded after disputes causing stoppage of work; £24,200 took effect as a result of Orders under the Trade Board Acts (excluding the effect of cost-of-living sliding scales); and the remaining increases were mainly arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, preceded in the case of increases amounting to £1,800 by stoppages of work.

Of the total reduction of £224,000, nearly £128,000 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the industry, and nearly £45,000 to cost-of-living sliding scales, including £3,250 under scales embodied in Trade Board Orders; £53,500 was the result of agreements arrived at by Joint Industrial Councils and other standing joint bodies of employers and workpeople, nearly £12,000 of this amount taking effect under cost-of-living sliding scales; and the bulk of the remainder was accounted for by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives. Decreases preceded by a stoppage of work accounted for £2,500.

#### CHANGES IN WAGES IN THE YEARS 1919-1925.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople, in the industries and services for which statistics are available,\* whose rates of wages were increased or reduced (so far as reported) in each of the years 1919-1925, and the net amount of increase or decrease in their weekly rates of wages:—

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Rates of Wages were		Total Net Amount of		Net Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in the rates of Wages of those affected.
	Increased.	Decreased.	Increase.	Decrease.	
			£	£	£
1919 ...	6,174,000	...	2,456,000	...	+ 2,456,000
1920 ...	7,796,000	...	4,760,000	...	+ 4,760,000
1921 ...	78,000	7,166,000	13,500	6,038,000	— 6,024,500
1922 ...	74,000	7,633,000	11,500	4,221,000	— 4,209,500
1923 ...	1,202,000	3,079,000	169,000	486,000	— 317,000
1924 ...	3,019,000	482,000	616,000	62,000	+ 554,000
1925 ...	874,000	854,000	81,000	160,000	— 79,000

#### CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

Changes in normal hours of labour reported in 1925 affected 5,000 workpeople, of whom 1,200 had their hours increased by an average of 2½ per week, and 3,800 had their hours reduced by an average of nearly 4 per week. In 1924 13,000 workers had their hours increased by an average of nearly 2 per week, while those of 16,000 workers were reduced by about ¾ hour per week.

#### CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING.

At the beginning of 1925 the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, as shown by the index numbers compiled by the Ministry of Labour, averaged approximately 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 77 per cent. at the beginning of the previous year. After a slight fall during January, the index number remained stationary during February. At 1st April, however, a sharp fall was recorded, which was followed by a slower decline until the beginning of June, when the index number had fallen to 72 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. During June a slow upward movement began and continued until 1st December, after which there was again a decline. At 1st January, 1926, the index number was 75 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, and thus appreciably lower than at the beginning of 1925.

The following Table shows, month by month, during the period under review, the average percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of each of the five main groups of items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous other items), included in the figures. The particulars given relate to the changes in the prices of those articles, and those descriptions of each article, most generally bought by working-class families. In computing the final percentages for "All Items included" those given for the various groups are combined in the following proportions: food 7½, rent 2, clothing 1½, fuel and light 1, other items included ½. Details of the separate articles included within these groups, and of the methods adopted in compiling these index numbers, were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for February, 1921, and July, 1923.

#### Average Percentage Increase in Retail Prices, Rents, etc., over the level of July, 1914.

Date.	Food.	Rent (including Rates).	Clothing.	Fuel and Light.	Other Items included.	All Items included.
1925:						
January 1st	78	47	125-130	85	80	80
January 31st	76	47	130	85	80	79
February 28th	76	47	130	85	80	79
April 1st ...	70	47	130	85	80	75
May 1st ...	67	47	130	85	80	73
June 2nd ...	66	47	130	80	80	72
July 1st ...	67	47	130	80	80	73
August 1st	68	47	125-130	80	80	73
September 1st	70	47	125-130	80	80	74
October 1st	72	48	125-130	80	80	76
October 31st	72	48	125-130	80	80	76
December 1st	74	48	125	80	80	77
1926:						
January 1st	71	48	125	80-85	80	75

It will be seen from the above Table that the changes during 1925 in the index numbers for "All Items" were mainly due to changes in the prices of food.

*Food.*—Food prices declined from the beginning of the year, slowly at first, more rapidly in March and April, until the beginning of June, and rose again slowly until 1st December, largely under the influence of seasonal changes in the average prices of eggs, butter and milk. At 1st January, 1926, a fall was again recorded, due to reductions in the average prices of butter and eggs. The average prices of potatoes fell almost continuously during the latter half of the year, averaging, at 1st January, 1926, 3½d. per 7 lbs. less than at the beginning of 1925. The average prices of flour and bread rose until the end of February, after which they showed a continuous fall for the next eight months, rising again slightly until the end of the year, when they had almost reached the average level of 1st January, 1925. Butter showed a decrease of between 2d. and 3d. per lb. on balance during the year. In the other articles of food the most noteworthy changes in average prices at 1st January, 1926, as compared with a year earlier were increases of 2½d. per lb. in the case of bacon, of 1½d. per lb. in the case of cheese and margarine and a decrease of ¾d. per lb. in the case of sugar.

The following Table shows the average prices of the articles of food included in the statistics at 1st January, 1925 and 1926, and 1st July, 1925, together with the average percentage increases, at those dates, as compared with July, 1914:—

\* See footnote † on page 3.



Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ d.).			Average Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.		
	1st Jan., 1925.	1st July, 1925.	1st Jan., 1926.	1st Jan., 1925.	1st July, 1925.	1st Jan., 1926.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—						
Ribs ...	1 6	1 6	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	80	80	78
Thin Flank ...	0 10	0 10	0 10	50	51	49
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs ...	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	45	45
Thin Flank ...	0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	16	17
Mutton, British—						
Legs ...	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	93	97	86
Breast ...	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11	73	77	68
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs ...	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	85	82
Breast ...	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	33	35
Bacon (streaky)*	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	60	65	82
Fish	...	...	...	141	113	126
Flour per 7 lbs.	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7	1 6	74	80	70
Bread per 4 lbs.	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	76	81	70
Tea...	2 5	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5	61	59	58
Sugar (granulated)	0 4	0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	96	80	63
Milk per quart	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	94	59	92
Butter—						
Fresh ...	2 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 1	88	63	71
Salt ...	2 2	1 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 11	82	61	62
Cheese† ...	1 2	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	62	58	77
Margarine ...	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 8	— 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	15
Eggs (fresh) each	0 3	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	151	45	167
Potatoes per 7 lbs.	0 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11	0 7	114	126	47

*Rents* (including rates) of working-class dwellings, which continued to be subject to the provisions of the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts, rose slightly during the year owing to increases in local rates in certain towns, and at the end of the year were, on the average, about 48 per cent. above those of July, 1914, as compared with 47 per cent. twelve months earlier.

*Clothing.*—Except in the case of boots and shoes, the movement in the prices of which was inappreciable, practically all the articles of clothing and clothing materials taken into account in compiling the index number were slightly cheaper, on the average, at the end than at the beginning of the year. For the whole group the increase over pre-war prices at 1st January, 1926, averaged about 125 per cent. as compared with approximately 125 to 130 per cent. at 1st January, 1925.

*Fuel and Light.*—On 1st January, 1926, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, of retail prices in this group was between 80 and 85 per cent. as compared with about 85 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1925. The average prices of coal, oil, candles and matches were slightly lower at the end than at the beginning of the year. The average price of gas, however, rose during the year.

*Other Items.*—In this group of articles (comprising soap and soda, ironmongery, brushes and pottery, newspapers, tobacco and fares) there were no considerable changes in prices during 1925, and the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, remained at about 80 per cent. throughout the year.

#### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes causing stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in 1925, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 601.‡

The number of workpeople directly involved (*i.e.*, on strike or locked-out) in these disputes was about 398,000; the number indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 40,000. In addition, about 3,000 workpeople were involved in 25 disputes which began in 1924 and continued into 1925. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in 1925 was thus about 441,000.

The aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople in the disputes was approximately 7,976,000; this total is the lowest recorded for any year since 1918.

In 1924 the number of disputes reported as having begun in the year in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 710; the number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 616,000; and the total loss of time in these disputes was about 8,424,000 working days.

The following Table summarises by industries the number of disputes reported as *beginning* in 1924 and 1925 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the number of workpeople involved in *all disputes in progress* in each of these years, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in 1924 and 1925 respectively:—

Groups of Industries.	1924.			1925.*		
	No. of Disputes beginning in 1924.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1925.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining ...	190	137,000	1,563,000	162	129,000	3,450,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	14	3,000	65,000	12	9,000	301,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	23	3,000	89,000	14	1,000	5,000
Chemical ...	11	2,000	23,000	11	1,000	29,000
Engineering ...	33	12,000	112,000	18	6,000	38,000
Shipbuilding ...	40	34,000	597,000	27	7,000	49,000
Other Metal ...	63	25,000	691,000	48	11,000	96,000
Textile ...	50	11,000	200,000	59	172,000	3,173,000
Clothing ...	31	5,000	45,000	30	5,000	38,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	24	10,000	77,000	25	5,000	56,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	28	3,000	93,000	30	5,000	126,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	12	3,000	18,000	18	19,000	135,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. ...	58	114,000	3,134,000	54	6,000	90,000
Transport ...	78	244,000	1,539,000	46	25,000	69,000
Other ...	55	10,000	178,000	47	40,000	321,000†
Total ...	710	616,000†	8,424,000	601	441,000†	7,976,000

*Causes or Objects.*—As in 1924, wages questions were the preponderating causes of disputes in 1925, 304, or about half of all the disputes beginning in the year, arising on these questions. The number of workpeople directly involved in such disputes amounted to nearly 260,000 (out of a total of 398,000), the majority of whom were involved in one dispute (that occurring in the wool textile industry). Of the remaining disputes the causes most frequently occurring were questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, 138 disputes, directly involving 58,000 workpeople, arising from such causes.

*Principal Disputes.*—The principal dispute of 1925 occurred in the wool textile industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire. The workpeople had made an application for an advance in wages and the employers a counter-demand for a reduction. No settlement having been reached, about 165,000 workpeople (including enginemens and firemen) ceased work on 23rd and 24th July. A temporary settlement was effected on 14th August providing for resumption of work at the old rate of wages pending an investigation by a special Court. The Court subsequently recommended the stabilisation of existing rates of wages until after 1st January, 1927.

No other disputes occurred in the year of a magnitude approaching that in the wool textile industry, the next in order of magnitude being a strike of coal miners which occurred in June, July and August in the Anthracite District of South Wales, arising out of the dismissal of a colliers' helper and an alleged breach of a seniority rule, and ultimately involving 20,000 coal miners. The strike was unsuccessful, work being resumed on the old terms except at the colliery originally in dispute, which was not re-opened. Among other disputes in the coal mining industry, involving comparatively small numbers of workpeople, were several protracted disputes caused by the workpeople's opposition to employers' wages proposals. There was a prospect, in the summer, of a general stoppage of work in the coal mining industry, arising out of notices given by the Employers' Association to terminate the 1924 wages agreement and proposals made by the Association for a new agreement. The proposals were rejected by the Miners' Federation and a general stoppage of work appeared imminent. Before the expiration of notices the Prime Minister met representatives of the parties and, on behalf of the Government, offered financial assistance to the industry until the spring of 1926, to allow of a full investigation being made into the conditions of the industry. The offer was accepted on 31st July and the stoppage was averted. A Royal Commission was subsequently appointed to carry out the investigation.

Members of the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, etc., Workers employed by a London firm ceased work on 28th February on a question respecting the wages payable to workpeople employed on certain machines. As the workpeople refused to resume work on terms recommended (prior to the stoppage) by the Joint Industrial Council, other firms affiliated to the London Master Bookbinders' Association imposed a lock-out on 21st March on members of the Trade Union, and this again was followed on 25th March by a sympathetic strike of other members of the Trade Union employed by firms belonging to the London Master Printers' Association. The stoppage involved about 15,000 workpeople in all and lasted until 27th March, when the terms recommended by the Joint Industrial Council were accepted, and agreement was reached, upon a national basis, as to the rates of wages applicable to various machines.

\* The figures for 1925 are preliminary and subject to correction.

† Of the total number shown, approximately 55,000 in 1924 and 41,000 in 1925 were indirectly involved, *i.e.*, thrown out of work in consequence of the disputes at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not actually on strike or locked out.

‡ Including 240,000 in india rubber manufacture and waterproof garment making.

\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality the returns quote prices for another kind locally representative.

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

‡ Decrease.

§ Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day are 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.



About 10,000 members of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers employed by retail co-operative societies were involved in a strike at Preston and a subsequent lock-out at other centres in Lancashire, Cheshire and adjoining counties, following the failure of negotiations on the Trade Union's claim for the adoption of a new wages and conditions programme. The stoppage lasted from 28th March to 2nd April, when an agreement was effected providing for resumption of negotiations and defining terms of reference, etc., for arbitration in the event of continued failure to agree.

**Comparative Figures for 1911-1925.**—The following Table shows the total number of disputes (involving a stoppage of work) reported to the Department as beginning in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in each of the years 1911-1925, together with the number of workpeople involved in these disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost in all disputes in progress during the year (irrespective of the date of commencement) at the establishments where the disputes occurred. It should be observed, in comparing the figures in this Table with those given in the foregoing Table, relating to 1924 and 1925, that in the following Table the particulars of numbers involved relate to those involved in disputes *beginning* in each year, whilst in the previous Table they relate to the total numbers involved in *all* disputes *in progress* :—

Year.	Number of Disputes beginning in Year.	Number of Workpeople involved in Disputes <i>beginning</i> in Year.*		Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes <i>in progress</i> during Year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	
1911 ...	872	824,000	128,000	10,160,000
1912 ...	834	1,232,000	230,000	40,890,000
1913 ...	1,459	497,000	167,000	9,800,000
1914 ...	972	326,000	121,000	9,880,000
1915 ...	672	401,000	47,000	2,950,000
1916 ...	532	235,000	41,000	2,450,000
1917 ...	730	575,000	297,000	5,650,000
1918 ...	1,165	923,000	193,000	5,880,000
1919 ...	1,352	2,401,000	190,000	34,970,000
1920 ...	1,607	1,779,000	153,000	26,570,000
1921 ...	763	1,770,000	31,000	85,870,000
1922 ...	576	512,000	40,000	19,850,000
1923 ...	628	343,000	62,000	10,670,000
1924 ...	710	558,000	55,000	8,420,000
1925† ...	601	398,000	40,000	7,980,000

The total number of disputes recorded in 1925 and of workpeople involved in such disputes was smaller than in the previous year and was much below the average for the years 1911-1924. The total time lost owing to disputes in 1925 was less than in any other year included in the Table, except the war years 1915 to 1918. It may be pointed out that the exceptionally large numbers of working days lost in consequence of disputes in 1912 and 1921 were due to the occurrence in those years of protracted disputes in the coal mining industry.

## COURSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FROM JULY, 1923, TO OCTOBER, 1925.

The article, with accompanying diagrams, which appeared in the December issue of this GAZETTE, containing an analysis of the course of unemployment from July, 1923, to October, 1925, has been reprinted as a four-page pamphlet, and may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE, price 1d. (net) per copy.

The article analyses separately the course of unemployment (i) in all insured industries taken together; (ii) in a group of seasonal industries (building, clothing, food and drink, entertainments, etc.); and (iii) in coal mining and in a group of five other staple industries (iron and steel; shipbuilding and ship-repairing; general and marine engineering; cotton; woollen and worsted). The general effect of the analysis is to show that a wide extension of unemployment in coal mining has masked a substantial improvement in several of the other great industries.

## CHARTS, Etc., ILLUSTRATING LABOUR STATISTICS.

The February issue of this GAZETTE will include a special free supplement containing a series of charts, diagrams, etc., illustrating the principal official statistics relating to labour conditions (employment, cost of living, wages, industrial disputes, etc.) in recent years.

## PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED.

THE following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 21st December, 1925, differed from the figures for 23rd November to the extent of 1,000 or more. The Table shows the increases and decreases for males and females separately, together with the total net variation for all insured industries.

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 21st December as compared with 23rd November, 1925.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Coal Mining ...	— 48,550	— 529	— 49,079
Distributive Trades ...	— 5,856	— 4,479	— 10,335
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ...	— 7,131	— 39	— 7,170
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services ...	— 1,384	— 2,994	— 4,378
Tailoring ...	+ 104	— 2,475	— 2,371
Woollen and Worsteds ...	— 108	— 1,783	— 1,891
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	— 1,557	— 175	— 1,732
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	— 1,665	+ 21	— 1,644
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	— 1,069	— 400	— 1,469
Linen ...	— 882	— 539	— 1,421
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades ...	— 562	— 851	— 1,413
*Other Road Transport ...	— 1,316	— 27	— 1,343
Hosiery ...	— 77	— 1,215	— 1,292
*Other Metal Industries ...	— 666	— 425	— 1,091
Railway Service ...	— 1,007	— 47	— 1,054
Fishing ...	+ 1,271	+ 64	+ 1,335
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ...	+ 1,649	— 37	+ 1,612
*Other Food Industries ...	+ 215	+ 1,556	+ 1,771
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	+ 1,815	— 3	+ 1,812
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	+ 1,501	+ 2,310	+ 3,811
Public Works Contracting ...	+ 3,949	—	+ 3,949
Building ...	+ 16,568	— 19	+ 16,549
Net variation for above industries ...	— 44,758	— 12,086	— 56,844
Total net variation for all insured industries ...	— 53,971	— 16,845	— 70,816

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

A STATISTICAL summary† of the output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry for the quarter ended 30th September, 1925, prepared by the Mines Department, shows that at undertakings which produced 54,976,337 tons of saleable coal, or about 98 per cent. of the total quantity raised in the quarter, 50,180,473 tons were disposable commercially.

The net costs, after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal, amounted to £45,086,741, equivalent to 17s. 11.64d. per ton. Of this sum, £3,360,744 was met by subvention, leaving net costs of £41,725,997, or 16s. 7.57d. per ton, to be borne by the owners. The proceeds of commercial disposals amounted to £41,137,808, equivalent to 16s. 4.75d. per ton. There was thus a debit balance of £588,189, or 2.82d. per ton. An analysis by districts shows that there was a debit balance, after crediting subvention, in all districts, except Yorkshire and the East Midlands and Somerset, where there were credit balances of 7.05d. and 1s. 0.25d. per ton respectively. The debit balances ranged from 2.40d. in Kent to 1s. 5.73d. in Cumberland.

The number of workpeople employed was 1,013,757, and the number of man-shifts worked was 61,480,030. The average output per man-shift worked was 17.88 cwt., the average for the districts ranging from 12.09 cwt. in the Bristol coalfield to 20.08 cwt. in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. The average earnings per man-shift worked were 10s. 4.85d.

The following Table compares some of the more important figures in the return with those given in the returns for previous quarters :—

Quarter ended.	Proportion of Industry covered.	Amount of Saleable Coal raised.	Credit (+) or Debit (—) balance per ton.†	No. of work-people employed.	Output per man-shift worked.	Earnings per man-shift worked.
1922.	Per cent.	Tons.	s. d.		Cwts.	s. d.
31 March	95	57,633,631	+ 1 1.62	1,020,207	18.23	11 0.18
30 June	94	53,261,024	— 0 0.17	1,025,592	17.80	10 2.51
30 Sept.	94	58,717,767	+ 1 1.00	1,027,853	17.94	9 3.97
31 Dec.	95	64,538,199	+ 1 6.39	1,068,594	18.10	9 5.23
1923.						
31 March	95	67,077,543	+ 2 5.32	1,087,733	18.25	9 7.72
30 June	95	65,527,464	+ 3 2.64	1,102,380	17.90	9 9.77
30 Sept.	95	61,999,982	+ 1 0.22	1,108,259	17.42	10 7.20
31 Dec.	94	67,838,789	+ 1 11.53	1,120,204	17.76	10 3.33
1924.						
31 March	94	67,047,657	+ 2 9.63	1,111,280	17.79	10 2.82
30 June	93	61,552,868	+ 1 0.34	1,107,457	17.48	10 11.17
30 Sept.	92	59,163,976	+ 0 0.26	1,082,340	17.33	10 10.24
31 Dec.	94	62,428,185	+ 0 7.61	1,078,758	17.74	10 7.04
1925.						
31 March	94	62,458,898	+ 0 6.13	1,074,079	17.98	10 7.58
30 June	95	54,982,191	— 0 11.81	1,032,216	17.85	10 6.77
30 Sept.	98	54,976,337	— 0 2.82§	1,013,757	17.88	10 4.85

\* These groups, which include miscellaneous industries, correspond with those under the same headings in the Table on pages 22 and 23.

† Cmd. 2550. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

‡ Calculated on the quantity of coal disposable commercially.

§ After crediting subvention.

\* Workpeople involved in more than one dispute during the year are counted more than once in the totals for the year. The extent of such duplication is not very considerable except in the coal mining group in 1921, 1920, 1919 and 1912, in which about 100,000 workpeople in 1921, 300,000 workpeople in 1920, 150,000 workpeople in 1919, and 106,000 workpeople in 1912 were involved in more than one dispute. (See also footnote § in first column on page 5.)

† The figures for 1925 are preliminary and subject to correction.



## COAL MINING INDUSTRY SUBVENTION.

THE Mines Department announces that the following amounts have been paid up to 31st December, 1925, in respect of the months of August to November, as a subvention to the coal mining industry, in accordance with the arrangements described on page 307 of the September issue of this GAZETTE:—

District.	Amount paid in respect of			Total.
	August and Sept.	October.	November.	
	£	£	£	£
Scotland ... ..	636,443	411,261	412,206	1,459,910
Northumberland ... ..	238,554	172,885	184,409	595,848
Durham ... ..	588,626	415,759	431,943	1,436,328
South Wales and Monmouthshire ... ..	759,887	677,385	707,303	2,144,575
Eastern Division* ... ..	608,638	526,483	473,149	1,608,270
Lancs, North Staffs, and Cheshire ... ..	383,223	304,387	292,475	980,085
North Wales ... ..	58,792	44,463	46,873	150,128
South Staffs and Salop ... ..	38,223	26,322	26,373	90,918
Cumberland ... ..	59,548	41,239	43,832	144,619
Bristol ... ..	3,757	2,892	3,702	10,351
Forest of Dean ... ..	22,860	16,364	16,932	56,156
Somerset ... ..	3,864	2,333	2,986	9,183
Kent ... ..	4,854	3,207	4,026	12,087
Total ... ..	3,407,269	2,644,980	2,646,209	8,698,458

## SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of December, 1925, amounted to 885,013 tons, as compared with 1,009,155 tons at the end of September, 1925, and 1,296,971 tons at the end of December, 1924, the present total being the lowest recorded since September, 1909. The tonnage on which work was suspended at the end of December, 1925, amounted to 97,000 tons, as compared with only 60,000 tons at the end of December, 1924. The average tonnage building during the twelve months immediately preceding the war was 1,890,000 tons. The tonnage of motor ships building at the end of December, 1925, equalled 51.6 per cent. of the steam tonnage under construction.

A large decrease is shown in the tonnage commenced during the quarter, viz., 160,986 tons, as compared with 260,551 tons in the previous quarter.

The tonnage launched during the quarter, viz., 216,481 tons, is 8,755 tons lower than that for the previous quarter.

The total horse-power of the marine engines building or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of December, 1925, amounted to 588,194 H.P.

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

## COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

THE Committee on Unemployment Insurance† held its first Meeting on the 26th November, when it considered the procedure to be adopted in its Inquiry. Two further Meetings were held on 14th and 15th December, at which evidence was heard from Mr. J. F. G. Price, the Principal Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Labour in charge of the Employment and Insurance Department. Mr. Price explained in detail the history of Unemployment Insurance, the legislation governing it and its administration. Mr. Price's evidence will shortly be resumed at a further Meeting of the Committee.

The Committee has invited the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations and the Trades Union Congress General Council to put before it their considered views on the matters falling within the Committee's terms of reference. These organisations have accepted the Committee's invitation and will appear before it as soon as they have made the necessary preparations for their evidence. Other bodies have also been asked to advise the Committee, including the National Association of Poor Law Unions.

Further, the Committee has made arrangements to obtain the advice of the Local Employment Committees in Great Britain.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1925.†

THE Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, received the Royal Assent on the 22nd December, and comes into operation on the 1st May next. It is a consolidating measure, and accordingly does not apply in cases where the accident happened before the 1st January, 1924, i.e., the date on which the amending Act of 1923 came into force. As regards such cases existing rights under the earlier Acts are preserved by Section 50 of the new Act.

\* Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.

† For a notice of the appointment of this Committee, with its terms of reference and the names of its members, see the November issue of this GAZETTE, page 379.

‡ Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN 1924.

THE Home Office have issued a volume containing statistics of compensation and of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1906 and 1923, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1924.\* The statistics relate to seven great groups of industries—mines, quarries, railways, factories, docks, constructional work, and shipping—in regard to which particulars of compensation are received from or on behalf of employers under section 12 of the Act of 1906. These groups embrace a large proportion of the chief industries, but it has to be borne in mind that they do not by any means cover the whole field. Besides the various commercial, clerical, and domestic employments to which the Act applies, there are several important industries which are not covered by the returns, for example, building, road transport, and agriculture.

Important changes in the law came into operation at the beginning of 1924 as a result of the passing of the amending Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923, and of the lapse of the Workmen's Compensation (War Addition) Acts, 1917 and 1919.

The main changes affecting the statistics may be summarised as follows:—

(i) Injuries resulting in death.—An additional allowance is payable in cases where the dependants include children under the age of 15 years (the amount of the allowance varying according to the number and age of the children); and in these cases the total maximum compensation payable to the dependants is raised from £300 to £600. Further, the minimum compensation payable in any case of death where the workman leaves any persons wholly dependent on his earnings is raised from £150 to £200.

(ii) Injuries resulting in disablement.—Under the Act of 1906, compensation was to be a weekly payment not exceeding 50 per cent. of the earnings of the disabled workman up to a maximum of £1. Under the War Addition Acts this was increased in the case of totally disabled workmen by an additional weekly allowance equal to 75 per cent. of the weekly compensation, but these Acts were temporary measures and (subject to a saving for existing cases) expired on the 31st December, 1923. By the Act of 1923 the maximum is raised to 30s., and the lower paid workers (with wages under 50s. a week) are allowed a higher rate, ranging up to 75 per cent. of their weekly earnings.

An important alteration was also introduced by the Act of 1923 in regard to the waiting period. Under the Act of 1906, compensation was payable only for disablement lasting more than a week, but was "dated back" if the disablement lasted two weeks or more. Under the Act of 1923 compensation is payable for disablement lasting more than three days, and is dated back if the disablement lasts four weeks or upwards.

The aggregate number of persons coming within the provisions of the Act who were employed in the seven groups of industries named above in 1924 was 7,512,359, as compared with 7,342,311 in 1923 and 8,359,183 in 1919, the largest number in any year for which statistics exist. (It should be noted that the figures which the employer is asked to give is the *average* number employed *throughout* the year.) The following Table gives comparative figures for 1914, 1923, and 1924:—

	1914.†	1923.	1924.
Number of workpeople covered by returns ... ..	7,057,111	7,342,311	7,512,359
Number of Cases:—			
Fatal ... ..	4,216‡	2,657	2,878
Non-fatal ... ..	437,900	477,378	487,442
Total ... ..	442,116	480,035	490,320
Payments for compensation:—	£	£	£
In fatal cases ... ..	679,732	591,164	786,444
In non-fatal cases ... ..	2,785,629	6,542,932	5,888,594
Total ... ..	3,465,361	7,134,096	6,675,038

The average amount of compensation paid in fatal cases in 1924 was £273, as compared with £222 in 1923 and with £161 in 1914. The average amount paid in 1924 in non-fatal cases was £69 16s. for lump-sum payments and £9 3s. for weekly payments, as compared with £59 10s. and £11 7s., respectively, in 1923; the average for all non-fatal cases was £12 2s. in 1924, as against £13 14s. in 1923 and £6 7s. in 1914.

There was an increase of 10,285, or 2.1 per cent., in the total number of cases in 1924 as compared with 1923; but a decrease of £459,058, or 6.4 per cent., in the total amount of compensation paid. The decrease in compensation paid was entirely in non-fatal cases, compensation in fatal cases showing a large increase, owing to the effect of the Act of 1923. Similarly, the decrease in the amount of compensation paid in non-fatal cases must be largely attributable to the lower amount payable in most cases under the Act of 1923, as compared with the amount payable during the operation of the War Addition Acts.

The proportion of fatal cases to total numbers employed shows very slight variation from year to year. The rise in non-fatal cases

\* Cmd. 2567. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

† The figures for 1914 include Ireland; those for 1923 and 1924 do not.

‡ There was a great colliery explosion in this year.



during 1921, 1922 and 1923, continued in 1924, in all industries with the important exception of mining; but the reduction in the rate of non-fatal cases for mining was so substantial (from 215.1 to 191.0 per thousand employed) that the general average rate for all the seven groups of industries taken together shows a slight reduction, from 65.0 per thousand to 64.9.

Taking all the seven groups of industries together, there was a decrease in non-fatal accident cases lasting for 13 weeks and over, and in those lasting for 4 but less than 13 weeks, but a substantial increase in those lasting less than four weeks, which in 1924 accounted for more than 60 per cent. of the total number of accident cases. The increase was especially noticeable in cases of accidents lasting less than two weeks (30.95 per cent. of the total in 1924, as against 6.49 per cent. in 1923); this was due to the new arrangements mentioned above, under the Act of 1923, in regard to the waiting period and the dating back of compensation.

The following Table shows the number of persons employed, the total compensation paid, and the cost per person employed, in each of the seven groups of industries for the years 1923 and 1924, as shown by the returns furnished by employers to the Home Office:—

Industry.	Persons employed.		Total compensation paid.		Cost per person employed.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
			£	£	s. d.	s. d.
Shipping ...	227,210	207,174	173,220	229,095	15 3	22 1
Factories ...	5,103,240	5,242,521	2,387,417	2,254,465	9 4	8 7
Docks ...	143,942	158,321	262,621	280,153	36 6	35 5
Mines ...	1,214,660	1,202,597	3,810,661	3,376,214	62 9	56 2
Quarries ...	68,979	74,771	83,640	87,157	24 3	23 4
Constructional work ...	106,002	106,312	123,934	149,050	23 5	28 0
Railways ...	478,278	520,663	292,603	298,904	12 3	11 6
Total ...	7,342,311	7,512,359	7,134,096	6,675,038	19 5	17 9

It will be seen that there was a reduction in the cost per person employed in every industry except shipping and constructional work.

The figures given above as to total compensation paid in the seven groups of industries represent only the actual amount paid to workmen or their dependants, and not the total charge on the industries in respect of compensation. To compute the total charge it would be necessary to take account of the administrative expenses and medical and legal costs of employers, insurance companies, and mutual indemnity associations, the amount placed in reserve, and the sums set aside by insurance companies as profits.

In this connection it should be noted that, in the case of the companies belonging to the Accident Offices Association (which includes almost all the big Accident Insurance Companies), the proportion of income to be allocated to payment of compensation is now subject to the operation of the formal arrangement negotiated in 1923 between the Home Office and the Accident Offices Association for the purpose of limiting the charges to employers in respect of employers' liability insurance.\* The general effect of this arrangement, which came into operation in 1924, is that the Accident Offices Association engages on behalf of its constituent members to adjust from time to time the rates of premium for this class of insurance in such a way as to make the "loss ratio" (i.e., the proportion which the total amount paid or set aside in respect of claims bears to the premiums) not less than 60 per cent. for each of the years 1924, 1925 and 1926, and not less than 62½ per cent. in subsequent years (or such other proportion, not being less than 60 per cent., as may be agreed between the Home Secretary and the Association). For the year 1924, the "loss ratio" has been certified by the auditors to be 52.88 per cent., that is to say, the employers insured with the companies belonging to the Association became entitled, on the next renewal of their premiums, to a rebate of 7.12 per cent.

In the coal mining industry the charge arising under the Act, calculated simply on the basis of the compensation paid, works out in 1924 at about 3.0d. per ton of coal raised, as compared with 3.2d. in 1922 and 1923; and taking £161,561,000 as the amount paid for wages in the industry (the figure supplied by the Mines Department), it would appear that 4.9d. was paid for compensation per £1 of wages, as compared with 5.7d. in 1922 and 1923. As regards railways, the information obtained from the railway companies indicates that the amount of compensation paid per £1 of wages would be just under 1d., which is about the same as in 1923. As regards shipping, it would appear that the amount of compensation paid per ton of shipping was 3.3d., as compared with 2.4d. in 1923.

Statistics regarding the various industrial diseases included under the Workmen's Compensation Act are also given. Compensation was paid, in the seven groups of industries, in 24 fatal cases of industrial disease, to the amount of £5,400, and in 16,828 disablement cases, to the amount of £714,393. The 24 fatal cases included 18 cases of lead poisoning. The bulk of the non-fatal cases occurred, as in previous years, in the mining industry, and were chiefly due to miner's nystagmus, "beat hand" and "beat knee." These, with "beat elbow" and inflammation of the synovial lining of the wrist joint and tendon sheaths, numbered 15,586, or 92.5 per cent. of the total number of cases.

Statistics in regard to the administration of the Acts show that the total number of cases under the Workmen's Compensation Acts

taken into court in Great Britain in 1924 was 5,955. Many of these were settled out of court or otherwise disposed of, and only 3,352 were finally settled with the cognizance of the court. The decision in 2,621 cases, or 78.2 per cent., was in favour of the applicant.

There were 30,967 cases in which memoranda of agreements and informal arbitrations were registered in the courts, as compared with 28,409 cases in 1923. The increase was due to the larger number of lump-sum agreements recorded, and was no doubt consequent on the provisions in the Act of 1923 requiring the registration of all agreements for lump-sum payments, whether in redemption of weekly payments or not.

County Courts now have enlarged powers of refusing to record the memorandum of a lump-sum agreement when the sum agreed is inadequate. In 1924 there were 493 cases where the Registrar refused to record the memorandum at first presented, but subsequently recorded it without reference to the Judge after the original amount agreed had been increased. In 320 cases he referred the matter to the Judge, and in 143 of these cases the memorandum was ordered to be recorded after the sum originally agreed had been increased.

Cases under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, numbered only 67 in the whole of Great Britain; the remedy provided by this Act is falling into disuse.

## PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

At meetings of the Joint Industrial Council for the *Match Manufacturing Industry* held in October, November and December, 1925, consideration was given to the increase in the figure of importations, which was largely attributed to the effect of depreciated exchanges in certain exporting countries. The Council expressed a wish that individual consumers would insist, when buying, on receiving British-made matches only.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that the total sum invested on behalf of the Supplementary Voluntary Unemployment Benefit Scheme now amounted to £20,000.

It was reported that the Minister of Labour had, under official date 9th November, issued an Order called The Trade Boards (Paper Box) Order, 1925, which removes the making of match-boxes, or of parts thereof, on the premises of an establishment in which the main business carried on is the making of matches, from the scope of the Paper Box trade, as from the 14th December, 1925.\*

It is believed that this is the first instance in which the operation of an industry had been removed from the scope of the Trade Board owing to the existence and successful working of a Joint Industrial Council. The members of the Council felt that it afforded most important testimony to the value of the Whitley Council movement.

At the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Joint Industrial Council for the *Glove Making Industry*, held on 14th December, 1925, the following, amongst other matters, were considered:—

### WAGES OF BOYS AND GIRLS IN THE GLOVE TRADE.

#### (1) Youths not Apprenticed.

In the ordinary course of events boys at 16 years of age go to one branch or another of the trade and become apprenticed, receiving apprentice rates of pay. In view of this the Council had not found it necessary to fix rates of wages for youths over the age of 16. But now, owing to the bad trade during the past few years, there are a number of youths who have not been offered apprenticeships and are not, therefore, covered by the present Wages Agreement.

The Council, at this meeting, agreed upon a scale of wages for unapprenticed youths, rising each six months until the adult age is reached.

#### (2) Female Learners.

The usual thing in the case of female workers is for a girl to enter the trade on leaving school at 14 years of age, and the Joint Industrial Council has a scale of wages which advances each six months until the adult age is reached.

An agreement has now been arrived at which will allow any female, even though she is over the usual starting age, to enter the trade under special conditions and learn to become a skilled operative.

### MISDESCRIPTION OF GLOVES.

Particulars of a number of cases were submitted where wrong descriptions were being used. The Council was of the opinion that drastic action ought to be taken in any future cases as the mild course at present being followed was not having the desired effect. The Secretary was instructed to write to all the Associations interested signifying this and to send a copy of the letter to all the trade papers and the general Press.

### IMPORTATION OF LEATHER GLOVES.

The Council had under consideration the imports of leather gloves, which, it was stated, had again increased whilst home production was decreasing. It was reported that the imports in November were more than five times the number of gloves produced in this country.

### ADVERTISEMENT BY A FIRM OF MANUFACTURERS FOR NON-UNION CUTTERS.

A report of an advertisement in the Press for cutters which laid it down that only non-trade-unionists need apply, was considered,

\* "Undertaking given by the Accident Offices Association on behalf of its constituent Insurance Offices for the purpose of limiting the charges to employers in respect of employers' liability insurance." Cmd. 1891. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.



and the feeling of the Council was very definitely against the action of the firm. Instructions were given that they were to be written to and asked whether they were paying the rates of wages agreed upon by the Joint Industrial Council, and, further, whether they were prepared to withdraw their embargo on trade-union labour. The reply to this was to be circulated amongst the members.

At a meeting of the Joint Industrial Council for the *Furniture Warehousing and Removing Industry* held in October consideration was given to the proposed new wages and areas agreement and to the best method of making it effective. To this end it was agreed to form a joint committee of employers and workmen in each provincial area.

## INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919: COURT OF INQUIRY.

### RAILWAY SHOPMEN, LONDON AND NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY AND CHESHIRE LINES.

In connection with the threatened stoppage of work of certain railway shopmen on the Great Central Section of the London and North Eastern Railway and on the Cheshire Lines, the Minister of Labour has appointed a Court of Inquiry under Part II of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, with the following terms of reference:—

“To inquire into the threatened dispute concerning the claim of the National Union of Railwaymen for the application of Decision No. 728 of the Industrial Court, dated 8th July, 1922, to the various classes of men employed in the several departments of the railway shops of the Great Central Section of the London and North Eastern Railway Company and the Cheshire Lines Committee or in connection therewith, and to ascertain and report on the facts.”

The members of the Court are:—Mr. Holman Gregory, K.C. (*Chairman*), Mr. R. A. Austen-Leigh, Mr. Arthur Shaw, J.P.; with Mr. G. H. Ince, of the Ministry of Labour, as Secretary.

The Inquiry was held in public at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on the 11th and 12th January, when the contentions of the various parties were placed before the Court. Representatives of the following organisations were present:—The London and North Eastern Railway Company, on behalf of the Great Central Section and the Cheshire Lines Committee; the National Union of Railwaymen; the Amalgamated Engineering Union; the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades; the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders; the National Union of Foundry Workers; the United Operative Plumbers' and Domestic Engineers' Association; the Amalgamated Machine, Engine, and Iron Grinders' and Glaziers' Society; the United Society of Saddlers and General Leather Workers; and the Workers' Union.

The Report of the Court had not been issued at the time of going to press with this GAZETTE.

## ANTHRACITE MINING DISPUTE IN THE UNITED STATES.\*

A STRIKE involving 158,000 miners has been in progress in the Pennsylvania anthracite mines since 1st September last, the date of expiration of a two years' agreement between the mine owners and the United Mine Workers of America. A joint wage conference held at Atlantic City during July and August, 1925, to discuss the terms on which the agreement should be renewed, led to no result, and the strike order was thereupon issued. The dispute is confined to the northern part of Pennsylvania, but as this area contains the only anthracite seams in the United States which are capable of commercial exploitation, the result has been a complete stoppage of all hard coal production. The present strike has resulted in the shutting down of 828 pits. These are owned by 135 companies, and have an average weekly output of about 1½ million tons. The daily loss in wages to the miners is estimated at \$1,200,000, but many other workers depending on the anthracite industry, including a large number of railwaymen, are directly affected by the strike.

The miners' demands include a 10 per cent. increase in the wages of workers remunerated on tonnage rates, an increase of \$1 a day for labourers paid on time rates, and the introduction of the check-off system (the payment of union dues by deduction from wages, made at the employer's expense). The owners state that not only is an increase of wages impossible, but that it is essential that the cost of production should be reduced; they further claim that the wages of the miners are 68 per cent. higher in purchasing power than before the war.

The present strike is one of a series of disputes which have occurred at intervals since the organisation of the anthracite miners in 1897. A protracted strike affecting both the anthracite and the bituminous mines, which commenced on 1st April, 1922,† was settled in the following September for the anthracite mines, by the miners returning to work under the old agreement, which remained in force until 31st August, 1923. On the expiration of this agreement, a further stoppage occurred between 1st and 19th September, 1923: on the latter date the owners agreed to a wage increase of 10 per cent., to remain in force until 31st August, 1925. The present strike, as already stated, has arisen from the inability of the owners' and miners' representatives to agree on terms for a renewal of the 1923 agreement.

\* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 14th December, 1925 (International Labour Office, Geneva); *Industrial News Survey* and other American periodicals, September–December, 1925.

† See this GAZETTE, May, 1922, p. 204, and October, 1924, p. 404.

Various endeavours which have been made by public bodies (local Chambers of Commerce, etc.) to settle the strike by conciliatory methods have so far proved unsuccessful. In November the Governor of Pennsylvania proposed a scheme of settlement providing for a five years' wage agreement; for the resumption of work immediately upon the signature of the agreement pending the decision of a Board of Award and Investigation, which should report within six months whether wages should or should not be increased; and for the voluntary assignment by the miners of part of their wages in substitution for the compulsory check-off originally demanded by them. The Scale Committee of the United Mine Workers of America agreed to accept these proposals as a basis for the resumption of negotiations, but the mine owners' association declined to re-open negotiations on these terms.

The Chairman of the Federal Coal Commission, which was set up in consequence of the 1922 coal strike, has advised President Coolidge to recommend to Congress the enactment of the legislation proposed in the Report issued by the Commission in July, 1923. A summary of these recommendations was published in this GAZETTE for September, 1923 (page 325).

The Federal Government has not intervened in the dispute, but at the end of December a conference was arranged between the owners' representatives and the officials of the United Mine Workers of America. According to a recent report (14th January), this conference led to no result.

The bituminous mines are so far not affected by the dispute. In the case of the central competitive bituminous coalfields (in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania) the wage agreement at present in force does not expire until 31st March, 1927; but fears have been expressed that the dispute may extend to these coalfields also.

## WAGES IN POLISH MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

THE November issue of the *Statystyka Pracy*, the journal of the Polish Central Statistical Office, contains particulars of the earnings of miners and metal workers in Poland. In both industries the figures relate to April, June and September, 1925.

### Coal Mines.

As regards the coalmining industry the following Table shows the average daily earnings of underground and surface workers in Upper Silesia:—

Class of Workers.	April, 1925.		June, 1925.		September, 1925.	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Working days ...	24		23		26	
Workers employed ...	91,626		87,014		74,010	
<b>Average Earnings (all Classes)—</b>	zloty.*	zloty.*	zloty.*	zloty.*	zloty.*	zloty.*
I. Miners:—	4.69	5.57	4.63	5.61	4.82	5.74
Hewers ...	6.95	8.11	6.83	8.09	7.04	8.22
Trammers ...	4.68	5.60	4.57	5.59	4.86	5.83
II. Other underground workers:—						
Repairers ...	5.52	6.45	5.45	6.49	5.47	6.44
Others ...	3.85	4.66	3.77	4.68	3.94	4.79
III. Surface workers:—						
Skilled ...	5.31	6.24	5.29	6.31	5.32	6.28
Others ...	3.79	4.52	3.74	4.55	3.97	4.75
IV. Juveniles 14 to 16 ...	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.14	1.16	1.24
Do. Underground ...	1.12	1.20	1.14	1.23	1.28	1.36
V. Females ...	1.80	2.20	1.81	2.25	1.91	2.30

(a) Net earnings, including overtime payments and family allowances but excluding insurance contributions.

(b) Net earnings as shown in preceding column, plus the value of coal supplied free, insurance contributions and payments for holidays.

### Metal and Engineering Industries.

The following Table shows the average daily earnings of metal and engineering workers in the Dombrowa and Radom districts:—

Category.	Dombrowa.			Radom.		
	April, 1925.	June, 1925.	Sept., 1925.	April, 1925.	June, 1925.	Sept., 1925.
	zloty.*	zloty.*	zloty.*	zloty.*	zloty.*	zloty.*
Blast furnaces:						
Skilled workers...	5.12	6.00	4.50	6.25	5.99	5.96
Helpers ...	3.44	3.49	2.97	4.20	4.04	3.19
Steel smelting:						
Skilled workers...	5.12	6.13	5.49	5.84	5.74	5.78
Carriers ...	...	3.52	3.20	3.79	3.73	3.75
Rolling mills:						
Rollers ...	5.64	5.32	5.86	5.97	6.19	6.22
Carriers ...	3.76	3.55	3.90	2.93	3.08	3.10
Foundries:						
Moulders ...	6.57	6.30	5.05	6.50	6.86	6.64
Helpers ...	4.36	3.77	3.43	2.58	3.09	3.16
Machine shops:						
Turners ...	6.15	7.20	7.69	6.22	6.30	6.41
Helpers ...	2.89	2.95	2.97	2.06	2.06	2.06
All forge labourers	2.09	2.10	1.99	2.11	2.04	2.04

The earnings in respect of each of the above categories are for a working day of 8 hours; they include the daily rate of wage plus piecework additions and bonuses. Payments in respect of overtime and holiday work are excluded. In the Dombrowa district unmarried

\* Zloty = 9.6d. approximately at par; at the rate of exchange current on 8th January, 1926, the zloty = 6.1d.



workers receive allowances of 14.4 grosz and 1.5 grosz per working day (100 grosz = 1 zloty) in respect of coal and social allowances. For married workers the corresponding figures under these heads are 36 grosz and 5 grosz respectively. These allowances are not paid by all establishments.

## STATE LOANS TO UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF WORKS: NEW DANISH ACT.\*

WITH the object of relieving unemployment during the winter, an Act was passed in Denmark on 1st December, 1925, for the granting of State loans to municipalities and private undertakings to enable them to carry out work planned to begin before 1st June, 1926. The Ministry of Social Affairs is authorised to expend 8 million kroner (approximately £410,000) for this purpose. The greater part of this sum will be used for building, road repairs and other work of public utility. Private firms may participate to the extent of 2 million kroner out of the total of 8 millions for work of an approved nature which admittedly cannot be more suitably undertaken by the municipalities.

Loans granted to the municipalities are to bear interest at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum and must be repaid within 30 years. The necessary sums will be advanced from the Central Unemployment Fund, which will receive corresponding amounts of 5 per cent. State bonds from the Ministry of Finance. These State bonds are to be redeemed within 30 years, repayments on the loans being received by the Treasury for accumulation in a separate fund intended for the cancellation of the bonds within that period.

The Act further provides that in addition to the grants made in virtue of Section 32 (7) of the Act of 4th March, 1924,† in aid of expenditure for wages on relief works, grants may be made to help to defray the cost of materials for relief works which are to be put in hand before 1st June, 1926. Such grants may not exceed 20 per cent. of the cost of these materials, which must be of Danish origin or manufacture. For this purpose, the Central Unemployment Fund is to set aside a sum not exceeding 1 million kroner. The grants will be made by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

If a commune or private institution which receives public assistance finds it desirable to undertake certain works which the local committee, appointed in accordance with the Act of 4th March, 1924,‡ cannot certify as being in accordance with the regulations governing relief works, the Minister for Social Affairs, on the application of the body concerned, may make it a grant, for the purpose of procuring materials, on the same conditions as those laid down above for relief works. For this purpose, the Central Unemployment Fund is to set aside a sum not exceeding 1 million kroner. The Treasury will refund to the Unemployment Fund grants made under this section of the Act.

## WAGES IN THE NETHERLANDS MINING AND METAL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

THE November issue of the *Maandschrift*, the journal of the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, contains particulars of the earnings of miners at a later date than that for which figures were given in the December issue of this GAZETTE, as well as further details of the earnings of workers in the metal and engineering and shipbuilding industries for the first half of 1925, reported upon in the same issue of the GAZETTE.

### MINING.

The following Table shows the average earnings of underground and surface workers and of all mine workers together in August and September, 1925:—

Category and Occupation.	Average Earnings per Shift.	
	August, 1925.	September, 1925.
Underground Workers:—	Guldens.‡	Guldens.‡
Foremen hewers ... ..	7.91	8.27
Shotfirers and foremen ... ..	6.93	7.15
Hewers... ..	6.12	6.11
Repairers ... ..	5.83	5.83
Timbermen ... ..	5.18	5.16
Assistant hewers ... ..	5.29	5.32
All Underground Workers ... ..	5.33§	5.35§
Surface Workers:—		
Skilled men ... ..	5.26	5.24
Semi-skilled men ... ..	4.71	4.69
Unskilled ... ..	4.16	4.15
All Surface Workers ... ..	3.94§	3.91§
Underground and Surface Workers together ... ..	4.95§	4.95§

### METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES.

The supplementary information relating to the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries consists of details of the average hourly and weekly earnings in 23 occupations in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries, classified under the categories of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. The following Table gives the average hourly and weekly earnings of representative workmen in each

category for each of the six towns concerning which general average wages were given in the last issue of this GAZETTE. The earnings relate to men of 21 years and over, during the first half of 1925:—

Average earnings in 1st half of 1925.*	Amsterdam.	Rotterdam.	Schiedam.	Haarlem.	Flushing.	Kinderdijk.
<b>SKILLED.</b>						
<i>Fitter.</i>						
Hourly† (Cents) ...	73	61	58	64	55	52
Weekly‡ (Guldens)	34.87	31.26	29.10	30.75	26.39	24.94
<i>Shipwright.</i>						
Hourly† (Cents) ...	70	59	60	73	56	52
Weekly‡ (Guldens)	33.57	31.52	31.43	35.54	27.11	24.96
<b>SEMI-SKILLED.</b>						
<i>Driller.</i>						
Hourly† (Cents) ...	66	54	51	59	47	...
Weekly‡ (Guldens)	31.87	28.05	25.02	27.81	22.53	...
<i>Riveter.</i>						
Hourly† (Cents) ...	67	57	55	60	53	50
Weekly‡ (Guldens)	31.96	30.77	29.02	28.84	25.23	24.04
<b>UNSKILLED.</b>						
<i>Labourer.</i>						
Hourly† (Cents) ...	55	47	45	44	39	46
Weekly‡ (Guldens)	26.23	25.16	23.84	20.79	18.56	22.21

## FAMILY ALLOWANCE COMPENSATION FUNDS IN BELGIUM.§

At the Second Congress of Family Allowance Compensation Funds held at Brussels on 3rd November, 1925, a report was presented by the director of the Central Committee for the Study of the Question of Social Allowances which shows that at the end of August, 1925, twelve of these funds were in existence, and one—the Provincial Fund for the Centre District—was in process of formation. The number of firms affiliated to these funds was 773, with a total staff of 152,603. The total sum paid by the funds in family allowances since their establishment amounts to 28 million francs, and the monthly disbursement is estimated at about 1,550,000 francs. If the undertakings are added which distribute family allowances but are not affiliated to the funds the number of workpeople would be increased to between 300,000 and 350,000 and the total sum disbursed would exceed 60 million francs.

The amounts paid as family allowances vary from 10 to 52 francs to 30 to 200 francs a month for one to four children. The latter scale (i.e., 30, 75, 135, 200 francs a month, plus 75 francs for each further child) is paid by the Family Allowance Compensation Fund of the National Textile Industry Federation, a fund which came into operation on 1st January, 1925, and which covers 15,500 workpeople and has an approximate monthly disbursement of 529,000 francs. Most of the funds pay maternity allowances varying from 100 francs for the first child with larger amounts for each subsequent child, to 250 francs for the first child, with smaller amounts for those following.

The following Table gives detailed information for each of the twelve Funds:—

Fund.	No. of associated firms.	No. of workers employed by associated firms.	Average monthly payments of family allowances and maternity benefits.	Total amount paid.	Period covered by the Report.
Arrondissement de Verviers.	38	2,200	Francs. 16,400	Francs. 566,555	Mar. '21 to Aug. '25
Building Trade and Public Works (National Fund).	186	12,500	80,000	2,225,000	Oct. '22 to June '25
Zinc, Lead, Copper, etc. Foundries Association.	13	14,314	260,000	6,199,000	Oct. '22 to July '25
Tournai ... ..	36	9,300	70,000	1,646,000	Sept. '22 to June '25
Renaix Chamber of Commerce.	22	2,600	6,500	184,400	Nov. '22 to June '25
Liège ... ..	161	58,000	330,000	9,100,000	Dec. '22 to June '25
Brabant ... ..	87	14,000	104,500	2,870,500	Mar. '23 to July '25
Charleroi and Lower Sambre.	41	8,530	41,100	1,151,000	Feb. '23 to June '25
Antwerp (Association Anversoise).	27	9,419	52,000	1,450,000	Apr. '23 to July '25
Soignies and Maffles District Quarries.	12	2,500	20,000	410,000	Jan. '24 to Sept. '25
Antwerp (Province) ...	5	3,740	34,700	660,000	Mar. '24 to Sept. '25
Textile Industry (National).	145	15,500	529,500	1,588,500	Jan. '25 to Oct. '25
Total ... ..	773	152,603	1,544,700	28,050,955	

\* 100 cents = 1 gulden (or florin) = 1s. 8d. approximately.

† This is the average hourly rate increased by payments for piecework, contract work, premiums, etc., but excluding payments for overtime.

‡ These are the average earnings per hour multiplied by the number of hours normally worked per week, which, as will be found by dividing the weekly by the hourly earnings, vary from centre to centre.

§ *Revue du Travail*, 30th November, 1925. Brussels.

\* *Socialt Tidsskrift*, December, 1925. Copenhagen.

† See this GAZETTE for May, 1924, page 160.

‡ 1 gulden (or florin) = 1s. 8d. approximately.

§ These averages include the earnings of other mining workers not shown in the Table.



## CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st JANUARY.

## Summary : Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	75%
Food only	...	...	71%

## FOOD.

At 1st January the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a decline as compared with 1st December. Decreases of over 2d. per lb. in the average price of butter and of about ½d. each in the average price of eggs more than counterbalanced increases in the prices of flour and bread, and other less important increases.

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 71 per cent. at 1st January, as compared with about 74 per cent. at 1st December, and 78 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1925.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st December, 1925, and 1st January, 1926 :—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest ½d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 1st Jan., 1926, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Dec., 1925.	1st Jan., 1926.	July, 1914.	1st Dec., 1925.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs ...	0 10	1 5½	1 5½	+ 0 7½	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3½	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 7½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 3½	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	0 10½	1 7½	1 7½	+ 0 9	...
Breast ...	0 6½	0 11	0 11	+ 0 4½	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 6½	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 5½	— 0 0½
Breast ...	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	...
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 9½	...
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 5½	1 6	+ 0 7½	+ 0 0½
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 4	+ 0 0½
Tea ...	1 6½	2 4½	2 5	+ 0 10½	+ 0 0½
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3½	0 3½	+ 0 1½	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3½	0 6½	0 6½	+ 0 3½	...
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 2½	2 2½	2 1	+ 0 10½	— 0 1½
Salt ...	1 2½	2 1½	1 11	+ 0 8½	— 0 2½
Cheese† ...	0 8½	1 3½	1 3½	+ 0 6½	...
Margarine ...	0 7	0 8	0 8	+ 0 1	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 3½	0 3½	+ 0 2	— 0 0½
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 7	0 7	+ 0 2½	...

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st January, 1926, as compared with July, 1914.			Corre- sponding General Average for 1st Dec., 1925.
	Large Towns (Popula- tions over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ...	80	76	78	78
Thin Flank ...	50	49	49	49
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	47	43	45	44
Thin Flank ...	16	17	17	18
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	85	87	86	86
Breast ...	72	64	68	68
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	87	78	82	84
Breast ...	36	35	35	36
Bacon (streaky)*	84	79	82	83
Fish ...	140	113	126	121
Flour ...	68	71	70	63
Bread ...	72	67	70	62
Tea ...	54	62	58	57
Sugar (granulated) ...	68	59	63	59
Milk ...	89	96	92	92
Butter—				
Fresh ...	65	77	71	84
Salt ...	60	64	62	79
Cheese† ...	77	77	77	77
Margarine ...	20	11	15	15
Eggs (fresh) ...	170	164	167	207
Potatoes ...	62	31	47	45
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	73	70	71	74

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

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

## RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st January, 1926, was approximately 48 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an *exact* calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st January 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 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the average price of coal rose slightly, and at 1st January was between 90 and 95 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. The average price of gas remained unchanged at nearly 55 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 1st January as compared with July, 1914, was between 80 and 85 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 1st January is, approximately, **75 per cent.\*** over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 77 per cent. at 1st December and 80 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1925.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1926 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 average percentage increase as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, was about 75 per cent. at 1st January, 1926. The corresponding percentages for the beginning of each month of 1915–25 are given in the following Table :—

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	73
August ...	25	45–50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73
September ...	25	50	80–85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74
October ...	30	50–55	75–80	115–120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76
November ...	30–35	60	85	120–125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76
December ...	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77

## NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

\* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation, since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.

## GENERAL SUMMARY.

THERE was a further reduction in unemployment in the first three weeks of December, due mainly to continued improvement in employment in the coal mining industry and to seasonal expansion in the distributive trades. On the other hand there was a marked seasonal decline in the building trades, and in public works' contracting. Employment was good, on the whole, with brickmakers, and with electrotypers and stereotypers, and fairly good in other branches of the printing trades, in the furnishing trades, in certain branches of the metal trades, and with skilled operatives (except painters) in the building trades. It was still slack in the coal mining industry and in the sections of the cotton industry using American cotton; and in the iron mining, iron and steel, ship-building and marine engineering industries it continued bad.

After Christmas there was a seasonal decline in employment, and in many cases the customary holiday stoppages were extended.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,892,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 21st December, 1925, was 10.5, as compared with 11.0 at 23rd November, 1925, and with 10.7 at 22nd December, 1924. For males alone the percentage at 21st December was 11.6 as compared with 12.2 at 23rd November; for females the figures at 21st December were 7.3, as compared with 7.8 at 23rd November. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 11.0 at the end of December, 1925, as compared with 11.0 at the end of November, 1925, and with 9.2 at the end of December, 1924. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered\* at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at 21st December, 1925, was approximately 1,166,000, of whom 933,000 were men and 183,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 30th November, 1925, it was 1,227,000, of whom 974,000 were men, and 196,000 were women; and at 22nd December, 1924, it was 1,213,000, of whom men numbered 930,000 and women 226,000.

At 4th January, 1926, the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges was approximately 1,316,000, as compared with 1,353,000 at 5th January, 1925.

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment at coal mines showed a marked improvement, but was still slack on the whole. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 19th December, 1925, was 1,084,561, an increase of 1.4 per cent. as compared with 28th November, 1925, but a decrease of 4.9 per cent. as compared with December, 1924. In the fortnight ended 19th December, 1925, the average number of days worked per week was 5.46, as compared with 5.15 in November, 1925, and with 5.36 in December, 1924.

At iron mines there was a considerable improvement in employment in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, but in Cleveland and most other districts it remained bad. At the mines covered by the returns received, there was an increase of 10.0 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 8.8 per cent. as compared with December, 1924. The average number of days worked per week by the mines that were working was 5.47 in December, 1925, showing no change as compared with November, 1925, but a decrease of 0.20 as compared with December, 1924. The shale mines in West Lothian were idle during the greater part of December, owing to a dispute.

In limestone quarries much time was lost owing to bad weather and employment showed a decline, being reported as moderate in the Buxton and Weardale districts and very bad in the Clitheroe district. At granite quarries in the Aberdeen district it was fair; at slate quarries in North Wales it remained fairly good. At chalk quarries employment was reported as very slack; at whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it was bad. In Devon and Cornwall it continued good at tin mines and fairly good at china-clay quarries.

*Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.*—In the pig-iron industry employment continued bad and was worse than in December, 1924; of a total of 475 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of December was 141, as compared with the same number in November, 1925, and with 167 in December, 1924. In the iron and steel trades employment continued bad. Employment in the tinplate and steel-sheet trades remained fair. The number of tinplate and steel-sheet mills in operation at the end of December, when a number of mills were idle owing to breakdowns or repairs was 514, as compared with 525 at the end of November, and with 442 in December, 1924.

*Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.*—Employment in engineering continued bad on the whole, but showed some improvement as compared with the previous month, although many firms extended the Christmas holidays. In the marine engineering section it remained very bad, but a tendency to improve was noted; in the textile machinery section it continued slack; in the motor and cycle section it continued fair on the whole and in the electrical section it remained fairly good. At railway works employment continued moderate. Compared with a year ago employment was better on the whole, the improvement being most marked in Lancashire and Cheshire; at marine engineering centres, however, there was a decline.

\* It should be noted that some unemployed persons, e.g., some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who were not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, do not register at the Employment Exchanges.

In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment continued very bad, but showed a slight improvement in repair work. In the other metal trades employment continued fair on the whole and showed a further improvement. It was fairly good in the hollow-ware, stove and grate, brasswork, lock and latch, and nut and bolt trades; fair in the needle, fishing tackle, sheet metal, file and tube trades; moderate in the cutlery, metallic bedstead, wire, jewellery and plated-ware trades and among farriers; and bad in the copper, chain and anchor, and anvil and vice trades.

*Textile Trades.*—In the cotton trade the depression continued. Short time, on the basis of a 39½-hour week, continued in the section of the spinning department spinning American cotton; and for this section also the Short-Time Committee of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation recommended extended Christmas and New Year's holidays. In the manufacturing section there was an increase in the number of looms stopped. In the wool textile trade employment remained moderate and showed little change on the whole as compared with November. In all districts a number of firms remained closed for the whole of the week following the Christmas holidays. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in some sections, but a decline in others.

In the hosiery trade employment showed a steady further improvement during December and was moderate on the whole; short-time working was reported to be decreasing. In the silk trade employment continued fairly good generally. In the lace trade employment remained bad but was better than a year ago; short time and much unemployment were general.

Employment in the carpet trade continued fair; in the jute trade it showed a further improvement, but was still slack; in the linen trade in Scotland it improved slightly, but was still slack; in the Irish linen trade it continued bad and short time was general. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment remained slack and short time was fairly general.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was slack generally, being still affected by seasonal depression. It was fair, on the whole, in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch and showed a slight improvement as compared with the preceding month and with December, 1924, although some short time continued to be worked. In the dressmaking and millinery trades the seasonal depression still prevailed and employment was slack in most districts, and about the same as a year ago. In the corset trade employment showed little change compared with both November or with a year ago; in the boot and shoe trade employment continued moderate but showed a further slight improvement in the Midland districts, and fuller time was worked. In some centres, however, the factories closed for extended Christmas holidays. In the shirt and collar trade it continued fair generally; in the felt hat trade employment continued to decline in December, and was reported as very slack, with much short time, and worse than a year ago.

*Leather Trades.*—Employment in the tanning and currying section, and in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections remained fair on the whole; with saddlery and harness makers it was again bad.

*Building, Woodworking, etc.*—Employment in the building trades was fairly good with skilled operatives (except painters) and generally moderate with unskilled workers; there was a decline on the previous month mainly due to bad weather, which affected all occupations, and especially outdoor workers. With painters employment was slack. In the brick trade employment continued good.

In the furnishing trades and with mill sawyers employment showed a slight decline, but was still fairly good; with coachbuilders employment declined and was fair; with coopers it was fair; with packing-case makers employment was still bad, but showed an improvement over the previous month; with basket makers it was reported as fair.

*Paper Manufacture, Printing, and Bookbinding.*—Employment in the paper trade continued fair on the whole, though it was still slack in the wrapping section. In the letterpress printing trade employment continued fairly good, but showed a slight decline on the whole as compared with November; it was worse than in November in London, and at Leeds and Edinburgh, but better at Birmingham and Manchester. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was reported as very good in London and at Edinburgh, and good in most other districts; in the lithographic section it continued fairly good. With bookbinders it was fair in London, but slack at Manchester.

*Pottery and Glass.*—There was a seasonal decline in the pottery trades in North Staffordshire, especially during the latter part of the month owing to the completion of the Christmas trade orders, and at many works the holiday stoppage was extended until the end of the month or longer. In the glass bottle-making trade employment remained bad on the whole, but in other sections of the glass industry it was fair and showed little change compared with the previous month.

*Agriculture and Fishing.*—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was generally sufficient for the demand, but there were frequent reports of an insufficient supply of skilled workers for hedging, ditching, etc. Owing to the weather conditions, less casual labour than usual was required during December. With fishermen employment continued fair, but bad weather interfered slightly with the industry.

*Dock Labour and Seamen.*—Employment with seamen was slack on the whole; with dock labourers it was moderate and showed an improvement on the previous month.



## TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 972,992 in branches covered by the returns received, reported 107,346 (or 11·0 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of December, 1925, compared with 11·0 per cent. at the end of November, 1925, and 9·2 per cent. at the end of December, 1924.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of Dec., 1925.	Unemployed at end of December 1925.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining...	144,333	31,777	22·0	- 1·4	+ 9·2
Engineering and Ship-building ...	337,442	52,161	15·5	...	+ 1·1
Miscellaneous Metal ...	48,199	2,745	5·7	...	- 0·8
Textiles :—					
Cotton ...	58,794	3,660†	6·2	+ 1·0	+ 0·4
Other ...	67,905	2,130	3·1	- 0·5	+ 0·9
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper ...	105,029	3,610	3·4	+ 0·8	- 0·3
Furnishing ...	29,460	1,317	4·5	+ 0·2	+ 0·5
Woodworking ...	38,125	2,368	6·2	+ 0·8	+ 2·2
Clothing :—					
Boot and Shoe ...	81,154	3,982	4·9	+ 0·6	- 0·9
Other Clothing ...	48,794	2,105	4·3	+ 0·2	+ 2·4
Leather ...	5,713	630	11·0	+ 0·2	+ 3·8
Glass... ..	1,206	15	1·2	- 0·3	- 1·8
Tobacco‡ ...	6,838	846	12·4	+ 4·6	- 5·2
Total ...	972,992	107,346	11·0	...	+ 1·8

## UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 10·5 per cent. (males 11·6 per cent., females 7·3 per cent.) at 21st December, 1925, as compared with 11·0 per cent. (males 12·2 per cent., females 7·8 per cent.) at 23rd November, 1925, and 10·7 per cent. (males 11·5 per cent., females 8·7 per cent.) at 22nd December, 1924. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 22 and 23.

## SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in December, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 14 to 19.

### (a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for December, 1925.	December, 1925.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining ...	1,084,561	5·46	+ 0·31	+ 0·10	
Iron " ...	6,660	5·47	...	- 0·20	
Shale " ...	...	Strike.			
Pig Iron ...	...	Furnaces in Blast 141	Number.	Number.	
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ...	...	Mills Working 514	- 11	+ 72	
Iron and Steel ...	74,148	Shifts Worked (one week). 393,919	Per cent. + 2·6	Per cent. - 1·2	

### (b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Textiles :—				
Cotton ...	78,822	- 0·3	145,694	- 0·7
Woollen... ..	16,547	+ 0·2	34,093	+ 0·7
Worsted... ..	29,349	- 0·3	54,695	- 1·3
Boot and Shoe ...	50,738	+ 0·0	118,515	+ 3·4
Pottery ...	11,312	- 0·0	21,333	- 1·5
Brick ...	8,806	- 0·4	23,902	+ 0·1
Total ...	195,574	- 0·1	398,232	+ 0·5

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

## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

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

Thick Curve ————— = 1925

Thin Curve ————— = 1924.

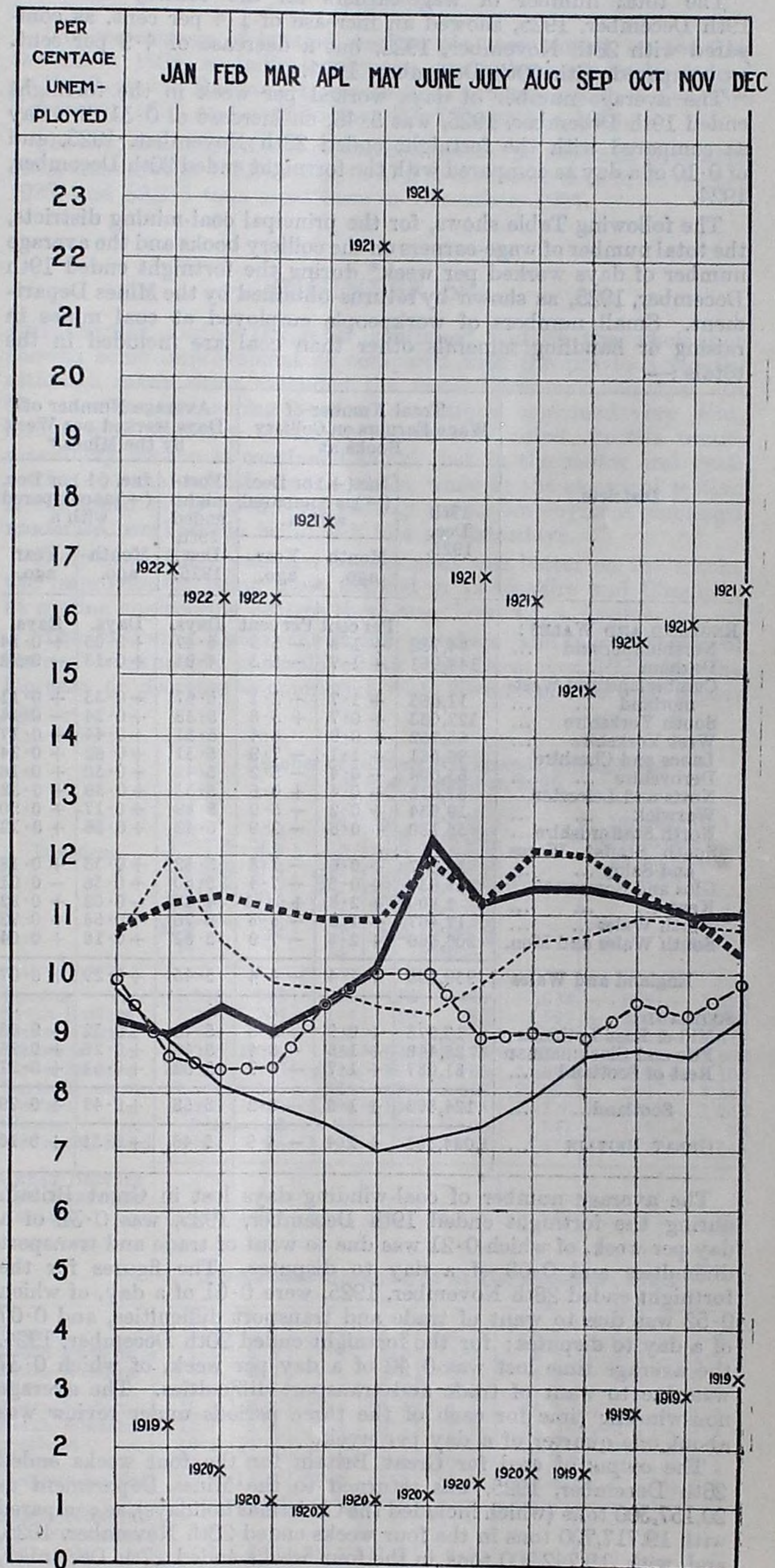
Chain Curve —○—○—○—○—○— = Mean of 1919-24.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1919-1924.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS:—

Thick Dotted Curve ————— = 1925.

Thin Dotted Curve ————— = 1924.



### NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.

The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail, on pages 22 and 23.



# 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 December, though it showed a marked improvement, was still slack on the whole; it was worse than a year ago. In Warwickshire and in Mid and East Lothians employment was reported to be good. In Durham it was still affected by stoppages of work owing to disputes.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.3 at 21st December, 1925, as compared with 15.3 at 23rd November, 1925, and 7.9 at 22nd December, 1924.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 19th December, 1925, showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. as compared with 28th November, 1925, but a decrease of 4.9 per cent. as compared with 20th December, 1924.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 19th December, 1925, was 5.46, an increase of 0.31 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th November, 1925, and of 0.10 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 20th December, 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 19th December, 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.*			
	19th Dec. 1925.	Inc.(+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES :		Per cent	Per cent	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	54,782	+ 1.8	— 5.9	5.47	+ 0.05	+ 0.14
Durham ...	148,951	+ 1.7	— 5.3	4.91	+ 0.13	— 0.22
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	11,063	+ 1.7	+ 2.1	5.67	+ 0.33	+ 0.11
South Yorkshire ...	122,033	+ 0.7	+ 3.8	5.38	+ 0.24	— 0.14
West Yorkshire ...	65,752	+ 0.9	— 6.4	5.51	+ 0.44	+ 0.17
Lancs and Cheshire ...	96,561	+ 1.1	— 7.9	5.31	+ 0.62	+ 0.24
Derbyshire ...	63,004	+ 0.4	— 5.2	5.42	+ 0.30	+ 0.16
Notts and Leicester ...	67,618	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	5.33	+ 0.39	+ 0.32
Warwick ...	19,954	+ 0.2	— 5.0	5.89	+ 0.17	+ 0.50
North Staffordshire ...	35,180	+ 0.6	— 2.0	5.42	+ 0.56	+ 0.12
South Staffs, Worcs and Salop ...	35,587	+ 0.6	— 1.8	5.82	+ 0.33	+ 0.18
Glos and Somerset ...	13,637	+ 0.8	— 7.4	5.50	+ 0.36	— 0.01
Kent ...	1,800	+ 2.8	+ 64.1	4.65	— 0.02	+ 0.82
North Wales ...	17,467	+ 1.9	— 5.8	5.76	+ 0.58	+ 0.72
South Wales and Mon.	206,366	+ 2.8	— 7.9	5.81	+ 0.18	+ 0.04
England and Wales	959,755	+ 1.4	— 4.4	5.45	+ 0.29	+ 0.07
SCOTLAND :						
Mid & East Lothians	15,273	+ 0.9	— 3.5	5.46	+ 0.32	— 0.03
Fife and Clackmannan	28,446	+ 1.8	— 8.4	5.46	+ 0.26	+ 0.26
Rest of Scotland ...	81,087	+ 1.7	— 8.9	5.62	+ 0.61	+ 0.37
Scotland ...	124,806	+ 1.6	— 8.2	5.56	+ 0.49	+ 0.29
GREAT BRITAIN ...	1,084,561	+ 1.4	— 4.9	5.46	+ 0.31	+ 0.10

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 19th December, 1925, was 0.32 of a day per week, of which 0.21 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties and 0.08 of a day to disputes. The figures for the fortnight ended 28th November, 1925, were 0.61 of a day, of which 0.52 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, and 0.07 of a day to disputes; for the fortnight ended 20th December, 1924, the average time lost was 0.40 of a day per week, of which 0.37 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. 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 26th December, 1925, was returned to the Mines Department as 20,157,300 tons (which included the Christmas holidays), as compared with 19,717,700 tons in the four weeks ended 28th November, 1925, and with 19,742,900 tons in the four weeks ended 27th December, 1924 (which also included the Christmas holidays).

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 6,614,811 tons in December, compared with 6,170,719 tons in November.

\* 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.

The percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in different areas are shown in the following Table:—

Area.	Percentage Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES :			
Northumberland... ..	11.9	— 2.7	+ 1.2
Durham ... ..	20.7	— 2.3	+ 8.3
Cumberland and Westmorland ... ..	10.7	— 4.7	— 2.8
Yorkshire... ..	6.2	+ 1.3	+ 4.3
Lancs and Cheshire ... ..	10.2	— 7.2	+ 2.5
Derbyshire ... ..	2.0	— 2.2	— 0.5
Notts and Leicester ... ..	2.9	— 2.9	— 0.1
Warwick ... ..	1.9	— 0.1	+ 0.3
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ... ..	6.0	— 2.2	+ 0.5
Glos and Somerset ... ..	15.1	— 6.1	+ 6.1
Kent ... ..	4.4	— 0.4	— 18.6
Wales and Monmouth ... ..	14.4	— 8.4	+ 2.8
England and Wales ... ..	11.1	— 3.8	+ 3.2
SCOTLAND ... ..	13.3	— 4.9	+ 5.8
GREAT BRITAIN ... ..	11.3	— 4.0	+ 3.4

## IRON AND SHALE MINING.

### Iron mining.

EMPLOYMENT showed an improvement on the whole during December, due to a considerable increase in the number of workpeople employed in the Cumberland and Lancashire district; but in Cleveland and most other districts it remained bad. 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 19.3 at 21st December, 1925, as compared with 22.8 at 23rd November, 1925, and 18.6 at 22nd December, 1924.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
	Fortnight ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,258	— 1.2	— 7.5	4.85	+ 0.01	— 0.71
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,930	+ 27.8	— 6.9	5.82	— 0.15	+ 0.03
Other Districts ...	1,472	— 0.4	— 14.3	5.74	+ 0.07	+ 0.12
ALL DISTRICTS	6,660	+ 10.0	— 8.8	5.47	...	— 0.20

### Shale mining.

On 21st December it was agreed to resume work (so far as considered practicable) at the West Lothian shale mines, where work had been stopped as the result of a dispute (see page 21).

## PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during December continued bad, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.2 on 21st December, 1925, as compared with 20.4 on 23rd November, 1925, and with 18.0 on 22nd December, 1924. According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms employing at the end of December 17,347 workpeople, an increase of 0.2 per cent. was shown compared with November, but a decrease of 14.6 per cent. compared with December, 1924.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 141, the same number as at the end of November but a decrease of 26 compared with December, 1924. The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of December, 1925, November, 1925, and December, 1924:—

\* See Note \* in previous column.



District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., on a	
		Dec., 1925.	Nov., 1925.	Dec., 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	110	36	33	41	+ 3	- 5
Cumberland and West Lancs... ..	46	13	11	14	+ 2	- 1
Other parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield) ... ..	34	9	11	13	- 2	- 4
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants ...	71	33	33	41	...	- 8
Lincolnshire ... ..	23	11	12	10	- 1	+ 1
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and War- wick ... ..	57	10	11	10	- 1	...
South Wales ... ..	33	7	8	6	- 1	+ 1
Total, England and Wales	374	119	119	135	...	- 16
Scotland... ..	101	22	22	32	...	- 10
Total ... ..	475	141	141	167	...	- 26

The production of pig iron in December amounted to 503,400 tons, as compared with 494,100 tons in November and 580,300 tons in December, 1924.

### IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during December and showed little change on the whole from the previous month. Short time was again reported in many districts, and some firms closed down for an extended period at Christmas.

In Staffordshire there was a marked improvement, chiefly affecting puddling forges and rolling mills.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 24.4 on 21st December, 1925, as compared with 23.6 on 23rd November, 1925, and 27.6 on 22nd December, 1924.

According to returns received from firms employing 74,148 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 19th December, 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 2.6 per cent. as compared with November, but showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.3 in December, 1925, the same as in November, as compared with 5.4 in December, 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 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Week ended 19th Dec., 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 ...	8,465	- 1.5	+ 7.5	47,600	- 1.4	+ 5.7
Puddling Forges ...	3,489	+ 23.5	- 5.4	15,058	+ 29.7	- 6.9
Rolling Mills ...	28,292	+ 5.8	+ 2.5	141,718	+ 6.0	+ 2.0
Forging and Pressing... ..	3,143	- 0.3	+ 2.2	16,139	- 1.1	+ 1.8
Founding ... ..	8,067	- 0.9	- 3.1	46,062	- 0.7	- 3.9
Other Departments ...	6,901	- 3.0	- 7.1	38,201	- 2.5	- 6.5
Mechanics, Labourers...	15,791	+ 1.7	- 4.0	89,141	+ 0.6	- 5.1
TOTAL ... ..	74,148	+ 2.9	- 0.4	393,919	+ 2.6	- 1.2
<b>DISTRICTS.</b>						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland...	15,529	+ 1.9	+ 5.9	86,784	+ 1.7	+ 6.9
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	18,875	+ 0.1	- 0.9	98,450	+ 0.1	- 2.8
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	2,140	+ 0.8	+ 15.7	11,150	- 1.9	+ 17.6
Cumberland, Lancs and Cheshire ...	7,149	+ 0.9	- 3.8	35,258	- 3.2	- 8.9
Staffordshire ...	6,955	+ 14.6	- 15.0	36,204	+ 14.5	- 15.1
Other Midland Counties	4,049	+ 4.4	- 1.3	21,379	+ 4.1	- 3.7
Wales and Monmouth	8,769	+ 2.9	+ 2.3	49,159	+ 2.6	+ 3.4
Total, England and Wales ...	63,466	+ 2.7	- 0.6	338,384	+ 2.1	- 1.4
Scotland ... ..	10,682	+ 3.7	+ 0.9	55,535	+ 5.7	- 0.2
TOTAL ... ..	74,148	+ 2.9	- 0.4	393,919	+ 2.6	- 1.2

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 606,800 tons in December, 1925, as compared with 653,800 tons in November, 1925, and 551,000 tons in December, 1924.

\* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of 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.

### TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during December continued fair, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month; a number of mills were idle at the end of the month owing to breakdowns or for repairs. Employment was much better than a year ago. At the end of the month 514 tinplate mills and steel sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 525 in the previous month and with 442 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of December, 1925, at the works covered by the returns received, and the increases or decreases as compared with November, 1925, and December, 1924:—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ...	72	- 1	+ 8	391	- 9	+ 62
Steel Sheet	13	+ 1	+ 2	123	- 2	+ 10
TOTAL ...	85	...	+ 10	514	- 11	+ 72

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed on the 21st December, 1925, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.6, as compared with 8.1 on 23rd November, 1925, and with 45.0 on 22nd December, 1924.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in December, 1925, amounted to 115,261 tons, or 17,675 tons more than in November, 1925, and 30,233 tons more than in December, 1924.

### ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during December continued bad on the whole but showed some improvement as compared with the previous month, although many firms extended the usual Christmas holidays. In the marine engineering section conditions remained very bad, although a tendency to improvement was noted; in the textile machinery section it continued slack; but in the motor and cycle section it remained fair on the whole, while in the electrical section it continued fairly good. At railway works employment remained moderate, workpeople being still idle on Saturdays.

Compared with a year ago employment was better on the whole, the improvement being most marked in Lancashire and Cheshire; at marine engineering centres there was, however, a decline.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 21st December, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with November and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st December, 1925.						Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Engineers' 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 ...	5,238	275	207	135	1,779	7,634	— 989	— 3,262
South-Eastern	2,244	207	144	39	963	3,597	+ 192	— 1,704
South-Western	1,686	57	451	54	1,036	3,284	— 291	— 316
Midlands ...	6,920	1,020	54	598	7,175	15,767	— 199	— 2,662
North-Eastern	20,348	775	9,015	864	855	31,857	— 1 114	+ 5,102
North-Western	17,507	1,130	224	204	1,532	20,597	— 864	— 8,242
Scotland ...	16,369	403	3,896	1,134	974	22,776	+ 689	+ 1,282
Wales... ..	971	22	36	26	192	1,247	— 144	— 28
Northern Ireland	2,197	28	1,505	13	227	3,970	+ 82	+ 945
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	73,480	3,917	15,532	3,067	14,733	110,729	— 2,638	— 8,885

#### Percentages Unemployed at 21st December, 1925.

London ...	5.9	3.0	31.8	5.4	5.2	5.7	- 0.7	- 2.5
South-Eastern	5.3	2.3	4.1	7.6	3.9	4.5	+ 0.2	- 2.4
South-Western	4.7	2.0	7.1	7.8	5.1	4.9	- 0.5	- 0.8
Midlands ...	7.4	4.3	3.4	9.5	7.8	7.2	- 0.1	- 1.8
North-Eastern	16.1	9.8	37.8	12.4	7.8	18.1	- 0.6	+ 3.2
North-Western	12.5	5.8	18.2	9.1	7.9	11.3	- 0.5	- 4.4
Scotland ...	19.2	12.0	20.9	18.7	9.6	18.5	+ 0.6	+ 1.2
Wales ...	13.4	6.9	12.9	3.4	10.4	11.9	- 1.4	+ 0.2
Northern Ireland	29.4	13.3	26.5	43.3	13.9	26.4	+ 0.5	+ 6.6
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	11.7	5.1	25.2	11.7	6.9	11.0	- 0.3	- 1.1

On the North-East Coast employment was still bad generally and very bad in marine engineering, although some improvement was noted. In Yorkshire it was again very moderate and showed little change on the whole. In Lincolnshire employment remained fairly good at centres other than Lincoln, where conditions were only moderate.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment continued slack but showed a tendency to improve. In the textile machinery section a continued improvement was experienced at some centres, but at



others there was a decline. Employment with private firms engaged in locomotive work remained fairly good, but railway companies' works were not fully employed. Employment in the electrical section remained fair; in the motor section it improved; while it was good with makers of printing and biscuit machinery.

In the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district employment in general engineering was moderate, but showed some improvement. In the motor and cycle section it was fair, but a slight decline was experienced. Employment was very slack in the heavy engineering section; in the electrical section conditions remained fair. At Nottingham Coventry employment remained good in all sections. At Derby the motor and cycle section continued busy, but employment was still bad in the lace machinery section. At Leicester employment in the motor section, but conditions were only moderate at railway works, short time remaining in operation. At Leicester employment remained fair.

In London and in the Eastern and Southern Counties employment continued fair on the whole, distinct signs of improvement being observed in the London district. In the motor section conditions were very fair, and employment remained good in the electrical section. In South Wales employment was still bad but continued to show improvement.

In Scotland employment was again bad and showed a slight decline. Continued activity was maintained, however, at sewing machine works in the Glasgow district.

At Belfast employment remained very bad.

## SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT during December continued very bad. Compared with the previous month it showed a slight improvement, confined to repair work. Compared with a year ago there was a marked decline on the North-East Coast and in Scotland, the principal shipbuilding districts; at some of the smaller centres an improvement was shown.

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad generally and showed no improvement on new work, though there was a slight improvement on repair work; more than half of the insured workpeople were still recorded as unemployed. On the East Coast and the Thames it continued bad. On the South Coast it remained slack on the whole, but showed a considerable improvement at Southampton compared with the previous month. At the Bristol Channel ports it continued bad, but showed a further improvement. On the Mersey it was still bad; there was a marked improvement, however, on repair work.

In Scotland employment continued very bad, and was worse on the whole than during the previous month. In Northern Ireland it remained bad, with little change.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 21st December, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with 23rd November, and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with		Percentage Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
London...	3,372	— 217	+ 150	27.1	— 1.8	+ 4.6
South-Eastern...	930	+ 64	— 182	9.4	+ 0.7	— 2.3
South-Western...	3,214	— 285	— 494	12.7	— 1.2	— 0.5
Midlands...	99	+ 41	— 6	35.4	+ 14.7	+ 14.8
North-Eastern...	33,972	— 481	+ 3,479	50.7	— 0.7	+ 7.3
North-Western...	10,667	— 1,123	— 143	32.6	— 3.4	+ 0.8
Scotland...	27,300	+ 863	+ 7,327	42.2	+ 1.3	+ 11.7
Wales...	3,412	— 656	— 859	31.3	— 6.0	— 6.5
Northern Ireland...	6,338	+ 150	— 1,221	34.1	+ 0.8	— 1.1
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	89,304	— 1,644	+ ,051	36.9	— 0.7	+ 5.0

For shipbuilding under construction in Great Britain and Ireland in the quarter ended 31st December, 1925, see article on page 7, of this issue.

## COTTON TRADE.

THE depression in this trade continued during December. Short time continued in the section spinning American cotton on the basis of a 39½-hour week; and in this section also the Short Time Committee of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation recommended employers to stop for a full week between the 24th December, 1925, and the 9th January, 1926, in addition to the usual Christmas and New Year's holidays. In the manufacturing section there was an increase in the number of looms stopped.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.7 on the 21st December, 1925, the same as on the 23rd November, 1925, compared with 7.0 on the 22nd December, 1924.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stalybridge and Stockport districts employment with spinners continued slack, and in some cases extended stoppages took place for the Christmas holidays. In the Stalybridge area employment in the Egyptian section showed a

slight improvement during the month. In the manufacturing section in the Oldham district employment also continued slack; and fustian weavers were reported to be working about three days a week. At Bolton employment was described as fair with spinners, the improvement reported last month being maintained; with weavers employment remained poor, many looms being stopped while some weavers were on short time; a number of mills closed down for extended holidays at Christmas. At Leigh employment in the spinning department was good. At Bury there was little change.

In the principal weaving districts employment showed a decline as compared with November. The declining tendency at Burnley continued; employment was reported as bad, and as worse than in November and a year ago; there was an increase in the suspension of operatives for intermittent periods. At Blackburn intermittent employment was general; there was a further improvement at the beginning of the month, but it was not maintained. At Accrington employment continued good on the whole, but employment with winders was still irregular. At Darwen there was a decline during the month; a large number of operatives were running two or three instead of the usual four looms. At Colne employment was still described as depressed, but showed an improvement. At Preston employment was irregular; the holidays were extended by some firms.

In Yorkshire 40 hours a week were worked in most firms instead of the normal 48, and a number of operatives had an extended holiday of eight days at Christmas.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	10,398	— 1.2	— 0.4	17,734	+ 0.1	— 1.3
Spinning...	19,618	— 0.3	— 2.2	34,678	— 0.2	— 5.1
Weaving...	32,709	— 0.1	+ 0.3	57,864	— 1.7	— 3.3
Other ...	7,334	+ 1.0	+ 2.7	18,347	+ 0.0	+ 4.8
Not Specified ...	8,763	— 0.8	— 2.6	17,071	— 0.4	— 2.5
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>78,822</b>	<b>— 0.3</b>	<b>— 0.5</b>	<b>145,694</b>	<b>— 0.7</b>	<b>— 2.5</b>
<b>DISTRICTS.</b>						
Ashton ...	3,542	— 1.5	— 4.1	5,997	+ 0.1	— 7.4
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	8,263	— 0.3	+ 13.9	14,617	+ 2.5	+ 13.8
Oldham ...	9,215	— 1.3	— 7.6	17,773	— 0.7	— 6.6
Bolton and Leigh ...	10,136	— 0.0	+ 1.0	18,421	+ 0.7	— 0.4
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	7,521	— 2.2	— 0.6	13,448	— 2.0	— 1.9
Manchester ...	4,666	+ 7.8	+ 0.5	7,476	+ 3.0	— 3.9
Preston and Chorley ...	5,876	— 0.3	+ 1.2	9,925	— 2.1	— 7.3
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	8,534	— 1.4	— 3.0	16,576	— 4.4	— 6.8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ...	11,160	— 0.0	— 1.4	24,323	— 1.3	— 1.4
Other Lancashire Towns ...	2,724	— 2.8	— 0.9	4,673	— 2.6	— 3.4
Yorkshire Towns ...	4,096	+ 0.3	+ 1.2	7,514	+ 1.2	— 1.9
Other Districts ...	3,089	+ 0.6	— 8.1	4,951	— 1.4	— 8.2
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>78,822</b>	<b>— 0.3</b>	<b>— 0.5</b>	<b>145,694</b>	<b>— 0.7</b>	<b>— 2.5</b>

Returns from firms employing 75,676 workpeople in the week ended 19th December showed that about 18 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, to the extent of about 11 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the numbers of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 7th December, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 83 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the cotton trade were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 7th December, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with 9th November, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card and Blowing Room ...	693	3,280	3,973	— 5	+ 41	+ 36
Spinning ...	4,807	3,336	8,143	+ 121	+ 476	+ 597
Beaming, Warping and Winding ...	1,085	6,308	7,393	— 30	+ 297	+ 267
Weaving ...	1,488	3,360	4,848	— 515	— 339	— 854
Other Processes ...	474	379	853	— 24	+ 89	+ 65
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8,547</b>	<b>16,663</b>	<b>25,210</b>	<b>— 453</b>	<b>+ 564</b>	<b>+ 111</b>

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 273,981,800 lbs. in December, 1925, compared with 230,945,900 lbs. in November, 1925, and with 271,269,500 lbs. in December, 1924.

The exports of cotton yarn were 17,947,100 lbs. in December, 1925, compared with 13,908,400 lbs. in November, 1925, and with 13,525,700 lbs. in December, 1924.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 382,184,700 square yards as compared with 325,912,100 square yards in the previous month, and with 409,566,400 square yards in December, 1924.



## WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades remained moderate, and although a slight upward movement was reported in some districts, there was no marked change on the whole as compared with November. In all districts a number of firms remained closed for the whole of the week following the Christmas holidays; but in some such cases, where short time had previously been worked, augmented or full time was worked in the week previous to Christmas. Compared with December, 1924, there were improvements in some sections, but these were counterbalanced by a decline in others.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.8 on the 21st December, 1925, as compared with 9.6 on the 23rd November, 1925, and 9.2 on the 22nd December, 1924.

With wool sorters employment showed a slight improvement; with wool combers in the Bradford district it was described as still bad, and less than half the machinery in the trade was reported to be running: in both the sorting and combing sections employment was somewhat worse than at the end of 1924. In the spinning department employment with spinners of botany yarns was a little better than in November, but there was a decline with spinners of lower quality yarns. With regard to the manufacturing side, there was, on the whole, an improvement, as compared with November, in the dress goods trade of the Bradford district, and also in the coating trade of Bradford, Keighley, Halifax and Leeds. In the Heavy Woollen District there was little change during the month, and employment remained very depressed; in the low woollen trade there was a further decline, and much short time was worked.

In the Yeadon, Guiseley and Saddleworth districts employment was moderately good: with flannel workers in the Rochdale district it was bad, but in the Stockport district there was a further improvement and employment was reported as good. In the blanket trade employment was fair, and better than a year ago.

In Scotland the improvement reported in November was generally maintained, and employment continued fairly good in most districts.

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

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*

## WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting ...	478	+ 0.6	- 7.7	1,006	+ 8.1	- 4.0
Spinning ...	3,877	+ 1.6	- 4.7	7,659	+ 0.9	- 5.7
Weaving ...	6,218	+ 0.0	- 0.4	11,952	+ 1.4	+ 0.2
Other Departments ...	4,916	- 0.6	- 1.8	11,167	- 0.2	- 1.6
Not Specified ...	1,058	- 0.1	- 1.9	2,309	- 1.5	- 5.6
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>16,547</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>- 2.1</b>	<b>34,093</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>- 2.3</b>

Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Huddersfield District ...	1,978	- 2.1	- 2.7	4,701	- 2.3	- 7.6
Leeds District ...	1,594	+ 0.8	- 4.8	3,643	+ 0.4	- 7.5
Dewsbury and Batley District ...	1,171	- 1.7	- 11.0	2,148	- 4.1	- 17.7
Other Parts of West Riding ...	1,890	+ 0.3	- 0.8	4,447	+ 0.4	+ 2.3
<b>Total, West Riding ...</b>	<b>6,633</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>- 4.3</b>	<b>14,939</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>- 6.5</b>
Scotland ...	4,981	+ 1.2	+ 1.3	10,058	+ 2.7	+ 3.7
Other Districts ...	4,933	+ 0.4	- 2.5	9,096	+ 1.7	- 1.3
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>16,547</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>- 2.1</b>	<b>34,093</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>- 2.3</b>

## WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	3,624	+ 0.2	- 9.4	8,342	- 3.6	- 14.0
Spinning ...	15,446	- 0.4	- 0.5	24,078	- 1.3	- 0.5
Weaving ...	5,735	- 0.8	- 2.0	12,049	- 0.6	- 1.0
Other Departments ...	2,892	+ 1.2	- 0.7	7,204	+ 0.0	- 2.7
Not specified ...	1,652	- 0.7	- 12.8	3,022	- 1.1	- 6.3
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>29,349</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>- 2.8</b>	<b>54,695</b>	<b>- 1.3</b>	<b>- 3.5</b>

Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bradford District ...	14,653	+ 0.4	- 1.6	28,626	+ 0.2	- 1.8
Keighley District ...	5,022	- 0.8	- 5.0	8,699	- 7.8	- 12.8
Halifax District ...	2,675	- 1.8	- 0.4	4,704	- 0.2	+ 2.8
Huddersfield District ...	2,828	+ 0.0	- 1.0	5,585	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Other Parts of West Riding ...	3,028	- 1.4	- 8.4	5,371	- 1.1	- 5.8
<b>Total West Riding ...</b>	<b>28,206</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>- 2.8</b>	<b>52,985</b>	<b>- 1.4</b>	<b>- 3.7</b>
Other Districts ...	1,143	- 0.5	- 1.0	1,710	- 0.1	+ 3.5
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>29,349</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>- 2.8</b>	<b>54,695</b>	<b>- 1.3</b>	<b>- 3.5</b>

Returns from firms in the woollen section, employing 16,253 workpeople, showed that 25 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in the week ended 19th December, 1925, to the extent, on the average, of over 8 hours each. In the worsted section returns from firms employing 28,017 workpeople showed that in the same week about 27½ per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of over 10 hours each, on the average.

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

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 7th December, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 72 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted industries were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 7th December, 1925.			Increase(+) or Decrease(-) as compared with 9th November, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting ...	523	10	533	- 79	- 4	- 83
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	888	259	1,147	+ 160	+ 8	+ 168
Wool Combing ...	766	399	1,165	+ 32	- 257	- 225
Wool Carding ...	1,097	198	1,295	+ 152	+ 24	+ 176
Woollen Spinning ...	659	307	966	+ 70	+ 103	+ 173
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	467	1,145	1,612	+ 16	- 134	- 118
Wool Winding and Warping ...	231	180	411	+ 17	+ 23	+ 40
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	80	369	449	+ 2	+ 15	+ 17
Woollen Weaving ...	270	2,628	2,898	+ 16	+ 654	+ 670
Worsted Weaving ...	92	560	652	- 10	- 270	- 280
Other Processes ...	1,612	157	1,769	+ 288	- 17	+ 271
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>6,685</b>	<b>6,212</b>	<b>12,897</b>	<b>+ 664</b>	<b>+ 145</b>	<b>+ 809</b>

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 53,206,000 lbs. in December, 1925, compared with 15,654,400 lbs. in November, 1925, and with 38,985,000 lbs. in December, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,611,500 lbs., compared with 3,908,700 lbs. in November, 1925, and with 4,955,800 lbs. in December, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 14,821,900 square yards, compared with 11,862,500 square yards in November, 1925, and 19,726,600 square yards in December, 1924.

The exports of blankets were 86,668 pairs, 92,248 and 160,280 pairs in December, 1925, November, 1925, and December, 1924.

## BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY

EMPLOYMENT remained moderate during December, but there was a further slight improvement in the Midland districts, and fuller time was worked; in some centres, however, the factories closed for extended holidays at Christmas. The recent improvement in this industry is largely a result of the demand for Russian boots.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.5 on 21st December, 1925, as compared with 9.4 on 23rd November, 1925, and with 11.8 on 22nd December, 1924.

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

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>England and Wales:—</b>		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London ...	2,223	+ 2.7	- 2.3	5,230	+ 1.6	- 2.7
Leicester ...	8,818	+ 1.7	+ 0.2	24,892	+ 9.6	+ 5.8
Leicester Country District ...	2,167	- 0.6	- 7.1	5,084	+ 0.9	- 8.2
Northampton ...	6,465	- 0.6	- 5.8	15,800	+ 5.3	- 5.5
Northampton Country District ...	7,719	- 1.2	- 0.2	17,750	+ 1.6	- 3.0
Kettering ...	2,472	+ 0.4	- 2.6	6,062	+ 3.1	- 4.1
Stafford and District ...	2,622	+ 0.8	- 0.5	5,854	+ 8.4	- 5.5
Norwich and District ...	4,353	- 0.6	- 2.0	9,272	+ 4.1	+ 1.8
Bristol, Kingswood and District ...	1,877	- 1.5	- 9.5	3,389	- 5.6	- 17.6
Leeds and District ...	1,846	+ 0.3	- 0.3	4,166	- 0.5	+ 2.7
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ...	4,959	- 0.2	+ 5.1	10,254	- 2.2	+ 6.8
Birmingham and District ...	1,030	+ 0.5	- 3.6	1,935	- 1.2	- 1.8
Other parts of England and Wales ...	1,705	- 0.9	+ 1.8	3,411	- 2.8	+ 3.2
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>48,256</b>	<b>+ 0.0</b>	<b>- 1.5</b>	<b>113,099</b>	<b>+ 3.5</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>
Scotland ...	2,482	- 0.0	- 2.4	5,416	+ 0.9	+ 2.5
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>50,738</b>	<b>+ 0.0</b>	<b>- 1.6</b>	<b>118,515</b>	<b>+ 3.4</b>	<b>- 1.0</b>

Returns from firms employing over 46,000 operatives in the week ended 19th December, 1925, showed that nearly 34 per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week to the extent of 9½ hours each, on an average.

In London employment was fairly good for the time of year. In Leicester there was a further improvement, and employment was fairly good, and better than in December, 1924; the greatest activity was at factories producing Russian boots, and some were reported to be working overtime. At Northampton employment showed a further improvement but still remained quiet, with much short time. At Hinckley employment remained fair, with most of the firms working full hours. In the Higham and Rushden area there was a slight decline, except for some urgent holiday orders immediately before Christmas; employment on the whole was poor. At Wellingborough, where employment was reported as fair, there was a slight



upward movement, but 50 per cent. of the firms were working short time. At Kettering there was again a large amount of unemployment, but the bigger factories were working fairly full time, and there was a reduction in the amount of short time worked by the smaller factories.

At Leeds some firms closed for a week or 10 days at Christmas; before the holiday employment continued moderate, with much short time, except with firms making Russian boots, who were busy. At Stafford there was a marked improvement, and very little short time was worked. At Norwich employment was only moderate on the whole; the turn-shoe section was still very slack, with many operatives totally unemployed, but employment in other sections was fairly good, and showed an improvement. In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment was, on the whole, poor, worse than in November and worse than in December, 1924, especially in heavy boot factories. At Street there was a slight improvement, but employment was only moderate and there was a good deal of short time. Employment remained good in the slipper trade at Bury, but short time was general at Bacup and Preston.

There was an improvement during the month at Glasgow, and employment was fairly good on the whole. It remained fairly good at Kilmarnock and Maybole, but at Edinburgh it declined and was very quiet, with nearly all the operatives on short time.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 7th December, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 80 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 7th December, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 9th November, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:						
Preparing Department	145	32	177	- 19	- 3	- 22
Rough Stuff Department	417	12	429	- 80	- 7	- 87
Clicking Department ...	595	137	732	- 301	- 1	- 302
Closing Department ...	26	1,075	1,101	...	- 522	- 522
Making Department ...	2,612	90	2,702	- 195	- 18	- 213
Finishing Department	1,395	376	1,771	- 200	- 137	- 337
Slipper Making ...	786	182	968	+ 130	+ 47	+ 177
Clog Making ...	22	...	22	+ 3	- 1	+ 2
Repairing and Hand Sewn Work.	674	2	676	+ 87	...	+ 87
Total ...	6,672	1,906	8,578	- 575	- 642	- 1,217

The exports of boots and shoes in December, 1925, amounted to 97,719 dozen pairs, or 9,774 dozen pairs less than in November, 1925, but 5,286 dozen pairs more than in December, 1924.

## PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade continued fair on the whole, though it was still slack in the wrapping section. In some districts an improvement was reported on the previous month and employment was generally better than a year ago.

In the letterpress printing trade employment continued fairly good, although there was a slight decline on the whole, compared with November; it was rather worse than in November in London and at Leeds and Edinburgh, but better at Birmingham and Manchester. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was reported as very good in London and at Edinburgh, and good in most other districts.

With lithographic printers employment generally continued fairly good. With lithographic artists it continued fair in London but was bad and worse than in November at Manchester.

Employment was fair generally in the bookbinding trade; a slight improvement was reported in London, while at Manchester employment was reported as slack and worse than in November.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 3.8 at 21st December, compared with 4.1 at 23rd November and 5.0 at 22nd December, 1924. In the paper and paper-board industry, the percentage was 5.5 at 21st December, compared with 5.6 at 23rd November and 7.7 at 22nd December, 1924. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery trades, the percentage was 4.3 at 21st December, compared with 4.5 at 23rd November and 6.4 at 22nd December, 1924.

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

	No. of Members of Unions at end of December, 1925.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Dec., 1925.	Nov., 1925.	Dec., 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Letterpress Printing:						
London ...	35,126	2.8	2.2	4.0	+ 0.6	- 1.2
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	13,898	3.0	2.4	3.1	+ 0.6	- 0.1
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	8,240	2.1	2.2	2.5	- 0.1	- 0.4
Scotland ...	5,899	3.3	3.1	2.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Other Districts ...	6,720	3.0	3.0	3.0	...	...
Total ...	69,883	2.8	2.4	3.5	+ 0.4	- 0.7
Lithographic Printing	10,148	3.1	2.9	2.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Bookbinding ...	16,031	2.8	2.6	2.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.2

## BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during December continued good on the whole. Short-time working due to bad weather was reported from some districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, at 21st December, 1925, was 7.8, as compared with 7.6 at 23rd November, 1925, and with 7.8 at 22nd December, 1924.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,018	Per cent. + 0.7	Per cent. + 10.4	£ 5,126	Per cent. + 0.7	Per cent. + 10.5
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	4,970	- 0.6	+ 8.7	13,815	+ 0.4	+ 19.8
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,627	- 0.7	+ 6.1	4,412	- 1.8	+ 11.7
Scotland ...	191	- 2.6	- 2.6	549	+ 4.8	+ 9.8
TOTAL ...	8,806	- 0.4	+ 8.3	23,902	+ 0.1	+ 15.9

## BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during December was fairly good with skilled operatives, other than painters, and generally moderate with unskilled workers; it showed a decline as compared with the previous month, which was mainly attributable to the severe weather conditions experienced throughout the country, particularly in Scotland and the northern counties of England. In addition to an increase in total unemployment, the continued rains and snow caused considerable short-time working with outdoor workers. Compared with a year ago, employment was not so good in the northern counties of England and in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, but it was better in London and the south-eastern counties.

As regards individual occupations employment declined most with the classes principally affected by stress of weather; it was generally good with bricklayers, but only moderate, on the whole, with masons and slaters. Employment also showed some decline with plasterers and with carpenters and joiners; it was generally good with the former and fairly good, at most centres, with the latter. A shortage of one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives was again reported from some districts, the demand being chiefly for bricklayers and plasterers. Employment remained very fair with plumbers, but continued to decline and was very slack, on the whole, with painters; it was generally moderate with tradesmen's labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 21st December, 1925, and the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with November, 1925, and December, 1924:—

Occupations.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1925.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st December, 1925.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.†
Carpenters ...	114,030	6,077	5.3	+ 2.0	+ 2.7
Bricklayers ...	65,120	3,171	4.9	+ 2.4	+ 3.1
Masons ...	23,840	2,582	10.8	+ 5.7	+ 7.1
Slaters ...	5,310	570	10.7	+ 4.7	+ 5.9
Plasterers ...	17,880	580	3.2	+ 1.8	+ 1.3
Painters ...	108,590	27,804	25.6	+ 4.1	+ 1.9
Plumbers ...	28,610	1,585	5.5	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Labourers to above	229,210	33,931	14.8	+ 2.0	+ 3.7
All other occupations	161,530	24,823	15.4	+ 1.1	- 9.9
Total ...	754,120	101,123	13.4	+ 2.2	+ 1.5
DIVISIONS.					
London ...	157,290	19,795	12.6	- 0.4	- 2.0
South-Eastern ...	116,280	8,902	7.7	+ 1.9	- 0.9
South-Western ...	92,610	8,831	9.5	+ 1.6	...
Midlands ...	84,350	9,067	10.7	+ 2.4	- 0.2
North-Eastern ...	96,650	17,533	18.1	+ 5.3	+ 6.7
North-Western ...	97,120	15,619	16.1	+ 2.7	+ 3.2
Scotland ...	69,440	13,204	19.0	+ 4.7	+ 7.2
Wales ...	26,900	3,996	14.9	+ 0.9	+ 1.7
Northern Ireland	13,480	4,176	31.0	+ 1.7	+ 3.9
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	754,120	101,123	13.4	+ 2.2	+ 1.5

## BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 139 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area),

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

† From July, 1923, to September, 1925, the only available occupational figures for the numbers insured were derived from estimates framed in 1922, but except in the case of carpenters and plumbers among skilled operatives, the present ratios in the main differ only slightly from those used in the past two years.



with a total population of 15,188,000, show that in December, 1925, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,962,600, as compared with £4,783,600 in November, 1925, and £4,370,000 in December, 1924. Of the total for December, 1925, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,605,100; factories and workshops for £287,000; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £192,400; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £878,100.

For figures for the quarter ended December, 1925, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1924, see page 26.

### POTTERY TRADES.

THERE was a seasonal decline in employment in the pottery trades in North Staffordshire, especially during the latter part of the month, owing to the completion of the Christmas trade orders, and at many works the holiday stoppage was extended until the end of the month or longer. At Worcester and Derby employment continued good; at Bristol is showed a decline and was bad. In the stoneware section in Scotland it was reported as moderate.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 19·2 at 21st December, 1925, as compared with 14·0 at 23rd November, 1925, and with 19·4 at 22nd December, 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 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
China Manufacture ...	1,464	Per cent. - 0·3	Per cent. + 1·0	2,652	Per cent. + 1·2	Per cent. - 4·0
Earthenware Manufacture ...	7,973	+ 0·2	+ 1·1	15,068	- 2·4	- 0·1
Other Branches (Including unspecified) ...	1,875	- 0·7	+ 3·0	3,613	+ 0·5	+ 0·4
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>11,312</b>	<b>- 0·0</b>	<b>+ 1·4</b>	<b>21,333</b>	<b>- 1·5</b>	<b>- 0·5</b>
<b>DISTRICTS.</b>						
North Staffordshire ...	8,464	- 0·4	+ 4·1	14,626	- 2·2	+ 1·3
Other Districts ...	2,848	+ 1·1	- 6·0	6,707	+ 0·2	+ 4·1
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>11,312</b>	<b>- 0·0</b>	<b>+ 1·4</b>	<b>21,333</b>	<b>- 1·5</b>	<b>- 0·5</b>

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,971 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 3,129, or 28 per cent., were working on an average about 13 hours less than full time in the week ended 19th December, 1925.

### DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed a further slight improvement, and was moderate on the average.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service, 25·9 per cent. were unemployed at 21st December, 1925, as compared with 29·6 per cent. at 23rd November, 1925, and with 25·1 per cent. at 22nd December, 1924.

*London.*—The following Table shows the average daily numbers 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—					
5th Dec., 1925 ...	5,885	2,190	8,075	7,921	15,996
12th " ...	5,744	2,082	7,826	8,841	16,667
19th " ...	6,068	2,536	8,604	8,852	17,456
26th " ...	5,490	2,418	7,908	8,315	16,223
Average for 4 weeks ended 26th Dec., 1925 ...	5,825	2,296	8,121	8,497	16,618
Average for Nov., 1925 ...	5,285	1,970	7,255	8,174	16,429
Average for Dec., 1924 ...	5,493	2,182	7,675	8,473	16,148

*Tilbury.*—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in December was 1,387, as compared with 1,168 in the previous month, and with 1,036 in December, 1924.

*East Coast.*—Employment with coal trimmers and teamers on the North-East Coast was bad. With other classes of dock workers it was moderate or fair, and, on the whole, better than in November on the Tyne and Wear; an improvement also took place at Middlesbrough, where employment was good. At Hull and Grimsby it continued moderate. At the East Anglian ports employment was, generally speaking, slack and below the level of the previous month.

*Liverpool.*—Employment showed a slight improvement on the previous month and was fairly good. The average weekly number

of dock labourers registered at the clearing-houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 25th December was 17,102, compared with 17,040 in November, and with 15,534 in December, 1924. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing-houses was £48,244 in the four weeks ended 25th December, compared with £50,164 in November, and with £42,687 in December, 1924.

*Other Ports in England and Wales.*—Employment at the South Wales ports was good and continued to improve. It was also good at Bristol and Avonmouth. At Southampton employment declined somewhat, and at Plymouth and other South-Western ports it remained slack.

*Scottish and Irish Ports.*—Employment was moderate at Glasgow and fairly good at Dundee and Leith. It continued good at Aberdeen and Greenock. At Belfast it was fair.

### SEAMEN.

DURING December employment remained slack on the whole. There was generally a surplus of men disengaged, although at a few ports the supply of able seamen was inadequate. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 21st December, 1925, was 20·6, compared with 20·9 at 23rd November, and 23·1 at 22nd December, 1924.

The demand for men on the Thames was fairly active in the first three weeks of December, but declined subsequently. It fluctuated on the Tyne, and was reported to be moderate at the end of the month; a shortage of able seamen was experienced in this district. The demand on the Wear was small, but showed an improvement in the middle of the month. It was quiet on the Tees, and quiet to moderate at Hull. At Southampton the demand was quiet on the whole, and at Bristol it was again quiet to moderate. It was fair at the end of December at Avonmouth, and fairly good at Newport throughout the month. The demand at Cardiff was fair to good; at Swansea it was very fair to good, a shortage of able seamen being again reported. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand was fair in the early part of December, but gradually declined later, being described as quiet at the end of the month. At Manchester it was generally fair. The demand on the Clyde and at Leith was quiet, but showed some improvement towards the end of the month. At Belfast it was moderate in the first part of December, but declined subsequently.

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 December:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped.				
	Dec., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Year ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec., 1925.	Dec., 1924.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES:</b>					
Liverpool† ...	9,830	- 636	- 434	146,832	141,480
Manchester ...	1,008	- 45	+ 25	10,628	10,007
London ...	6,900	+ 435	- 1,566	94,283	100,569
Southampton ...	6,637	- 2,191	- 109	114,763	104,531
Tyne Ports ...	2,339	+ 450	+ 219	24,836	23,247
Sunderland ...	193	- 32	- 125	3,490	2,873
Middlesbrough ...	271	- 6	- 22	4,425	5,135
Hull ...	1,049	- 263	- 896	16,938	19,553
Grimsby ...	21	+ 21	- 2	119	195
Bristol† ...	1,218	+ 350	+ 287	13,077	11,305
Newport, Mon. ...	989	+ 314	+ 177	9,541	9,776
Cardiff‡ ...	3,085	+ 340	+ 105	30,288	35,170
Swansea ...	713	- 100	- 251	8,550	9,061
<b>SCOTLAND:</b>					
Leith ...	296	- 15	- 36	4,268	4,337
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	347	+ 116	+ 22	4,061	3,487
Glasgow ...	2,221	- 51	+ 106	36,072	38,572
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND:</b>					
Belfast ...	204	+ 67	+ 20	2,174	2,459
<b>TOTAL for above Ports</b>	<b>37,321</b>	<b>- 1,246</b>	<b>- 2,480</b>	<b>524,345</b>	<b>521,757</b>

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

#### NUMBER OF CLAIMS TO BENEFIT.

DURING the three weeks ended December, 1925, 495,792 fresh claims were added to the register, while 550,306 claims were removed from the register. At 21st December the number of claims current was 1,045,192, as compared with 1,099,706 at 30th November.

#### 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 recommendation to the Local Employment Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople. The following Table gives an analysis of the recom-

\* 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.



recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 17th November to 14th December, 1925:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	251,912	34,380	286,292
Applications admitted by Committees during period:—			
(a) For 12 weeks ...	63,849	2,957	66,806
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...	151,891	18,907	170,798
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period:—			
<i>General Conditions:</i>			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	2,549	1,326	3,875
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	1,418	389	1,807
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during preceding two years ...	14,465	2,193	16,658
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	6,987	2,823	9,810
<i>Special Conditions:</i>			
Single persons residing with relatives ...	5,384	2,199	7,583
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...	...	2,156	2,156
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	176	...	176
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	2,520	538	3,058
Aliens ...	20	4	24
Total definitely recommended for disallowance during period ...	33,519	11,628	45,147
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	2,653	888	3,541

#### UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the four weeks ended 26th December, 1925, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table; figures for the four weeks ended 28th November, 1925, and for the four weeks ended 27th December, 1924, are also given for purposes of comparison:—

	Four weeks ended 26th Dec., 1925.	Four weeks ended 28th Nov., 1925.	Four weeks ended 27th Dec., 1924.
<i>Contributions (Receipts):—</i>			
By Employers ...	£ 1,480,000	£ 1,480,000	£ 1,410,000
„ Employed Persons ...	1,320,000	1,330,000	1,250,000
„ Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry) ...	20,000	40,000	30,000
„ Exchequer ...	1,000,000	1,020,000	1,000,000
Total ...	3,820,000	3,870,000	3,690,000
<i>Payments:—</i>			
Benefit ...	3,210,000	3,300,000	3,610,000
Other payments* ...	480,000	360,000	780,000
Total ...	3,690,000	3,660,000	4,390,000
Treasury Advances outstanding at end of period ...	7,595,000	7,755,000	5,410,000

### MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

At 21st December, 1925, the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,102,400; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,166,151.

Comparative figures for men, boys, women, and girls separately, for 30th November and 21st December, are given below:—

	Great Britain.		Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
	30 Nov.	21 Dec.	30 Nov.	21 Dec.
Men ...	937,434	896,386	973,681	933,074
Boys ...	29,131	25,865	30,192	26,957
Women ...	172,582	157,953	195,702	182,607
Girls ...	26,128	22,196	27,427	23,513
Totals ...	1,165,275	1,102,400	1,227,002	1,166,151

The following Table gives particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the four weeks ended 28th December. Of the 83,561 vacancies filled, 48,469 were for men, 22,035 for women, and 13,057 for juveniles.

\* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, etc.  
† The figures include 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.  
‡ "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 28th December, 1925, the average number of such placings was 4,465 per week, and those of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, 725 per week.

Week ended	Applications from Employers.		Vacancies Filled.†	Number of Workpeople on Registers.†
	During Week.	Outstanding at end of Week		
30th November, 1925 ...	26,942	19,116	23,076	1,227,002
7th December, 1925 ...	26,855	18,220	23,971	1,223,844
14th " " ...	29,957	19,397	24,645	1,189,327
21st " " ...	25,153	18,405	22,786	1,166,151
28th " " ...	14,181	18,795	12,159	not available
Total (4 weeks) ...	96,146	...	83,561	...

Details for certain areas are given below:—

Area.	Number of Persons on Registers at 21st December, 1925.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as compared with 30th Nov., 1925.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
<i>London Division</i> ...	93,914	19,768	4,670	118,352	– 14,701
<i>South-Eastern Division</i> ...	34,316	5,888	2,995	43,199	+ 116
Brighton ...	1,907	375	224	2,506	– 445
Chatham ...	1,275	254	466	1,995	– 118
Ipswich ...	2,215	118	117	2,450	+ 610
Norwich ...	2,649	586	72	3,307	+ 124
Rest of South-Eastern ...	26,270	4,555	2,116	32,941	– 55
<i>South-Western Division</i> ...	50,508	7,928	3,256	61,792	– 4,054
Bristol ...	10,307	2,097	645	13,049	– 566
Plymouth ...	3,950	519	387	4,856	– 558
Portsmouth ...	4,580	519	257	5,356	– 548
Reading ...	1,023	35	139	1,197	– 86
Southampton ...	4,331	447	411	5,189	– 861
Swindon ...	381	46	68	495	– 91
Rest of South-Western ...	25,936	4,265	1,449	31,650	– 1,344
<i>Midlands Division</i> ...	90,610	28,102	4,069	122,781	– 3,128
Birmingham ...	16,019	4,904	151	21,074	– 537
Coventry ...	1,548	313	50	1,911	+ 448
Cradley Heath ...	3,606	409	80	4,095	+ 347
Derby ...	1,207	579	207	1,993	– 579
Leicester ...	1,903	791	13	2,707	– 638
Northampton ...	1,366	583	73	2,022	– 396
Nottingham ...	5,286	1,822	247	7,355	– 1,861
Smethwick ...	2,019	625	50	2,694	+ 19
Stoke-on-Trent ...	9,933	6,406	709	17,048	+ 2,291
Walsall ...	3,223	743	260	4,226	– 158
West Bromwich ...	2,050	305	54	2,409	+ 11
Wolverhampton ...	3,893	692	85	4,670	+ 28
Rest of Midlands ...	38,557	9,930	2,090	50,577	– 2,103
<i>North-Eastern Division</i> ...	238,035	23,677	11,101	272,813	– 5,233
Barnsley ...	3,548	201	66	3,815	+ 1,717
Bradford ...	6,508	1,693	207	8,408	– 1,230
Darlington ...	2,481	134	88	2,703	– 219
Dewsbury ...	1,375	925	81	2,381	– 57
Doncaster ...	2,648	185	221	3,054	+ 1,939
Gateshead ...	10,482	632	788	11,902	– 58
Grimsby ...	2,255	139	350	2,744	– 14
Halifax ...	2,085	274	32	2,391	– 194
Hartlepool ...	8,275	167	395	8,837	– 202
Huddersfield ...	3,107	1,051	119	4,277	– 134
Hull ...	8,216	557	594	9,367	– 1,153
Leeds ...	11,487	3,948	139	15,574	– 1,618
Lincoln ...	1,731	207	83	2,021	– 156
Middlesbrough ...	10,137	499	378	11,014	+ 325
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	14,263	1,365	604	16,232	– 329
Rotherham ...	2,306	174	177	2,657	+ 137
Sheffield ...	20,800	1,921	1,255	23,976	+ 1,043
South Shields ...	9,445	439	595	10,479	+ 29
Stockton-on-Tees ...	7,755	132	303	8,190	+ 206
Sunderland ...	18,275	486	541	19,302	– 243
York ...	1,673	197	114	1,984	– 191
Rest of North-Eastern ...	89,183	8,351	3,971	101,505	– 4,831
<i>North-Western Division</i> ...	154,745	41,247	10,034	206,026	– 14,769
Accrington ...	1,039	420	60	1,519	+ 107
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	1,840	776	50	2,666	– 222
Barrow ...	5,051	272	231	5,554	+ 352
Birkenhead ...	4,775	271	230	5,276	+ 21
Blackburn ...	2,989	1,514	219	4,722	+ 275
Blackpool ...	1,594	641	204	2,439	– 512
Bolton ...	4,265	1,325	292	5,882	– 161
Burnley ...	1,947	1,964	96	4,007	+ 690
Bury ...	1,200	761	64	2,025	+ 196
Chorley ...	885	301	31	1,217	– 1,043
Liverpool ...	41,274	5,216	3,494	49,984	– 3,974
Manchester ...	18,451	6,328	523	25,302	– 1,354
Nelson ...	740	126	15	881	– 454
Oldham ...	4,303	1,517	196	6,016	+ 95
Preston ...	2,168	564	89	2,831	– 2,607
Rochdale ...	2,239	842	68	3,149	+ 192
St. Helens ...	2,076	161	222	2,459	– 507
Salford ...	6,734	2,258	598	9,590	– 1,700
Stockport ...	2,810	1,128	218	4,156	+ 159
Warrington ...	1,634	394	121	2,149	– 247
Wigan ...	4,304	1,590	392	6,286	– 1,435
Rest of North-Western ...	42,427	12,878	2,621	57,926	– 2,640
<i>Scotland Division</i> ...	157,466	28,736	8,693	194,895	– 5,243
Aberdeen ...	6,311	1,029	332	7,672	+ 808
Clydebank ...	3,727	229	221	4,177	– 243
Dundee ...	5,870	2,343	212	8,425	– 151
Edinburgh ...	10,019	1,891	649	12,539	– 305
Glasgow ...	59,074	10,607	3,348	73,029	– 1,729
Greenock ...	7,714	591	350	8,655	+ 337
Motherwell ...	3,694	280	109	4,083	– 8
Paisley ...	4,886	659	192	5,737	– 176
Rest of Scotland ...	56,171	11,107	3,300	70,578	– 3,776
<i>Wales Division</i> ...	76,792	2,607	3,143	82,542	– 15,863
Cardiff ...	5,875	480	392	6,747	– 1,791
Llanelli ...	1,638	61	84	1,783	+ 223
Newport ...	3,141	175	166	3,482	– 447
Swansea ...	3,956	261	338	4,555	– 612
Rest of Wales ...	62,182	1,630	2,163	65,975	– 13,236
<i>Northern Ireland</i> ...	36,688	24,654	2,409	63,751	+ 2,024
Belfast ...	24,469	16,291	1,579	42,339	+ 2,089
Londonderry ...	2,277	1,011	121	3,409	– 260
Lurgan ...	653	976	56	1,685	+ 114
Lisburn ...	628	466	55	1,149	+ 49
Newry ...	915	521	41	1,477	– 35
Rest of Northern Ireland ...	7,746	5,389	557	13,692	+ 67
<i>Great Britain and Northern Ireland</i> ...	933,074	182,607	50,470	1,166,151	– 60,851

† † See notes in previous column.



## TRADE DISPUTES.\*

## Disputes during December.

*Number, Magnitude and Duration.*—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 28, as compared with 43 in the previous month and 41 in December, 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 8,000. In addition, about 29,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 34 disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 62, involving about 37,000 workpeople and resulting in a loss during December of about 629,000 working days.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in December.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in December.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in December.
	Started before 1st Dec.	Started in Dec.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying...	8	7	15	24,000	458,000
Woodworking and Furnishing.	4	1	5	2,000	17,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	1	2	3	1,000	24,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. ...	5	3	8	1,000	8,000
Transport ...	2	2	4	2,000	20,000
Other ...	14	13	27	7,000	102,000
Total, Dec., 1925 ...	34	28	62	37,000	629,000
Total, Nov., 1925 ...	29	43	72	50,000	575,900
Total, Dec., 1924 ...	24	41	65	16,000	92,000

*Causes.*—Of the 28 disputes beginning in December, 10, directly involving 1,900 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages and other wages questions; 9, directly involving 1,800 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 5, directly involving 1,900 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and 4, directly involving 600 workpeople, on other questions.

*Results.*—Settlements were effected in the case of 18 new disputes, directly involving 5,100 workpeople, and 13 old disputes, directly involving 5,100 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 12, directly involving 2,650 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 3, directly involving 50 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 16, directly involving 7,500 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 6 disputes, directly involving 7,500 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

## Disputes in 1924 and 1925.

The number of trade disputes causing a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in 1925 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 601. In these disputes about 398,000 workpeople were directly involved and 40,000 indirectly involved. In addition, about 3,000 workpeople were involved in 25 disputes which began in 1924 and continued into the following year. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in 1925 was thus about 441,000. The aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople in the disputes was approximately 7,976,000.

In 1924 the number of disputes reported as having begun in the year in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 710; the number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was nearly 616,000 (including about 55,000 workpeople indirectly involved), and the total loss of time in these disputes was about 8,424,000 working days.

Further particulars with regard to disputes in 1925, with comparative statistics for previous years, are given in the special article on pages 5 and 6.

## PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING DECEMBER, 1925.

Occupations and Locality.†	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.†	Result.†
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
<b>MINING AND QUARRYING :—</b>						
Coal miners, etc.—Consett, Co. Durham.	7,000		1925. 22 June— 6 July.	1925. ...	Against proposed increase in working hours, revision of piece-work rates, etc.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, mechanics, enginemen, etc.—South Shields (near).	2,577	252	5 Aug.	...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates and increase in working hours of certain workpeople, and against concessions as to payment of minimum wage.	No settlement reported.
	2,258	156	14 Aug.	...	Objection of men to day-to-day contracts, and dissatisfaction as to amount of wages paid to certain sets of machine coal-getters.	No settlement reported.
Shale miners, oil workers, etc.—West Lothian.	6,883	134‡	11 Nov.	11 Dec.§	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	Inquiry to be held by a Court consisting of representatives of the parties with a neutral chairman appointed by the Ministry of Labour.§
Coal miners, etc.—Alfreton, Derbyshire (near).	2,291		9 Dec.	15 Dec.	Dispute arising out of the dismissal of 8 workmen for loading alleged excessive quantity of slack with coal.	Agreement effected involving use of shovel instead of fork in the unloading of coal in certain seams.
<b>OTHER INDUSTRIES :—</b>						
Motor-bus body makers, painters and labourers—Chiswick.	1,100	...	2 Dec.	4 Dec.	Against alleged non-recognition of shop committee and transfer of a shop steward without due notice, following dismissal of 12 men on charges of restricting output.	Shop steward restored to his original section; cases of the 12 men to be investigated; re-organisation of shop committee recommended.
Porters, packers, bookbinders, etc. employed by book publishers—London.	1,200	...	2 Nov.	...	For advance in wages ...	No settlement reported.
Building operatives—Plymouth ...	200		26 Oct.   3 Dec.¶	9 Dec.	Dispute as to rates of wages payable in respect of the erection of demonstration steel houses of the "Weir" type.	No further contract to be entered into for alternative forms of houses on other than building industry conditions until the question is settled for the country as a whole.
Marine wireless telegraph operators—London, Liverpool, etc.	1,014	...	26 Nov.	...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 22s. 6d. per month.	No settlement reported.
Waterproof garment workers—Manchester, Salford and Warrington.	5,000		16 Nov.	18 Dec.	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates of wages.	Modified reduction accepted; the revised rates to remain in force until 31st May, 1926. (See also page 25.)

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

† 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.

‡ In addition, about 500 colliery workers were rendered idle owing to the dispute.

§ On 21st December, upon the recommendation of the Court, it was agreed to resume work (so far as considered practicable) at a reduction of 5 per cent., pending the Court's decision. (See also page 24.)

|| Men employed by Town Council.

¶ Men employed by Contractors.



## UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 21st December, 1925, and the increase or decrease at that date in the percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are excepted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public 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, also be excepted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, *inter alia*, the industry in which he is employed is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment

of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 20 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

The term "unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 21st December, 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."

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is estimated to have been approximately 11,892,000 at July, 1925.

This number includes approximately 126,000 persons insured under the Special Schemes for the Banking and Insurance industries, approved under Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

A brief outline of the method by which the estimate has been computed was given in the November issue of this GAZETTE (page 380)

INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 21ST DECEMBER, 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST DECEMBER, 1925.			(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.) INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			Great Britain only. (Total.)	23RD NOV., 1925.	22ND DEC., 1924.	21ST DEC., 1923.
							Males.	Females.	Total.				
Fishing ... ..	25,710	880	26,590	3,945	129	4,074	15.3	14.7	15.3	15.3	+ 5.0	- 1.0	- 2.9
Mining:—													
Coal Mining ... ..	1,231,900	8,550	1,240,450	139,641	828	140,469	11.3	9.7	11.3	11.3	- 4.0	+ 3.4	+ 8.9
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying ... ..	16,150	40	16,190	3,115	2	3,117	19.3	5.0	19.3	18.8	- 3.5	+ 0.7	- 0.1
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ... ..	5,350	40	5,390	617	3	620	11.5	7.5	11.5	11.5	...	- 6.4	- 6.5
Stone Quarrying and Mining ... ..	38,650	280	38,930	4,467	13	4,480	11.6	4.6	11.5	11.1	+ 4.6	+ 5.2	+ 5.3
Slate Quarrying and Mining ... ..	10,730	10	10,740	208	1	209	1.9	10.0	1.9	1.9	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.1
Other Mining and Quarrying ... ..	19,330	1,580	20,910	2,209	63	2,272	11.4	4.0	10.9	10.5	+ 3.3	+ 3.1	+ 4.0
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging ... ..	14,220	180	14,400	602	13	615	4.2	7.2	4.3	4.0	+ 0.2	- 0.4	- 2.3
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—													
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,600	120	11,720	1,545	15	1,560	13.3	12.5	13.3	13.3	- 2.1	...	+ 7.8
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture ... ..	12,810	910	13,720	2,645	61	2,706	20.7	6.7	19.7	19.7	+ 4.9	- 0.2	+ 1.5
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works ... ..	17,570	780	18,350	842	33	875	4.8	4.2	4.8	4.7	+ 0.8	- 2.3	- 5.1
Brick, Tile, etc., Making ... ..	70,710	7,800	78,510	5,184	935	6,119	7.3	12.0	7.8	7.6	+ 0.2	...	- 0.6
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ... ..	34,320	39,050	73,370	5,752	8,305	14,057	16.8	21.3	19.2	19.2	+ 5.2	- 0.2	+ 4.6
Glass Trades:—													
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical and Scientific Glass) Manufacture ... ..	20,880	5,300	26,180	2,313	243	2,556	11.1	4.6	9.8	9.7	- 0.1	- 2.4	- 1.8
Glass Bottle Making ... ..	16,700	2,320	19,020	3,122	205	3,327	18.7	8.8	17.5	17.5	- 3.3	- 1.0	- 1.0
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.													
Chemicals Manufacture ... ..	75,320	21,580	96,900	7,269	872	8,141	9.7	4.0	8.4	8.3	- 0.9	- 0.8	- 1.8
Explosives Manufacture ... ..	13,020	5,500	18,520	889	468	1,357	6.8	8.5	7.3	7.3	- 1.3	- 1.4	- 4.1
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture ... ..	12,900	3,810	16,710	651	140	791	5.0	3.7	4.7	4.7	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture ... ..	58,940	21,590	80,530	3,995	1,067	5,062	6.8	4.9	6.3	6.2	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.9
Metal Manufacture:—													
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	25,500	280	25,780	5,170	35	5,205	20.3	12.5	20.2	20.2	- 0.2	+ 2.2	+ 8.8
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ... ..	195,110	5,020	200,130	48,673	245	48,918	24.9	4.9	24.4	24.4	+ 0.8	- 3.2	+ 7.3
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc. ... ..	38,680	3,530	42,210	4,003	189	4,192	10.3	5.4	9.9	10.0	- 0.3	- 1.9	- 3.2
Manufacture of Tin Plates ... ..	23,850	4,320	28,170	2,721	278	2,999	11.4	6.4	10.6	10.6	+ 2.5	- 34.4	+ 7.0
Iron and Steel Tube Making ... ..	26,340	1,550	27,890	4,197	109	4,306	15.9	7.0	15.4	15.4	- 0.8	- 4.7	+ 0.5
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture ... ..	20,640	4,260	24,900	2,591	331	2,922	12.6	7.8	11.7	11.7	- 2.0	- 0.2	+ 1.9
Engineering, etc.:—													
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ... ..	583,590	43,690	627,280	72,002	1,478	73,480	12.3	3.4	11.7	11.5	- 0.3	- 2.0	- 6.6
Electrical Engineering ... ..	61,320	15,400	76,720	3,295	622	3,917	5.4	4.0	5.1	5.1	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Marine Engineering, etc. ... ..	60,670	1,050	61,720	15,438	94	15,532	25.4	9.0	25.2	25.0	- 0.7	+ 8.1	+ 3.0
Constructional Engineering ... ..	25,110	1,020	26,130	3,027	40	3,067	12.1	3.9	11.7	11.7	+ 0.7	- 2.1	- 0.1
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—													
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ... ..	193,300	21,540	214,840	13,603	1,130	14,733	7.0	5.2	6.9	6.8	- 0.1	- 0.6	- 3.1
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc. ... ..	21,700	2,930	24,630	2,425	211	2,636	11.2	7.2	10.7	10.4	- 0.6	- 1.2	- 2.5
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building ... ..	54,810	1,440	56,250	3,883	30	3,913	7.1	2.1	7.0	7.0	- 0.9	- 0.8	+ 1.9



INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.									(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND) INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH		
				NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 21ST DECEMBER 1925. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST DECEMBER, 1925.			Great Britain only. (Total.)	23RD NOV., 1925.	22ND DEC., 1924.	21ST DEC., 1923.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.						
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	238,360	3,340	241,700	88,905	399	89,304	37.3	11.9	36.9	37.2	- 0.7	+ 5.0	+ 2.7		
<b>Metal Trades :—</b>															
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ...	77,590	7,970	85,560	7,995	411	8,406	10.3	5.2	9.8	9.7	- 0.1	- 2.1	- 5.3		
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	11,670	990	12,660	831	28	859	7.1	2.8	6.8	6.7	+ 0.2	...	- 2.0		
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ...	50,940	30,410	81,350	3,101	1,423	4,524	6.1	4.7	5.6	5.5	+ 0.1	- 0.7	- 2.1		
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	24,380	9,460	33,840	3,416	758	4,174	14.0	8.0	12.3	12.3	- 0.2	+ 0.3	- 1.8		
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ...	15,130	11,920	27,050	1,917	900	2,817	12.7	7.6	10.4	10.4	- 0.7	- 6.5	- 3.0		
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ...	18,680	11,690	30,370	1,705	897	2,602	9.1	7.7	8.6	8.5	- 0.5	- 5.4	- 9.4		
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	7,080	520	7,600	381	9	390	5.4	1.7	5.1	5.0	+ 1.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.0		
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ...	25,680	19,530	45,210	2,330	1,144	3,474	9.1	5.9	7.7	7.6	+ 0.4	- 2.9	- 2.1		
Other Metal Industries ...	114,800	66,020	180,820	9,986	4,938	14,924	8.7	7.5	8.3	8.2	- 0.6	- 2.8	- 2.5		
<b>Textile Trades :—</b>															
Cotton ...	208,770	367,950	576,720	13,803	24,850	38,653	6.6	6.8	6.7	6.7	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 5.3		
Woollen and Worsted ...	107,340	150,360	257,700	11,595	11,178	22,773	10.8	7.4	8.8	8.8	- 0.9	+ 3.6	+ 1.2		
Silk ...	18,470	28,420	46,890	1,883	3,169	5,052	10.2	11.2	10.8	10.8	- 1.7	+ 22.6	+ 18.5		
Linen ...	27,110	59,510	86,620	7,304	21,820	29,124	26.9	36.7	33.6	17.7	- 0.7	+ 1.6	+ 1.6		
Jute ...	13,750	28,430	42,180	1,894	3,045	4,939	13.8	10.7	11.7	11.7	- 0.7	+ 1.6	+ 1.6		
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ...	7,370	13,450	20,820	794	1,736	2,530	10.8	12.9	12.2	9.4	- 1.0	- 2.3	- 0.6		
Hosiery ...	22,200	75,500	97,700	910	3,803	4,713	4.1	5.0	4.8	4.7	- 1.3	- 4.2	- 3.6		
Lace ...	7,980	11,480	19,460	1,954	1,509	3,463	24.5	13.1	17.8	17.8	- 2.8	- 2.8	+ 1.3		
Carpet Manufacture ...	10,790	15,460	26,250	766	1,030	1,796	7.1	6.7	6.8	6.8	- 2.4	- 0.4	+ 2.7		
Other Textile Industries ...	13,970	31,280	45,250	1,283	3,204	4,487	9.2	10.2	9.9	9.2	+ 0.1	- 2.6	- 3.4		
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	85,120	34,070	119,190	9,269	4,529	13,798	10.9	13.3	11.6	11.0	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.8		
<b>Leather and Leather Goods :—</b>															
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	34,060	8,650	42,710	3,258	730	3,988	9.6	8.4	9.3	9.3	- 0.9	...	- 1.1		
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture ...	13,830	12,750	26,580	1,403	737	2,140	10.1	5.8	8.1	8.0	+ 0.4	- 2.0	- 1.8		
<b>Clothing Trades :—</b>															
Tailoring ...	67,800	128,140	195,940	8,724	13,488	22,212	12.9	10.5	11.3	11.0	- 1.2	- 1.3	- 1.1		
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ...	11,820	93,640	105,460	868	7,036	7,904	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.2	- 0.1	- 2.4	- 1.8		
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ...	13,340	20,860	34,200	1,337	2,032	3,369	10.0	9.7	9.9	9.9	- 1.3	- 2.6	- 3.6		
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ...	8,100	66,110	74,210	487	5,189	5,676	6.0	7.8	7.6	6.1	- 0.1	- 1.6	- 1.2		
Other Dress Industries ...	10,510	17,990	28,500	836	1,314	2,150	8.0	7.3	7.5	7.5	- 1.3	- 4.7	- 4.1		
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	92,940	51,890	144,830	9,311	2,941	12,252	10.0	5.7	8.5	8.3	- 0.9	- 3.3	- 1.3		
<b>Food, Drink and Tobacco :—</b>															
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	91,330	50,460	141,790	8,496	2,972	11,468	9.3	5.9	8.1	7.7	- 1.0	- 1.4	- 1.4		
Grain Milling ...	27,890	3,470	31,360	1,401	133	1,534	5.0	3.8	4.9	4.8	- 0.5	- 0.1	+ 0.6		
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	26,050	51,080	77,130	1,980	3,804	5,784	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.5	+ 0.8	- 2.3	- 1.0		
Other Food Industries ...	54,250	60,070	114,320	5,053	8,425	13,478	9.3	14.0	11.8	11.7	+ 1.6	- 4.9	- 2.2		
Drink Industries ...	87,830	25,350	113,180	4,768	1,942	6,710	5.4	7.7	5.9	5.5	- 0.6	- 0.6	- 0.5		
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture ...	13,340	30,620	43,960	691	1,269	1,960	5.2	4.1	4.5	3.8	+ 0.2	- 2.2	- 2.3		
<b>Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—</b>															
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	54,060	2,830	56,890	5,463	158	5,621	10.1	5.6	9.9	9.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	- 1.0		
Wood Box and Packing Case Making	11,540	2,170	13,710	1,437	153	1,590	12.5	7.1	11.6	11.3	+ 0.3	- 1.8	- 2.5		
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	83,150	18,530	101,680	4,286	825	5,111	5.2	4.5	5.0	4.9	- 0.2	- 1.1	- 2.3		
Other Woodworking ...	19,500	6,050	25,550	1,867	537	2,404	9.6	8.9	9.4	8.7	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 1.8		
<b>Printing and Paper Trades :—</b>															
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	39,320	15,700	55,020	2,408	622	3,030	6.1	4.0	5.5	5.5	- 0.1	- 2.2	- 3.1		
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	18,560	36,290	54,850	865	1,491	2,356	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.2	- 0.2	- 2.1	- 2.1		
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining ...	3,450	1,470	4,920	105	22	127	3.0	1.5	2.6	2.6	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.8		
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ...	2,050	2,770	4,820	117	129	246	5.7	4.7	5.1	5.1	- 0.4	- 1.0	+ 0.1		
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	158,460	86,880	245,340	5,799	3,542	9,341	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.7	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 1.3		
<b>Building and Construction of Works :—</b>															
Building ...	746,210	7,910	754,120	100,927	196	101,123	13.5	2.5	13.4	13.1	+ 2.2	+ 1.5	- 0.2		
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	148,030	850	148,880	30,503	25	30,528	20.6	2.9	20.5	20.3	+ 2.6	+ 1.4	+ 1.6		
<b>Other Manufacturing Industries :—</b>															
Rubber Manufacture ...	34,210	26,360	60,570	2,622	2,496	5,118	7.7	9.5	8.4	8.4	- 1.2	- 3.7	- 4.2		
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture	11,500	2,300	13,800	533	123	656	4.6	5.3	4.8	4.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 1.4		
Brush and Broom Making ...	5,760	4,580	10,340	671	449	1,120	11.6	9.8	10.8	10.6	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 1.5		
Scientific and Photographic Instrument and Apparatus Manufacture	13,230	7,670	20,900	490	230	720	3.7	3.0	3.4	3.4	- 0.5	- 1.3	- 1.2		
Musical Instrument Making ...	17,870	3,770	21,640	677	87	764	3.8	2.3	3.5	3.5	- 1.0	- 2.0	- 1.3		
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites Manufacture ...	5,930	5,100	11,030	412	417	829	6.9	8.2	7.5	7.5	- 0.3	- 4.4	- 2.3		
<b>Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...</b>	171,820	6,830	178,650	9,987	163	10,150	5.8	2.4	5.7	5.5	- 0.1	- 0.7	- 0.6		
<b>Transport and Communication :—</b>															
Railway Service ...	159,870	8,740	168,610	10,289	507	10,796	6.4	5.8	6.4	6.2	- 0.6	- 0.5	+ 0.5		
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	115,730	5,430	121,160	4,441	183	4,624	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.8	- 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.3		
Other Road Transport ...	151,880	4,340	156,220	19,733	153	19,886	13.0	3.5	12.7	12.4	- 0.9	- 2.4	- 3.5		
Shipping Service ...	122,260	5,670	127,930	25,782	537	26,319	21.1	9.5	20.6	20.6	- 0.3	- 2.5	- 0.5		
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ...	189,570	2,150	191,720	49,496	130	49,626	26.1	6.0	25.9	25.7	- 3.7	+ 0.8	+ 3.4		
Other Transport and Communication and Storage ...	20,450	2,240	22,690	2,786	119	2,905	13.6	5.3	12.8	12.7	- 0.9	- 2.8	- 3.0		
<b>Distributive Trades ...</b>	880,060	578,140	1,458,200	56,617	24,748	81,365	6.4	4.3	5.6	5.4	- 0.7	- 0.9	- 0.4		
<b>Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...</b>	147,350	72,760	220,110	5,697	1,098	6,795	3.9	1.5	3.1	3.1	- 0.1	- 0.5	- 1.2		
<b>Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—</b>															
National Government ...	126,870	29,620	156,490	9,457	978	10,435	7.5	3.3	6.7	6.6	- 0.7	- 1.9	- 3.1		
Local Government ...	238,970	19,400	258,370	22,824	596	23,420	9.6	3.1	9.1	8.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.5		
Professional Services ...	67,210	46,070	113,280	2,530	839	3,369	3.8	1.8	3.0	2.9	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 1.0		
Entertainments and Sports ...	42,370	22,650	65,020	5,597	2,026	7,623	13.2	8.9	11.7	11.6	- 1.0	- 2.7	- 1.9		
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	104,790	189,240	294,030	12,079	20,375	32,454	11.5	10.8	11.0	10.9	- 1.5	- 3.1	- 2.7		
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	22,730	94,560	117,290	1,310	4,197	5,507	5.8	4.4	4.7	4.5	- 0.5	- 1.9	- 1.6		
Other Industries and Services ...	84,940	30,340	115,280	23,117	2,358	25,475	27.2	7.8	22.1	21.4	- 1.2	- 3.8	- 6.5		
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	8,717,400	3,174,600	11,892,000	1,011,598	231,489	1,243,087	11.6	7.3	10.5	10.1	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.1		

NOTE.—A summary of the more important changes in the numbers of insured persons unemployed between 23rd November and 21st December is given on page 6.



## 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 December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 63,000 workpeople and in an increase of over £1,500 in the weekly wages of 21,500 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 ...	...	15,500	£ ...	£ 1,250
Iron and Steel ...	...	44,000	...	2,050
Textile ...	7,250	...	160	...
Public Utility Services ...	8,000	...	790	...
Other ...	6,250	3,250	580	700
Total ...	21,500	62,750	1,530	4,000

In the mining group there was a provisional reduction (pending the result of inquiry) of 5 per cent. in the wages of about 6,000 shale miners and shale oil workers in Scotland. There was also a reduction of nearly 5 per cent. in the percentage addition payable on the basis rates of about 5,000 coal miners in the Radstock district, and the wages of over 3,000 iron-ore miners in Cumberland were reduced by amounts varying in the case of adult workers from ½d. to 1d. per shift.

The principal change in the iron and steel group affected over 40,000 men employed at iron-puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges in the Midlands, in whose case wages were reduced by an amount equivalent to rather over 1½ per cent. on current rates.

In the textile group there were increases in the wages of over 7,000 workpeople employed in the making-up and packing industry at Manchester, the increases amounting to 6d. per week in the case of men and 3d. per week in the case of women.

In the public utility services group the principal change affected about 7,000 workpeople employed in the non-trading services of various local authorities in the East Midlands, where there was an increase of ½d. per hour for the majority of men concerned.

In industries other than the above there was an increase of ½d. per hour in the wages of organ builders, and increases of a similar amount in the wages of packing-case makers in Scotland, and of chairmakers and other furniture trade workers at High Wycombe. Workpeople employed in the waterproof garment making trade at Manchester had their bonuses on piece prices reduced from 33½ to 20 per cent. in the case of machinists and makers, and from 45 to 40 per cent. in the case of finishers.

Of the total net reduction of £4,000 per week, £2,650 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry; £675 followed upon mediation; and the remainder took effect as the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople. Decreases preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work amounted to £1,300 per week.

Of the increases, totalling £1,530 per week, nearly £1,000 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales; £725 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (of which £680 was under cost-of-living sliding scales and is included thereunder); and nearly the whole of the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople. Increases preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work amounted to £150 per week.

## Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in December.

## Changes in Wages and Hours in 1925.

A special article dealing with these changes appears on pages 3 and 4.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1925.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
<b>AGRICULTURE.</b>				
Agriculture	Yorkshire (East Riding).	14 Dec.	Male workers boarded and lodged by employers, other than foremen, beastmen, shepherds, waggoners, third lads, fourth lads, horse lads, and other beginners.	Rate of 27s. per week fixed for a week of 52½ hours in summer and 48 hours in winter, and in addition, 12 hours per week on weekdays and 3 hours on Sunday in attendance on cattle and horses.†
	Nottinghamshire ...	14 Dec.	Male workers of 15 and under 16 years.	Increase of 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change for a week of 50 hours, 13s. 6d.†
<b>MINING AND QUARRYING.</b>				
Coal Mining	Radstock ...	26 Nov.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines.	Decrease of 6·99 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, leaving wages at the minimum of 35·56 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
Iron Mining	Cumberland...	7 Dec.	Workpeople employed at iron-ore mines.	Decrease‡ of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. 1d. to 8s.), of ½d. per shift for winding enginemen, of ¼d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of ¼d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: winding enginemen, 7s. 2½d. per shift; underground 1st class or leading labourers, 5s. 4½d. per shift; plus temporary increase of 1s. 6d. per shift in each case.
Lead Mining	Wearhead and Alledale.	23 Nov.	Underground and surface workers	Bonus reduced‡ from 8s. 3d. to 8s. per week. Rate after change for surface labourers (including bonus), 7s. 7d. per shift.
Shale Mining	Scotland ...	22 Dec.	Workpeople employed in and about shale mines and shale-oil works.	Provisional reduction of 5 per cent. on earnings, subject to wages not falling below 6s. 10d. per day for adults and 2s. per day for boys.§
<b>BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES.</b>				
Chemical	Bristol ...	1st pay in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of glue and chemical manure.	Increase   of 9d. per week for men and of proportionate amounts for women and youths. Minimum rate after change for men, 47s.
<b>IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.</b>				
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Midlands and part of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire.	6 Dec.	Men employed at iron puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges.	Decrease‡ of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 52½ per cent. above the standard.¶ Minimum rate after change for labourers: 3s. 10d. per day or shift, plus 52½ per cent., plus 10d. per day for day workers and 11d. per shift for shift workers.
	Barrow-in-Furness	6 Dec.	Wire and hoop millmen ...	Decrease‡ of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 52½ per cent. above the standard.

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form 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 recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† 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.

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

§ The reduction of 5 per cent. was agreed upon pending the decision of a Court of Investigation, and was to be returned in the event of the Court's decision being in favour of the workers.

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

|| Men on base earnings of not more than 5s. 10d. per shift have been, since 2 November, 1925, in receipt of bonuses varying, according to earnings, from 2d. to 10d. per shift for day workers, and from 2½d. to 11d. per shift for shift workers. Particulars of these bonuses are given on page 441 of the December LABOUR GAZETTE.



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

REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1925 (continued).				
Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Farriery	Liverpool and Birkenhead.	1 Dec.	Farriers ... ..	Increase* of 2s. per week. Rates after change: firemen, 74s. 6d.; doormen, 72s. 6d. per week.
Laminated Spring Manufacture.	Sheffield ... ..	1st full pay after 16 Dec.	Laminated spring fitters and vice-men.	An extra 3d. per cwt. granted for springs made from special alloy steels with plates up to and including $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, if water immersed.†
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Textile Making-up and Packing.	Manchester ...	Pay day in week ending 3 Oct.	Porters ... ..	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week (49s. 6d. to 52s.).
		Pay day in week ending 5 Dec.	All classes ... ..	Increase of 6d. per week for men 21 and over and of 3d. per week for women 18 and over. Rates after change: men—hydraulic packers and makers-up, 70s.; competent grey and print cloth lookers, 64s. 3d.; assistant grey and print cloth lookers, 60s. 3d.; markers-off, stampers and pressers-off, 59s. 6d.; hoistmen, plaiters, cutters and lappers, 55s. 3d.; general warehousemen, 54s.; porters, 52s. 6d.; women—markers-off, 36s. 9d.; cutters, 34s.; stitchers, plaiters, and tiers-up, parcellers and tapers, 32s. 6d.; general bookers of prints and shirtings, 31s.; d'hootie hookers, 29s. 9d.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Glove Manufacture.	Certain districts in England.‡	14 Dec.	Youths, other than apprentices ...	New scale of rates adopted starting at 10s. per week at 14 years, increasing by 2s. 6d. per week every six months to 37s. 6d. per week at 19½ years.
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.				
Packing Case Making.	Scotland (except Aberdeen).	2nd pay day in Dec.§	Packing case makers and wood-cutting machinists employed in packing case shops.	Increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 6d.).
Furniture	Aberdeen ... ..	3 Dec.	Journeymen ... ..	Increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 3½d. to 1s. 4d.) and of 6½ per cent. on pre-war rates for pieceworkers.
			Caners ... ..	Increase* of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 6½d.; Windsor, cane and cheap rush-bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 6d.
Organ Building	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 26 Dec.	Matters ... ..	Increase* of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23 (8½d. to 9d.), and of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour on Manchester rockers, odd chairs, and all other cane work (8½d. to 9d.).
			Apprentices ... ..	Increase* of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per chair on ordinary chairs (9d. to 9½d.), and of proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs.
	Great Britain ...	4 Dec.	Organ builders (skilled journeymen)	Increase* of from 3d. to 10d. per week. Increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour. Standard rates after change: London, 1s. 8½d.; Liverpool and Manchester, 1s. 8d.; other towns, 1s. 7½d.
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Building	Congleton ... ..	5 Dec.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plumbers, plasterers, painters, and labourers.	Increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities.	Certain Authorities in the East Midland Area.¶	1st pay day in Dec.	Manual workers:— Men paid hourly rates ... ..	Increase* of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change for road and general labourers and scavengers: Grade A areas, 1s. 2d.; Grade B, 1s.; Grade C, 11d.; Grade D, 11d. (industrial districts) and 10d. (agricultural districts).
			Men paid weekly rates (including attendants, caretakers, porters, lamplighters, etc.).	Increase* of 1s. 11d. per week for Grade A areas, of 1s. 9d. for Grade B, and of 1s. 6d. for Grade C. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change: Grade A areas, 50s. 11d.; Grade B, 47s. 1d.; Grade C, 40s. 3d. per week.
			Women (baths, library, and lavatory attendants).	Increase* of 11d. per week for Grade A areas (24s. 9d. to 25s. 8d.).
	Bedfordshire ...	1 Nov.	Road labourers, gangers, and foremen employed by County Council.	Decrease of 6d. per week. Rate after change for labourers and sweepers, 32s. per week.
	Norfolk ... ..	1 Nov.	Road labourers and lengthmen employed by County Council.	Decrease of 1s. per week for winter months. Rates after change: labourers, 32s. per week; lengthmen, 35s.
	Ilford ... ..	26 Nov.	Able-bodied male manual workers	Cost-of-living sliding scale abolished and a stabilised scale of wages adopted as follows: general labourers, scavengers, stablemen, carmen, dust fillers, park labourers and keepers, cemetery labourers, 56s. (1st year) to 60s. (4th year); sewage disposal labourers, 56s. and 58s. (1st year) to 60s. and 62s. (4th year); sewer men and flushers, 58s. (1st year) to 62s. (4th year); horsekeepers, 58s. (1st year) to 60s. (2nd year); motor drivers, 60s. (1st year) to 65s. (4th year); park gardeners, 60s. (1st year) to 64s. (4th year); general labourers' gangers and roller drivers, 62s. (1st year) to 64s. (3rd year); sewage-disposal engineers and fitters, 70s. (1st year) to 75s. (4th year).¶
East Ham ... ..	1 May**	Manual workers ... ..	Increase of $\frac{1}{3}$ th of cost-of-living bonus. Rates after change: scavengers, 60s. 11d. per week; refuse collectors, 62s. 4d.**	
Southampton ...	2 July††	Able-bodied male manual workers	Increase of 2s. per week. Rate after change for general and road labourers, road sweepers and refuse collectors, 48s. 3d. per week.††	
Coatbridge ... ..	27 Nov.	Manual workers ... ..	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: general and road labourers, scavengers and refuse collectors, 1s. 1½d. per hour; carters, 1s. 2½d.	
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				
Newspaper, etc., Distribution.	Oldham and Rochdale.	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in distributing departments and clerical staff employed in news department of the wholesale newspaper and periodical distribution trade (qualified men 21 years and over).	Increase of 3s. per week (73s. to 76s.).
Waterproof Garment Manufacture.	Manchester, Salford and Warrington.	21 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of waterproof garments (except cutters, etc.).	Bonuses paid on piece price list of November, 1924, reduced from 33½ per cent. to 20 per cent. for machinists and makers, and from 45 per cent. to 40 per cent. for finishers.

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

† The extra 3d. per cwt. took effect under Industrial Court Decision No. 1160 (see p. 34).

‡ The change took effect as the result of a recommendation of the Joint Industrial Council for the Glove Making Industry.

§ In the case of woodcutting machinists in some districts, the increase was paid from an earlier date.

¶ The Authorities affected are those which follow the recommendations of the East Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities, and include:—Grade A: Chesterfield, Derby, Grimsby, Ilkeston, Leicester, Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse, Northampton, Nottingham. Grade B: Coalville, Eastwood, Grantham, Hinckley, Kettering, Kirby-in-Ashfield, Loughborough, Newark, Ripley, Rushden, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Swadlincote. Grade C: Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Shepshed, Warsop, Wigston Magna. Grade D: Daventry, Derbyshire C.C. (made change from January 11), Shardlow R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the minima quoted above.

\*\* These rates are to take effect for new employees. For workpeople already in the employment of the Council the rates are as fixed for the fourth year.

†† This increase was the result of a decision made by the Corporation in December to suspend the reduction which took effect under the sliding scale in May and to refund the amounts deducted, with retrospective effect to 1 May.

‡‡ This change was arranged in December to take effect from the date shown, in accordance with a recommendation previously made by the Joint Industrial Council for the South Midlands Area.



## BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 139 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the fourth quarter of 1925. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Local Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1924:—

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 139 towns from which returns have been received.					
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises.	Churches and Schools and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations.	TOTAL.
(a) FOURTH QUARTER OF 1925.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (758,000)	301,200	8,400	30,700	39,400	69,700	449,400
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	1,245,100	73,000	72,300	308,100	231,100	1,929,600
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,305,000)	1,087,500	108,400	119,200	85,100	165,300	1,565,500
North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000)	2,651,500	462,200	131,700	162,800	365,400	3,773,600
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (550,000)	591,900	24,400	80,600	26,500	101,600	825,000
Outer London* (1,923,000)	2,678,500	92,400	156,200	27,800	239,700	3,194,600
South-Eastern Counties (1,041,000)	1,054,500	34,300	44,100	29,000	204,200	1,366,100
South-Western Counties (433,000)	324,300	19,000	38,500	47,700	51,200	480,700
Wales and Monmouthshire (787,000)	327,000	25,800	18,700	9,100	88,300	468,900
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	991,800	80,600	26,500	135,100	286,000	1,520,000
TOTAL (15,188,000)	11,253,300	928,500	718,500	870,600	1,802,500	15,573,400
(b) FOURTH QUARTER OF 1924.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (758,000)	258,300	11,700	53,900	10,700	56,900	391,500
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	1,029,100	111,100	85,300	110,800	335,200	1,671,500
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,305,000)	1,245,900	137,800	84,000	59,500	209,700	1,736,900
North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000)	1,363,900	119,200	155,800	34,800	359,100	2,032,800
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (550,000)	557,300	7,300	89,500	119,000	73,700	846,800
Outer London* (1,923,000)	1,915,900	109,600	115,000	136,400	219,300	2,496,200
South-Eastern Counties (1,041,000)	845,000	21,000	37,900	29,300	160,300	1,093,500
South-Western Counties (433,000)	163,900	2,900	5,400	6,500	60,600	239,300
Wales and Monmouthshire (787,000)	362,400	7,300	39,400	13,800	62,000	484,900
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	835,900	228,500	46,200	142,400	340,700	1,593,700
TOTAL (15,188,000)	8,577,600	756,400	712,400	663,200	1,877,500	12,587,100

## ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during December, 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 Dec., 1925.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Dec., 1925.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to Dec., 1924.	Jan.-Dec., 1925.		1922 to Dec., 1924.	Jan.-Dec., 1925.
To Australia ... ..	2,199	56,066	26,241†	1,041	55,281	23,408
„ New Zealand ... ..	848	16,445†	9,403†	684	14,575	8,050
„ Canada: Dominion of Canada ...	1,087	12,168	9,724†	194	11,623	9,866
Province of Ontario ...	...	1,367	...	...	1,356	...
South Africa ... ..	2	...	167	...	...	79
Minor Schemes ... ..	58	3,314	2,271	84	3,105	1,834
Total ... ..	4,194	89,360†	47,806†	2,003	85,940	43,237

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

\* Particulars are not available for the London County Council Area.  
† Revised figures.

## DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning, anthrax and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during December, 1925, was 58. Five deaths were reported during the month, four due to epitheliomatous ulceration, and one due to lead poisoning. In addition, eleven cases of lead poisoning (including two deaths) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during December, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.  
Among Operatives engaged in—

Smelting of Metals ...	3
Plumbing and Soldering ...	...
Shipbreaking ...	2
Printing ...	1
Tinning of Metals ...	...
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...	1
White and Red Lead Works ...	3
Pottery* ...	6
Vitreous Enamelling ...	...
Electric Accumulator Works ...	8
Paint and Colour Works ...	...
Indiarubber Works ...	...
Coach and Car Painting ...	2
Shipbuilding ...	1
Paint used in Other Industries ...	3
Other Industries ...	2
TOTAL OF ABOVE ...	32

## HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING... 11

## (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Aniline Poisoning ...	1
Carbon Bisulphide Poisoning ...	1
TOTAL, OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ...	2

## (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.

Wool ...	3
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ...	2
TOTAL, ANTHRAX ...	5†

## (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.

Pitch ...	5
Tar ...	1
Oil ...	7
TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ...	13

## (e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.

Manufacture of Bichromates ...	2
Dyeing and Finishing ...	4
TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION ...	6

## 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 December, 1925, was 266, as compared with 201 in the previous month and with 226 in December, 1924. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 56 in December, 1925, as compared with 52 in the previous month; comparable figures for December, 1924, are not available.

## RAILWAY SERVICE.

Brakesmen and Goods Guards ...	5
Engine Drivers ...	1
Firemen ...	...
Guards (Passenger) ...	...
Permanent-Way Men ...	13
Porters ...	3
Shunters ...	3
Mechanics ...	...
Labourers ...	4
Miscellaneous ...	15
Contractors' Servants ...	1
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ...	45

## MINES.

Underground ...	105
Surface ...	11
TOTAL, MINES ...	116

## QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ... 6

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Cotton ...	9
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ...	1
Other Textiles ...	...
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ...	1
Metal Extracting and Refining ...	3
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ...	5
Metal Founding ...	3
Engineering and Machine Making ...	4
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ...	2
Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ...	5
Other Metal Trades ...	4

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):

Shipbuilding ...	10
Wood ...	7
Gas ...	1
Electric Generating Stations ...	1
Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...	5
Chemicals, etc. ...	2
Food and Drink ...	4
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...
Tanning, Currying, etc. ...	...
Rubber Trades ...	...
Other Non-Textile Industries ...	4

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

Docks, Wharves, etc. ...	12
Buildings ...	9
Warehouses and Railway Sidings ...	1
TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ...	93

Construction or Repair of: Railways ...	1
Waterworks ...	1
Use or Working of Tramways ...	4

## Total (excluding Seamen) ... 266

## SEAMEN.

Trading Vessels, Sailing ...	1
„ „ Steam ...	45
Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...	4
„ „ Steam ...	6
TOTAL, SEAMEN ...	56

## Total (including Seamen) ... 322

\* Of the six persons affected in the Pottery industry, three were females.  
† In addition to these cases reported under the Act, one case of anthrax among dock labourers was reported.



# 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 December, 1925, in the thirty-one selected areas named below, was 815,498, or 1.8 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 17.9 per cent. more than in December, 1924. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 456, 448 and 389 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in December was 677,271, or 429 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 138,227, or 664 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in December numbered 127,726, approximately the same total as in the previous month, but 3.5 per cent. more than in December, 1924. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 687,772, or 2.1 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 21.0 per cent. more than a year ago.

Twenty-two areas showed small increases and eight areas showed small decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in December, 1925, as compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago there was an increase in every area except Birmingham; the most noteworthy increases were in Newcastle (265 per 10,000), East London (236 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees (180 per 10,000), Glasgow (155 per 10,000) and Paisley and Greenock (142 per 10,000).

Selected Urban Areas.	Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in December, 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 ...	9,251	8,253	17,504	211	— 4	+ 20
North District ...	10,542	19,943	30,485	297	— 6	+ 24
Central District ...	2,408	3,424	5,832	435	+ 4	+ 77
East District ...	10,350	60,931	71,281	1,101	+ 5	+ 236
South District ...	19,386	81,555	100,941	518	...	+ 90
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	51,937	174,106	226,043	493	— 1	+ 83
West Ham ...	4,411	68,988	73,399	958	— 3	+ 3
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District	2,599	36,253	38,852	771	+ 47	+ 265
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,240	17,115	18,355	663	+ 35	+ 180
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	4,297	8,847	13,144	165	+ 4	+ 21
Wigan District ...	1,868	11,346	13,214	291	+ 1	+ 42
Manchester District	9,001	31,169	40,170	384	+ 13	+ 78
Liverpool District...	9,781	52,743	62,524	501	+ 7	+ 66
Bradford District ...	1,886	5,264	7,150	192	+ 1	+ 50
Halifax and Huddersfield ...	1,416	3,293	4,709	124	+ 3	+ 15
Leeds† ...	2,699	11,380	14,079	296	+ 11	+ 76†
Barnsley District ...	930	9,693	10,623	323	+ 11	+ 57
Sheffield ...	2,531	28,019	30,550	592	+ 24	+ 57
Hull District ...	1,822	13,153	14,975	467	— 5	+ 105
North Staffordshire	2,363	7,041	9,404	224	+ 9	+ 49
Nottingham District	2,189	11,241	13,430	285	— 6	+ 35
Leicester ...	1,218	3,079	4,297	178	+ 4	+ 14
Wolverhampton District ...	3,357	17,784	21,141	284	+ 9	+ 36
Birmingham ...	7,319	19,103	26,422	279	+ 6	— 40
Bristol District ...	2,390	13,358	15,748	379	— 6	+ 27
Cardiff and Swansea	2,542	16,500	19,042	398	— 11	+ 79
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	61,448	316,381	377,829	362	+ 8	+ 58
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	117,796	559,475	677,271	429	+ 5	+ 63
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	5,653	84,322	89,975	922	+ 44	+ 155
Paisley and Greenock District ...	901	14,238	15,139	782	+ 40	+ 142
Edinburgh ...	1,525	15,794	17,319	405	+ 19	+ 21
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	802	4,538	5,340	240	+ 9	+ 83
Aberdeen ...	578	3,318	3,896	244	+ 24	+ 19
Coatbridge and Airdrie	471	6,087	6,558	641	— 11	+ 71
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	9,930	128,297	138,227	664	+ 30	+ 104
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Dec. 1925	127,726	687,772	815,498	456	+ 8	+ 67

\* The figures include dependants, but 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 26th December, and those for Scotland to 15th December.

‡ Owing to alteration of area, comparison with a year ago is approximate only.

# 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, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Rise. Date.
UNITED KINGDOM ...	80	62	62	67	71	1926. 1 Jan.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Czechoslovakia ...	...	...	...	794	763	1925. Nov.
Denmark ...	84	88	100	110	110	July
Egypt (Cairo)†	72	52	48	58	64	Oct.
Finland ...	1,005	868	916	1,007	1,030	Nov.
France (Paris)†	197	221	260	321	363	Dec.
" (other towns)†	212§	249§	300§	351§	371	Nov.
Holland (The Hague)	...	...	67	76	72	Sept.
" (Amsterdam)	40	36	38	48	48	Sept.
Italy (Milan) ...	392	396	408	502	560	Dec.
Norway ...	133	118	148	160	121	Dec.
Spain (Madrid)†	79	72	82	90	89	Oct.
" (Barcelona)†	73	65	72	82	71	Oct.
Sweden†	79	60	59	69	64	Dec.
Switzerland ...	57	64	68	67	63	Nov.
United States ...	39	44	40	59	64	Nov.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.						
Australia ...	48	64	49†	56	56	Nov.
Canada ...	38	37	34	41	61	Dec.
India (Bombay) ...	60	48	51	52	51	Dec.
Irish Free State ...	85†	82	85	88	88	Oct.
New Zealand ...	44	42	48	51	56	Nov.
South Africa ...	16	16	17	20	17	Nov.

## 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, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Rise. Date.
UNITED KINGDOM A,B,C,D,E		84	69	70	73	75 1926. 1 Jan.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	266	329	393	...	434 Dec.
Chile ...	A,C,D,E	...	...	90	...	111 Aug.
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	99	104	114	119	119 July
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,018	990	1,032	1,094	1,107 Nov.
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	189**	231**	267**	301**	301 3rd Qr.
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	43	41	41 Dec.
Greece (Athens) ...	A,B,C,D,E	516	933	1,225	1,372	1,510 Nov.
Hungary ...	A,B,C,D	...	...	...	1900600	1900600 July
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	388	387	412	498	549 Dec.
Luxemburg ...	A,C,D	259	340	381	415	430 Nov.
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	155†	139†	151†	161†	134 Dec.
Poland (W'rsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	27	52	58 Nov.
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	90	74	71	76	75 Sept.
Switzerland ...	A,C,D	63	67	70	69	65 Nov.
United States ...	A,B,C,D,E	67†	70†	69†	74†	74 June
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.						
Australia ...	A,B	43**	56**	48**	...	55 3rd Qr.
Canada ...	A,B,D	46	46	44	46	54 Dec.
India (Bombay) ...	A,B,C,D	65	53	57	57	55 Dec.
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	85**	80	83	88	88 Oct.
South Africa ...	A,B,D,E	35	30	32	33	31 Nov.

\* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; the Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, Spain, 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, Australia and South Africa, average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; United States and Chile, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. \*\* Figure for 3rd Quarter.



## 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. 12-13 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries reference should be made to the Report issued by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C. (Statistics) No. 7.)]

## FRANCE.\*

*Unemployment in December.*—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 26th December, 1925, was 7,952 (5,179 men and 2,773 women). At the end of November the corresponding total was 11,243 and in December, 1924, 8,976. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 6,386 (3,532 for men and 2,854 for women), as compared with 8,408 at the end of November and 5,603 in December, 1924. During the last week of December the Exchanges succeeded in placing 21,613 persons in situations, including 8,637 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 3,115 foreign immigrants.

## GERMANY.

*Employment in November and December.*—The usual statistical report on employment in November was not received in time for this issue of the GAZETTE. The following particulars are from the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (published by the Federal Ministry of Labour) for 24th December, 1925.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit increased from 363,961 on 1st November to 472,830 on 15th November and 669,130 on 1st December. The increase was relatively greatest in districts predominantly agricultural, and secondly in Lippe, in which province the brick and tile industry is of outstanding importance.

Returns are available from employment exchanges in towns with 50,000 inhabitants or over. In so far as these statistics can be held to reflect the state of employment, they indicate a worsening of the situation in November as compared with October. Applications for employment increased from 769,289 in October to 872,435 in November, while vacancies offered by employers decreased from 291,282 to 205,515 in the respective periods. From certain of the more important exchanges, over 800 in number, figures are available for 15th December. On that date there were 1,407,862 applications on the "live register," as compared with 800,385 on 17th November, while situations reported as unfilled numbered 15,034 on 15th December and 19,824 on 17th November.

## AUSTRIA.

*Unemployment in November.*—According to figures given in the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics,† the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 159,250 at the end of November, as compared with 130,921 at the end of the preceding month and 113,484 at the end of November, 1924. In Vienna alone there were 94,249 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of December and 83,147 at the end of November; these figures do not include persons in receipt of "extraordinary" relief.

## BELGIUM.‡

*Unemployment in October.*—Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 136 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 598,350, show that 4,305, or 0.7 per cent., of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 0.8 per cent. in September and 0.9 per cent. in October, 1924. The total days lost through unemployment in October numbered 184,706 or 1.29 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 1.43, and in October, 1924, 1.71.

## HOLLAND.

*Unemployment in October.*—The issue of the journal of the Dutch Statistical Office§ for 30th November, 1925, contains preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 248,026 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 31st October, 1925, 15,978 (6.4 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 4,211 (1.7 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 26th September, 1925) the percentages were respectively 6.3 and 1.8, and in the week ended 25th October, 1924, 6.5 and 2.1.

## SWITZERLAND.\*

*Unemployment in November.*—On 30th November, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 15,754, as compared with 12,219 at the end of October, and 11,479 at the end of November, 1924. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 1,572, 1,859, and 1,934 respectively. There were thus on an average 1,003 applications for each 100 vacancies on 30th November, as compared with 657 on 31st October, and 594 on 30th November, 1924.

## DENMARK.†

*Unemployment in November.*—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 268,229 workpeople, 18.3 per cent. were unemployed on 27th November, 1925, as against 12.7 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 9.3 per cent. at the end of November, 1924.

## NORWAY.

*Unemployment in October.*—According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 17.0 per cent. of the total membership of 15,232 of certain trade unions making returns were unemployed on 31st October. The corresponding figure for the end of September was 12.9 per cent. and that for the end of October, 1924, 5.8 per cent.

## SWEDEN.‡

*Unemployment in November.*—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions making returns was 11.8 on 30th November, as compared with 10.1 on 31st October and 10.5 on 30th November, 1924.

## UNITED STATES.§

*Employment in November.*—Figures relating to the volume of employment in November, based on returns from 9,405 establishments in 53 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 2,937,894 employed in November, as against 2,930,660 in October, or an increase of 0.2 per cent. The aggregate wages paid for November show an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with October, and the average weekly earnings an increase of 0.2 per cent. Twenty-nine industries showed increases in the number of workpeople employed in November, the greatest gains being in the rubber boot and shoe (5.4 per cent.), cotton goods (2.3 per cent.), and iron and steel (1.5 per cent.) industries. Substantial increases in the number employed also appear in the agricultural implement, machine tool, stamped and enamelled ware, carpet, electrical machinery, shirt, and furniture industries. The greatest decreases in employment were in such distinctly seasonal industries as ice-cream (8.1 per cent.), carriages, fertilisers, and women's clothing. The boot and shoe industry shows a decrease of 3.9 per cent. and the automobile industry a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in employment.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1924, returns from 8,142 identical establishments, in 53 industries, in the two periods, show a net increase of 8.3 per cent. in the number of persons employed, and an increase of 14.2 per cent. in the aggregate wages paid and of 5.5 per cent. in average earnings. Increased employment in November, 1925, as compared with November, 1924, is shown in 41 of the 53 industries, the automobile industry showing a gain of 42.9 per cent. Other marked increases in the number employed are shown in the machine tool, agricultural implement, stamped and enamelled ware, hosiery, glass and silk goods industries.

Outstanding decreases in employment are shown in the woollen and worsted, and steam car building and repairing industries.

*Index Number of Employment, November.*—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding index number for November, 1925, is 92.5, as compared with 92.3 in October and 87.8 in November, 1924.

## AUSTRALIA.||

*Unemployment in Third Quarter of 1925.*—Returns from 372 trade unions with an aggregate membership of 376,278 show that 29,861, or 7.9 per cent., of these were out of employment in the third quarter of 1925. The corresponding figure for the 2nd quarter of 1925 was 10.2 per cent., and for the 3rd quarter of 1924, 9.5 per cent. These figures relate to persons out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter.

## CANADA.¶

*Trade Union Unemployment in November.*—At the end of November 5.7 per cent. of the members of trade unions making returns to the Canadian Department of Labour were unemployed, as compared with 5.1 per cent. at the end of October and 9.7 per cent. at the end of November, 1924.

\* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 2nd January, 1926. Paris.

† *Statistische Nachrichten*, 25th October, 1925. Vienna.

‡ *Revue du Travail*, 30th November, 1925. Brussels.

§ *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, 30th November, 1925. The Hague.

\* *Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen*, December, 1925. Berne.

† *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 21st December, 1925. Copenhagen.

‡ Information supplied by the Swedish Department for Social Affairs, Stockholm.

§ *Employment in Selected Industries*, November, 1925. Washington.

|| *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics*, September, 1925. Melbourne.

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



## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

## Truck Act, 1896.

EMPLOYER AND WORKMAN—DEDUCTION FROM WAGES—AGREED SCALE OF WAGES FOR PERFECT AND FOR DEFECTIVE ARTICLES.

SECTION 2 (1) of the Truck Act, 1896, provides as follows:—

(1) An employer shall not make any contract with any workman for any deduction from the sum contracted to be paid by the employer to the workman, or for any payment to the employer by the workman, for or in respect of bad or negligent work or injury to the materials or other property of the employer unless—

(a) the terms of the contract are contained in a notice kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to the workmen and in such a position that it may be easily seen, read, and copied by any person whom it affects; or the contract is in writing, signed by the workman; and

(b) the deduction or payment to be made under the contract does not exceed the actual or estimated damage or loss occasioned to the employer by the act or omission of the workman, or of some person over whom he has control, or for whom he has by the contract agreed to be responsible; and

(c) the amount of the deduction or payment is fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

(2) An employer shall not make any such deduction or receive any such payment unless—

(a) the deduction or payment is made in pursuance of, or in accordance with, such a contract as aforesaid; and

(b) particulars in writing showing the acts or omissions in respect of which the deduction or payment is made and the amount thereof are supplied to the workman on each occasion when a deduction or payment is made.

This was a case stated by the Shropshire Justices. The appellant was employed by the respondent as a moulder of iron pipes, on piece work. A verbal agreement was come to between the parties for the payment of 5½d. for each pipe 6 ft. long and free from defects. A scale of prices was also agreed for defective pipes, according to the nature of the defect. This arrangement was made when the appellant entered the respondent's employment. The appellant took out two summonses against his employers for making deductions from his wages contrary to the above Act. The Justices dismissed the summonses on the ground that there were no deductions from the sums contracted to be paid. The Court, in allowing the appeal, came to the conclusion that the appellant was employed to make pipes complete and free from defect, that the price to be paid for such pipes was the basis of the contract, and that in paying smaller prices for defective pipes, the respondents were making deductions "for or in respect of bad or negligent work or injury to the materials." In the opinion of the Court, it was a clear attempt to evade the provisions of the Act. The case was accordingly remitted to the Justices to convict.—*Pritchard v. The James Clay (Wellington), Ltd.*—High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division.—November 23rd, 1925.

## Coal Mines Act, 1911.

DISUSED WORKING—PRECAUTION—REQUIREMENT THAT DISUSED WORKING SHALL BE "EXAMINED AND FOUND TO BE FREE FROM ACCUMULATIONS OF WATER OR OTHER LIQUID."

This case originally came before the Justices on informations preferred against the agent and the manager of a coal mine, which contained a disused working. Within 40 yards of the disused working there was another working more than 8 ft. in width, and it was found that no bore-holes had been provided. An inrush of water from the disused working occurred and caused loss of life. The informations were laid under Section 68 of the above Act, which provides as follows:—"Where any working has approached within 40 yards of a place containing or likely to contain an accumulation of water or other liquid matter, or of disused workings (not being workings which have been examined and found to be free from accumulations of water or other liquid matter), the working shall not exceed 8 ft. in width, and there shall be constantly kept extending to a sufficient distance, not being less than 5 yards, in advance, at least one bore-hole near the centre of the working, and sufficient flank bore-holes on each side at intervals of not more than 5 yards."

The Justices came to the conclusion that, substantially, the whole of the disused working had been examined, so far as it was possible to examine it, and that it was found to be free from accumulations of water or other liquid matter. They accordingly dismissed the informations. The High Court held that it was impossible to say that the disused working had been examined and found to be free from accumulations of water, when, though it had been examined, it had been examined only in part; and the case was remitted to the Justices, with a direction to convict.—*Charlton v. Tanner and Another.*—High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division.—November 24th and 25th, 1925.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS  
1920-25.

## 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. 2064/25. Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act, and 4 (1) No. 2 Act, 1924.—Trade Dispute—Alleged Contravention of Agreement.**

LOCOMOTIVE DRIVERS' AND FIREMEN'S STRIKE—EMPLOYERS WITHDREW "SANDER'S MONEY" PREVIOUSLY GRANTED FOR SPECIAL WORK—LOCAL AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR MAINTENANCE OF "DIFFERENTIAL RATES" WHEN ISSUED—"SANDER'S MONEY" NOT A DIFFERENTIAL RATE.

A number of locomotive drivers and firemen employed at iron and steel works lost their employment on the 11th July, 1925, in circumstances which were held to constitute a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, and their claims for payment from their Association in lieu of benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1).

The employers reported that the applicants had been employed on construction work. This work having come to an end on the erection of a new plant, it was proposed by the employers that the men should revert to the basic rates provided for by an Agreement dated 10th May, 1920, made between the Iron and Steel Trades' Confederation and the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, to which the employers and employees were contracting parties. The men were accordingly given notice on the 27th June, and were offered work under the terms of the Agreement. The offer was however refused, as the men considered that they were entitled to retain the increased rates which they had received prior to the erection of the new plant, and the notices already issued took effect on the 11th July.

At the hearing of the case before the Court of Referees a representative of the applicants' Association stated that originally the men were paid in sets of three, namely, the fireman, the driver, and a lad called a sandman. During the war there was a difficulty in obtaining lads as sandmen, and the post was abolished; but the money which was paid to the sandman was divided between the driver and the fireman for performing the extra work which automatically fell upon them. It was contended before the Court of Referees that the firemen and drivers were entitled to retain "sander's money," as a section of the Agreement dated 10th May, 1920, provided that:—

"Where differential base rates are at present in force for this class of men these shall be maintained."

On the other hand the last paragraph of the Agreement contained a clause which stated:—

"No alteration to be made in these rates unless there is a change of practice or alteration in the working conditions."

It was suggested by the Court that as the employers had changed from construction work to production work there was an alteration in the working conditions or change of practice. The Association, however, did not agree that there was a change of practice, and stated that production work had never ceased. At the date of the Agreement the firm were engaged on production work, and when the new steel works were erected production work was carried on under the same conditions as had existed when the Agreement was made in May, 1920. It was submitted by the Association that the applicants had been in receipt of differential base rates, and were entitled to retain them in accordance with the Agreement. The employers' proposals that the men should revert to the basic wage quoted in the Agreement was a contravention of that Agreement, and the applicants in the circumstances were entitled to benefit under the provisions of Section 4 (1) of the 1924 Act.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be allowed. The Court were unanimously of the opinion that the applicants had lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, but that the dispute was brought about by the employers acting in a manner so as to contravene the terms of the Agreement made in 1920 between the North of England Iron and Steel Manufacturers' Association and the Iron and Steel Trades' Confederation.

The Insurance Officer declined to agree with the Court's recommendation, and submitted the case to the Umpire.

Information obtained from the employers subsequent to the Court's recommendation elicited the fact that, owing to the difficult railway system obtaining at the firm's old works prior to their demolition, it was necessary before the war to man certain loco-

\* 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.



motives with a driver, fireman, and sander. As a result of the war there was a shortage of boys as sanders, and it was found difficult regularly to man the locomotives with three hands. An arrangement embodied in a works Agreement dated 6th September, 1918, was therefore made with the men, whereby an extra sum was given to drivers and firemen when working on locomotives on which it was usual to employ a sander. The Agreement of 10th May, 1920, fixed uniform base datal shift rates for locomotive drivers and firemen employed at associated works on the North-East Coast, the employers' steel works being included. The Agreement did not contain any references to a third man being employed on locomotives, neither did it purport to deal with a sander's allowance. It was provided, however, that where differential base shift rates were in force at the date of the Agreement for these classes of men the differences should be maintained. This meant that at a works where there were three base datal shift rates for drivers—viz., 6s., 6s. 2d., and 6s. 4d.—the Agreement provided that such differential in the base rate should be maintained. As the Agreement fixed a base rate of 6s. 5d. per shift for locomotive drivers, the new rates in accordance with the Agreement would become 6s. 5d., 6s. 7d., and 6s. 9d., thus maintaining the base rate differential of twopence. This equally applied to locomotive firemen, whose base shift rate under the Agreement was fixed at 5s. 9d. When giving effect to the Agreement the differential base rates in force at the old steel works at the time of the Agreement were maintained. These differences had nothing to do with the sander's allowance, and as the Agreement was made at a time when the old steel works were in operation, with its complicated and difficult railway system, no alteration was made in regard to the works Agreement dated 6th September, 1918, in respect of the sander's allowance. It was decided to demolish the old plant, and the locomotive drivers and firemen were employed in connection with the erection of new steel works. As the complicated railway system still existed the extra money in lieu of the sander was continued. When the new steel works had been completed, the railway system around the works had been entirely remodelled and simplified. Formal and proper notice was then given to the men concerned, that, due to the complete change of practice and alteration in the working conditions which would obtain at the new steel works, the men would come strictly within the terms of the Agreement of 10th May, 1920. The men, acting under the instructions of their Association, refused to work under these conditions, and the stoppage of work took place on the 11th July.

The employers therefore held that production ceased when the old steel works were demolished, and that the new steel works when completed were an entirely new plant and in no way compared with the old steel works. It would be inaccurate to say that when the new steel works started up there was a reversion to production on the same conditions as were in force at the time the Agreement of May, 1920, was made. This could not be so, as the steel works then in existence had ceased to exist.

An oral hearing of the case subsequently took place before the Umpire and the following decision was given:—

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

"The applicants lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at the steel works at which they were employed, but they claim that the stoppage was due to their late employers so acting as to contravene the terms or provisions of an Agreement made in May, 1920, between a group of employers (including the applicants' late employers) and the Association of which the applicants are members. By that Agreement the rates per shift were agreed at 6s. 5d. for locomotive drivers and 5s. 9d. for locomotive firemen, and it was agreed that 'where differential base rates are at present—i.e., 2nd May, 1920—in force for these classes of men the differences shall be maintained.'

"It appears that it is common practice to have differential rates for both drivers and firemen. Thus at the works in question there had for many years been three grades of drivers, the second grade getting 4d. more than the standard rate and the first grade 2d. more than the standard rate per shift, and there were corresponding differences for the higher grades of firemen. The Agreement provided for the maintenance of these 'differences'—that is to say, the difference of 2d. and 4d. from the standard rates of 6s. 5d. per shift.

"It appears, however, that at the works in question drivers and firemen had, under a works Agreement made in 1918, had a substantial addition made to their base rates when engaged on work for which they had previously been entitled to have the assistance of a sander. This addition was a flat rate addition to the differential rates for drivers and another flat rate addition to the differential rates for firemen, and that additional rate has been spoken of as 'sander's money.' The Agreement provided that 'men working on locomotives which are entitled to sanders but have to work without them shall receive: drivers, 9d. per shift, plus war bonus on one-fourth of a shift; firemen, 1s. 4d. per shift, plus war bonus on one-fourth of a shift.

"As the additions were on flat-rate scales for drivers and for firemen the differences between the several grades of drivers were still 2d. and 4d. and the differences between the grades of firemen were still 2d. and 4d.

"In July of this year the employers determined to discontinue the payment of sander's money and to pay only the standard base rates of 6s. 5d. and 5s. 9d., together with the grade differences of 2d. and 4d. (together with the sliding-scale percentages provided for by the Agreement of May, 1920). I express no opinion as to whether the change of circumstances justified this alteration; I have only to consider whether by making it they were so acting as to contravene the terms of the Agreement of 1920.

"The applicants contend that the addition of sander's money constituted a differential rate within the meaning of that expression as used in the Agreement of 1920. The employers contend that sander's money was in effect an addition to the base rate payable in special circumstances, but that the higher rate resulting from this addition was not a 'differential rate.'

"Either intention is plausible, but having regard to the general scope of the Agreement of 1920, I think the term 'differential rates' was not intended to cover flat-rate additions to the base rates made in special circumstances such as those in which sander's money was paid, and it follows that, in my opinion, the applicants' late employers are not shown to have been so acting as to contravene the terms of the Agreement of 1920, and accordingly the applicants are not entitled to relief under Section 4 (1) of the Act of 1924."

#### Case No. 2118/25. Section 7 (i) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended)—Unable to obtain Suitable Employment.

REFUSAL OF EMPLOYMENT AS APPRENTICE DRILLERS AND SHIPWRIGHTS—APPLICANTS ALLEGED PARENTS WOULD NOT SIGN INDENTURES, AND THAT WAGES OFFERED WERE LOWER THAN THOSE WHICH THEY HAD OBTAINED AS LABOURERS.

A number of applicants aged between 16 and 17 years who had been employed as labourers were offered on various dates in July, 1925, employment as apprentice drillers and shipwrights with a firm of shipbuilders. The standard wages of 17s. per week for drillers and 7s. 6d. per week for shipwrights were offered, and the applicants were required to sign indentures. They failed to accept the offers of work, and their claims for benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (i) (iv) of the Act of 1920 (as amended).

Some of the applicants stated that their parents were unwilling to sign the articles of indentures, and they were therefore unable to obtain the employment offered. Others contended that the wages offered were lower than they had previously obtained as labourers, and there was a further objection to the offer on the ground that they would have to pay premiums. The majority of the applicants had either been only intermittently employed or had had long spells of unemployment.

*Recommended* by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicants should not be forced to enter into apprenticeships against their wishes.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He was of the opinion that the offers of work should have been accepted, as the applicants had been only intermittently employed prior to the offer.

An oral hearing of the case, at which the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation were represented, took place before the Umpire on the 4th November, and the following decision was given:—

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

"These applicants were offered and refused employment as apprentices with a well known firm of shipbuilders. They had for considerable periods been unemployed, or not continuously employed; and the question is whether they fail to show that they were unable to obtain suitable employment.

"It has been contended (i) that they were unable to obtain the employment offered because they could not induce their fathers to sign the indentures of apprenticeship; (ii) that they were unable to obtain the employment, or that the employment was unsuitable, because they would have had to pay premiums; (iii) that the employment was unsuitable because it was at a rate of wages lower than those which they might reasonably have expected to obtain having regard to those which they habitually obtained in their usual employments in the district (Section 7 (1) (b) of the Act of 1920).

"As to these points:—(i) The prospective employer did not require the applicants to bind themselves by indentures at once. They would have been engaged for a probationary period of 6 months, and would only have been asked to bind themselves by indentures after that period. Further, I am told that the prospective employers do not insist on the fathers or guardians of apprentices becoming parties to the indentures in cases where they are unwilling to do so, and in any event the applicants do not show that they either tried to get their parents to consent to their becoming indentured, or that they inquired whether the prospective employers would take them without their parents becoming parties to their indentures. (ii) It would not have been necessary for the applicants to pay down any money as premiums. The premium, which may be better described as a deposit by way of security, is provided by small deductions from wages, and is at the end of the term repaid to the apprentice unless he has misconducted himself. (iii) Some of the applicants had for a time received wages at higher rates than those offered, but in no case is there sufficient evidence that they had any usual occupation, or had habitually obtained any rate of wages."

#### Case No. 2140/25. Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act, and 4 (1) of the No. 2 Act, 1924.—Trade Dispute—Contravention of National Agreement.

MINERS' DISPUTE—CONTINUATION OF WORK ON DAY-TO-DAY CONTRACTS AFTER PRIME MINISTER'S SETTLEMENT HELD TO BE A BREACH OF THAT SETTLEMENT, WHICH PROVIDED FOR RESUMPTION OF WORK ON CONDITIONS OBTAINING PRIOR TO DISPUTE, VIZ., CONTRACTS DETERMINABLE BY 14 DAYS' NOTICE.

A number of miners employed at a colliery in Durham lost their employment on the 17th August, 1925, in circumstances which were



held to constitute a trade dispute; and the claims for benefit of two applicants, taken as a test case, were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the 1920 Act.

The colliery owners had decided early in July to close down the mine, owing to the fact that it was being worked at a heavy loss and on the 6th July, 14 days' notice terminating contracts on the 20th July were issued to all miners. Subsequently, however, there was a temporary improvement in trade due to the demand for coal occasioned by the threat of a national stoppage on the 31st July. The employers accordingly made a temporary arrangement with the men whereby work on day-to-day contracts was continued until the 31st July. Towards the end of July the employers put forward certain proposals for new conditions of employment which were to operate after the 31st July. Proposals involving reductions in certain local basic rates were also made; and it was agreed on the 31st July that, pending negotiations on the proposed alterations in basic rates, the men should continue to work on day-to-day contracts. On the 12th August the miners gave notice to the employers that further negotiations could not be carried on until the men were put back on fortnightly contracts, and placed on the same basis as had existed prior to the termination of their notices on the 20th July. The colliery did not, however, at once close down; but shortly afterwards a dispute arose with regard to the payment to two sets of men of the minimum wage to which it was claimed they were entitled. On the 16th August the miners threatened an immediate stoppage of work unless payment was made to these two sets of men, and as the employers did not comply the pit was laid idle on the 17th August.

The case was heard before a Court of Referees on the 1st September, and both the employers and the workpeople were represented.

The Miners' Association contended that the employers' refusal to put the men back on fortnightly contracts was a violation of the Agreement made between the Prime Minister and the Coal Owners' Association on the 31st July. The employers, on the other hand, stated that they had no intention of closing the colliery if an alteration in the basic rates could have been agreed upon, and that the stoppage of work was due to the dispute about the minimum wage payable to two sets of men. Although the workers had refused on the 12th August to continue negotiations unless day-to-day contracts had been withdrawn, the employers did not regard that as the cause of the stoppage.

The Court by a majority recommended that the claims for benefit should be disallowed, as they were satisfied that the applicants had lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute. They held that the provisions of Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance No. 2 Act, 1924, did not apply, as the employers had not contravened the terms or provisions of any existing Agreement to which the employers and employees were contracting parties. The Umpire in a decision (No. 1937/25) given on the 19th October agreed with the Court of Referees that benefit should be disallowed. He stated that in his view the dispute as to the minimum wage was the immediate cause of the stoppage on the 17th August, although there was no doubt dissatisfaction on the question of working day-to-day contracts.

As a result of representations subsequently made on behalf of the miners, a further oral hearing took place before the Umpire on the 6th November, and the following revised decision was given:—

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

"Since I gave my decision on this case there have been brought to my knowledge new facts which throw an entirely new light on the circumstances in which the applicants lost employment on the 17th of August, 1925. These facts consist of letters which passed between the men's representative and the employers' representative in July and August.

"It is unfortunate that when I heard the case on the 9th October only one of these letters was produced. Until I saw the whole correspondence I did not appreciate the importance of that letter and its bearing upon the questions in issue. But I have power under Section 11 of the Act of 1920 to revise my decision 'on new facts being brought to my knowledge,' and I propose to do so.

"It is now clear that on the 3rd July the employers gave notice that they had definitely decided to close down the colliery on the 20th July owing to the fact that it was being worked at a heavy loss, and accordingly on the 6th July they gave fortnightly notices terminating all contracts. There was at that time no question of any alteration of wages or rates and no trade dispute of any kind.

"On the 24th July the employers found that, owing to the possibility of a national stoppage at the end of July, there was an unexpected temporary demand for coal of the kind which they produced, and they proposed to the men to continue working till 31st July on day-to-day contracts. It was clearly understood that this was a temporary arrangement, though there was a possibility of re-opening after 31st July if such arrangements were made under the national wages Agreement of 1924 as would allow the employers to do so. Both sides were most emphatic that this was merely a temporary arrangement, and that the applicants' employment and work at the colliery would (unless such national arrangement were come to) come to an end on 31st July.

"On the 29th July, however, the employers proposed certain new base rates, the acceptance of which would enable them to re-open the colliery upon the conclusion of the temporary arrangement on 31st July; and on the 31st the men agreed to continue working on day-to-day contracts on the old terms whilst negotiations with regard to these new base rates were being conducted.

"On the 12th August the men gave notice that they could not

continue negotiations until they were put back on fortnightly contracts, in accordance with the terms of the national Agreement generally known as 'the Baldwin Settlement,' the effect of which I considered in Decision No. 1969/25 in connection with the Boldon Colliery.

"This letter I read as an ultimatum, although there was no threat of a stoppage of work in so many words. It is obvious that the men meant that they would not continue to work on day-to-day contracts. No answer was given to this letter, and a stoppage of work was therefore imminent and might have begun any day.

"Meanwhile a minor dispute arose with regard to the non-payment to two sets of men of the minimum wage to which it was thought they were entitled, and on the 16th August the secretary of the miners' lodge demanded payment of these wages and threatened an immediate stoppage of work unless this demand was acceded to. The demand was not acceded to by the employers, and the pit was laid idle on the 17th. That dispute was settled within two days, but the colliery was not re-opened and the stoppage of work continued. This minor dispute was, therefore, the immediate occasion of the stoppage, and on the evidence before me on the 9th October I held that the stoppage was due to that dispute.

"I have to consider in the light of the correspondence before me to which of these two disputes the stoppage of work was really due, and in my opinion it was due to the larger dispute arising out of the Baldwin Settlement, though it was accelerated by the dispute about the minimum wages. I am of opinion from a perusal of the correspondence that after 12th August a stoppage of work was inevitable unless the employers agreed to restore the fortnightly contracts, and I am very doubtful whether the dispute about the minimum wages would have led to a stoppage of work but for the other question. The minimum wages dispute was like the trivial incidents which have sometimes resulted in wars, the real causes of which were larger questions of vital importance to the combatants. That being so, the further question arises whether the employers by refusing to restore the fortnightly contracts were so acting as to contravene the terms of the Baldwin Settlement.

"The meaning of that settlement was that in collieries which continued working under it the men should, as the applicants put it, be put back 'in the same status' that they enjoyed before their notices expired on July 20th. It appears to me to be immaterial that in this case the fortnightly notices expired on 20th July and in the Boldon case on 31st July.

"After the Baldwin Settlement work was continued, but not in accordance with the terms of that settlement. If it was continued at all under that settlement the men were entitled to the full benefit of the settlement and could claim to work, if at all, upon the terms as to wages of the national wages Agreement of 1924, and subject to the normal and customary conditions as to notice, as if the notices expiring 20th July had never been given.

"In my opinion, therefore, the applicants are, by virtue of Section 4 (1) of the Act of 1924, not disqualified for receipt of benefit under Section 8 (1) of the Act of 1920."

#### Case No. 2171/25. Section 7 (i) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended).—Unable to obtain Suitable Employment.

SEAMEN FAILED TO ACCEPT JOBS VACANT ON OUTGOING VESSELS  
—CONTENTION THAT THEY WERE PREVENTED BY FORCE OR  
FEAR OF VIOLENCE FROM ACCEPTING VACANCIES NOT UPHOLD.

The claims for benefit of a number of seamen and firemen were disallowed as from the 27th August, 1925, on the ground that suitable employment being available they did not satisfy the statutory conditions within the meaning of Section 7 (i) (iv) of the Act of 1920 (as amended).

It appeared that on the 27th August there were a number of vacancies for firemen and seamen on two vessels of the White Star Line at Liverpool Docks. On that date a number of men were given introduction cards to report to the Company in respect of vacancies at appropriate ratings; but on the next day the applicants attended at the Exchange to sign the unemployed register in the usual way. The applicants stated that owing to the seamen's strike they were prevented by pickets from signing on, and they were afraid of bodily injury in the event of their attempting to approach the boats. Their introduction cards were collected and retained by the strikers. On the other hand some of the men who had received introduction cards had accepted employment and sailed with these boats at the scheduled time. It was necessary, however, to import crews from other towns, in spite of the fact that there was a large number of suitable men on the register at the Exchange and a larger number of men were given introduction cards than were necessary to man the ships.

It was contended on behalf of the applicants that the vacancies offered were caused by a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute and that they did not therefore constitute offers of suitable employment within the meaning of Section 7 (1) (a) of the Act. It was further contended that the stoppage of work should not be held to be confined to one particular ship, but judged from the point of view of a national stoppage.

*Recommended* by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed. The Chairman pointed out that the applicants' cases were not those of men who had been thrown out of employment by a dispute, as every seaman's employment terminated at the end of a voyage, but of men who had declined an offer of employment. The men were offered employment on vessels which sailed at their scheduled time, and no stoppage of work had therefore existed. He was of the opinion that reasonable grounds for fear or intimidation had not been proved, as a number of men had



actually sailed at the material dates, and no actual violence in any particular case had been known or adduced.

An oral hearing of the case subsequently took place before the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"I agree with the Chairman of the Court of Referees that the question to be determined in these cases is whether the applicants are shown to have been unable to obtain suitable employment.

"Neither Section 8 (1) nor Section 7 (1) (a) of the Act of 1920 is applicable.

"If the applicants were really trying to get work and were prevented by force or by reasonable fear of violence from getting it there would be no ground for disallowance of benefit. It is a question of fact to be determined by evidence in each case.

"I am informed that there was a good deal of hostile picketing and some actual violence in Liverpool, but the Court of Referees are at least as well able as I am to judge whether these applicants were really thereby prevented from getting employment, and I cannot say that they came to a wrong conclusion."

**Case No. 2443/25. Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act, and 4 (1) of the No. 2 Act, 1924.—Trade Dispute—Alleged Contravention of Agreement.**

**SHALE MINERS' DISPUTE—PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTION IN WAGES REFUSED BY MINERS, WHO CLAIMED THAT *status quo* AS REGARDS WAGES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, PENDING DECISION OF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY—CONTENTION THAT THE MINERS' POSITION WAS GOVERNED BY AN AGREEMENT MADE IN 1919 AND THAT EMPLOYERS HAD CONTRAVENED SUCH AGREEMENT NOT UPHELD—NO EVIDENCE OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANY AGREEMENT.**

A number of miners employed in the shale oil industry in Scotland lost their employment on the 10th November, 1925, owing to a dispute on the question of a reduction in wages. Their claims for benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Act of 1920.

Prior to the stoppage, the shale oil companies had been conducting operations at a loss. It was originally intended to close down that part of the mines where the heaviest losses had been incurred; but a substantial order received for a quantity of fuel oil made it possible to carry on, provided that the workers were prepared to accept reduced wages. Negotiations with regard to the conditions under which work should continue took place between Scottish Oils, Ltd., representing the shale oil industry, and the National Union of Shale Miners and Oil Workers, the outcome of which was that the shale oil companies intimated that as from the 11th November a 10 per cent. reduction in wages would take effect. It was subsequently arranged that a ballot of the men should be taken upon a proposal that work should be resumed at the new rates, pending the setting up of a Committee of Inquiry, which would afford both the shale oil companies and the Union an opportunity of demonstrating whether it was possible to continue work at a profit, without the proposed reduction in wages. The miners concerned, however, refused to accept any reduction in wages, and work was discontinued on the 10th November.

A representative of the National Union of Shale Miners and Oil Workers who attended the hearing of the case before the Court of Referees stated on behalf of the applicants that the stoppage of work was due to a failure on the part of the employers and workers to come to an agreement on a proposed reduction of wages, but contended that the applicants were entitled to the relief afforded by Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance No. 2 Act, 1924, on the ground that the employers had violated an Agreement or understanding made in September, 1919, and had also violated a time-honoured Trade Union principle or practice, by asking that the proposed 10 per cent. reduction in wages should be submitted to arbitration without a continuance of work on the *status quo* rates.

The Company known as Scottish Oils, Ltd., had been formed as a result of the amalgamation of five other Scottish oil companies. At a meeting held in London on the 9th September, 1919, between Scottish Oils, Ltd., and the then Federation of Shale Oil Workers, the Chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (the controlling company) when referring to the amalgamation, stated that the expenses of administration of the Scottish oil industry would be less than when five companies were in operation. Moreover it was expected to effect considerable economies by keeping the refineries working at full capacity, by adding to the shale oil produced a further quantity of imported crude oil. The shale miners and workers had every opportunity of sharing in the prosperity which it was hoped would be gained for the industry, that is to say, the refining industry giving up the word "shale," as it would become a refining industry, to carry on the business of refining shale and other oils.

The mine workers accepted the statements made as to the future prosperity of the industry in good faith; and as a result of these statements, and following upon interviews between the Secretary of the Shale Miners' Association and the managing director of Scottish Oils, Ltd., a verbal Agreement or understanding was arrived at regarding the terms under which the workers would continue. Acting on the good faith of that understanding the workers had conceded a substantial point, in that, when the coal miners had received a 12½ per cent. increase at the time of the reduction of their working hours from 8 to 7 per day under the Sankey award, the shale miners, by ballot, not only decided to forego such an increase, but increased their rate of output so that the tonnage remained as high for a seven as it was for an eight hour day. In spite of the promises and inducements made at the London meeting in 1919 the

employers now sought to regulate the workers' position solely by the financial aspect of the shale operations; and this it was claimed was a violation of the Agreement of September, 1919.

On the other hand it was stated on behalf of Scottish Oils, Ltd., that there was no knowledge of any verbal agreement such as had been quoted by the National Union of Shale Miners and Oil Workers. There had from time to time been meetings between the management of the Company and the workers' representatives, but as far as was known no agreement was ever arrived at. Serious financial losses had been sustained on the shale operations, and the Company could not agree to work being resumed at the old rates of wages pending the findings of the Committee which it was proposed to set up.

**Recommended** by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be disallowed. The Court, after discussion of the definition of a trade dispute under Section 47 (1) (c) of the 1920 Act, and the bearing on the case of Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, and of the decision given on Case No. 8730, unanimously came to the conclusion that the applicants had lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute. They were satisfied that there had been a trade dispute, because the employers had intimated a proposed reduction of 10 per cent. in wages, and the men's refusal to accept that reduction resulted in the stoppage of work. The Court were further of the opinion that there was no written or verbal Agreement arrived at in September, 1919, and consequently the employers had not violated one, although they had apparently refused to recognise the general practice of maintaining the *status quo* in the matter of wages pending the negotiations for a settlement. The shale miners' wages since the amalgamation of the five shale oil companies had ceased to be regulated by the coal mines Agreements and were decided by Agreements between the Company and the Shale Workers' Union. The opinion voiced by the Chairman of the meeting in London in 1919 had no doubt been expressed with a view to putting the industry on its feet, and led the workers to believe that the introduction of imported crude oil would solve the financial problems of the industry.

The Association appealed to the Umpire, and an oral hearing took place on the 15th December. It was contended that in refusing to continue work on the *status quo*, pending arbitration about the proposed reduction of wages, the employers were acting contrary to all precedents, and that this was in substance acting in a manner so as to contravene the terms of an Agreement.

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

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

"I have no alternative but to find that the applicants' loss of employment was by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute, and it is not shown that the stoppage was due to an employer so acting as to contravene the terms or provisions of any agreement of such a kind as is referred to in Section 4 (1) of the Act of 1924."

## BANKING INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME (FURTHER AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1925.

**The Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Further Amendment) Order, 1925, dated December 11, 1925,\* made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30), and the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924 (14 & 15 Geo. 5, c. 30).**

WHEREAS by the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) Order, 1924, the Special Scheme for the Banking Industry (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme") was approved by the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister"); and the Banking Unemployment Insurance Board is the body charged with the administration of the Scheme. And whereas by the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Order, 1925, and the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Variation and Amendment) Special Order, 1925, the Order aforesaid was varied and amended:

And whereas it is provided by subsection (2) of section eight of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, that for the purpose of securing in the case of a special scheme that like rates of benefit shall be payable to the persons to whom the Scheme applies as are payable under that Act and that the benefits under the Scheme shall otherwise be not less favourable than those provided by the general provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1924 (but for no other purpose), the Minister may after consultation with the body charged with the administration of the Scheme, notwithstanding anything in section eighteen of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, by Order vary or amend the provisions of the Scheme, and that any such Order may provide for consequential amendments as to the rates of contribution and otherwise:

And whereas it is provided by subsection (4) of the said section eight, that the power of the Minister under subsection (9) of section eighteen of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, to vary or amend the provisions of a scheme made under that section may, except in the case of provisions relating to rates of contribution, rates or duration of benefit, or the constitution of the body charged with the administration of the Scheme, be exercised by Order instead of by special Order:

And whereas application has been made to the Minister for the variation and amendment of the provisions of the Scheme:

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1925, No. 1322.



Now therefore the Minister, after consultation with the Banking Unemployment Insurance Board, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the sections aforesaid and all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:—

1. The following amendments shall be made in the said Scheme:—

(i) Sub-clause (iii) of clause (1) of Part IV of the Scheme as varied and amended shall have effect as if for the words "he shall nevertheless be entitled to receive unemployment benefit" there were substituted the words "the Board may, if the Minister approves, and shall, if the Minister so requires, authorise that person to receive unemployment benefit."

(ii) Clause (2) of Part IV of the Scheme as varied and amended shall have effect as if in the last paragraph of such clause the 30th day of June, 1927, were therein substituted for the first day of October, 1925.

(iii) Clause (1) of the Second Schedule to the Scheme as varied and amended shall have effect as though for the words "of any" in the first paragraph thereof there were substituted the words "after the first week of a", and as if the words "after the first three days of unemployment" were omitted.

2. This Order may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Further Amendment) Order, 1925. And this Order, the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) Order, 1924, the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Order, 1925, and the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Variation and Amendment) Special Order, 1925, may be cited together as the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) Orders, 1924 and 1925, and shall be construed as one.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this eleventh day of December, 1925.

T. W. PHILLIPS,  
Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

### INSURANCE INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME (AMENDMENT) SPECIAL ORDER, 1925.

**The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Special Order, 1925,\* dated November 28, 1925, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).**

WHEREAS the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") by the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) Order, 1921, approved for the purpose of Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, a Special Scheme for the Insurance Industry:

And whereas the Minister has by the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Orders, 1922 and 1923, the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Special Order, 1923, the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Variation and Amendment) Special Order, 1923, and the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Order, 1925, varied and amended the said special scheme, which as so varied and amended is hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme":

And whereas application has been made to the Minister for the further variation and amendment of the provisions of the Scheme:

Now, therefore, the Minister, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the said Section 18 and all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Special Order:—

1. The variations and amendments of the provisions of the Scheme contained in the Schedule hereto shall have effect as from the 1st day of January, 1926.

2. This Order may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Special Order, 1925.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 28th day of November, 1925.

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

#### SCHEDULE.

The following provisions shall be substituted for those of Part i (Rates) of the Contribution Table contained in Clause 12 of the Scheme:—

For each quarter of a year—

in the case of male insured persons ... eight shillings and eightpence.

in the case of female insured persons ... seven shillings and sevenpence.

This Special Order having lain before both Houses of Parliament for 20 days in accordance with Section 36 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, duly came into force.

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1925, No. 1314.

## EXCHANGE OF UNUSED INSURANCE STAMPS OF OLD ISSUE FOR THOSE OF NEW ISSUE.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made between the Postmaster General and the Ministers of Health and Labour whereby unused health and unemployment insurance stamps of the denominations which were in use up to the 4th January, 1926, and for which employers have no further use, will, if they have not been affixed to any material, be accepted at any Post Office in exchange or part exchange for health and pensions insurance stamps and unemployment insurance stamps of the new values. National health insurance stamps will not be accepted in exchange for unemployment insurance stamps. These arrangements will remain in force up to 31st January, 1926.

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

### Recent Proceedings.

#### (A).—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

**WOMEN PENSION OFFICERS.**—Women Pension Officers' Association v. Customs and Excise Department. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for increase, and monetary recognition of temporary service prior to establishment. *Decision.*—Having regard to the fact that the basic salary scales of Women Pension Officers were agreed so recently as 1922 by the Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council, and to some uncertainty as to the future of the grade, the time is considered inopportune to revise the salary scale. The question of recruitment at the minimum of the scale was one of the matters which was discussed on the Departmental Whitley Council in 1921 and 1922 before the agreement was reached, and a case has not been made out for now re-opening this matter. Issued 4th December, 1925. (1146.)

**FACTORY FOREMEN AND FOREWOMEN.**—POST OFFICE STORES DEPARTMENT, LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM.—The Federation of Post Office Supervising Officers v. The Post Office. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court determined basic salary scales as follows:—

- |                |                   |             |           |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| (1) London     | Factory Foremen   | £170—10—280 | per annum |
|                | Factory Forewomen | £100—5—150  | " "       |
| (2) Birmingham | Factory Foremen   | £150—10—260 | " "       |
|                | Factory Forewomen | £110—5—160  | " "       |

Operative on 1st November 1925. Issued 7th December, 1925. (1147.)

**GENERAL FOREMEN OF WORKS AND FOREMEN OF WORKS, ADMIRALTY.**—Admiralty Works Department Subordinate Officers' Association v. Admiralty. *Difference.*—Salary scales—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—The Court re-adjusted basic salary scales as follows:—

- |                               |                    |            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| (1) Foremen of Works,         | £140—7½—200—10—245 | per annum; |
| (2) General Foremen of Works, | £230—15—300        | per annum. |

Operative on 1st November, 1925. Issued 8th December, 1925. (1149.)

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY—ELECTRIFIED TRACK.**—Electrical Trades Union v. The Southern Railway. *Difference.*—Claim for extra pay—sub-station attendants controlling automatic sub-stations. *Decision.*—The Court fixed, by way of extra remuneration, the sum of 2s. per week of 48 hours in the case of sub-station attendants in charge at Hampton Court, and the sum of 3s. per week of 48 hours in the case of sub-station attendants in charge at Effingham Junction.

Operative as from the beginning of the first full pay period in November, 1925. Issued 10th December, 1925. (1153.)

**SAW MILLING INDUSTRY—MIDLAND AREA.**—The Trade Union Side v. The Employers' Side of the Midland Joint Committee for the Saw Milling Industry. *Difference.*—Interpretation and application of cost-of-living sliding scale agreement. *Decision.*—The Court issued a Schedule setting out the method of application of the Sliding Scale. Issued 12th December, 1925. (1154.)

**RAILWAY SHOPMEN—TUBERS, STAYERS, STRIPPERS—EASTLEIGH.**—The Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders v. The Southern Railway. *Difference.*—To determine the rate applicable to men graded as tubers, stayers and strippers who prior to the date of the operation of the terms of Decision 728, were, under the provisions of a previous award, rated and paid as riveters. *Decision.*—The Court have no authority to determine this question, which is really on the interpretation of the Supplemental Award of 29th June, 1918. Application may be made to the Tribunal that issued the award, for its interpretation on this point, or the question may be raised as a difference between the parties under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Issued 14th December, 1925. (1155.)

**PENSIONER CLERKS, ADMIRALTY.**—Staff Side v. Official Side, Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. *Difference.*—Salary scales—Application for increase—Comparison with Admiralty General Departmental Clerical Class. *Decision.*—The Court decided that the present scales should not be disturbed. Issued 14th December, 1925. (1156.)



**LAMINATED SPRING TRADE.**—The Laminated and Coil Spring Workers' Union v. The Laminated Railway Spring Manufacturers' Association. *Difference.*—Piecework prices when working special alloy steels.—Spring Fitters and Vicemen. *Decision.*—The Court decided that springs made from special alloy steels with plates up to and including half-an-inch thick shall, if water immersed, be paid at the rate of threepence per cwt. extra. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of issue. Issued 16th December, 1925. (1160.)

**WHOLESALE PROVISION TRADE EMPLOYEES.**—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. Peter Keevil & Sons, Ltd., London. *Difference.*—Rates of Pay and working conditions. *Decision.*—The Court determined the various items of the claim on which the parties were unable to agree. Operative as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of issue. Issued 17th December, 1925. (1162.)

**PALESTINE WINE AND TRADING COMPANY.**—The National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers v. The Palestine Wine and Trading Company, Ltd. *Difference.*—Rates of wages and conditions of service. *Decision.*—The Court determined the minimum rate of wages, overtime rates, hours of labour and holidays. Operative as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of issue. Issued 17th December, 1925. (1163.)

**CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION.**—The National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. Edmund Nuttall, Sons & Co., Ltd. *Difference.*—Claim for payment of Class I rates under the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board Working Rule Agreement of 22nd March, 1921, on Bartley Green Reservoir Contract (Birmingham). *Decision.*—The Court were of opinion that a special rate should be fixed under the Working Rule Agreement and fixed the rate of 1s. 2d. per hour. Operative as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of issue. Issued 21st December, 1925. (1164.)

**CHECKERS, PACKERS AND PORTERS—ARMY FORMS DEPÔT OF THE WAR OFFICE.**—The Trade Union Side v. The Official Side of the Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council for Government Departments. *Difference.*—Claim for increase in wages. *Decision.*—The Court decided that the claim is one that cannot be conceded. Issued 21st December, 1925. (1165.)

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

**SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING: \*SOUTHAMPTON.**—Ship-constructors' and Shipwrights' Association v. Shipbuilding Employers' Federation. *Difference.*—As to the application of Award of Board of Arbitration dated 6th June, 1924.\* The Union contended that the 3s. per week increase then granted did not include the 1s. 6d. per week extra previously received by their members when working on ship repairs at Southampton. The employers maintained that the allowance was merged in the increase. The other members of the Board being no longer available, the matter was referred to Sir Wm. W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman) for a ruling. *Award.*—The amount of 1s. 6d. per week is merged in the 3s. per week increase granted by the Board. Dated 8th December, 1925.

**SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING: TEES AND HARTLEPOOL.**—Ship-constructors' and Shipwrights' Association v. Furness Shipbuilding Company, Ltd., Haverton Hill on Tees. *Difference.*—As to the number of lineal feet of stamping ship's wood decks that should constitute a day's work of 8½ hours. Mr. D. C. Cummings, C.B.E., appointed under Section 2 (2) (b) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as Arbitrator to determine the matter. *Award.*—The number of lineal feet of stamping ship's wood decks that should constitute a day's work of 8½ hours shall be 130 feet. Issued 16th December, 1925.

## (C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

**ORGAN BUILDING: NATIONAL.**—National Union of Musical Instrument Makers v. Federation of Master Organ Builders. *Difference.*—Claim for 4d. per hour increase in wages. *Settlement.*—Immediate advance of ½d. per hour, with further increase of ½d. per hour on mutually satisfactory settlement of certain differences. Settled 4th December, 1925.

**TOBACCO AND CIGARETTE TRADE: LONDON.**—Tobacco Workers' Union v. Godfrey Phillips, Limited. *Difference.*—Strike of cigarette machine operators who refused to work with members of another union who had accepted jobs on vacant machines during a previous strike. *Settlement.*—Majority reinstated in old positions and remainder to be absorbed as early as possible. Settled 8th December, 1925.

## APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT.

Sir William Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C., has resigned the post of President of the Industrial Court, which he has held since the establishment of the Court in 1919.

The Minister of Labour has appointed Mr. Harold Spencer Morris, K.C., to succeed him as President. Mr. Morris was appointed last year to be Chairman of the Railway National Wages Board in succession to Sir William Mackenzie.

In connection with the arrangements for arbitration in the Civil Service†, Mr. F. J. West has been appointed, as representing the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to be a member of the Industrial Court.

\* See LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1924, page 270.

† See the June, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE, page 195.

## RAILWAYS ACT, 1921.

### NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.

ON 7th January, 1926, the National Wages Board issued their Findings on certain cases referred to them by the National Union of Railwaymen as under:—

**MEAL TIMES, CARTERS AND MOTORMEN.**—The Union claimed that Carters and Motormen should have a continuous eight hours turn of duty where a definite rostered meal time free from duty cannot be arranged. The difficulty which gave rise to the claim originated chiefly in connection with the work at the Liverpool Docks, and the parties were not in agreement as to the precise facts in that case. It was agreed by the Board that in the circumstances it would be best for the parties to meet and discuss the matter and to consider whether any modification of the present arrangements could be made.

**MACHINERY ATTENDANTS, WHITE CROSS STREET—GUARANTEED DAY: GUARANTEED WEEK.**—It appeared that at the date (December 1923) when the men concerned first made complaint, they were rostered to perform seven turns of duty in one calendar week and five the next. They claimed payment for a sixth turn in the short week on the ground that they were available for work although not required. The Board re-stated the view, expressed in previous Findings, that a strict construction of the National Agreement relative to the guaranteed day and guaranteed week, which should at the same time be reasonable, appeared to be impossible. They saw no reason to interfere in the present case, more particularly as the roster had been re-adjusted as from 1st May, 1925.

**TRAIN ELECTRIC LIGHTING EXAMINERS, GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.**—Up to May, 1922, the train electric lighting staffs had no standard rate of pay, but it was then agreed that train electric lighting examiners should be placed on the same base rate as carriage and wagon examiners. The train electric lighting staff on the Great Western Railway were receiving rates of wages above those of the carriage and wagon examiners. The Company did not bring their wages down at once to those of the carriage and wagon examiners, but applied to them certain reductions of wages which had been authorised for carriage and wagon examiners. The men objected, and in the circumstances of the case, the Board took the view that their contention had been made out and that the wages should be rectified accordingly.

**ALTERATION IN GRADING OR CLASSIFICATION OF POSTS: CONCILIATION GRADES.**—The National Union of Railwaymen contended that the Railway Companies are not entitled to re-grade or re-classify stations, depôts or posts in a downward direction except by agreement, either on the appropriate Sectional Council, or between the parties to the main Memorandum of Agreement. The Board's Finding points out that appendices are attached to the Memorandum of Agreement of 20th March, 1920, showing the initial classification of stations and depôts in connection with the application of the Agreement to Conciliation Grades. These appendices were prepared by the Companies and accepted by the Unions subject to a right of appeal. The right of appeal is still maintained under the Council scheme established by the Railways Act, 1921. At the same time, the Board expressed the view that, in the interests of all parties concerned in the railway service, it is desirable that the Railway Companies should intimate in advance to the individuals concerned the dates on which changes in classification will take effect.

**HIGHER GRADE DUTY, CLEANERS, STAMFORD.**—The Union claimed extra remuneration for four cleaners employed in the Stamford running shed. This shed is a small one, and, in addition to the ordinary duties of a cleaner, the employees concerned are called upon to perform lighting-up and coaling duties and to assist in washing-out. The Board were asked to decide the case on the ground that the cleaners in question came within the ambit of their Finding of 20th January, 1925, relative to the payment to cleaners working in adult positions. The Board were unable to accept that contention, but added that, in their opinion, the case might be further considered on its merits between the Company and the Union.

**SIGNALMEN'S SETTLEMENT: METHOD OF DEALING WITH ASSISTANT SIGNALMEN, LONDON AND NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY.**—The Union's claim in this matter arose out of the Agreement of 1st May, 1922, which made certain provisions in connection with the abolition of the grade of assistant signalmen. The point in dispute referred to the Board related to certain assistant signalmen on the London and North Eastern Railway who were not transferred to signalmen's posts until after 1st September, 1922, and concerned their rates of pay for the period from 1st September, 1922, to the date of appointment as signalmen. The Board held the view that certain correspondence which had passed between the Company and the Union in 1924 constituted an agreement between the parties, that the Company's interpretation of the Agreement was the correct one, and that the Union's claim failed.



## TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

## Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

## CONFIRMING ORDERS.

## Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order P (13), dated 15th January, 1926, confirming general minimum time rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male workers, for periods dependent upon the Cost of Living Index Figure, and specifying the 18th January, 1926, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Copies of the Order P (13), which contains all the rates at present effective in the trade (including the rates mentioned above), may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller, price 3d.

## Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.D. (16 and 17), dated 17th December, 1925, confirming general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates and general overtime rates as varied for male and female workers in the Factory Branch of the trade, and the cancellation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates and general overtime rates for male workers in the Retail Bespoke Dressmaking Branch of the trade, and specifying the 4th January, 1926, as the date from which the rates and the cancellation of rates become effective.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) ACTS,  
1882 TO 1922.WEST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY DISTRICT  
ORDER, 1925; REPRESENTATIVES OF WORKERS  
ON JOINT AUTHORITY.

THE Minister of Labour hereby gives notice that as soon as may be after the 25th day of January, 1926, he will designate to the Electricity Commissioners, in accordance with Section 2 (9) of Part I of the First Annex to the Schedule to the West Midlands Electricity District Order, 1925, the employees' organisations having members in the employment of authorised Undertakers in the district, in order that the organisations so designated may choose a representative of persons employed in connection with the supply of electricity in the district to be a member of the Joint Authority.

Any employees' organisation which is desirous of being considered by the Minister for designation under the said Section 2 (9) should make application in writing to the Minister not later than the 23rd day of January, 1926, on the form provided for the purpose, of which copies may be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

FOOD COUNCIL.—*Evidence submitted to the Food Council on the question of short weight and measure in the sale of foodstuffs. Vol. I. October and 4th November, 1925.* (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

MINING.—(1) *Royal Commission on the Coal Industry (1925). Minutes of evidence, 7th and 8th days.* (S.O. publications; price 2s. 3d. and 1s. 6d. respectively.) (2) *Statistical summary of output and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry for the quarter ended 30th September, 1925.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (Cmd. 2550; price 1d.) (See page 6.) (3) *The support of underground workings in the coalfields of Scotland. (A Report of the Support of Workings in Mines Committee.)* Safety in Mines Research Board, Paper No. 12. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

ROAD FUND.—*Report on the administration of the Road Fund for the year 1924-1925.* (S.O. publication; price 1s.)

Contains (*inter alia*) particulars of road and bridge works expedited to provide relief for unemployment and of grants in aid of such works.

SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES.—*Report of the Committee on brooms and brushes.* (Cmd. 2549; price 3d.)

Contains statistics of numbers employed, percentage of unemployment, wages, etc., in this and in competing countries.

SAVINGS BANKS.—(1) *Savings Banks and Friendly Societies: Account for the year ended 20th November, 1924.* (S.O. publication; price 3d.) (2) *Return relating to Trustee Savings Banks for the year ending 20th November, 1920.* Treasury. (H.C. 235, 1921; price 3d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT.—*Analysis of the course of unemployment from July, 1923, to October, 1925.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 1d.)

This is a reprint of the article on pages 416-9 of the December issue of this GAZETTE.

VITAL STATISTICS.—*Registrar-General's statistical review of England and Wales for the year 1924. Tables. Part II. Civil.* (New Annual Series No. 4.) (S.O. publication; price 5s.)

WIDOWS', ORPHANS' AND OLD AGE PENSIONS.—*Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925. Circular to Local Authorities, 1st January, 1926.* Circular 660. (S.O. publication; price 1d.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—*Statistics of compensation and of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1906 and 1923, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1924.* Home Office. (Cmd. 2567; price 9d.) (See page 7.)

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS:

## ADMIRALTY.

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

Devonport: Granite: J. Freeman, Sons & Co., Ltd., Penryn, Cornwall. Portsmouth: Steelwork: The Motherwell Engineering Co., Ltd., Motherwell, near Glasgow.

## (Contract and Purchase Department.)

Barrels, Steel: The Steel Barrel Co., Ltd., Uxbridge.—Battery Gear: D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell.—Bedsteads, etc.: Siddall & Hilton, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge, Yorks; S. F. Turner, Ltd., Dudley; Evered & Co., Ltd., Smethwick; J. & J. Taunton, Ltd., Birmingham.—Bells, Pieces: Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—Biscuits: P. Brown & Co., North Shields.—Blow Lamps and Gear: Howes & Burley, Ltd., Birmingham; Parkinson & Cowan (Gas Meters), Ltd., Birmingham.—Boiler, Cylindrical: Bow, McLachlan & Co., Ltd., Paisley.—Boilers: Yarrow & Co., Ltd., Scotstoun, Glasgow.—Bottles, Reservoir, H.P.: Chesterfield Tube Co., Ltd., Chesterfield.—Brushes, Painters: R. A. Rooney & Sons, London, E.C.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Rigby, Batcock, Ltd., London; J. Root & Sons, Muswell Hill, N.; S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd., London, E.; J. T. Millwood & Sons, London, E.—Caps, Blue Cloth with Peaks: Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Zeffertt & Son, Portsmouth.—Cells, Inert: General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Chains, Securing, Screws and Slips, etc.: Douglass Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; Hughes Johnson Stampings, Ltd., Birmingham; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham.—Cloth, Blue: J. Halliday & Co., Ltd., Pudsey; Wm. Lupton & Co., Leeds; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley; J. Harper & Sons, Ecclehill; W. & T. Huggan, Bramley; P. Womersley & Sons, Pudsey.—Cloth, Linen Duck: Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; The Phoenix Weaving Co., Ltd., Ballymena; D. & R. Duke, Brechin; The Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee.—Compressors, Air:

Belliss & Morcom, Ltd., Birmingham.—Cranes: Brown Bros. & Co. Ltd., Edinburgh; McTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—Fan, High Pressure, etc.: James Keith & Blackman Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Flannel: T. & C. Littlewood & Co., Ltd., Rochdale; J. Schofield & Sons (Buckley), Ltd., Rochdale; Kelsall & Kemp, Ltd., Rochdale.—Flour: Spillers & Bakers, Ltd., Cardiff; E. Marriage & Son, Ltd., Felixstowe.—Handkerchiefs, White Cotton: Eli Heyworth & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—Hoses, Oil Fuel: United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Ponders End.—Lavatories, Fold-up: Hoskins & Sewell, Ltd., Birmingham.—Lead Sheet: G. Farmiloe & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—Links: Mountford, Phillips & Co. (1920), Ltd., Cardiff.—Macintoshes, Blue: Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Motor Generators and Panels: W. H. Allen, Sons, & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—Motor, 300 B.H.P., etc.: Laurence Scott & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—Motors, etc.: Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford.—Overcoats, Blue Cloth (altering and renovating only): J. Compton, Sons, & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; H. Lotery & Company, Ltd., London, E.—Overcoats, Seamen's: J. Compton, Sons, & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; The Gloucester Clothing Co., Ltd., Leeds; John Hammond & Co. (1922), Ltd., Newcastle, Staffs; The Limerick Clothing Factory, Ltd., Limerick; H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Pickles: J. Stephens, Son, & Co., Ltd., Gloucester; J. Moir & Son, Ltd., London, E.; S. Hannah & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; C. & E. Morton, Ltd., London, E.C.; Purnell & Panter, Ltd., Bristol; C. Cocks & Co., Ltd., Reading.—Plate Glass Circles: Pilkington Bros., Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.—Press, Extrusion: Greenwood & Batley, Ltd., Leeds.—Radiators, Electric: Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End.—Serge, Blue: Wm. Edleston, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge; J. Shaw & Sons, Ltd., Stainland; J. Baxter & Son, Bradford.—Shackles: Douglass Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine.—Sheets, Naval Brass: T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; Broughton, Copper Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Silk Sewing and Silk Twist: Brough, Nicholson & Hall, Ltd., Leek.—Slings, Otter: Carron Co., Carron.—Steel Sections, H.T.: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough;



The Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham.—**Steel Wire**  
**Rope**: R. S. Newall & Son, Ltd., Liverpool.—**Suit Cases (Seamen's)**:  
 Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Thermometers,**  
**Hydrometers, etc.**: A. C. Cossor & Son, London, N.; F. Darton  
 & Co. (1925), Ltd., London, E.C.; Short & Mason, Ltd., London, E.  
 —**Tubes, Boiler**: Perfecta Seamless Steel Tube & Conduit Co.,  
 (1923), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tubes, Rubbing**: John Spencer, Ltd.,  
 Wednesbury.—**Tubular Material**: Scaffolding (Gt. Britain), Ltd.,  
 London, S.W.—**Valves and Seacocks, Gunmetal**: Sir J. Laing &  
 Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; J. Blakeborough & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse;  
 Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Vests, Summer**: I. & R. Morley,  
 Leicester.—**Voice Pipes and Gear**: Interlock Metal Hose Co., Wood  
 Green, N.; Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., Finsbury Park, N.—  
**Wedges, Beech**: Bowerman & Sons, Ltd., Bridgwater; J. Jones  
 & Sons, Ltd., Larnbert; J. D. Foster, Emsworth; East & Son, Ltd.,  
 Berkhamsted.—**Zinc Slabs and Sheets**: F. Braby & Co., Ltd.,  
 London, N.W.; London Zinc Mills, Ltd., London, N.; Locke,  
 Lancaster and W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.

## WAR OFFICE.

**Bags, Kit, Duck, Cotton**: C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.—**Bandoliers,**  
**Cotton**: Pike Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; W. & S. Thomson  
 & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Batteries, Secondary**: Pritchett & Gold  
 & E. P. S. Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Boots**: Adams Bros.  
 (Raunds), Ltd., Wellingborough; R. Coggins & Sons, Wellingborough;  
 W. Lawrence, Ltd., Wellingborough; Tebbutt & Hall Bros., Ltd.,  
 Wellingborough; S. Walker, Northampton.—**Caps, Service, Dress,**  
**Stiff**: J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, S.E.; L. Silberston,  
 London, S.E.; S. Schneiders & Sons, London, E.—**Cases, Reflector**:  
 C. A. Parsons & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cells, Inert**:  
 Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Coats, Great, and Coats,**  
**Warm**: J. Hammond & Co.; Limerick Clothing Factory,  
 Limerick; L. Silberston, London, E.; Wallis & Linnell, Kettering.  
 —**Compressor, Ammonia**: Lightfoot Refrigeration Co., Ltd.,  
 Birmingham.—**Compressor and Spares**: Haslam Foundry and  
 Engineering Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Copper, Ingot**: Brandeis, Gold-  
 schmidt & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; British American Metals Co.,  
 Ltd., London, E.C.; British Metal Corp., Ltd., London, E.C.;  
 H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Copper, Sheet**: Birmingham  
 Battery & Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak.—**Covers, Bicycle Tyre**:  
 Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cylinders**: F. Francis  
 & Sons, Ltd., Deptford.—**Dishes, Baking, Tinned Iron**: Bulpitt &  
 Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Drums, Oil**: G. T. Johnson & Co.,  
 Liverpool; P. D. Mitchell, Ltd., Dundee.—**Fire Hydrants**: Ham,  
 Baker & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Frame Resistance**: E. F. Moy,  
 Ltd., London, N.—**Generating Set and Spares**: Blackstone & Co.,  
 Ltd., Stamford.—**Generators**: Newton Bros. Ltd., Derby; Small  
 Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham.—**Ironwork, Cast, Miscellaneous**:  
 East Dereham Foundry, Ltd., Dereham.—**Lace, Gold, Universal**:  
 Firmin & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Lace, Worsted**: Dalton, Barton  
 & Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Lathes for Mobile Workshops**: Colchester  
 Lathe Co., Ltd., Colchester.—**Linoleum, Brown**: Barry, Ostlere &  
 Sheppard, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Machine, Shaping**: D. Brown & Sons,  
 Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Magnesium Powder**: Magnesium Co., Ltd.,  
 London, S.E.—**Oil, Lubricating, Mineral, for Motor Cars**: Anglo-  
 American Oil Co., Ltd., Purfleet.—**Overalls Combination**: J. Compton,  
 Sons & Webb, Ltd., London; D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill;  
 Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; Tippetts, Son, & Co.,  
 Plymouth.—**Pantaloons, Cord**: J. Compton, Sons, & Webb, Ltd.,  
 London & Swindon; Limerick Clothing Factory, Limerick.—  
**Puttees, D. M.**: Astrachans, Ltd., Bradford, Yorks; Fox, Bros.  
 & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Somerset; C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.;  
 Hall, Tankard & Co., Ltd., Batley; Whitworth & Co., Ltd.,  
 Luddendenfoot.—**Repairs to Vessel**: Earle's Shipbuilding & Engi-  
 neering Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Roadbearers, Transoms and Channels**:  
 Steel, Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Sash Chains and Pulleys**:  
 Royde & Tucker, London, N.—**Sheets, Cotton, M.S.**: G. I. Sidebottom  
 & Co., Manchester.—**Sleepers, Creosoted**: Gabriel Wade & English,  
 Ltd., London, S.E.—**Soft Soap, Potash**: Peter Runt & Co., Aintree,  
 Liverpool.—**Stockinette**: J. B. Lewis & Co., Nottingham.—**Steel**  
**Guttering**: G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., Woolwich.—**Steel**  
**Tyres with Rubber Tread**: North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edin-  
 burgh.—**Tractors**: J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke.—  
**Trucks, Petrol**: Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd., Letchworth.—**Tin, Ingot**:  
 Williams, Harvey & Co., Bootle, Liverpool.—**Tubing, Tin**: Quirk,  
 Barton & Co., Ltd., Rotherhithe.—**Waistcoats, Cardigan**: F. &  
 E. Tarratt, Leicester.—**Wall and Ceiling Boards**: Limehouse Paper,  
 board Mills, Ltd., London, E.; Patent Impermeable Millboard Co.,  
 Ltd., Sunbury Common, Middlesex; Venesta, Ltd., London, E.—  
**Webbing, Cotton**: G. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley.—**Works**  
**Services**: *Building Works and Services*: Colchester, Reed Hall  
 (Improvements to Single Officers Quarters): W. Chambers & Son,  
 Colchester. Colchester, Reed Hall (Renewal of Floors and Bk.  
 Huts): H. Everett & Son, Colchester. Chelsea Barracks (Erection  
 of Latrine Blocks): T. W. Heath, Ltd., London, S.W. Norwich  
 Cavalry Barracks (Provide Night Urinals): F. R. Hipperson,  
 Norwich. Larkhill Camp, Married Quarters (Atholl Steel Type):  
 The Housing Corporation of Great Britain, Ltd., London. Longmoor  
 (Block of Married Soldiers Quarters): Kemp, George Stroud & Co.,  
 Ltd., Aldershot. Crownhill, Plymouth (Single Officers Quarters):  
 G. Shellabear & Son, Plymouth. Topsham Barracks, Exeter  
 (Reconstruction of Main Drainage): F. J. Stanbury, Plymouth.  
*Maintenance Works*: Brentwood: A. J. Arnold, Chelmsford.  
 Windsor: H. Mellor, Woking. *Painting*: Woolwich Manufacturing  
 District: G. Greenwood & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. *Installations*:  
 Caterham Barracks (of Electric Lighting): Alpha Manufacturing  
 and Electrical Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

## AIR MINISTRY.

**Aircraft**: De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware.—**Aircraft,**  
**Modifications to**: Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Planes for**:  
 Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—**Aircraft, Spares**:  
 Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co.,  
 Ltd., Cheltenham; Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; H. G.  
 Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; G. Parnall &  
 Co., Bristol; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester;  
 Short Bros., Ltd., Rochester; Steel Wing Co., London, S.E.; Super-  
 marine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton; Vickers, Ltd., London,  
 S.W.—**Aircrews and Cases**: Aircrew Co., Weybridge.—**Ash**  
**(Aircraft)**: Mallinson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Beach Trolley**:  
 English Electric Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Buildings and Works Services**:  
 Alterations to "St. Vincents" (Spittlegate), A. E. Brown & Co.,  
 Grantham. Aprons—Tarmac (Martlesham): E. J. Edwards,  
 Norwich. Conversion of Huts into Quarters (Felixstowe): W. F.  
 Cross, Ltd., Felixstowe. Generators, etc. (Kidbrooke): Electrical Con-  
 struction Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton. Married N.C.O.s, etc. Quarters  
 (Kenley): J. B. Edwards & Co., London, W. Married Officers  
 Quarters (Halton): H. J. & A. Wright, Ltd., Great Missenden.  
 Metal Lockers (Various Stations): Milners Safe Co., Ltd., London,  
 E.C. Slipway (Felixstowe): Yorkshire Hennebique Contracting  
 Co., Leeds. Steel Water Tank (Cardington): Brown, Lenox &  
 Co. (London), Ltd., London, E. Underground Cables (Catterick):  
 G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C. Water Storage Tanks (Various  
 Stations): Leslie & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Caps, Blue**: Compton,  
 Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.—**Coats, Great**: James Smith &  
 Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Conversion of Butyl Alcohol to Butyl**  
**Acetate**: W. J. Bush & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Crossley Spares**:  
 Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Crossley Touring**  
**Cars**: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Detonators,**  
**Cylinders and Boxes**: Nobel Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.:  
 Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Duralumin**: James Booth & Co.  
 (1915), Ltd., Nechells, Birmingham.—**Engine, Aircraft, Carburettors**  
**and Spares for**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby; D. Napier & Son, Ltd.,  
 Acton, W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Development work on**: Bristol Aero-  
 plane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engine, Aircraft, Reconditioning of**:  
 D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Spares**:  
 Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Gillett, Stephen &  
 Co., Ltd., Bookham; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Rolls  
 Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine, Aircraft, Superchargers for**: D.  
 Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Type Test on**:  
 D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Extinguishers, Fire**: Pyrene  
 Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Gauges, Interchangeability**: A. V. Roe  
 & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester.—**Hose, Canvas**: Wm.  
 Rose Hose Co., Ltd., Salford.—**Improvements and Alterations to**  
**Tatfield Aerial Lighthouse**: The Gas Accumulator Co. (U.K.), Ltd.,  
 Brentford.—**Jackets, Blue**: H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.—  
**Linen, Old Rags**: Alexander Jacob & Co., London, S.E.—**Oil,**  
**Mineral, Lubricating**: Silvertown Lubricants, Ltd., London, E.—  
**Pantaloons, Blue**: J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.—  
**Petrol Electric Sets**: Stuart, Turner, Ltd., Henley-on-Thames.  
 —**Proofing Cotton Fabric**: J. Mandleberg & Co., Ltd., Pendleton,  
 Manchester.—**Stoves, Oil, Heating**: Rippingill's Albion Lamp Co.,  
 Ltd., Birmingham.—**Trousers, Blue**: John Hammond & Co. (1922),  
 Ltd., Newcastle, Staffs.—**Turpentine**: Sir W. A. Rose & Co., Ltd.,  
 London, E.C.—**Tyres**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham;  
 Rapson Tyre & Jack Co., Ltd., New Malden.—**Tyres, Covers, Outer**:  
 North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Valves, W/T**: Mullard  
 Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Voltmeter**: Ernest Turner,  
 High Wycombe.—**Wheels, Steel Spoked**: J. Sankey & Sons, Ltd.,  
 Wellington, Salop.

## POST OFFICE.

**Cable Bearers**: Wood Street Tunnel (E.C.1): J. M. Dangerfield  
 & Sons, London, S.E.—**Cable—Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in**  
**and Jointing**: Tottenham-Walthamstow, Western-Riverside and  
 Eltham-Sidcup Junction: W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co.,  
 Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cable—Land and Submarine—Manufacturing,**  
**Supply, Laying, etc.**: Anglo-French (1926): Siemens Bros. & Co.,  
 Ltd., London, S.E.—**Conduits—Laying**: Gillingham (Dorset): E. E.  
 Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Sutton (Carshalton Road);  
 Battersea (Leathwaite Road); Westminster and Chelsea: T.  
 Muirhead & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Truro-Liskeard (Section III);  
 Polmarkyn-Liskeard: W. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh.  
 Bradford (Yorks) (Scheme 3); South Elmsall (Yorks); Sheffield-  
 Worksop-Mansfield (Section II): A. Graham, Sons & Co., Hudders-  
 field. Market Drayton (Salop): Wyatt Bros., Whitchurch, Salop.  
 Oval Exchange Area; London-Epping-Bishops Stortford (Section 3):  
 H. Farrow, London, N.W. Knowle-Solihull Junction and Solihull  
 (Warwickshire); Birmingham (Tetley Road, Sandwell Road, etc.):  
 A. Blair, Lyell & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Cockermouth and Silloth  
 (Cumberland); Sheffield-Worksop-Mansfield (Section IV); Sheffield-  
 Worksop-Mansfield (Section V); Connahs Quay (Flintshire): W. P.  
 & P. G. Hayes, Warrington. Yelverton (Devon); Lostwithiel  
 (Cornwall): Playfair, Toole, Ltd., Southampton. Camberwell-  
 Brixton Road; Denmark Hill and Herne Hill, S.E.; Ashted and  
 Leatherhead: Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Manchester-  
 Rochdale (South Lanes District): W. Turner (Ardwick), Ltd.,  
 Manchester. Sheffield-Worksop-Mansfield (Section III): J. McLaren,  
 Newcastle-on-Tyne. Finsbury, etc.; Coborn Road-Roman  
 Road, E.: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Deptford, etc.;  
 Kensington, Paddington, etc.; Camberwell, etc.; Willesden, etc.;  
 Brondesbury Park (Relief): O. C. Summers, London, N. Upminster  
 (South); Bishopsgate-East Junction: W. & C. French, Buckhurst  
 Hill, Essex. Woburn Sands (Beds): Kettle & Son, Peterborough.



Hereford and Tenbury; Battle (Sussex); Crediton (Devon); Wilton; Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Birmingham. Chester (Upton and Boughton): W. & J. Cunliffe, Dunchurch, near Rugby. Caerphilly-Maesycwmmmer: F. C. Williams, Cardiff. Cowdenbeath (Fife): J. McAdam & Sons, Ltd., Aberdeen. Biggin Hill (Kent): Amersham (Bucks); Amersham Common (Bucks): G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C. Stafford: Martin & Element, Ltd., Smethwick. Leyland (Lancs): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. Truro-Penzance-Portheurno (Section III): S. Ambrose, Ltd., Bath. Manchester Auto Exchange Area: Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Stirling: R. Thorburn & Son, Edinburgh. Hoylake (Caldy): S. F. Hopley, Prestatyn (N. Wales). Bridgend-Aberkenfig: Barnes, Chaplin & Co., Ltd., Cardiff. Mile End Road (South Side): J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W. Ramillies Road and Rusthall Avenue: A. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Sheffield-Hathersage; Coventry: J. F. Hodge, Rednal, near Birmingham.—**Electric Goods Lift**: Manchester (Newton Street Sorting Office): W. Wadsworth & Sons, Ltd., Bolton.—**Electric Lighting**: Halifax P.O. and Telephone Exchange: Headen & Brennand, Halifax.—**Loading Man-holes—Constructing**: London—Westerham (London District): Greig & Matthews, London, E.C.—**Radio Receivers**: St. Albans Radio Station: Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment**: Franklin (London, S.W.1); Portsmouth; Willesden; Nottingham: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., Strand, W.C.2, for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Charging Machines; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby, for Ringing Machines. Dartford: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: The D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell (Derbyshire), for Batteries; Electric Construction Co., Kingsway, W.C.2, for Charging Machine; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby, for Ringing Machine. Sydenham, S.E.: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Owen Owen, Ltd. (Liverpool); Lewis's, Ltd. (Manchester); Spillers & Bakers, Ltd. (Bristol); Watney, Combe, Reid & Co., Ltd. (Pimlico, S.W.); Newton Chambers & Co., Ltd. (Thorncliffe Colliery, near Sheffield); Hawkes & Son (London and Edgware): Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Manchester (Relief): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Leicester: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Victoria Street, S.W.1., for Batteries; English Electric Co., Ltd., Kingsway, W.C.2, for Charging Machines; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. Wigston, Syston and Western Park (Leicestershire): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Romford: British L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Telephone Repeater Station—Four-wire Repeater Equipment**: Birmingham: General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry.

**Apparatus, Telephonic**: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., Liverpool; British L. M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts; Peel-Conner Telephone Works (General Electric Co., Ltd.), Coventry; Phoenix Telephone and Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Plessey Co. (1925), Ltd., London, E.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, N.W. or New Southgate; Sterling Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex; Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Apparatus, Testing and Protective**: Peel-Conner Telephone Works (General Electric Co., Ltd.), Coventry; Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Battery Stores**: D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire.—**Cable, Various**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Enfield Cables Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; St. Helens Cable & Rubber Co., Ltd., Slough, Bucks; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Canvas, Hessian**: Craiks, Ltd., Forfar.—**Casks**: W. Round & Sons, Old Hill, Staffs.—**Castings**: General Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., Arlesey, Beds; Ladywood Ironworks, Ltd., Lutterworth.—**Clothing, Waterproof**: Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; E. Macbean & Co., Ltd., Port Dundas, Glasgow.—**Coils, Loading**: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—**Cords for Telephones**: Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Covers and Tubes, Motor Car and Motor-Cycle**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Desks**: British L. M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts.—**Ducts**: Doulton & Co., Ltd., Springfield, Dudley; Hepworth Iron Co., Ltd., Hazlehead; Jas. Oakes & Co., Ltd., Jacksdale, Notts; Oates & Green, Ltd., Horley Green, Halifax.—**Huts, Battery, Portable**: Wm. Harbrow, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Labour Services in connection with Telegraph Poles**: Armstrong, Addison & Co., Sunderland; Alex. Bruce & Co., Grays, Essex; Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., London, W.C.; Wm. Christie & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Gabriel, Wade & English, Ltd., Hull.—**Oil, Fuel**: Shell-Mex, Ltd., Southampton, Avonmouth, etc.—**Oil, Scotch Power**: Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Uphall, Midlothian.—**Paper, Watermarked**: Portals (John Allen & Sons), Ltd., Whitchurch, Hants.—**Pedals and Spindles, Bicycle**: Components, Ltd., Selly Oak, Birmingham.—**Plates, Earth**: Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Repair of Tents, Jointers**: John Smith & Co. (London, E.), Ltd., Goodmayes, Essex.—**Rope, Hemp**: J. T. Davis, Ltd., London, E.; Frost Bros., Ltd., London, E.—**Screws**: Nettlefold & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Solder**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Du Bois Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Spikes**: John H. Allen, Halesowen, Birmingham.—**Steps, Pole**: Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Tarpaulins**: Woods, Sons & Co., London, E.—**Thread**: H. P. King & Son, London, E.C.; John & Edwin Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tools, Instrument**: Sheffield Steel Products, Ltd., Warrington.—**Wallboards**: Venesta, Ltd., London, E.—**Vehicle**:

Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Wheels, Free, for Bicycles**: Villiers Engineering Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Wire, Bronze**: T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor; British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak; Richard Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Beswick; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Trench; Frederick Smith & Co., incorporated in The London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., Manchester.—**Alterations and Additions to Post Office, Guernsey, Channel Islands**: Thomas le Maitre, Brock Road, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

## H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

**Advertisements**: Contract for Insertion of Advertisements in "British Imperial Calendar and Civil Service List."—Newton & Co., London, W.C.—**Cards, Index, Various Descriptions**: Library Bureau, Ltd., London, N.; Thomas & Green, Ltd., Wooburn Green.—**Cloth, Tracing**: Winterbottom Book Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Copier Composition**: Crusader Mfg. Co., London, E.—**Cord**: J. Holmes & Son, East Ardsley; J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Envelopes**: McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton; Pirie, Appleton & Co., Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Paper Fasteners, Wire**: Setten & Durward, Ltd., Hockley.—**Paper, Carbonic**: Crusader Mfg. Co., London, E.; Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Dunstable.—**Paper, Waxed Stencil**: D. Gestetner, Ltd., London, N.—**Paper of Various Descriptions**: J. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Basted Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Basted; J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Airdrie; Caldwell's Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; J. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal; J. R. Crompton & Bros., Ltd., Bury; J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead; Ford Paper Works, Ltd., Hylton; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton; Grosvenor, Chater & Co., Ltd., Holywell; Hollingworth & Co., Ltd., Maidstone; W. Howard & Son, Ltd., Chartham; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend; W. Joynson & Son, St. Mary's Cray; London Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Dartford; W. Nash, Ltd., St. Pauls Cray; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet; Olive & Partington, Glossop; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury; Portals, Ltd., Whitchurch; Ramsbottom Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Ramsbottom; St. Neots Paper Mill Co., Ltd., St. Neots; Smith, Anderson & Co., Ltd., Leslie; Thomas & Green, Ltd., Wooburn Green; Waterside Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Darwen; Watsons of Bullionfield, Ltd., Bullionfield; Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Stoneywood & Devon Valley.—**Pencils**: British Pens, Ltd., Birmingham; Royal Sovereign Pencil Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Pins**: D. F. Tayler & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.**: Contract for Group 246 (1926) Bills of Entry—London.—C. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. Contract for Scotland, Group 3 (1926) Recurring Works: J. Skinner & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. Contract for Scotland, Group 5 (1926) Criminal Indictments, etc.: J. & J. Gray, Edinburgh. Binding 20,000 copies Royal Army Medical Corps Training, 1925. Binding 2,500 Books Reports on Tax Cases, Vol. 9.: Adams & Harrison, Ltd., London, E.C. 400,000 copies Telephone Advertisement Folder: The Amalgamated Press (1922), Ltd., London, S.E. 500,000 Rope Manilla Labels: J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead. 175 copies Admiralty Book D. 162: W. P. Griffith & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. Mounting and Varnishing 10,000 Forms C.G. 27: Harper & Tunstall, London, W.C. 15,000 pads Form S. 575C: H.M. Stationery Office Press, Harrow. Binding 20,000 copies Royal Army Medical Corps Training, 1925: G. & J. Kiteat, Ltd., London, E.C. 3,000 Aeroplane Log Books (Form 338): Tee & Whiten & J. Mead, Ltd., London, S.E. 13,000 Books Form 674: J. Truscott & Son, Ltd., Tonbridge. 400 Books, S. 342, Admiralty; 7,500 Books, P. 1037 Delivery Receipt Books, G.P.O.: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Straps, Web**: M. Wright & Sons, Ltd., Loughborough.

## H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

**Building Works**: Battersea District P.O.—French Polisher; Stacey & Co., London, S.W. British and Victoria and Albert Museums: French Polisher: Stacey & Co., London, S.W. Canning Town Employment Exchange—Asphalter: Standard Flat Roofing Co., London, E. Canterbury Telephone Repeater Station—Erection: G. Browning, Canterbury. Croydon Telephone Exchange—Grano. Work: F. Bradford & Co., London, E. Custom House, E.C.—Pointing, Brickwork, etc.: Dalton & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. Edinburgh, Holyrood Palace—Panelling: Nathaniel Grieve, Edinburgh. Grimsby Head P.O.—Alterations: E. E. Dale & Sons, Ltd., Cleethorpes. Halesworth Telephone Repeater Station—Erection: Wm. C. Reade, Aldeburgh. Hampton Court—Landing Stage: G. Tate & Son, London, S.E. Harrow, H.M. Stationery Office—Roads and Drains: G. Percy Trentham, Ltd., London, W.C. Holmpton, Yorks—Erection of Coastguard Cottages: Hy. Ashton, Barton-on-Humber. Kew Gardens Branch P.O.—Roofing: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E.; Slater: E. Parkinson (London), Ltd., London, N.; Steelwork: Lindsays Paddington Iron Works, Ltd., London, W. Keyham Employment Exchange—Extension: A. N. Coles & Son, Ltd., Plymouth. Manchester—Erection of "City" Telephone Exchange: J. Gerrard & Sons, Ltd., Manchester. Marks Tey Telephone Repeater Station—Erection: F. Hutton & Co., Birch. Montagu House, S.W.—Glazier: George Farmiloe & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Grano. Work: Malcolm McLeod & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Iron Drains, etc.: W. H. Gascoigne & Co., London, W.; Joiner: Metropolitan Joinery Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Plasterer: George Fletcher, London, W.; Roofing: Permanite, Ltd., London, E.; Slater: William Smith & Evans, London, S.E.; Zinc Work: Lichtwitz, Dunne & Co., London, W. Paisley Employment Exchange—Masonry, etc.: J. Porter & Sons, Ltd.,



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