

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXIV.—No. 9.]

SEPTEMBER, 1926.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT in August showed a slight improvement, partly due to increased supplies of imported fuel, but remained bad on the whole, most of the principal industries still being seriously affected by the coal-mining stoppage. The industries in which some improvement was recorded included cotton, jute, pottery, wool and worsted, iron and steel, tinplate, and railway service. In the engineering, shipbuilding, printing and tailoring trades there was a decline. In the building trades employment continued good with skilled workers.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 11,900,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland the percentage unemployed at 23rd August, 1926, was 14·2,* as compared with 14·6* at 26th July, 1926, and 12·1 at 24th August, 1925. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 13·3 at the end of August 1926, compared with 13·2 at the end of July, 1926, and with 11·4 at the end of August, 1925. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 30th August, 1926, was approximately 1,606,000, of whom 1,205,000 were men and 306,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 26th July, 1926, it was 1,664,000, of whom 1,226,000 were men and 344,000 were women; and at 31st August, 1925, it was 1,418,000, of whom 1,094,000 were men and 242,000 were women. The figures relating to July, 1926, and August, 1926, are exclusive of workpeople in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute.

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 during August resulted in a reduction of about £10,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 124,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £3,100 in those of over 45,000 workpeople.

The workpeople affected by reductions included principally the higher-paid men employed in steel smelting shops and rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland, iron puddlers and millmen in the

* These percentages include coal mining, those miners who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the dispute being taken as unemployed for the purpose of the percentage, but not those who ceased work owing to the dispute. In other industries (excluding coal mining) the percentage of unemployment at 23rd August was 14·8 as compared with 15·3 at 26th July.

Midlands, and workpeople employed in the linen weaving industry in Northern Ireland. The reductions amounted to about 1 per cent. on current rates in the case of steel smelters and millmen, to about 3½ per cent. on current rates in the case of iron puddlers, etc., in the Midlands, and to 10 per cent. on the current wages of linen weavers.

Among the workpeople whose wages were increased were those employed in aerated water manufacture, for whom the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were raised, the increase amounting to 2s. per week or ½d. per hour in the case of adult workers.

During the eight completed months of 1926 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics have been compiled, have resulted in net increases amounting to nearly £15,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 130,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £93,000 in those of 950 000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 72 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 70 per cent. a month ago and 74 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 62, 61 and 70 respectively.

The rise in the index-number at 1st September, as compared with a month earlier, was due to increases in the prices of coal, eggs and milk, which were partly counterbalanced by decreases in the prices of potatoes.

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, and 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 general stoppage of work in the coal mining industry, which began on 1st May, involved about one million workpeople in that industry in a loss of about 21 million working days in August. The aggregate number of working days lost by workpeople taking part in this dispute was about 87 million up to the end of August.

Apart from the coal mining dispute, the number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August was 16; in addition, 19 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in these 35 disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 2,000, and the estimated aggregate duration of such disputes in August was about 18,000 working days.

COAL-MINING INDUSTRY DISPUTE.

As reported in the August issue of this GAZETTE (pp. 280-3), the proposals put forward as a result of negotiations between certain representatives of the Christian Churches and others and the Miners' Federation were rejected by the districts; and following upon this it was decided to convene a further national delegate conference on August 16th. At this Conference it was announced that the figures of the vote with regard to the proposals were 367,650 against and 333,036 in favour. Scotland did not vote, as it was desired there that a full ballot should be taken, and this meant an abstention of some 60,000. At the conclusion of this conference it was announced that discussion had centred round the question whether or not the Executive Committee should be authorised to endeavour to open up negotiations with the coal owners and the Government, the Committee to report the result of such negotiations to a future Conference, so that the districts might finally decide whether to accept or reject the terms that might have been offered. A resolution to this effect was carried on a card vote by 428,000 to 360,000. It was also resolved that all negotiations for a settlement of the dispute must be of a national character, and not entered into by the districts separately. It was decided to send a letter of thanks to the American trade unionists, the trade unions of Russia, and all others who had contributed to the support of the British miners and their families.

The Miners' Federation lost no time in getting into touch with the Central Committee of the Mining Association, and a conference was held on the afternoon of 19th August, which, however, ended in a deadlock, as neither side appeared to have made any tangible advance towards the position of the other. The miners still held that an extension of hours was not necessary, and a national agreement essential; that they would be willing to consider the question of wages after measures for re-organisation had been considered; and that it might be desirable to apply to the Government for some further financial assistance. The owners on the other hand held that the hours of work and wages in force before the stoppage were impracticable; that they could not consider entering into a national agreement; and that any Government assistance would be highly undesirable.

The miners reported the breakdown of this Conference to the Government, and on the 25th August decided to ask for a meeting with Government representatives. This meeting was held on 26th August, when Mr. H. Smith, Mr. Tom Richards, Mr. W. P. Richardson, and Mr. A. J. Cook met the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Labour, and the Secretary for Mines; but it produced no result, owing to the fact that the Miners' Federation had no new proposals to put forward. Mr. Churchill pointed out that the Government had already made its position clear—particularly in the matter of further financial assistance—and was not prepared to depart from it, and that, therefore, unless some step was taken by one of the parties to the dispute, no progress could be made.

On 30th August the Executive of the Miners' Federation met to consider their next step, and as a result of this meeting it was decided to summon a further delegate conference for 2nd September. They had also to consider the position created by a resolution passed by the Nottinghamshire Miners' Council on 28th August, to the effect that "if nothing was done nationally this week towards a national settlement, the executive member (Mr. F. B. Varley, M.P.) be authorised to ask permission of the Federation to pursue negotiations locally for a settlement," with the proviso that any terms arrived at should be submitted to the national Executive for approval. (An offer had been made to the men in that district by certain of the owners the terms of which included a 7½-hour day, and for a period of seven months the same rates of wages as had operated before the dispute, except for a reduction of 7·08 in the percentage payable to piece-workers; and thereafter the general provisions of the 1921 agreement, except that the proportions of wages and profits were to be 85 and 15 in place of 83 and 17). Meanwhile Parliament had been summoned to re-assemble for the purpose of renewing the Emergency Regulations for another month, and met on 30th and 31st August. The second day's sitting was mainly taken up with a debate on the coal situation introduced, on a motion for the adjournment, by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald.

On the 2nd September the national delegate conference of the Miners' Federation authorised the Executive Committee "to take the necessary steps to submit proposals for the setting up of a national agreement for the mining industry." This resolution was carried by 557,000 to 225,000. As a result of this authorisation the following letter was sent from the Executive of the Miners' Federation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

"Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that the Executive Committee of the special delegate conference of the Miners' Federation, having again carefully considered the present deadlock in the mining dispute, have resolved to ask you to convene and attend a conference of the Mining Association and the Federation.

We are prepared to enter into negotiations for a new national agreement with a view to a reduction in labour costs to meet the immediate necessities of the industry."

The Government immediately addressed a letter to the Mining Association, enclosing a copy of the letter from the Miners' Federation, and stating that "in the opinion of His Majesty's Government this letter affords a basis for the resumption of negotiations; and they suggest that in the first instance both sides should meet representatives of the Government in a tripartite conference." To this the Secretary of the Mining Association replied that the matter could not be dealt with "by the Mining Association, as it has no

authority to enter into any discussions or negotiations on behalf of the district colliery owners' associations on questions of the terms of employment of workmen," and that it was consequently impossible to arrange for the presence of representatives of the Mining Association at such a meeting as had been suggested.

The Mining Association were thereupon requested to meet the Coal Committee of the Cabinet in order that the position disclosed by their letter might be discussed, and this meeting was held at 3 o'clock on Monday, September 6th. On behalf of the Government, Mr. Churchill pressed the view that the door to a settlement by way of national negotiations should not be closed. In reply Mr. Williams, on behalf of the Association, said that the general opinion of mine-owners was definitely opposed to national negotiations, and that the Mining Association no longer had any authority to undertake them. At the close of the discussion, however, he said that he would report the matter to his Committee; and on September 8th it was announced that the Committee of the Mining Association, while endorsing the position taken by Mr. Evan Williams, had decided to ascertain again the views of the districts on the matter.

On September 9th Mr. Churchill addressed the following letter to the Mining Association:—

"I have to thank you on behalf of His Majesty's Government for having deferred to our earnestly expressed wish that the Mining Association should consult its constituents upon the question of resuming national negotiations for a settlement of the coal dispute.

I take this opportunity of explaining the kind of three-party conference that the Government have in view and the scope of its work.

Hitherto national settlements have prescribed the way in which the percentages payable from time to time in the districts shall be determined, viz., the ratio of division, the intervals of ascertainment, the principles of recoupment, the definition of "other costs," and the minimum percentage payable. They have set up a National Board for the industry. They have laid down the principle of subsistence wages, to be determined in the districts. They have defined the various districts, and made provision for their alteration by local agreement.

It is obviously quite impossible in the present circumstances for any conference sitting in London to do more in the first instance than lay down certain broad principles, and recommend the practical steps necessary to secure an early and universal resumption of work.

We believe that with such national guidance the task of negotiating agreements on wages, hours, and other conditions could be undertaken in each district with the assent of both parties, under favourable conditions and without any further delay. We cannot afford any further delay or long ceremonial procedure. At least 1,700,000 families affected by the dispute are looking for the opportunity of regaining their weekly wages. Our procedure must be planned to bring this about as quickly as possible, on fair and sound terms.

District settlements concluded in conformity with the agreed general principles should form a basis on which work would be immediately resumed. In so far as they dealt with matters which by custom are settled nationally, they would require to be referred to the central body for confirmation or, where necessary, for reference back to the district. It ought not then to be difficult to conclude a national agreement governing many, if not all, of the points that have hitherto been dealt with on a national basis. One point of difficulty no doubt will be how the national character of the minimum can be reconciled with the inevitable allowance for district conditions. We ought not to assume that this is insoluble with good will, once the parties are together. After prolonged thought His Majesty's Government believe that this is about the best and shortest path that can be found to reach the vital object in view, namely, a businesslike and honourable settlement for a good long time."

The decisions of the district associations of the Mining Association were reported on 13th September to a meeting of the Central Committee of the Mining Association, and later in the same day the Central Committee sent the following letter, signed by Mr. Evan Williams, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

"Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer.—Copies of your letter were at once circulated to the district associations, so that they might have it before them when they gave consideration to the question which we both agreed at the meeting on the 6th instant was the only one at issue at the moment, and which you expressed in the following words:—

'Is there to be any national agreement at all, or is the industry in future to be regulated purely by district agreements, without any national wage-negotiating body?'

With the exception of one small inland district, the 24 district associations have replied clearly and emphatically declining to give the Mining Association power or authority to enter into agreements on their behalf in regard to terms of employment of the workmen in their respective districts. You will accordingly see that the meeting which you propose in your letter could serve no useful purpose. There is no person who would be entitled to speak or to listen on behalf of the coal-owners, and I am sure you will agree that no good but harm would result from a meeting held under conditions which would expose the parties to a charge of insincerity.

The district coalowners' associations have been, and are, willing and anxious to meet the miners' associations in their districts at any time, without ceremony or any preliminary procedure whatsoever. There is no valid obstacle to this. There is no question of principle that need delay them. None of the district associations raises any objection to the principle of wage regulation by reference to ascertained results, the principle of a minimum percentage below which

wages cannot fall, or the principle of subsistence wages. The quantitative determinations on these and all other points can only be made in the light of the circumstances of the districts by those who know them and have to face the results.

A realisation of these facts is imperative, and it is failure to recognise them that stands in the way of these negotiations being entered into at once, and is alone responsible for the prolongation of the stoppage.

I desire to add that the decisions of the districts, which reaffirm the declarations made to you last Monday, arise from a deep and earnest conviction that settlements on a national basis, by linking the industry with politics, inevitably take the consideration of purely industrial questions out of their proper economic sphere, have been destructive of peace and prosperity to those engaged in the industry, and, as experience of the immediate past has shown, are a menace to the community as a whole."

UNEMPLOYMENT GRANTS COMMITTEE.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Unemployment Grants Committee (established in December, 1920, under the chairmanship of Viscount St. Davids, for the purpose of allocating funds for assisting Local Authorities in carrying out approved schemes for the relief of unemployment) have issued their fifth (interim) Report,* covering the twelve months from the 25th June, 1925, to the 24th June, 1926.

It is stated in the Report that the year's results show a substantial diminution as compared with previous years, the total value of the applications submitted having fallen from an average of nearly £30,000,000 in the four preceding years to a sum of under £18,000,000 in 1925-6. Broadly speaking, it would appear that the scheme, which has now been in operation for six consecutive winters, has, largely for that very reason, passed the period of its greatest utility, and that if pursued indefinitely to the same extent as in the past it would be difficult to avoid subsidising work properly undertaken by Local Authorities in the normal course of their business, and in such case but little could be added to the sum total of work performed in the country. In so far as special schemes might continue to be evolved, there is a further objection that they might well have the tendency to divert capital from the normal trade developments, which are now to be looked for, and would thus hinder rather than assist the relief of unemployment through the proper channel of trade recovery.

On the 15th December last the Committee, at the instance of the Government, issued a circular to Local Authorities stating that the Government had decided "that the Committee should in future satisfy themselves, before approving any scheme which may be submitted to them, not only that the work is in all respects a suitable one of public utility put in hand out of ordinary course expressly for the purpose of relieving unemployment, but also that it would not otherwise be undertaken for a considerable period (ordinarily more than five years), and that the unemployment sought to be relieved is exceptional." The Committee therefore announced that thenceforth they would only be able to entertain applications for grants in respect of new schemes of work if they clearly complied with these conditions; outstanding applications were to be considered on their merits, with due regard to the Government's decision. The effect of this policy was, of course, to reduce very appreciably the extent of the Committee's operations, especially during the six months January-June, 1926.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE DURING YEAR 1925-6.

Loan Schemes.—For these schemes grants are made of a percentage (varying according as the schemes are revenue-producing or not) of the interest, or of the interest and sinking fund charges, on loans raised by Local Authorities for approved works. During the year 1,218 new schemes, to the value of £16,478,000, were received from Local Authorities, as compared with 2,090, to the value of £24,486,000, in the year 1924-5. In addition, the Committee had under consideration during the year a number of schemes which were outstanding at the date of their last Report; and action was also taken on applications from Local Authorities for approval for grant purposes in respect of (i) schemes previously refused, and (ii) increased expenditure in connection with approved works. Altogether action was taken in respect of 1,553 loan schemes, of a total value of £25,173,000. Of these, 887, of a total value of £16,604,000, were approved; 606, of a total value of £6,885,000, were not approved; and 60, of a total value of £1,684,000, were under consideration at the date of the Report.

Schemes on a Wages Basis.—In these schemes grants are made on the basis of 75 per cent. of the wages paid to unemployed men taken on for the work. 521 new applications, of a total value of £1,425,000, were received during the year, as compared with 990, of a total value of £2,345,000, in 1924-5. Including schemes outstanding from the previous year, applications for extension, etc., the total number of schemes on a wages basis dealt with during the year was 654, of a total value of £1,704,000. Of these 353 were approved, 278 were not approved, and 23 were under consideration at the date of the Report.

Public Utility Companies.—Grants are made on the basis of a percentage of the interest on the capital cost for a period of years,

not exceeding fifteen. Only 25 applications for new works of this type, estimated to cost £660,051, were made during the year, of which 11 were approved and 14 not approved.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE SINCE DECEMBER, 1920.

The total number of schemes dealt with by the Committee since its inauguration in December, 1920, has been nearly 18,000, of a total capital value of over £143,000,000; and the Committee have approved for State assistance, to the extent of approximately £40,000,000, over 11,900 schemes, amounting to more than £104,000,000 in value. The amount of direct employment provided as a result of these schemes is estimated to be nearly 4,000,000 man-months. In addition, at least as much employment again has resulted from the preparation of materials in factories, workshops, quarries, etc. The Committee believe that the scheme has served a valuable purpose, not only in providing a considerable amount of work for unemployed men, but also from the point of view of the psychological effect of the joint action of the Government and Local Authorities in undertaking in depressed areas and industries so much work of marked public utility. The schemes approved have covered a wide field, and the results obtained are of undisputed and permanent benefit to the localities concerned.

The following Tables show the classes of work undertaken by Local Authorities and approved for grant by the Committee from the beginning of their operations up to and including the 24th June, 1926:—

LOAN SCHEMES.

	Loans sanctioned.
	£
<i>Non-revenue-producing:—</i>	
Roads and footpaths	21,608,876
Sewers and sewage disposal	15,306,201
Parks and recreation grounds	3,150,334
Water (Scottish)	2,782,590
Public institutions	1,235,805
Sea defence	858,226
Sanitation	271,290
Miscellaneous	442,765
Total, non-revenue-producing	45,656,087
<i>Revenue-producing:—</i>	
Docks	9,920,790
Electricity undertakings	7,069,627
Water undertakings	5,240,628
Tramways	3,732,648
Gas	2,048,379
Tennis courts, bowling-greens, etc.	889,502
Land development	500,932
Cemeteries	314,024
Conveniences	174,247
Miscellaneous	520,939
Total, revenue-producing	30,411,716

The total amount of loans sanctioned for all schemes, whether revenue-producing or not, was £76,067,803. In addition, conditional approval has been given, or commitments entered into, in respect of further sums amounting to £481,466.

SCHEMES ON THE BASIS OF A PERCENTAGE OF THE WAGES BILL.

	Financial Limit of Grant.
	£
Roads	1,511,063
Parks, recreation grounds, cemeteries	1,343,701
Gas, water, sewage and sewage disposal	885,498
Tramways	411,100
Painting	300,471
Docks, harbours, quays	290,235
Land reclamation	151,870
Public institutions	197,664
Electricity	72,016
Miscellaneous	66,235
Total	5,229,853

The total estimated cost of all the schemes approved for grants on a wages basis up to June, 1926, was £17,139,067.

The total amount approved for grant to *public utility companies* up to June, 1926, was £3,460,211, of which £1,606,592 was for gas undertakings, £1,224,097 for docks, £164,996 for water undertakings, £236,926 for tramways and light railways, and £227,600 for electricity undertakings.

Present position.—On the 24th June, 1926, the Committee had outstanding fewer schemes than has been usual at similar periods in preceding years. The schemes still under consideration were 83 in number and amounted in value to £1,776,000. On the other hand a good many of the schemes approved during the year were still in hand, and some of them will continue throughout the winter, 1926-27.

A few schemes are still being received from areas where unemployment is exceptionally severe; the cost of these does not amount to a very large total figure, and the number of such schemes likely to be received in the future is not expected to be considerable.

* H.M. Stationery Office: price 1s. net.

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR THE YEAR 1925.

THE Minister of Labour has issued the second Annual Report* on the work of the Ministry, dealing with the year 1925.

Industrial Relations (Conciliation and Arbitration).—During the year under review 257 disputes were settled with the assistance of the Ministry, as compared with 252 in 1924. Of these, 165 (including 101 in the railway service) were referred to the Industrial Court for arbitration, 8 were referred to single arbitrators, 8 to *ad hoc* Boards of Arbitration, and 9 were settled under the Conciliation Act, 1896; while in 64 cases agreement was reached with the assistance of officers of the Ministry. In three cases Courts of Inquiry were appointed under Part II of the Industrial Courts Act, to deal with disputes in connection with (i) steel houses, (ii) the coal-mining industry, and (iii) railway shopmen on the London and North Eastern Railway (Great Central section) and on the Cheshire lines. A summary of the proceedings of these Courts of Inquiry so far as they fell within the year 1925, is given in the Report; also of the proceedings of two Courts of Investigation (consisting in each case of an independent chairman, appointed by the Minister, together with representatives of outside interests), which dealt with wages in the wool textile industry and in the Scottish shale oil industry, respectively.

Employment.—The number on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at the end of each month from January, 1922, to December, 1925 (inclusive) has never fallen below a million, and has varied from a maximum of 1,936,081 in January, 1922, to a minimum of 1,009,444 in June, 1924. In thirty-four months out of this period of four years it was between 1,100,000 and 1,400,000, including a consecutive period of seventeen months from August, 1924, to December, 1925.

It is pointed out in the Report that the personnel of the unemployed is constantly changing. There is a wide range in the spells of unemployment during which registration is maintained, varying from those of the skilled building trade operative, for example—whose name may appear on the register only for an hour or two—through the variety of intermittent periods of work inherent in such occupations as dock labourers and seamen, and the well-defined times of slack employment in seasonal trades, to the long and continuous idleness which during these years has been endemic in certain industries and in the areas where those industries are chiefly placed. Industrially as well as socially, the term unemployment covers many differences of circumstances, and a simple generalisation from aggregate figures may involve a complex distortion of fact. Thus, registers of 5,000 at a London Exchange and at an Exchange in a coal valley differ in many respects. The London register will cover a variety of trades and industries; its personnel changes, and the turnover, or rate of change is rapid. It will include a number who remain on the register for considerable periods, but the majority will be registered for short, though perhaps frequent, spells; despite the size of the register there may be appreciable trade activity in the area. In the coal valley, on the other hand, a register of this figure will consist almost entirely of colliery workers. It may rise from 50 or 60 to 5,000 over the week-end, if two or three pits stop work. The personnel changes little, and the excess may disappear with equal suddenness. But if it remains it means that the whole economic life of the district is out of gear.

The total number of registrations in 1925 in Great Britain (including re-registrations of the same persons) was 12,728,238, as compared with 11,262,887 in 1924, 8,774,644 in 1923, and 8,819,523 in 1922. Of the registrations in 1925, 8,815,666 were men, 2,952,214 women, and 960,358 juveniles (under 18 years of age); the corresponding figures for 1924 were 7,526,355 men, 2,823,405 women, and 913,127 juveniles.

The trade groups in which the largest number of registrations of men were recorded during the last four years were:—engineering; building; transport; general labourers; shipbuilding; mining and quarrying; metal manufacture; cotton. The above is the order in which these various groups were affected in 1922; the order did not greatly differ in the other years, except that mining and quarrying rose to the second place in 1924 and to the first place in 1925. The corresponding groups for women were cotton; domestic service; dress; miscellaneous textiles; commercial; food, tobacco, drink, etc.; woollen; paper, printing, etc.; engineering; transport; pottery, glass, etc. In each year the greatest number of registrations was in the cotton trade; next in magnitude comes domestic service, followed by dress in 1922, 1923, and 1924, and by woollen in 1925.

The following Table shows the numbers of vacancies notified and vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges in each of the last four years:—

			Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
1922	...	...	839,633	697,036
1923	...	...	1,056,970	893,713
1924	...	...	1,345,394	1,143,742
1925	...	...	1,480,820	1,279,292

The vacancies notified have been distributed between men, women, and juveniles in the following proportions (taking the average of the last four years):—men, 54 per cent.; women, 28 per cent.; and juveniles, 18 per cent. The corresponding percentages for vacancies filled are men, 58; women, 24; juveniles, 18.

Another section of the Report deals with the national scheme for the employment of disabled ex-service men (the King's National

Roll). Employers who give an undertaking to employ a stated percentage of disabled ex-service men (normally five per cent.) have their names entered on the Roll. The number of special local committees assisting in administering this scheme is now 253. The Minister of Labour announced in October, 1925, that the Government proposed to ask Parliament to pass a resolution restricting Government contracts to firms on the Roll. This practice is also adopted by 544 local authorities.

Other subjects dealt with under the heading of employment include local employment committees; port labour; juvenile employment; oversea employment; duties under the Aliens Order, 1920, etc.

Unemployment Insurance.—The Report refers to the changes introduced by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925,* and to changes in the Unemployment Insurance Acts consequential on the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925.† The terms upon which compliance with the first statutory condition for the receipt of benefit (which requires the payment of 30 contributions within the last two or three years) might be waived were revised during the year; a special investigation into the administration of unemployment benefit was initiated; and Lord Blanesburgh's Committee on Unemployment Insurance was set up. The rest of the chapter deals with the central and local administration of unemployment insurance under the headings of contributions (rates of contribution; amounts of contribution from employers, from workpeople, and from the State; method of collecting contributions, and enforcement of payment; issue and exchange of unemployment books; repayments at age 60, and compensatory payments in lieu thereof, etc.); the determination of questions of insurability; benefit (rates, periods, and conditions; waiting period; extended benefit; determination of claims; prosecution of fraudulent claimants; payment of benefit through associations, etc.); special schemes (in the banking and insurance industries); cost of administration; finance of the scheme, etc.

An appendix to this chapter gives the substance of certain specially important decisions of the Umpire, dealing with the trade dispute disqualification; with the questions whether applicants are "genuinely seeking work," or are "unable to obtain suitable employment," and with the application of Section 1 (4) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924. Another appendix gives a summary of the general information obtained from special investigations.

Trade Boards.—The Report refers to the investigation made into the light refreshment and dining-room section of the catering trade, the meat distributive trade, the drapery and allied distributive trades, and the grocery trades, the results of which have since been published.‡ The descriptions of certain trades were altered during the year; and a new Trade Board was established—the Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain)—consequent upon the amendment of the Rope, Twine and Net Order, 1919. Two separate Trade Boards, for England and Wales and for Scotland, respectively, have been established in the retail bespoke tailoring trade, in place of the one Board which previously covered the whole of Great Britain. Other sections of this chapter deal with Trade Board minimum rates, with the proceedings of Trade Boards, and with inspection and enforcement (including special inquiries).

Labour Statistics.—Statistics are given in the Report dealing with industrial disputes, employment exchanges, unemployment, changes in rates of wages, changes in cost of living, membership of trade unions, the work of Trade Boards, and various other subjects.

International Labour Division.—The Report mentions the leading events in the history of the International Labour Office during the year. There were five meetings of the Governing Body, and one session of the International Labour Conference; also an international conference of labour statisticians. The Report also states the present position as regards the ratification and acceptance of certain Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Conference.

Training of the Unemployed.—The Report refers to the courses of training for young unemployed men at Birmingham, Wallsend, Claydon (near Ipswich), and Brandon (Suffolk), which were opened at various dates between October, 1925, and February, 1926. The Report observes:—

"It is, of course, still too early to say how far this experimental scheme of training will achieve its objects, but the results obtained by the end of the year were encouraging. By 31st December, 1925, over 550 men had already entered training at the Birmingham centre, more than 150 who started the course on 20th October having already left in order to take up employment. The improvement in the morale and the general bearing of the men undergoing training has been most marked. They have taken most readily, indeed enthusiastically, to their work, and the regular hours and discipline, with the new hope of employment which the training opens up, have changed their outlook on life. There was no difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of men likely to respond to the facilities offered to them and to give value for the money expended upon them."

The Report also gives an account of the proceedings during the year of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment.

* See the July and August, 1925, issues of this GAZETTE (pages 226 and 272).

† See the May and August, 1925, issues of this GAZETTE (pages 152 and 273).

‡ Published by H.M. Stationery Office; prices 4s., 2s. 6d., 4s., and 3s. 6d. respectively. A summary of these Reports appeared in the April, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE (page 121).

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES IN 1925.

THE Ministry of Transport have issued the Annual Returns* relating to railway accidents in Great Britain during the year 1925.

The returns distinguish *train accidents* (collisions, derailments, etc.); *other accidents caused by the movement of vehicles* (shunting operations, men killed or injured while working or standing on the line, etc.); and *accidents not connected with the movements of railway vehicles*. The numbers of railway and contractors' servants killed in these three classes of accidents in 1925 were 14, 242 and 42, respectively; and the numbers injured were 107, 3,561 and 17,635 respectively. It should be noted that, while all accidents to persons other than railway servants are included, only those accidents to railway servants which cause the servant injured to be absent from his ordinary work for at least one whole day are required to be reported.

The following Table shows the classes of railway servants among whom the largest number of accidents occurred in 1925:—

Class of Service.	"Train" and "Movement" Accidents.		Other Accidents.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Engine drivers and motor-men	20	372	5	806	25	1,178
Firemen	11	591	...	1,060	11	1,651
Engine cleaners	2	124	3	841	5	965
Guards (goods and mineral) and brakemen... ..	25	593	...	374	25	967
Porters (goods)	8	188	2	3,293	10	3,481
Shunters, yardsmen, etc.	21	797	...	255	21	1,052
Loaders and sheeters	2	14	1	612	3	626
Checkers	3	29	6	1,012	9	1,041
Carriage cleaners	1	10	...	343	1	353
Carters and vanguards	1	5	2	519	3	524
Guards (passenger) ... ..	...	102	...	159	...	261
Labourers	16	59	4	909	20	968
Mechanics and artisans	10	40	4	1,032	14	1,072
Permanent-way men	79	195	4	3,436	83	3,631
Porters (passenger)	11	130	...	1,025	11	1,155
Signalmen... ..	5	34	...	265	5	299
All other classes	36	376	6	1,615	42	1,991
Totals, railway servants	251	3,659	37	17,556	288	21,215
Contractors' servants	5	9	5	79	10	88
Totals, 1925	256	3,668	42	17,635	298	21,303
Totals, 1924	228	3,903	35	17,195	263	21,098

Fatal accidents among railway servants in 1925 exceeded one per thousand persons employed in the case of capstanmen; carriage and wagon examiners; greasers; guards (goods and mineral) and brakemen; horse drivers (shunting); permanent way men; shunters, yardsmen, etc.; signal fitters and telegraph wiremen; and watchmen. The highest rates for all accidents (fatal and non-fatal combined) were those for goods porters (154 per thousand employed); engine cleaners (87 per thousand); checkers (86 per thousand); loaders and sheeters (85 per thousand); horse drivers, shunting (73 per thousand); capstanmen and capstanlads (69 per thousand); shunters, yardsmen, etc. (59 per thousand); guards (goods and mineral) and brakemen (59 per thousand); and permanent way men (56 per thousand.)

EARNINGS AND HOURS IN THE ENGINEERING AND CERTAIN OTHER METAL INDUSTRIES.†

In the following Tables particulars are given of the earnings and hours of labour in the engineering, shipbuilding and certain other metal industries in 1924, as shown by the returns received from employers in response to the general enquiry instituted by the Ministry of Labour last year.

The details supplied in the returns relate to four dates in 1924, viz., the weeks ended 19th January, 12th April, 12th July and 18th October. The figures given below are preliminary and may be subject to slight revision when later returns are included. Details for the iron and steel and other metal industries were given in the August issue of this GAZETTE, and the total figures given in the following Tables cover the industries referred to in that issue as well as those specified in the Tables. For an explanation of the scope and nature of the enquiry reference should be made to the article on page 196 of the June issue.

In the case of the different sections of the engineering industry specified in the Tables the firms covered by the figures are those which definitely described themselves as being entirely or mainly engaged in the section to which they have been allocated. Some firms, however, are engaged in work covered by two or more of these sections. Such firms, together with those described as general engineers, and those engaged in branches not separately specified, have been included in the figures for "General Engineering." In the case of motor vehicle and cycle manufacture and repair (in which group motor repair garages have been included) the firms have been classified in two groups, (a) those employing 25 or more workpeople, and (b) those employing less than 25 workpeople.

The figures in the Tables are exclusive of workpeople employed in Government Establishments and in railway shops. Some par-

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

† Particulars relating to the Textile Industries were given in the June issue of this GAZETTE, to the Pottery, Brick, Glass, Chemical, etc., Industries in the July issue and to the Iron and Steel and certain other Metal Industries in the August issue.

ticulars as to the earnings and hours of labour, in one week of 1924, of workpeople employed in the railway shops are, however, given in a paragraph at the end of this article.

I.—NUMBER OF RETURNS RECEIVED AND NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE COVERED.

The number of returns received, giving information regarding earnings, and the average number of workpeople covered as shown by the average of the numbers in the four weeks specified above, in this group of industries, are as shown below.

Industry.	Number of		Industry.	Number of	
	Returns received.	Work-people covered*		Returns received.	Work-people covered*
Engineering, etc., Including:—	12,834	679,550	Engineering, etc.—continued—		
Marine engineering	138	37,871	General engineering†	4,307	272,268
Agricultural engineering	271	11,546	Shipbuilding and ship-repairing... ..	733	129,277
Textile machinery manufacture, etc.	265	41,831	Cutlery, edge tool, etc., manufacture	857	25,082
Aircraft manufacture	20	7,077	Farriery and general smiths' work	3,038	10,423
Structural engineering† and lift, weighing machine, etc., manufacture	534	32,206	Railway carriage and waggon building and repairing...	206	25,642
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instrument, cable, etc., manufacture	1,566	121,220	Textile machinery accessories manufacture...	341	12,030
Motor vehicle and cycle mfrs. & repair:—			Gold, silver, jewellery, etc., manufacture	1,725	26,478
Larger firms (see text above)	649	125,578	Heating and domestic engineering	287	5,038
Smaller firms (see text above)	5,084	29,953	Other metal industries§	1,426	41,243
			All the above	21,447	954,763
			All Metal Industries|| ... ..	25,397	1,355,326

The following Table shows the total number of workpeople, including adults and juveniles, employed by firms which have made returns as to earnings, in each of the four specified weeks of 1924, together with the proportions of males and females employed, as shown by the average of the numbers in the four weeks. In this and the following Tables the names of the industry groups have been abbreviated, owing to considerations of space, but the groups are identical with those for which more detailed descriptions are given in the Table above.

Industry.	Number of workpeople employed in the week ended				Proportion of	
	19th Jan.	12th Apr.	12th July.	18th Oct.	Males.	Females.
Engineering, etc.	653,581	677,854	692,670	694,097	Per cent. 92.5	Per cent. 7.5
Marine	34,751	38,145	39,688	38,899	99.6	0.4
Agricultural	11,403	11,764	11,638	11,378	98.6	1.4
Textile	42,131	41,297	42,385	41,513	99.2	0.8
Aircraft	6,488	6,733	7,179	7,909	91.3	8.7
Structural, etc.	32,123	31,518	32,767	32,417	98.7	1.3
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instruments, etc.	116,215	119,596	120,685	128,385	72.9	27.1
Motor vehicle and cycle:—						
Larger firms	120,202	129,741	128,499	123,869	90.0	10.0
Smaller "	29,141	30,099	30,545	30,029	97.9	2.1
General engineering etc.	261,127	268,961	279,284	279,698	96.5	3.5
Shipbuilding, etc.	127,538	127,982	132,776	128,814	99.4	0.6
Cutlery, tools, etc.	24,359	25,017	25,305	25,648	81.1	18.9
Farriery and general smiths' work... ..	10,343	10,314	10,505	10,529	97.6	2.4
Railway carriage and waggon	26,230	26,150	25,802	24,385	99.1	0.9
Textile machinery accessories	11,853	11,949	12,079	12,240	79.6	20.4
Gold, silver, jewellery, etc.	25,991	26,121	26,389	27,412	59.5	40.5
Heating, etc. engineering	4,925	4,858	4,924	5,446	99.5	0.5
Other metal§	39,901	41,021	41,709	42,340	74.6	25.4
All Metal Industries||	1,325,378	1,354,339	1,373,615	1,367,982	91.2	8.8

II.—AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average weekly earnings in each of the four specified weeks, of the workpeople employed by the firms making returns, together with the average earnings of males and of females, as shown by those returns which gave separate particulars. It should be observed that the workpeople covered by the returns include workers of all ages, including boys, apprentices, and other juveniles. Owing to the fact that certain firms were unable to separate the wages paid to males and females respectively, the numbers of males and females for whom particulars are given separately in Sections (B) and (C) of the Table add to less than the total numbers given in Section (A) of the Table.

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

† Including bridge, crane and girder work.

‡ Including firms engaged in various branches or in branches not separately specified above.

§ Including pens, small arms, locks, safes, typefoundry, metal buttons, etc.

|| Including those for which particulars were given in the August issue of this GAZETTE.

The relative levels of average earnings shown for different industries are, of course, affected by the variations in the proportions of males and females, and of adults and juveniles employed. The earnings quoted include, of course, those of workers paid both by time and by results.

quoted include,
by results.

Industry	Number of Work-people covered.*	Average earnings in the week ended				Average of the Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
(A) ALL WORKPEOPLE.						
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Engineering, etc. ...	679,550	49 3	51 3	51 5	50 8	50 8
Marine ...	37,871	50 0	51 1	52 6	52 1	51 5
Agricultural ...	11,546	44 11	45 8	47 8	46 8	46 3
Textile ...	41,831	41 8	43 6	47 10	43 5	44 1
Aircraft ...	7,077	53 11	53 2	55 1	55 10	54 7
Structural, etc. ...	32,206	50 3	52 9	53 2	53 4	52 5
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instruments, etc. ...	121,220	43 1	44 9	44 10	45 3	44 6
Motor vehicle and cycle :						
Larger firms	125,578	58 9	62 2	58 9	58 2	59 6
Smaller " ...	29,953	45 7	46 6	47 3	46 4	46 5
General engineering, etc. ...	272,268	49 2	50 7	51 8	50 10	50 7
Shipbuilding, etc. ...	129,277	49 3	50 1	53 5	54 3	51 9
Cutlery, tools, etc....	25,082	41 11	43 8	43 8	43 7	43 3
Farriery and general smiths' work ...	10,423	48 7	49 3	49 9	49 9	49 4
Railway carriage and waggon ...	25,642	54 7	55 6	53 8	55 1	54 8
Textile machinery accessories ...	12,030	43 1	44 6	45 0	45 6	44 6
Gold, silver, jewellery, etc. ...	26,478	40 4	41 10	42 10	44 5	42 5
Heating, etc., engineering ...	5,038	55 1	55 6	55 9	58 1	56 2
Other metal† ...	41,243	45 5	46 7	46 3	46 7	46 2
All Metal Industries†	1,355,326	50 8	52 1	52 0	51 9	51 7

(B) MALES.						
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Engineering, etc. ...	551,335	51 0	53 5	53 7	52 11	52 9
Marine ...	37,689	50 1	51 2	52 7	52 2	51 7
Agricultural ...	11,305	45 2	46 0	48 0	47 0	46 7
Textile ...	39,053	42 2	43 11	48 4	44 2	44 8
Aircraft ...	6,434	56 3	55 10	57 8	58 7	57 2
Structural, etc. ...	31,463	50 7	53 2	53 6	53 9	52 9
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instruments, etc. ...	63,997	50 0	52 3	52 6	52 8	51 10
Motor vehicle and cycle :						
Larger firms	91,200	60 11	66 3	62 9	62 0	63 0
Smaller " ...	28,492	46 2	47 1	47 7	46 11	46 11
General engineering, etc. ...	241,702	50 0	51 8	52 4	51 9	51 5
Shipbuilding, etc. ...	125,833	49 5	50 2	53 7	54 4	51 11
Cutlery, tools, etc. ...	15,799	47 8	49 3	48 11	49 2	48 9
Farriery and general smiths' work ...	9,615	49 6	50 1	50 6	50 7	50 2
Railway carriage and waggon ...	25,263	54 10	55 10	54 0	55 5	55 0
Textile machinery accessories ...	8,946	46 0	47 3	48 10	49 6	47 11
Gold, silver, jewellery, etc. ...	11,940	53 1	54 11	56 0	59 8	55 11
Heating, etc., engineering ...	4,939	55 2	55 7	55 11	58 3	56 4
Other metal† ...	24,740	55 7	56 6	56 3	56 9	56 3
All Metal Industries†	1,101,102	53 7	55 2	55 1	54 11	54 8

(C) FEMALES.						
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Engineering, etc. ...	44,970	26 10	26 11	27 1	27 0	26 11
Marine ...	169	30 1	30 11	29 11	29 3	30 0
Agricultural ...	158	23 0	23 1	25 9	25 6	24 4
Textile ...	331	24 5	25 1	25 8	24 11	25 0
Aircraft ...	614	28 8	26 5	27 3	27 3	27 4
Structural, etc. ...	417	23 10	25 1	24 4	25 8	24 8
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instruments, etc. ...	23,768	26 10	26 4	27 4	27 2	26 11
Motor vehicle and cycle :						
Larger firms	10,115	27 11	29 0	27 8	27 7	28 1
Smaller " ...	609	25 5	26 2	26 6	26 6	26 2
General engineering, etc. ...	8,789	25 9	26 0	25 11	26 1	26 0
Shipbuilding, etc. ...	809	25 9	24 4	25 6	25 2	25 2
Cutlery, tools, etc. ...	3,682	21 2	21 5	22 2	22 0	21 8
Farriery and general smiths' work ...	240	22 2	22 2	21 5	22 0	21 11
Railway carriage and waggon ...	225	24 0	23 1	22 11	22 6	23 1
Textile machinery accessories ...	2,296	27 11	29 4	28 9	28 7	28 8
Gold, silver, jewellery, etc. ...	8,133	22 4	23 0	23 10	24 6	23 5
Heating, etc., engineering ...	27	30 9	31 1	30 4	31 1	30 10
Other metal† ...	8,420	22 5	22 10	24 2	23 7	23 3
All Metal Industries†	106,183	24 11	25 2	25 5	25 7	25 3

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.
† Including pens, small arms, locks, safes, typefoundry, metal buttons, etc.
‡ Including those for which particulars were given in the August issue of this GAZETTE.

III.—NORMAL HOURS OF LABOUR.

The following Table shows the proportion of the workpeople employed by firms making returns on this subject, whose normal weekly hours, exclusive of mealtimes, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, fell within the limits stated, and the average normal hours. The great majority of the workers engaged in the industries specified were employed on a weekly basis and not on systems of rotational shifts. No Tables are therefore included in this article similar to those published in the August issue in regard to the hours of shift workers in the iron and steel and certain other industries.

Industry.	Number of Work-people covered.	Percentage of employees whose normal weekly hours were						Average weekly normal hours.
		44 or less.	44½ to 46½.	47	47½ to 47½.	48	Over 48.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Engineering, &c. ...	690,528	3.1	3.0	86.6	0.7	2.7	3.9	47.0
Marine ...	38,899	0.5	0.1	98.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	47.0
Agricultural ...	11,371	2.8	0.8	82.9	1.6	5.2	6.7	47.2
Textile ...	41,513	0.9	1.6	94.8	0.2	0.4	2.1	47.0
Aircraft ...	7,909	—	0.5	99.3	—	0.1	0.1	47.0
Structural, etc. ...	32,407	3.2	0.8	90.8	0.6	1.1	3.5	47.2
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instruments, &c. ...	125,751	4.5	3.9	82.0	0.8	3.9	4.9	47.0
Motor vehicle and cycle :								
Larger firms ...	123,443	5.5	3.9	82.3	1.0	3.4	3.9	46.9
Smaller " ...	29,559	9.4	8.8	32.6	4.5	14.2	30.5	47.8
General engineering, &c. ...	279,676	1.6	2.7	92.5	0.4	1.3	1.5	47.0
Shipbuilding, &c. ...	128,772	1.0	2.2	93.8	0.1	2.3	0.6	47.0
Cutlery, tools, &c. ...	25,533	6.8	10.1	61.2	3.2	10.8	7.9	47.0
Farriery and general smiths' work ...	10,370	8.8	6.2	44.9	2.6	13.1	24.4	47.9
Railway carriage and waggon ...	24,385	5.2	0.9	92.6	0.2	1.1	—	46.8
Textile machinery accessories ...	12,238	1.2	0.9	30.2	0.3	63.8	3.6	47.7
Gold, silver, jewellery, &c. ...	27,268	6.9	6.5	59.4	2.2	9.1	15.9	47.3
Heating, &c., engineering ...	5,446	26.6	12.1	44.8	2.5	3.0	11.0	46.6
Other metals* ...	42,288	6.4	8.1	61.8	1.8	14.4	7.5	47.1
All Metal Industries† ...	1,362,199	10.0	3.4	76.1	0.9	4.6	5.0	46.7

IV.—HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED.

The following Table shows the average number of hours actually worked in the four specified weeks by the workpeople employed by firms who were able to supply these particulars :—

Industry.	Number of Work-people covered.†	Average hours worked in the week ended				Average Hours worked in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Engineering, etc. ...	522,539	45.9	47.0	47.0	46.6	46.6
Marine ...	35,608	45.0	46.4	46.4	46.0	46.0
Agricultural ...	7,213	45.5	46.0	48.0	47.0	46.6
Textile ...	33,910	38.3	39.1	41.8	39.4	39.6
Aircraft ...	5,767	48.7	48.3	47.5	48.3	48.2
Structural, etc. ...	24,684	46.2	47.2	47.5	47.7	47.2
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instruments, etc. ...	92,111	46.5	47.7	47.5	48.0	47.4
Motor vehicle and cycle :						
Larger firms ...	89,031	47.2	49.1	47.0	46.5	47.5
Smaller firms ...	16,247	47.4	48.2	48.4	47.9	48.0
General engineering, etc. ...	217,968	46.2	46.9	47.5	47.0	46.9
Shipbuilding, etc. ...	95,483	43.2	44.8	45.3	45.0	44.6
Cutlery, tools, etc. ...	11,865	44.1	44.2	44.1	44.4	44.2
Farriery and general smiths' work ...	4,907	46.5	47.7	47.6	47.1	47.2
Railway carriage and waggon ...	20,588	46.6	46.4	46.4	45.3	46.2
Textile machinery accessories ...	7,944	41.7	42.7	43.1	43.5	42.8
Gold, silver, jewellery, etc. ...	10,571	43.6	44.4	45.0	46.3	44.9
Heating, etc., engineering ...	3,475	47.0	46.5	46.4	48.4	47.1
Other metals* ...	19,843	45.3	46.0	46.2	46.8	46.1
All Metal Industries† ...	941,509	45.5	46.4	46.4	46.1	46.1

V.—AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average earnings per hour of those workpeople covered by returns which showed the number of hours actually worked.

As some firms were unable to give particulars of the total number of hours worked, the average weekly earnings obtained by multiplying the average hourly earnings shown below by the average hours shown in Section IV. do not correspond precisely with the average weekly earnings shown in Section II. Comparisons of the average earnings shown for different industries are, of course, affected by the different proportions of males and females and of adults and juveniles employed as between one industry and another.

* Including pens, small arms, locks, safes, typefoundry, metal buttons, &c.
† Including those for which particulars were given in the August issue of this GAZETTE.
‡ Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

Industry.	Number of Work-people covered.*	Average Hourly earnings in the week ended				Average Hourly Earnings in the four weeks.
		19th Jan.	12th April.	12th July.	18th Oct.	
Engineering, etc. ...	522,539	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Marine ...	35,608	13.0	13.2	13.3	13.2	13.2
Agricultural ...	7,213	12.0	12.1	12.0	11.9	12.0
Textile ...	33,910	13.1	13.4	14.0	13.1	13.4
Aircraft ...	5,767	14.0	13.8	14.4	14.3	14.2
Structural, etc. ...	24,684	13.1	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.3
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instruments, etc. ...	92,111	11.3	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.5
Motor vehicle and cycle: Larger firms ...	89,031	15.3	15.6	15.4	15.5	15.4
Smaller " ...	16,247	11.7	11.8	12.0	11.8	11.8
General engineering, etc. ...	217,968	12.8	13.0	13.1	13.0	13.0
Shipbuilding, etc. ...	95,483	13.3	13.3	14.0	14.3	13.7
Cutlery, tools, etc. ...	11,865	11.2	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.6
Farriery and general smiths' work ...	4,907	12.7	12.6	12.8	13.0	12.8
Railway carriage and waggon ...	20,588	14.1	14.4	14.0	14.4	14.2
Textile machinery accessories ...	7,944	12.7	12.7	12.8	12.9	12.8
Gold, silver, jewellery, etc. ...	10,571	11.8	12.1	12.2	12.1	12.0
Heating, etc., engineering ...	3,475	14.0	14.3	14.4	14.3	14.3
Other metal† ...	19,843	12.4	12.6	12.4	12.2	12.4
All Metal Industries‡ ...	941,509	13.4	13.5	13.6	13.5	13.5

VI.—EXTENT OF SHORT TIME.

The following Table shows the proportion of workpeople, employed by the firms making returns, who were reported to be working less than full time, together with the average number of hours lost per week by such workpeople, and the average time lost by all the workpeople covered by the returns.

Industry.	Number of Work-people covered.*	Proportion of Workpeople on Short Time in the week ended			
		19th Jan.	12th Apl.	12th July.	18th Oct.
Engineering ...	654,390	Per cent. 9.3	Per cent. 7.6	Per cent. 5.9	Per cent. 7.7
Marine ...	37,705	6.7	3.8	3.2	2.6
Agricultural ...	11,420	35.0	29.9	26.4	18.0
Textile ...	40,185	54.4	51.4	36.9	52.5
Aircraft ...	7,049	—	—	—	—
Structural, etc. ...	29,676	4.3	4.0	2.4	3.2
Electrical machinery, apparatus, scientific instruments, etc. ...	116,281	1.9	1.6	2.7	2.2
Motor vehicle and cycle: Larger firms ...	117,116	3.6	1.7	1.4	4.6
Smaller " ...	27,921	3.2	2.1	1.9	2.5
General engineering, etc. ...	267,037	8.6	7.2	5.0	6.4
Shipbuilding, etc. ...	126,421	1.8	0.9	1.1	1.1
Cutlery, tools, etc. ...	21,222	20.5	18.0	18.9	18.7
Farriery and general smiths' work ...	9,763	4.8	4.1	2.5	3.5
Railway carriage and waggon ...	25,036	2.9	3.9	2.6	7.7
Textile machinery accessories ...	11,818	36.2	30.5	30.8	27.2
Gold, silver, jewellery, etc. ...	23,813	22.3	19.2	15.7	9.5
Heating, etc., engineering ...	4,701	3.0	2.2	1.7	0.6
Other metal† ...	37,996	9.4	8.4	6.7	7.7
All Metal Industries‡	1,299,698	9.2	7.9	7.2	8.6

Industry.	Average Number of Hours lost (a) by those who worked less than Full Time and (b) by all Workpeople covered in the week ended							
	19th Jan.		12th Apl.		12th July.		18th Oct.	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Engineering, etc. ...	11.5	1.1	11.1	0.8	10.1	0.6	10.8	0.8
Marine ...	14.6	1.0	16.5	0.6	12.5	0.4	12.8	0.3
Agricultural ...	9.8	3.4	10.0	3.0	4.9	1.3	8.3	1.5
Textile ...	14.9	8.1	14.5	7.5	13.8	5.1	13.8	7.2
Aircraft ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Structural, etc. ...	9.8	0.4	8.8	0.4	8.1	0.2	7.2	0.2
Electrical machinery and apparatus, scientific instruments, etc. ...	9.5	0.2	10.9	0.2	7.3	0.2	8.0	0.2
Motor vehicle and cycle: Larger firms ...	8.9	0.3	6.0	0.1	13.8	0.2	7.9	0.4
Smaller " ...	8.8	0.3	8.2	0.2	8.4	0.2	9.0	0.2
General engineering, etc. ...	9.0	0.8	8.0	0.6	7.4	0.4	8.8	0.6
Shipbuilding, etc. ...	13.5	0.2	15.5	0.1	14.9	0.2	14.8	0.2
Cutlery tools, etc. ...	10.5	2.1	10.2	1.8	9.8	1.9	9.8	1.8
Farriery and General smiths' work ...	7.4	0.4	6.8	0.3	7.6	0.2	7.9	0.3
Railway carriage and waggon ...	11.0	0.3	7.7	0.3	12.2	0.3	12.9	1.0
Textile machinery accessories ...	13.5	4.9	13.1	4.0	11.3	3.5	11.9	3.2
Gold, silver, jewellery, etc. ...	12.0	2.7	11.8	2.3	11.2	1.8	9.8	0.9
Heating, etc., engineering ...	7.1	0.2	12.2	0.3	14.7	0.3	17.8	0.1
Other metals† ...	11.4	1.7	11.4	1.0	12.0	0.8	11.6	0.9
All Metal Industries‡	11.1	1.0	11.0	0.9	11.1	0.8	11.2	1.0

Workpeople "stood-off" for the whole of any of the weeks specified have been regarded as unemployed, and have not been taken into account in compiling the above statistics.

VII.—WORKPEOPLE EMPLOYED IN RAILWAY SHOPS.

Particulars are not available as to the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople employed in the railway shops in each of the four weeks specified above, but the following details relate to the week ended 29th March, 1924. The total number of employees of the shop and artisan staff in the locomotive, carriage and waggon, civil engineer's, signal and telegraph, etc., departments was 143,762, of whom 142,488 were males and 1,274 were females. The average weekly earnings were 63s. 3d., those for males being 63s. 7d., and those for females 30s. 4d. The normal hours of labour were 47 per week, and the approximate time actually worked was 4.5 per cent. in excess of the normal hours. The amount of short time was stated to be negligible.

HOUSING IN 1925-26.

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE Seventh Annual Report of the Ministry of Health,* dealing with the year ended 31st March, 1926, states that there was a great improvement in the progress of house building during the year. The total number of houses completed in England and Wales, excluding those built for rehousing purposes in connection with slum clearance schemes, was 173,426, as compared with 136,889 in 1924-25 and 86,210 in 1923-24. This number was far in excess of the number recorded in any year before the War. Of the 173,426 houses built in 1925-6, those built by private enterprise without State assistance numbered 66,439, and those built with State assistance 106,987 (62,769 by private enterprise, and 44,218 by local authorities).

The total number of houses built with State assistance since the end of the War is 392,000, and the number built without State assistance since October, 1922, is 227,000. If the number built without State assistance between the end of the War and October, 1922, be estimated at 30,000, the total number of houses built since the War may be put at 649,000.

The Minister of Health issued a Circular to Housing Authorities and County Councils in February, 1925, on the subject of the augmentation of the skilled building trade crafts by means of a revision of the apprenticeship system, on the lines of a Memorandum of Instructions issued by the Building Industry Committee.† When the scheme had been in operation for a year, local authorities were asked to obtain from their contractors information as to the number of apprentices that had been taken on in accordance with the Circular and the Memorandum; and the returns received showed that 8,264 had been so taken on, up to the 31st January, 1926; more bricklayer and plasterer apprentices are, however, still required. The shortage of plasterers is engaging the special attention of the Building Industry Committee.

The monthly average prices of houses included in contracts let by local authorities during the months of June, September, December, 1925, and March, 1926, varied from £437 to £448 for non-parlour houses, and from £485 to £499 for parlour houses. The figures for the corresponding months of 1924-5 were from £421 to £440 for non-parlour houses, and from £462 to £502 for parlour houses; for 1923-4 they were much lower (£350 to £416, non-parlour; and £390 to £466, parlour).

The average rent (excluding rates) charged for all types of houses erected under the Housing Act of 1919 was 9s. 6d. a week on the 31st March, 1926; approximately the same as in the previous year.

The total payments of Exchequer subsidy in respect of housing since the War have been £45,617,743. The figure for the year 1925-6 was £7,833,861; and the estimates for the year 1926-7 contain provision for £8,487,000.

Apart from the grant of subsidies, considerable and increasing assistance has been afforded by local authorities in the promotion of house building by way of loan. The total amount of loans sanctioned and advances for the promotion of the purchase and construction of houses during the year was £14,287,495, as compared with £8,296,299 in 1924-5 and £3,227,496 in 1923-4.

II.—SCOTLAND.

According to the Seventh Annual Report of the Scottish Board of Health for the year 1925,‡ the number of houses completed with State assistance during the year was 8,201, as compared with 4,384 in 1924 and 6,618 in 1923. There was thus a considerable improvement in 1925 over the two previous years; but the number of houses built was still much below the number (20,000) estimated to be required. The number of houses in course of construction at the end of the year was 13,311, as compared with 9,808 at the end of 1924; and proposals had been approved for the erection of 14,410 houses which had not been commenced. The total number of houses completed under the various schemes of financial assistance from 1919 down to the end of 1925 was 36,216.

According to returns received from local authorities, the numbers of houses built by unassisted private enterprise were 1,553 in 1924 and 1,852 in 1925. It is stated in the Report that the returns were in many cases obviously not very reliable, but the conclusion is reached that this form of private enterprise has not functioned to any great extent in Scotland in recent years.

* Cmd. 2724. H.M. Stationery Office: price 3s. 6d. net.

† For an account of the Memorandum of Instructions, and of the Minister of Health's Circular, see the February, 1925, issue of this GAZETTE, page 40.

‡ Cmd. 2674. H.M. Stationery Office: price 5s. 6d. net.

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.
† Including pens, small arms, locks, safes, typefoundry, metal buttons, etc.
‡ Including those for which particulars were given in the August issue of this GAZETTE.

The Report states that the labour on housing schemes seems to have been inadequate to ensure the progress desired, and refers particularly to a shortage of plasterers on housing schemes. In some cases it appeared that houses had been standing for months ready for plastering, but that no progress had been made with the work. Towards the end of the year the plasterers' organisations were considering measures for speeding up this work on housing schemes.

The general question of the inadequate progress of housing in Scotland was considered by a committee of local authorities and by the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Building Industry Committee, both of whom reported in November, 1925. Their conclusions are stated at length in the Report. The Prime Minister announced, on the 1st October, that the Government had decided to give a special premium of £40 per house, over and above the ordinary subsidy, to local authorities erecting houses of special forms of construction, viz., those not requiring in the production and erection of the houses more than 10 per cent. of skilled building trade labour. It was also intended that the houses should be produced by methods of mass production, and the offer was therefore limited to firms capable of producing at least 1,000 houses a year. The response to this invitation was, however, meagre, and in December the Prime Minister announced that the offer had been withdrawn, and that the Government had decided themselves to erect in Scotland 2,000 houses of the steel type which did not require in their production and erection more than 10 per cent. of skilled building trade labour. The houses were to be built through the agency of the Scottish National Housing Company.

The total amount of subsidy paid in Scotland during 1925 under the various Housing Acts in respect of houses erected by local authorities, public utility societies, and district boards of control, and by private enterprise, was £943,575.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE fifty-eighth annual Trades Union Congress was held at Bournemouth on the 6th September and the five following days. The President was Mr. A. Pugh, Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the Statistical Statement compiled by the General Council, was 697; the number of organisations affiliated to the Congress (including those organisations, with a membership of about 100,000, which did not appoint delegates) was 174,* with a membership of approximately 4,365,000. In the following Table these figures are analysed by groups of Unions (the classification adopted being that used by this Department for its annual statistics of membership of Trade Unions), and corresponding figures are given for 1925.

Group of Organisations.	1925.			1926.		
	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.
Agriculture ...	1	4	30,000	1	7	30,000
Mining and Quarrying ...	8	177	832,543	8	161	832,641
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	44	111	623,132	45	116	601,382
Textile ...	27*	98	403,171	27*	102	414,434
Clothing ...	9	35	160,447	9	34	167,798
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	8	12	80,569	7	11	82,616
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	13	36	167,665	13	23	170,280
Building, Decorating, etc. ...	9	31	295,380	9	31	299,495
Railway Service ...	3	29	454,924	3	29	454,786
Other Transport ...	7	63	404,126	7	58	402,692
Commerce and Finance ...	8	24	166,297	9	25	172,680
Public Administration ...	12	24	154,045	12	24	159,677
Miscellaneous ...	17	19	78,259	18	16	78,318
General Labour† ...	6	64	500,424	6	60	498,615
Total ...	172	727	4,350,982	174	697	4,365,414

The figures for 1926 show little change compared with those for 1925. In most of the groups there was a slight increase in membership, but in the metal, transport, and general labour groups there was a decline.

Following the official welcome by the Mayor and the representative of the local Trades Council, the proceedings of the Congress were opened by the address of the President. The General Council's Report was taken immediately after the address, and the business of the Congress was arranged so that resolutions on the agenda were taken in conjunction with the relevant sections of the Report. There was little discussion upon the sections of the Report dealt with on the first day; but resolutions were adopted (i) calling upon the Government to extend the principle of Unemployment Insurance to the agricultural industry, and (ii) protesting against workers in one occupation being prevented from following other occupations, and, in particular, condemning "the attempts being made to keep farm workers on the land by refusing them employment in sugar beet factories, and the indirect encouragement which is being given to these attempts by the Ministry of Labour." A composite resolution was also passed calling upon the Government to amend the Workmen's Compensation Acts so that every disease arising from an occupation,

or in the course of employment, should be scheduled under the Acts, that the compensation payable should be at least 75 per cent. of the average earnings, based on full weeks of normal employment, that the receipt of compensation should not disqualify for National Health Insurance benefits, and that compensation should not be reduced on the ground that the recipient is "fit for light employment," unless such employment is available at suitable rates of wages.

A resolution demanding that there should be no differentiation between the rates of unemployment insurance benefit paid to single men and to single women was lost, the previous question being carried by 2,345,000 votes to 1,304,000.

The principal discussions on the second day were concerned with (i) Trade Union organisation; (ii) education; and (iii) the Emergency Powers Act. The main resolution on the first question asked Congress to declare that any division of wage-earners into Trade Unions established on narrow industrial lines is unlikely to be more effective in the workers' interests than present-day organisation on a craft basis; that organisation upon a basis of occupation limits the workers' power of resistance; and that the amalgamation of kindred unions should be continued, "with the object of one big union being reached as the ultimate goal of working-class organisation." Another resolution was taken as an amendment to the above, expressing regret for the little advance made in the direction of industrial unionism, and instructing the General Council to call conferences of the trade groups in order to arrange for the merging of the separate unions within these groups into industrial unions. Considerable discussion ended in the adoption of the amendment on a card vote by 2,164,000 votes to 1,658,000. On the subject of education, the General Council, in its report upon the proposed development of Easton Lodge as an educational centre, asked Congress to impose a levy of one penny per member each year for three years, and in the meantime empower the Council to raise capital by loan for the scheme. A motion to refer the matter back was carried by 2,441,000 votes to 1,481,000. There was some criticism of the scheme itself, but the main criticism concerned the inability of delegates to commit their members, and the present urgent need for economy in the unions.

As regards the Emergency Powers Act, an emergency resolution was accepted protesting "against the continuance of measures designed for use only in time of great danger to the State, as being a violation of the traditions of the country."

There was some criticism of a paragraph in the Report indicating that the General Council, in connection with a letter received from a union, "had agreed to inform the Trades Councils that affiliation to the Minority Movement, in the opinion of the Council, was not consistent with the policy of the Congress and the General Council, who could not therefore approve of affiliation to the National Minority Movement." A motion to refer back this paragraph in the Report was defeated on a card vote by 2,710,000 votes to 738,000.

A resolution was passed urging upon parents and guardians the importance of exerting their influence to induce young people of their own families to join a trade union as soon as eligible.

The Congress also carried a resolution protesting against the decision of the Minister of Labour to abolish the Grocery and Provision Trade Boards and not to establish Trade Boards in the meat distributive, catering, and drapery and allied trades.

A long discussion took place on the third day upon the section of the General Council's Report dealing with industrial disputes. There was a short reference in the Report to the mining situation and the National Strike, the General Council having decided to defer consideration of the whole subject until their report is presented to a conference of executives of affiliated unions. After the defeat of a motion for the reference back of the Report, on the ground that a paragraph dealing with the National Strike was inaccurate, there was a discussion on a long composite resolution (and an amendment thereto) dealing with the powers and duties of the General Council. The resolution called for an investigation to be instituted into the whole subject of the extension of the powers of the Council in relation to disputes; while the amendment asked Congress to decide that the time had come for definite powers to be given immediately to the General Council in regard to the direction and control of disputes. A strong section of Congress argued in favour of postponing consideration of the whole question, and suggested the rejection of both resolution and amendment. The amendment was rejected by 3,202,000 votes to 848,000, and the resolution by 2,573,000 votes to 1,404,000.

On the fourth day a motion to refer back the Report of the General Council on account of the inadequacy of a paragraph relating to the mining situation and the National Strike was defeated by 3,098,000 votes to 775,000.

A resolution calling upon the Government to institute an International Convention for the purpose of fixing an international minimum wage standard as a necessary corollary to the 48 hours' Convention, and, pending such Convention, to prohibit the importation of goods produced abroad under unsatisfactory conditions, was lost by 2,134,000 votes to 1,067,000. An emergency resolution was passed expressing appreciation of national and international financial assistance given to the miners, and appealing for even greater efforts. Congress adopted resolutions calling upon the Government to appoint the Minister of Labour as one of the representatives to the annual conference of the International Labour Organisation; urging ratification of the Washington Hours of Work Convention now that "five great powers have agreed the interpretation to be placed" upon it; expressing satisfaction with certain aspects of the investigation work of the International Labour Organisation, and recommending all constituent bodies to study the machinery and take advantage of the services of the Organisation. Fraternal delegates from various other bodies addressed Congress on this day.

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

† Including general unions of enginemen, etc.

Consideration of the Report of the General Council was completed on Friday. An emergency resolution was adopted on the right of Civil Service organisations to affiliate with outside industrial and political bodies, pledging strenuous opposition to any new restrictions, and, in the event of such restrictions being imposed, pledging the industrial and political labour movements to work for such amendments of law and practice as might be necessary to remove them. Another emergency resolution protested against the Guardians Default Act, 1926.

On the subject of international Trade Union unity a resolution was passed to the effect that one united Trades Union International should be created for the Trade Unions of the world; but another resolution suggesting that the International Federation of Trade Unions should be asked to call a conference with the Red International of Labour Unions was defeated by 2,416,000 votes to 1,237,000. Congress adopted a resolution in favour of the ratification of the Geneva Convention of 1921 concerning a weekly rest day in industrial undertakings, and urging Unions to endeavour to incorporate this condition in agreements with employers. A resolution admitting Trades Councils, as such, to affiliation was rejected by Congress, on the ground that it would lead to dual representation of unions. A proposal to discuss the embargo of the Home Office upon the Russian delegates was not accepted, the General Council having made a direct protest to the Government. Congress also declined to adopt a resolution dealing with the establishment of a uniform national minimum wage.

The proceedings of the Congress on the sixth day included the adoption of an emergency resolution concerning the action of the British and Japanese Governments in China, and of a composite resolution asking for an examination by the General Council and the Unions concerned into the question of nationalisation of industrial insurance, for report to next Congress.

Among the other subjects with regard to which resolutions were moved at the Congress were the position of Trade Union staffs; the sanitary condition of shops, offices, and warehouses; decasualisation, and the guaranteed week (with special reference to the building trades); the prevention of systematic overtime; the abolition of home work in the clothing trades; the payment for holidays for all workers; the ratification of the Night Work in Bakeries Convention, approved at the International Labour Conference of 1925; the reduction of the State grant under the National Health Insurance scheme; the postal cheque system; decimal coinage, and metric weights and measures.

The election of the General Council resulted in the return of all the old members, with two exceptions; and in one of these cases the sitting member did not seek re-election. Mr. W. M. Citrine, who had been acting as secretary since the death of Mr. Fred Bramley, was unanimously elected general secretary.

During the week the first annual conference of Trade Union women was held, when resolutions were passed urging Unions with women membership to encourage women to take a larger share in the administration and control of the Unions; the formation of women's Trade Union Guilds, and the necessity for increased education in Trade Union principles among young people entering industry. A discussion took place on the system of family allowances, a memorandum on which was presented and referred to delegates for further consideration.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS : CHIEF INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1925 has been issued.*

In a general review of the position of industry during the year it is stated that certain trades were consistently busy throughout the year; while others, and more particularly the textile industry, potteries, the iron and steel and shipbuilding industries, suffered from acute depression. Towards the end of the year a distinctly more hopeful feeling was noticeable, which was reflected latterly in a gradual diminution in the number of unemployed persons.

Among the industries which have shown the greatest vitality and expansion should again be placed building, with the various trades which depend more or less on building activity, such as the manufacture of bricks, cement, light castings (stoves, grates and spouting), paints and varnishes, linoleum, cabinet and chair making, and sanitary and electrical fittings. The Report refers to the continued rapid development of the motor industry, which has been most marked in the Midland and Eastern Divisions and in the neighbourhood of London, though all parts of the country have benefited to a greater or less extent. There are at present some 14,600 works engaged directly in various branches of the motor trade, of which rather more than half are repairing garages.

The centrifugal movement of industries from the old and cramped surroundings in larger towns to the outskirts continued to be a special feature in 1925; and special mention is made of the areas surrounding London, which continue to develop industrially in a remarkable manner. This is a highly beneficial movement, for work, instead of being carried on in closely populated districts, is transferred to new factories well laid out, usually on a one-floor system, and in pleasant healthful surroundings. The importance of London and the surrounding country as an industrial area is steadily growing, and among the factories recently opened in that area the following

trades are represented: making of electrical appliances, artificial limbs, bedsteads, quilts, motor-bodies, electrical fittings, pencils, wireless apparatus, pickles, ice, woodpulp, and dopes from celluloid. Another new industry is the making of artificial silk stockings, in which already over 2,000 workers are employed.

The beet sugar industry is developing rapidly; nine factories were working last year, while five others were in course of construction.

The number of registered factories* in Great Britain again rose during the year under review, the total being 144,361, as compared with 142,494 in 1924. Workshops* further declined from 133,729 to 128,793. This regular increase of factories, and equally regular decline in the number of workshops, has been going on for a number of years, and is in many cases due to the introduction of electrical power or of an oil or gas engine into workshop premises, which are thus transformed into factories. Apart from this, however, there is a continual closing down of village millinery, tailoring and saddlery workshops. Millinery and dressmaking works registered throughout the country have fallen from nearly 36,000 in 1907 to just over 27,000 in 1925.

Four new codes of Regulations for dangerous trades came into operation during the year; the first extends and strengthens the existing code applying to the manufacture of electric accumulators; the second similarly extends and strengthens the code relating to docks; the third, a new code to regulate the lifting of heavy weights in the wool textile industry, was made on the recommendation of the Joint Industrial Council, and fixes the maximum weights that may be lifted individually by men, women and young persons respectively; the fourth applies to the grinding of metals in miscellaneous industries, other than cutlery, and is the fruit of a long and exhaustive enquiry into working conditions in this industry and of subsequent negotiations with employers and operatives which led finally to an agreed code.

In addition to these, three other codes, applying to building, shipbuilding, and vehicle painting with lead paint, and also one Welfare Order relating to cleaning of sacks, were issued in draft.

Eighty-seven Orders (against ninety-eight last year) were made under Section 2 of the Women, Young Persons and Children Act, 1920, allowing two separate shifts to be worked during the day.

Accidents.—The following Table shows the number of accidents reported during 1925, together with comparative figures for 1924, extracted from the Report for that year:—

Industry.	All Accidents (fatal and non-fatal).		Fatal Accidents.	
	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.
<i>Textile—</i>				
Cotton	9,837	9,334	37	16
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy	2,877	3,369	14	23
Other Textile Industries	2,108	2,135	6	10
<i>Non-Textile—</i>				
Conversion of Metals (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making)	18,329	22,102	70	97
Founding of Metals	10,633	10,198	32	28
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles	11,928	12,033	24	32
Shipbuilding	10,485	14,427	84	103
Other Non-Textile Industries	82,714	84,237	418	435
<i>Docks and Warehouses, Buildings and Railways, under Sections 104-106 of the Factory Act, 1901</i>	<i>10,782</i>	<i>11,888</i>	<i>259</i>	<i>212</i>
	159,693	169,723	944	956

It is stated that the decrease of just over 10,000 in the total number of accidents as compared with the figures for 1924 is confined to certain districts only, and is accounted for chiefly by depression in the iron and steel and shipbuilding industries; actually these two industries alone are responsible for a drop of 8,000. With reference to the small number of accidents sustained by women and girls, it is pointed out that out of the total of 944 fatal accidents no fewer than 539 occurred in a small group of industries, namely, docks, buildings, chemicals, shipbuilding, metal conversion, metal founding, stone and cement, and gas works—all industries in which males are almost exclusively employed.

Among the industries contributing the largest number of fatal accidents, building operations were accountable for 142, docks for 93, shipbuilding for 84, metal conversion and iron and steel rolling for 70. Of the 142 fatal accidents in the building industry, 42 were due to falls from working platforms, 53 to other falls of persons, and 20 to falls of articles or plant.

Summarised by age and sex the accidents of the year 1925 were distributed as shown in the following Table:—

	All Accidents.	Fatal Accidents.
<i>Adults:</i>		
Male	120,638	867
Female	12,640	20
<i>Young Persons:</i>		
Male	20,273	54
Female	6,142	3
<i>All Ages:</i>		
Male	140,911	921
Female	18,782	23
Total	159,693	944

Industrial Poisoning, etc.—The Report of the Senior Medical Officer includes the following Table showing the number of notifications

* "Factories" are equipped with mechanical power; "workshops" are not so equipped.

under Section 73 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as compared with the previous year:—

Disease.	Cases.		Deaths.	
	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.
Lead poisoning	326	486	13	32
Phosphorus poisoning	6	6	...	1
Arsenical poisoning	5	5	...	...
Mercurial poisoning	3	*	...	...
Carbon bisulphide poisoning	31	*	1	*
Aniline poisoning ... ..	...	...	...	...
Chronic benzene poisoning	2	3	1	...
Toxic jaundice	160	123	55	24
Epitheliomatous ulceration	54	45	...	...
Chronic ulceration	45	43	9	4
Anthrax ... ..	...	...	...	...
Totals	632	711	79	61

The reduction in the number of cases of lead poisoning is due principally to a noticeable falling off of the cases in ship-breaking and in electric accumulator manufacture.

"*Safety First.*"—It is stated that reports with regard to the "Safety First" movement are somewhat contradictory. In a few districts the movement appears to be making no progress, and in some cases enthusiasm is even waning; but on the whole interest is being steadily maintained, and in certain areas there has been substantial progress.

Hours of Work, etc.—On the subject of hours of work the Report states that the 48-hour week appears to be almost universal, and factories in which 60 hours of employment (still permissible by law) are regularly worked are becoming rare. Although the system of working a 5-day week has been introduced into a number of factories, it is not possible to foretell at this stage whether it will become a permanent and general institution. In many works bad trade has been the reason for the adoption of the system, and a period of good trade is needed to show whether the firms intend to continue such an arrangement of hours. It is stated in the Report, however, that where the five-day week has been adopted the workers and indeed the managers seem to be almost unanimously in favour of it.

Rest-Pauses.—It is stated that the practice of introducing recognised rest pauses or short breaks of 10–15 minutes for refreshment is becoming much more general in all industries, especially in non-textile trades and where a 5-hour spell is in operation. In these cases the length of the spell to the worker is of less moment than formerly, and may partly account for the fact that an actual reduction in the length of the spell has not generally taken place. On the whole breaks seem to be more common in the morning than in the afternoon, which is probably due to the fact that the morning spell is usually longer. As to the effect on output of rest pauses, researches by the Industrial Fatigue Research Board leave no reasonable doubt that in a working spell of 4½ hours or over a short rest-pause tends to greater efficiency. There is, however, a great diversity of opinion on the part of employers on this question, some holding that the effect is favourable, while others maintain that the break is unsettling, and that the rate of production for a short time before and after such an established break is lessened. It is noted that where the system is adopted it is nearly always continued.

"*Welfare.*"—Statutory Welfare Orders are at present in force in 14 industries. Owing to difficulties that had arisen with regard to the Order applying to the curing of herrings a draft Order has been issued by agreement which will, if and when confirmed, be binding in all curing districts. In regard to voluntary welfare schemes it is stated that this form of welfare is now definitely established in industry, and is operating on a scale much beyond what is generally known. It is true the movement has hitherto been initiated chiefly by the larger and more successful industrial concerns, but it is steadily growing, and every year sees more firms joining in the advance and framing schemes for the betterment, entertainment, or education of their workers. The Report adds that one of the most striking features of this movement is its steady growth in the textile industries, and some of the most prominent examples are to be found in the cotton industry in Lancashire. A good deal of prejudice has still to be overcome, but it is evident that the movement has taken hold in that area.

Weight Lifting.—In a Report on a special inquiry into weight lifting by women and young persons, it is stated that the work required of these classes is, on the whole, well within their capacity. Except on piece-work, where there is a premium on speed, women appear to know their capacity to a nicety; but young persons, and particularly male young persons, do, in the investigator's opinion, require more regulation and supervision if they are to avoid overstrain. The evidence suggests that 40 per cent. of body weight for the individual load should not be exceeded by women or young persons where the lifting and/or carrying is an essential part of the process, and is intermittent, if not continuous, throughout the shift; and 50 per cent. for incidental and occasional loads for women.

The number of young persons between 14 and 16 years of age examined for certificates of fitness in 1925 was 350,802. Of these 20,169 were rejected or certified conditionally, as shown in the following Table:—

Defect.	Number of		Total.
	Rejections.	Certificates under conditions or advice.	
Medical reasons	6,467	9,308	15,775
Non-medical reasons	4,078	316	4,394
Total	10,545	9,624	20,169

Of those rejected for non-medical reasons, nearly 80 per cent. were rejected for non-production of certificate or other evidence of age.

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 23rd August, 1926, differed from the figures for 26th July, 1926, 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 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 26th July, 1926.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cotton	– 8,530	– 18,471	– 27,001
Jute	– 3,792	– 10,023	– 13,815
Pottery, Earthenware &c.	– 3,724	– 4,671	– 8,395
Woollen and Worsted	– 1,904	– 3,927	– 5,831
Railway Service	– 4,358	– 18	– 4,376
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel-Rolling Mills and Forges... ..	– 3,206	+ 53	– 3,153
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery... ..	+ 31	– 2,952	– 2,921
Brick, Tile, etc. Making	– 1,508	– 349	– 1,857
Carpet Manufacture	– 721	– 1,127	– 1,848
Shipping Service	– 1,446	– 56	– 1,502
*Other Textile Industries... ..	– 208	– 1,172	– 1,380
Stone Quarrying and Mining	– 1,097	+ 5	– 1,092
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	– 1,156	+ 108	– 1,048
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	+ 49	+ 1,023	+ 1,072
*Other Food Industries	+ 102	+ 988	+ 1,090
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc. Manufacture	+ 679	+ 612	+ 1,291
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	+ 1,987	+ 284	+ 2,271
Distributive Trades	+ 1,217	+ 1,339	+ 2,556
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft }	+ 3,279	– 271	+ 3,008
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	+ 4,574	– 15	+ 4,559
Tailoring	+ 1,778	+ 5,188	+ 6,966
Net Variation for above industries	– 17,954	– 33,452	– 51,406
Total Net Variation for all insured industries	– 16,456	– 36,297	– 52,753

GUIDE TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS.

THE fourth annual volume of the *Guide to Current Official Statistics of the United Kingdom*† has been issued by the Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics. The aim of the Guide is to direct the enquirer to all current official publications that contain statistics bearing on his subject; and particularly to inform him of the nature of the statistics he will find in the volumes to which he is referred, i.e., their mode of analysis, and the time and place to which they relate.

The general scheme of the Guide remains unaltered. The statistical material published in the year under review is exhibited in the form of a "Subject Index," which shows against each entry the statistical treatment, as indicated above, of the various subjects. The publications to which reference is made are given separately, under the Departments responsible, in a "List of Publications." A feature of the Subject Index is the grouping of all published statistical data under twenty-five broad references (e.g., Agriculture, Industry and Labour, Social Services, etc.), by means of a system of successive cross-references, thus rendering it possible, with a minimum of effort, to ascertain with certainty what (if any) statistics are available on any given subject. In the present volume use has been made of the opportunity afforded by the necessary annual revision and by the incorporation of new material to improve in various respects the treatment of the references in the Subject Index.

While this issue of the Guide primarily relates to the publications of 1925, an indication is given in all cases where later issues of annual reports have become available in the present year, up to the end of April. The Guide itself also includes a selection of important publications which have already appeared in the present year.

Many of the volumes to which reference is made are of special importance to those interested in labour and industrial problems.

* These groups, which include miscellaneous industries, correspond with those under the same headings in the Table on pages 340–343.

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (1s. 3½d. post free).

* These were not notifiable before the 1st February, 1925.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

The latest returns show that there are approximately 28,000 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms is approximately 370,000.

KING'S ROLL NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The King's Roll National Council, presided over by Field Marshal Earl Haig, K.T., O.M., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., held its fifteenth meeting at the House of Commons on 13th July, 1926.

It was reported to the Council that the number of non-enrolled local Authorities who were not employing too small a staff to be reasonably expected to enrol was 470 as against 607 at the date of the last meeting (18th March, 1926); and that the number of non-enrolled Royal Warrant Holders had been reduced from 82 to 49.

The Council have continued their efforts to secure the enrolment of public utility Companies (i.e. electricity, gas, water, harbour and dock etc. concerns), the present figures showing that 344 out of a total of 548 are on the Roll. The number not on the Roll does not include those concerns known to employ too small a staff to be reasonably expected to enrol.

The Council have recently taken steps to secure the enrolment of hotels and other concerns likely to offer suitable employment for disabled ex-Service men.

UNEMPLOYED DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

The latest figures available relate to the position on the 26th July, 1926, and indicate that 29,062 disabled ex-Service men are registered at Employment Exchanges as in search of employment.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 31st August, 1926, the number of men in training was 886, and the number awaiting training, 103. Since 1st August, 1919, 99,060 men have terminated training.

HOME-WORK IN TAILORING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

THE Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1925* summarises the results of a special inquiry into the present position regarding home-work in industry.

Home-work is carried on in a great variety of industries, but particularly in tailoring and other wearing apparel trades, in certain metal industries, and in certain food trades. Much of the work is unskilled or semi-skilled; but a great deal is highly skilled and of a specialised nature, e.g., high-class tailoring and boot and shoe making. It is always piece work, and usually hand work; though electricity is bringing mechanical power even into the homes of the out-workers.

Many reasons were given by employers for the continuance of home-work, e.g., that it lessens the cost of production by saving overhead charges, that it reduces the amount to be spent on rent and unemployment insurance, etc. Many of the out-workers are women who at one time worked in a factory, and the employer is glad to retain their services after they have left the factory owing to their marriage or for other reasons. This is especially convenient (i) in scattered country districts, where their daily attendance at the factory would be impossible, and (ii) where the work is intermittent, and the out-workers provide an emergency supply of labour. Again, some leases contain a clause forbidding manufacture on the premises; while in other cases the rents in the shopping districts of towns are so high that firms find they cannot afford to maintain work-rooms on the premises. From the point of view of the workers, many women are glad to be able to continue their work after marriage; if they have children or invalid relatives whom they cannot leave, they can nevertheless add to the family means by home-work in their spare time.

There is a consensus of opinion that home-work is on the decline except in the tailoring trade, where out-work (not necessarily home-work) is still common, and in certain trades related to household furnishing and equipment. Many reasons may be given for this decrease. It is no doubt associated with the general decline in trade; out-workers are often only part-time workers, and they tend to be the first to go when work is short. Again, out-workers in most industries are casual workers, and there is not much room for casual work in modern industry; moreover, out-work in the past has not usually been well organised, and it has been difficult to secure that the work was properly done and delivered at the right time. Formerly, these disadvantages were probably counteracted to some fact by the cheapness of this form of labour, but the development of Trade Boards has removed that advantage. Other reasons for the decline in home-work are the invention of new machinery, the cheapening of power and the more extended use of electricity, the increased sub-division of labour, and improved factory premises. Employers with sufficient accommodation do not wish to go to the trouble and expense of checking work in and out of the factory, nor to submit to the delay which often arises in connection with out-work. Again, the improvement in travelling facilities in some districts allows workers to come in daily from the surrounding country villages into the towns. Undoubtedly also home-work is not attractive to the younger workers, who complain that it is monotonous, and does not allow them to "see life."

Tailoring is the principal industry in which out-workers are employed. In this trade the workers, far from being casual, are in most instances entirely dependent on the work sent out by the factories. Accurate information as to the numbers employed is difficult to obtain, but it appears that there has been no marked general decrease or increase. It is becoming more and more the custom for retail bespoke tailors only to cut and fit, and to send out the actual making to factories and workshops or to skilled workers who work at home or rent benches in tenement premises. This is partly to avoid expense, and partly because the bespoke trade is largely seasonal, and an employer does not need a large staff continuously on the spot. In the smaller towns, however, home-work in the tailoring trade seems to be declining, and the custom of giving out work to small factories and workshops is rare. Factory-made garments now compete seriously with bespoke work, and the establishment of branches of multiple shops takes a great deal of trade away from the local firms. Home-work also has not increased in the wholesale or ready-made trade. On the whole there is no evidence that home-work has increased in the trade; if there has been any increase, it would be found in the high-class retail section, especially in London and other large centres. Apart from this section of the trade, the growth of multiple shops, and the practice of making all garments off the premises, have not led to an increase of home-work but to a transference of work to large factories.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING IN SWITZERLAND, 1913 AND 1924.

A RECENT issue of the statistical journal* of the Federal Labour Office of Switzerland contains an article dealing with wages and the cost of living in the period from 1918 to 1924 as compared with 1913.

The wages statistics used in the article are based on the average earnings of persons who met with accidents in the course of their work. To facilitate comparison, the various occupations are grouped in five categories, viz., (a) foremen, etc., (b) skilled and semi-skilled men, (c) unskilled men, (d) women, 18 years and over, and (e) juveniles, under 18 years. The following Table gives the hourly and daily earnings in 1913 and 1924 for each of these five groups, together with index numbers comparing the 1924 earnings with those of the pre-war year:—

Groups of Workers.	Average hourly earnings.†			Average daily earnings.†		
	1913.	1924.		1913.	1924.	
		Amount.	Index No. (1913 = 100.)		Amount.	Index No. (1913 = 100.)
Foremen, etc. ...	Francs. 0.73	Francs. 1.57	215	Francs. 7.80	Francs. 15.86	203
Skilled and semi-skilled men ...	0.65	1.45	223	6.07	12.39	204
Unskilled men ...	0.48	1.13	235	4.79	9.89	206
Women, 18 years and over ...	0.30	0.73	243	3.22	6.62	206
Juveniles, under 18 years ...	0.34	0.54	159	2.94	5.30	180

From the above Table it appears that for all groups, with the exception of juveniles, the earnings in 1924, whether hourly or daily, were more than double those in 1913. For juvenile workers, hourly earnings in 1924 were 59 per cent. higher than in 1913, and daily earnings were 80 per cent. higher.

During the period 1918 to 1924 the variations in the cost of living in Switzerland are represented by the following index numbers (1914 = 100):—

1918...	204	1920...	224	1922...	164	1924...	169
1919...	222	1921...	200	1923...	164		

If these figures are combined with those calculated by the Federal Labour Office as representing the relative daily earnings during the period 1918 to 1924, as compared with 1913, the approximate changes in "real wages" since the pre-war period will be as shown in the following Table:—

Relative "Real" Daily Wages (1913 = 100).

Year.	Groups of Workers.				
	Foremen, etc.	Skilled and semi-skilled men.	Unskilled men.	Women, 18 years and over.	Juveniles.
1913 ...	100	100	100	100	100
1918 ...	78	80	82	75	84
1919 ...	79	84	90	81	89
1920 ...	87	93	103	95	100
1921 ...	108	107	111	110	107
1922 ...	130	126	125	124	109
1923 ...	126	121	121	121	105
1924 ...	120	121	122	122	107

In all groups, except juveniles, "real wages" in 1924 show an advance of 20 per cent., or slightly over, when compared with 1913; for juvenile workers the advance is about 7 per cent.

* Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen, June, 1926. Berne.

† In 1913 the exchange value of the Swiss franc was 9.6d.; in 1924 it was 9.9d. on an average.

TRADE UNIONS IN CANADA IN 1925.

THE Fifteenth Annual Report on Labour Organisation in Canada, published by the Department of Labour for Canada, gives particulars of the numerical strength of trade unions at the end of 1925.

In 1911, the first year in which the above annual report was prepared, there were in Canada 1,722 local trade union branches, with a total membership of 133,132. At the end of 1913 the membership had increased to 175,799. The highest recorded membership figure was in 1919, when trade unionists in Canada numbered 378,047, organised in 2,847 local branches. Since 1919, however, this total has declined, and by the end of 1924 there were 2,429 local branches with a total membership of 260,643. During 1925 an increase was recorded, and at the end of that year the number of local trade union branches was 2,494 with a membership of 271,064.

The following table shows the number of members and local branches in the various groups of organisations at the end of 1925 :—

	Branches.	Membership.
International Organisations*	1,985	172,573
"Industrial Workers of the World"	6	10,000
"One Big Union"	53	17,256
Non-international Organisations	311	34,070
Independent units	40	12,165
National and Catholic unions	99	25,000
Total	2,494	271,064

The following Table shows the numbers organised according to industry :—

	Membership.
Railways	79,009
Mining and quarrying	26,386
Public service, personal service and amusement	26,001
Building	23,243
Other transport and navigation	19,630
Metal	15,121
Printing and paper-making	13,005
Clothing and boot and shoe	12,707
Other trades, and general labour	55,962
Total	271,064

LABOUR DISPUTES IN POLAND IN 1925.†

THE total number of strikes reported as having begun in Poland during 1925 was 532, directly affecting 148,527 workpeople and involving the loss of 1,284,553 working days. The corresponding figures for 1924 were 915 disputes, 564,134 workpeople involved, and 6,544,852 working days lost.

The following Table shows the results of the strikes in 1924 and 1925 considered from the point of view of the workpeople :—

Year.	Completely or partially successful.		Unsuccessful.		Result Unknown.	
	No. of strikes.	No. of workers affected.	No. of strikes.	No. of workers affected.	No. of strikes.	No. of workers affected.
1924	586	209,796	295	338,067	34	16,271
1925	352	84,382	166	51,036	14	13,109

The main causes of strikes in 1925 were as follows :

Cause.	No. of Strikes.	No. of workers affected.
Wages, etc.	445	96,742
Hours and working conditions	26	31,501
Questions relating to the employment of particular classes or persons	49	7,548
Political or sympathetic strikes	6	8,604
Other or unknown	6	4,132
Total	532	148,527

The following were the industries chiefly affected by strikes in 1925 arranged in order of importance as measured by number of working days lost :—

Industry.	No. of strikes.	No. of workers.	No. of working days lost.
Textile	84	23,416	298,066
Metal, engineering and electrical	82	29,395	292,987
Agriculture	38	17,885	240,193
Smelting, &c., of minerals	68	8,838	118,519
Mining	43	23,101	77,649
Building	33	6,840	76,014
Timber and woodworking	83	7,711	71,027
Metallurgical	15	23,441	54,017
Other	86	7,900	56,081
Total	532	148,527	1,284,553

In addition to the above strikes, 6 lockouts occurred in 1925, affecting 1,047 workpeople and involving a loss of 37,503 working days: the corresponding figures for the previous year were 14, 17,551 and 592,470.

* Organisations having branches in the United States as well as in Canada.
† *Statystyka Pracy*, May, 1926, Warsaw.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN GERMANY IN 1925.*

THE following particulars, which relate solely to labour disputes terminating during the year, are extracted from a report on labour disputes in Germany in 1925, published in a recent issue of the bulletin of the German Labour Ministry.

During 1925 the disputes which came to an end numbered 1,766 (1,541 strikes and 225 lock-outs). The undertakings affected were 25,214 in number, employing 1,128,077 persons, of whom 758,071 were on strike or locked-out. The number of days lost during the year by persons on strike or locked-out was 16,855,856, apart from 258,030 days lost by 19,826 other persons rendered idle by the disputes.

Considered from the workers' point of view 307 disputes (17.4 per cent.) were successful, 927 (52.5 per cent.) partially successful, and 532 (30.1 per cent.) wholly unsuccessful.

About 68 per cent. of the demands put forward by workers or employers were concerned with wages and 10 per cent. with hours of labour, other questions accounting for 22 per cent. of the demands.

JAPANESE HEALTH INSURANCE ACT.†

AN Act promulgated on 27th March, 1926, provides for the enforcement as from 1st July, 1926, of the Health Insurance Act which was passed in 1922, but which, owing to various difficulties, had remained inoperative. Payment of benefits will begin on 1st January, 1927. Under this Act insurance is compulsory for all persons employed in factories or in other workplaces to which either the Factory Act or the Mining Act is applicable, with the exception of temporary workers and non-manual workers in receipt of annual salaries of over 1,200 yen. The provisions of the Act may also be extended to certain other categories of undertakings on the application of the employer and with the consent of more than 50 per cent. of the workers concerned. It is estimated that over 1,500,000 workers in about 26,000 factories, and 322,000 miners in over 800 mines, will be covered by the Act.

The Act will be administered under State supervision, by either "compulsory" or "optional" insurance societies. "Compulsory" societies are those which the competent Minister may order to be set up in undertakings normally employing more than 500 insurable workers; while employers, or groups of employers, the number of whose insurable workers is 300 or over, may set up an "optional" society after having obtained the consent of more than one-half of the insurable workers. Insurable persons who are not members of any society are insured by the State. The State will contribute to the cost of insurance to the extent of 10 per cent. of the amount expended by each society on insurance benefits, the balance being payable by employers and insured persons in equal proportions; the maximum contribution of the worker must, however, not exceed 3 per cent. of the daily remuneration.

The benefits provided include free medical treatment, sickness benefit after the third day of incapacity for not more than 180 days in any year, maternity and death benefits. Sickness benefit is to be equivalent to 60 per cent. of the daily remuneration of the worker.

A further Act, promulgated on 27th March last, contains detailed provisions for the establishment of a special account for national health insurance.

ENFORCEMENT OF AMENDMENTS OF JAPANESE FACTORY ACTS.

THE Japanese Government Delegation to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office stated, in a letter addressed to the Office dated 6th July last, that the (Amended) Factory Act and the Industrial Workers (Minimum Age) Act were brought into force on 1st July, 1926.‡

These measures for the amendment of the Factory Act of 1911 were passed by both houses of the Japanese Diet in 1923, the date of their enforcement being left to be determined by Imperial Ordinance. The first-named Act renders the provisions of the Factory Act applicable to factories employing not fewer than 10 (instead of 15) operatives, and introduces certain modifications in the regulations governing the employment of women both before and after childbirth. The Act concerning the minimum age of industrial workers provides for the repeal of Article 2 of the 1911 Factory Act, substituting for it the terms of the Washington Draft Convention fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment and further introduces certain other measures for the improvement of the conditions of employment of children.

* *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 24th August, 1926. Berlin.

† *Industrial and Labour Information*, 26th July, 1926: *Studies and Reports*, Series B. No. 16; *Legislative Series*, 1922—Jap. 3. International Labour Office, Geneva.

‡ *Industrial and Labour Information*, 19th July, 1926. International Labour Office, Geneva.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	72%
Food only ...	...	...	62%

FOOD.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of the principal articles of food was slightly higher than a month earlier. This was mainly due to seasonal increases in the prices of eggs and milk, partly counteracted by decreases in the prices of potatoes.

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 62 per cent. above the pre-war level as compared with 61 per cent. a month earlier and 70 per cent. at the beginning of September, 1925. The decrease as compared with a year ago is largely due to reductions in the prices of butter and potatoes.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 31st July, and 1st September, 1926:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ½d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 1st Sept., 1926, as compared with		
	July, 1914.	31st July, 1926.	1st Sept., 1926.	July, 1914.	31st July, 1926.	1st Sept., 1926.
Beef, British—						
Ribs ...	s. d. 0 10	s. d. 1 5½	s. d. 1 5½	+ 0 7½	...	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 3½	...	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs ...	0 7½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 3	...	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 0½	...	...
Mutton, British—						
Legs ...	0 10½	1 7	1 6½	+ 0 8½	— 0 0½	...
Breast ...	0 6½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 4	...	...
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs ...	0 6½	1 0	1 0	+ 0 5½	...	...
Breast ...	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	...	...
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 9	...	...
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 6½	1 6½	+ 0 7½	...	...
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 4½	...	...
Tea ...	1 6½	2 5½	2 5½	+ 0 11½	...	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3½	0 3½	+ 0 1½	...	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 2½	+ 0 0½	...
Butter—						
Fresh ...	1 2½	1 10½	1 11	+ 0 8½	+ 0 0½	...
Salt ...	1 2½	1 9½	1 9½	+ 0 7½	...	...
Cheese† ...	0 8½	1 1½	1 1	+ 0 4½	— 0 0½	...
Margarine ...	0 7	0 8	0 8	+ 0 1	...	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 1½	0 2½	+ 0 1	+ 0 0½	...
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 8½	0 7	+ 0 2½	— 0 1½	...

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st September, 1926, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 31st July, 1926.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ...	76	73	75	74
Thin Flank ...	45	45	45	46
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	43	39	41	42
Thin Flank ...	10	15	12	13
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	80	82	81	82
Breast ...	62	59	60	61
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	78	69	73	74
Breast ...	25	27	26	26
Bacon (streaky)*	82	78	80	80
Fish ...	137	107	122	119
Flour ...	72	75	74	74
Bread ...	77	72	74	74
Tea ...	58	63	61	61
Sugar (granulated) ...	71	62	67	67
Milk ...	67	69	68	61
Butter—				
Fresh ...	56	61	58	57
Salt ...	54	53	54	53
Cheese† ...	48	53	51	55
Margarine ...	18	11	15	15
Eggs (fresh) ...	81	76	79	49
Potatoes ...	53	33	43	67
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	64	61	62	61

* 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 September, 1926, was approximately 50 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 September the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged about 120 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group prices of coal continued to advance and at 1st September the prices, per cwt., averaged about 190 per cent. above those of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained about 55 per cent. above the pre-war level, and candles, lamp oil and matches also showed no appreciable change in prices during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st September as compared with July, 1914, was about 110 to 115 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 September is, approximately, 72 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 70 per cent. at 31st July and 74 per cent. at the beginning of September, 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 1926.

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

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

Month.	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Jan. ...	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75
Feb. ...	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73
Mar. ...	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72
Apr. ...	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75	68
May ...	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67
June ...	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68
July ...	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	70
Aug. ...	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70
Sept. ...	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	72
Oct. ...	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	...
Nov. ...	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76	...
Dec. ...	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 AUGUST.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT in August showed a slight improvement, partly due to increased supplies of imported fuel, but remained bad on the whole, the most of the principal industries still being seriously affected by the coal-mining stoppage. The industries in which some improvement was recorded included cotton, jute, pottery, wool and worsted, iron and steel, tinplate, and railway service. In the engineering, shipbuilding, printing, and tailoring trades there was a decline. In the building trades employment continued good with skilled workers.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,900,000, and working in practically every industry, except agriculture and private domestic service the percentage unemployed at 23rd August, 1926, was 14.2,* as compared with 14.6* at 26th July, 1926, and with 12.1 at 24th August, 1925. For males alone the percentage at 23rd August was 15.1, as compared with 15.3 at 26th July; for females the figure at 23rd August was 11.6, as compared with 12.8 at 26th July. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 13.3 at the end of August, 1926, as compared with 13.2 at the end of July, 1926, and with 11.4 at the end of August, 1925. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 30th August, 1926, was approximately 1,606,000, of whom 1,205,000 were men and 306,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 26th July, 1926, it was 1,664,000, of whom 1,226,000 were men and 344,000 were women; and at 31st August, 1925, it was 1,418,000, of whom men numbered 1,094,000 and women 242,000. The figures relating to July and August, 1926, are exclusive of workpeople in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute.

The following Table shows, month by month since August, 1925, (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 persons on the registers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Month.	Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among				Numbers registered at Local Offices (Insured and Uninsured).
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.			
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
1925.					
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
1926.					
January	10.6	12.1	8.1	11.1	1,237,000
February	10.4	11.5	7.7	10.5	1,169,000
March	10.1	10.9	7.1	9.8	1,070,000
April	10.0	10.1	6.7	9.2	1,034,000
May	13.2	15.1	12.7	14.5*	1,675,000
June	12.9	15.6	12.3	14.7*	1,699,000
July	13.2	15.3	12.8	14.6*	1,664,000
August	13.3	15.1	11.6	14.2*	1,606,000

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry the dispute which commenced on 1st May continued throughout August. At iron mines employment continued to be almost at a standstill. At the mines covered by the returns received, there was a decrease of 2.7 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 82.9 per cent. compared with August, 1925. The average number of days worked by the mines that were working was 4.77 in August, 1926, 4.98 in July, 1926, and 5.03 in August, 1925. In the West Lothian shale mines there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed as compared with the previous month. At limestone quarries employment was reported to be moderate in the Clitheroe district and bad in the Weardale district. At slate quarries in North Wales it continued fairly good. At whinstone quarries in the east of Scotland employment was reported to be moderate. At chalk quarries it remained very slack. Employment was again fairly good at china clay quarries and good at tin mines.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—The pig iron industry continued almost at a standstill, and at the end of August only 6 furnaces were in blast, as compared with 7 in July, and 136 in August, 1925.

In the iron and steel trades employment improved in some areas but was very bad on the whole, being seriously affected by the stoppage in the coal-mining industry. In the tinplate and steel sheet trades employment showed a further improvement, but many mills were still idle owing to shortage of fuel, and much short time was reported. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of August, 1926, was 306, as compared with 208 in July, 1926, and 505 in August, 1925.

* These percentages include coal mining, those miners who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the dispute being taken as unemployed for the purpose of the percentages but not those who ceased work owing to the dispute. In other industries (excluding coal-mining), the percentage of unemployment at 23rd August was 14.8 as compared with 15.3 at 26th July.
† At 21st December.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment continued to suffer from the effects of the dispute in the coal-mining industry and remained very bad, and was rather worse than in July. In the textile machinery and railway engineering sections much short time continued to be worked. In electrical engineering employment was a little better than in July, but on motor vehicle work there was a further seasonal decline. In marine engineering employment remained very bad and was rather worse than in the previous month. In the shipbuilding and ship repairing trades employment remained very bad in August, partly owing to the shortage of material caused by the coal-mining dispute. Compared with July there was a decline in all districts, particularly on the north-east coast and in Scotland. In the other metal trades employment continued to be affected by lack of fuel and remained moderate on the whole. It was good in the lock, latch and key trade; fairly good in the stove and grate trade; fair in the needle and fishing tackle trade; moderate in the brasswork, sheet metal, file, tube and wire trades; and slack or bad in the hollow-ware, nut and bolt, metallic bedstead, cutlery, jewellery and plated ware, anvil and vice, and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment was still bad and worse than a year ago, but there was an improvement in most districts as compared with the previous month. In the American spinning section mills as a rule were only working alternate weeks or less, but in the Egyptian spinning section the operatives were fairly well employed. In the weaving section the depression continued to be severe. In the wool textile industry employment continued bad on the whole, but was slightly better than in July.

Employment in the hosiery trade continued bad, with an increasing amount of short time; in the silk and artificial silk trades it was fair in the Eastern counties, and slack in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton districts; in the lace trade it continued bad and worse than in July, unemployment and short time being general; in the linen trade it continued bad; in the jute trade a considerable improvement was reported, but employment was still bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment continued very slack and short time was general, largely owing to shortage of coal.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trades showed a further seasonal decline and was slack in most districts; in the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch it was seriously affected by the continuance of the dispute in the coal-mining industry, and was worse than a year ago. In the dress-making, millinery and corset trades there was considerable variation in different districts, but employment continued fair on the whole. There was a further slight decline in the London blouse and light underclothing trade but employment was still moderate. It continued fair generally in the shirt and collar trade, but in some districts a decline was reported owing to lack of fuel. In the felt hat trade employment was fair on the whole, but much short time was reported. In the boot and shoe trade employment remained poor on the whole, especially with makers of workmen's boots. In most centres there were extended holidays, and on resumption of work employment was usually on the basis of short time.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section and with saddlery and harness makers continued slack on the whole; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections it remained moderate.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades continued good with most classes of skilled operatives and generally moderate with unskilled workers, but was affected in some districts by a shortage of materials due to the stoppage in the coal-mining industry. Employment was not so good as in August, 1925. It was very good with plasterers; good, on the whole, with bricklayers, and carpenters and joiners, and fairly good, in most districts, with masons and slaters. In several districts there was a demand for the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, especially plasterers and bricklayers. Employment with plumbers and painters varied considerably in different districts, but was fair on the whole; it remained generally moderate with tradesmen's labourers. With brickmakers employment was seriously affected by the shortage of coal and much short time was reported; at Peterborough, however, it continued good.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with millsawyers continued fair; it was also fair with coachbuilders, but showed a decline as compared with July. With packing-case makers and with coopers employment continued bad.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade improved slightly, but was still slack. With letterpress printers employment was moderate and showed a slight decline on the previous month; with electrotypes and stereotypers it continued very good in London, and fairly good at most other centres; with lithographic printers a further decline was reported, but employment was still fair on the whole. With bookbinders employment continued to improve.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trade though still bad showed considerable improvement as compared with July, owing to a better supply of fuel, and some works were re-opened during August. In the glass trades employment continued bad, especially in the glass bottle section, and short time was general.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture the supply of labour was adequate for all requirements in England and Wales but in Scotland there was a scarcity of casual labour in some districts. In the fishing industry employment continued slack.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers continued bad, but an improvement was reported at several ports; with seamen it still remained slack on the whole.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 829,498 in branches covered by the returns received, reported 110,520 (or 13·3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of August, 1926, compared with 13·2 per cent. at the end of July, 1926.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of August, 1926.	Unemployed at end of August,*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-ge.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Engineering and Ship-building ...	342,087	75,042	21·9	+ 0·1	+ 6·8
Miscellaneous Metal ...	49,454	5,884	11·9	- 0·6	+ 5·1
Textiles :—					
Cotton ...	55,481	5,765†	10·4	- 0·2	+ 4·7
Other ...	65,842	3,194	4·9	...	+ 0·8
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper ...	105,750‡	5,506	5·2	+ 0·5	+ 2·4
Furnishing ...	28,342	2,680	9·5	+ 0·2	+ 5·1
Woodworking ...	39,168	3,928	10·0	+ 1·3	+ 5·2
Clothing :—					
Boot and Shoe ...	81,774	5,400	6·6	- 0·8	+ 1·1
Other Clothing ...	47,663	1,364	2·9	- 0·2	+ 1·8
Leather ...	5,578	785	14·1	...	+ 0·7
Glass ...	1,186	47	4·0	...	+ 1·9
Tobacco§ ...	7,173	925	12·9	- 2·8	- 4·4
Total ...	829,498	110,520	13·3	+ 0·1	+ 1·9

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (exclusive of persons who ceased work in the coal-mining industry on account of the dispute), was 14·2 per cent. (males 15·1 per cent., females 11·6 per cent.) at 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 14·6 per cent. (males 15·3 per cent., females 12·8 per cent.) at 26th July, 1926, and 12·1 per cent. (males 13·1 per cent., females 9·5 per cent.) at 24th August, 1925. Tables showing the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 340 to 343.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in August, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below :—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for August, 1926.	August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Iron Mining ...	1,003	Days Worked per week by Mines. 4·77	Days. - 0·21	Days. - 0·26
			+ 0·09	- 0·15
Shale „ ...	2,639	5·82		
Pig Iron ...	—	Furnaces in Blast 6	Number. — 1	Number. — 130
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	—	Mills working 306	+ 98	- 199
Iron and Steel ...	31,160	Shifts Worked (one week). 164,317	Per cent. + 21·0	Per cent. - 52·1

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 28th Aug., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ended 28th Aug., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a
		Month ago.		Year ago.¶
Textiles :—		Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Cotton ...	77,956	+ 2·7	131,382	+ 4·3
Woollen... ..	62,771	+ 1·1	128,691	+ 2·3
Worsted... ..	88,838	+ 0·2	155,696	- 0·1
Boot and Shoe	51,321	+ 0·4	110,981	+ 1·9
Pottery ...	8,810	+ 24·0	15,467	+ 34·8
Brick ...	7,520	- 0·2	20,343	+ 2·0

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the 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 "played off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit."

‡ The returns actually received cover a larger number, but to preserve comparability the number taken for this Table is that corresponding with the figures available for previous dates.

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

¶ Comparison is affected by changes in rates of wages in some cases.

|| Computed as explained in the article on page 83 of the March, 1926, GAZETTE.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

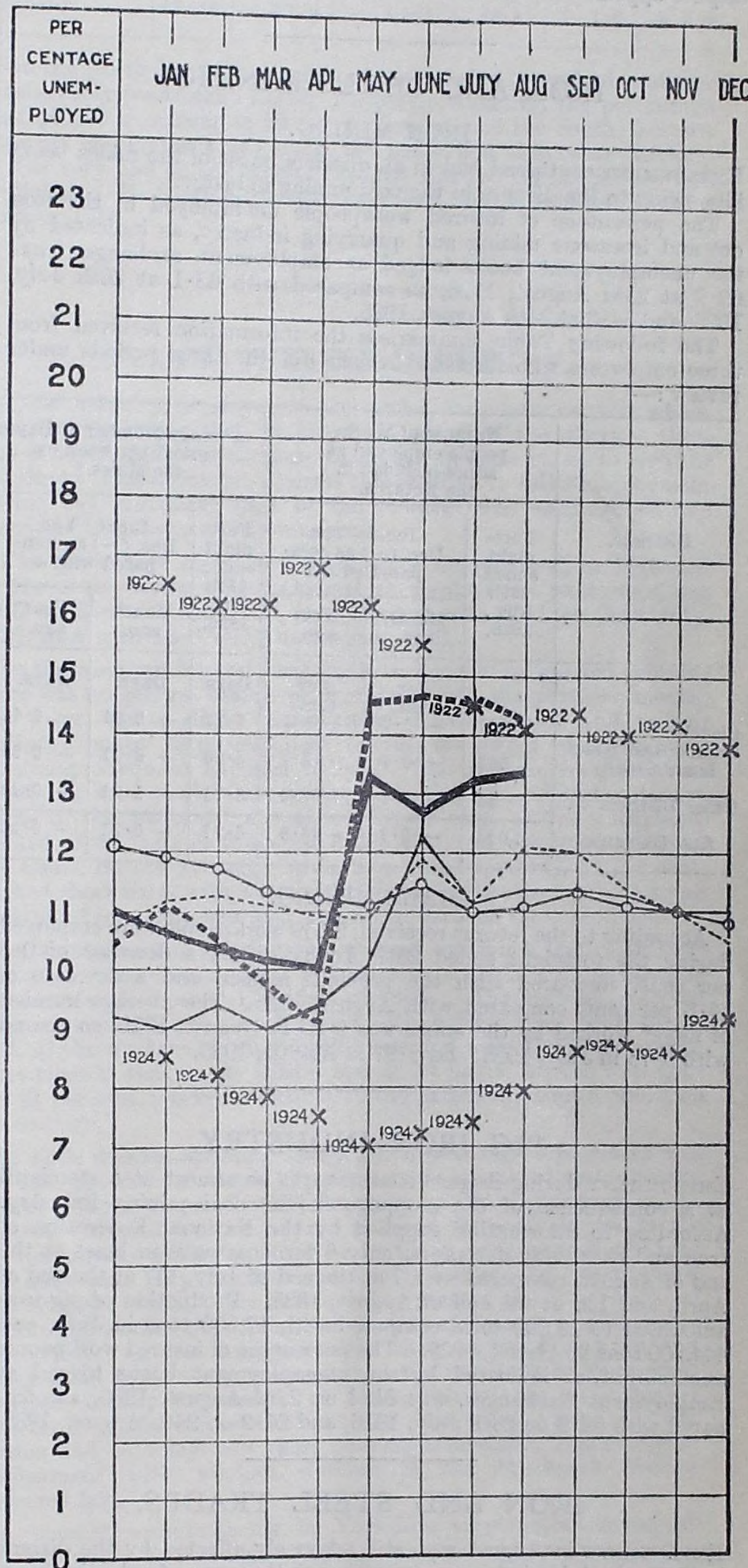
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS :—

Thick Curve ————— = 1926.
Thin Curve ————— = 1925.
Chain Curve ○-○-○-○-○-○ = Mean of 1922-25.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union Members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-1925.

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

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1926.
Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1925.



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 340 to 343.

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 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.

THE general stoppage of work at coal mines, which began on 1st May, owing to a dispute, continued throughout August. The usual monthly statistics as to the number of workpeople employed in coal mining and as to the number of days worked are therefore not available for August. A special article on the subject of the dispute appears on page 320 of this GAZETTE.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad in all districts, most of the mines being idle owing to the dispute in the coal mining industry.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at employment exchanges, was 62.9 at 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 63.1 at 26th July, 1926, and 34.8 at 24th August, 1925.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fort-night ended 28th Aug., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a		Fort-night ended 28th Aug., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	407	— 1.7	— 89.1	4.37	— 0.64	— 0.41
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	563	— 0.4	— 42.7	5.00	+ 0.01	— 0.36
Other Districts ...	33	— 36.5	— 97.1	5.73	+ 1.21	+ 0.18
ALL DISTRICTS	1,003	— 2.7	— 82.9	4.77	— 0.21	— 0.26

SHALE MINING.

According to the returns received, 2,639 workpeople were employed during the fortnight ended 28th August, 1926, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 34.6 per cent. compared with August, 1925. The average number of days* worked by the mines was 5.82 in August, 1926, compared with 5.73 in July, 1926, and 5.97 in August, 1925.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued to be almost at a standstill as a consequence of the stoppage in the coal mining industry. According to information supplied by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, only 6 furnaces were in blast at the end of August, compared with 7 at the end of July, 147 at the end of April, and 136 at the end of August, 1925. Production of pig iron amounted to 13,600 tons, compared with 17,900 tons in July, and 444,500 tons in August, 1925. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 61.4 on 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 62.9 on 26th July, 1926, and 24.2 on 24th August, 1925.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in August was still adversely affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry, and although there were further improvements in some areas it was very bad on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 54.7 on 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 56.2 on 26th July, 1926, and 26.9 on 24th August, 1925.

According to returns received from firms employing 31,160 workpeople in the week ended 28th August, 1926, the volume of employ-

* The figures show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which iron, shale, 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.

ment in that week (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 21.0 per cent. as compared with July, but showed a decrease of 52.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.3 in August, 1926, the same as in July, 1926, as compared with 5.2 in August, 1925.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate number of Shifts.*		
	Week ended 28th Aug., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a		Week ended 28th Aug., 1926.	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 ...	1,356	+ 119.4	— 80.8	7,232	+ 116.2	— 81.8
Puddling Forges ...	509	+ 1172.5	— 82.5	2,223	+ 1011.5	— 83.1
Rolling Mills ...	10,904	+ 31.9	— 55.7	52,782	+ 34.4	— 56.1
Forging and Pressing ...	1,923	+ 23.7	— 39.0	9,681	+ 22.7	— 40.1
Founding ...	7,042	+ 12.4	— 7.6	38,851	+ 15.7	— 3.7
Other Departments ...	4,308	+ 3.1	— 34.5	24,554	+ 2.8	— 33.0
Mechanics, Labourers ...	5,118	+ 4.2	— 62.6	28,994	+ 5.0	— 62.3
TOTAL ...	31,160	+ 20.6	— 52.5	164,317	+ 21.0	— 52.1
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ...	6,704	+ 25.6	— 52.6	35,703	+ 23.4	— 54.3
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	10,664	+ 25.7	— 36.1	56,593	+ 30.9	— 32.5
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	1,307	+ 5.0	— 39.9	7,220	+ 3.4	— 38.1
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...	2,581	— 19.8	— 56.0	12,564	+ 17.7	— 58.0
Staffordshire ...	2,355	+ 60.8	— 64.2	11,997	+ 53.6	— 65.7
Other Midland Counties	1,122	— 0.9	— 44.4	6,312	— 1.9	— 37.9
Wales and Monmouth	5,561	+ 26.2	— 26.3	29,036	+ 21.4	— 28.5
Total, England and Wales ...	30,294	+ 19.8	— 44.9	159,425	+ 20.2	— 44.9
Scotland ...	866	+ 56.0	— 91.8	4,892	+ 52.5	— 90.9
TOTAL ...	31,160	+ 20.6	— 52.5	164,317	+ 21.0	— 52.1

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 52,100 tons in August, 1926, as compared with 32,100 tons in July, 1926, and 477,100 tons in August, 1925.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during August, although many mills were still idle owing to shortage of fuel, and much short time was reported. At the end of August, 306 tinplate and steel sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 208† in the previous month and with 505 in August, 1925.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of August, 1926, at the works covered by the returns received :—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		At end of August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ...	43	+ 14	— 26	218	+ 71	— 162
Steel Sheet	7	+ 3	— 6	88	+ 27	— 37
TOTAL ...	50	+ 17†	— 32	306	+ 98†	— 199

* 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 the time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown were actually worked by all the men employed.

† Revised figure.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 61.3 on 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 62.7 on 26th July, 1926, and with 16.4 on 24th August, 1925.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in August, 1926, amounted to 52,923 tons, or 25,444 tons less than in July, 1926, and 38,326 tons less than in August, 1925.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued to suffer from the effects of the dispute in the coal mining industry, and remained very bad, being rather worse than in the previous month. In the textile machinery and railway engineering sections much short time continued to be worked. In electrical engineering employment was a little better than in July, but on motor vehicle work there was a further seasonal decline; while on marine engineering work employment remained very bad, and was rather worse than in July. Compared with a year ago, employment was much worse in all sections.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd August, 1926, and the increase or decrease as compared with July and with a year ago :—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd August, 1926						Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.		
							Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	6,508	506	89	147	2,356	9,606	+ 237	+ 1,036
South-Eastern ...	3,035	403	200	57	1,080	4,775	— 136	+ 1,422
South-Western ...	2,283	89	417	75	1,490	4,354	+ 483	+ 1,225
Midlands ...	13,288	1,794	60	1,419	14,775	31,336	+ 2,443	+ 12,418
North-Eastern ...	30,859	821	9,858	1,888	1,132	44,558	+ 67	+ 10,994
North-Western ...	30,617	1,929	265	212	2,435	35,458	+ 1,281	+ 11,907
Scotland ...	18,115	469	4,488	1,841	956	25,869	+ 707	+ 4,967
Wales ...	3,369	42	51	136	188	3,786	+ 86	+ 2,253
Northern Ireland ...	1,769	26	2,132	10	205	4,142	— 2	+ 838
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	109,843	6,079	17,560	5,785	24,617	163,884	+ 5,166	+ 47,060
Percentages Unemployed at 23rd August, 1926.								
London ...	7.4	5.4	13.7	5.9	6.9	7.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
South-Eastern ...	7.2	4.4	5.7	11.2	4.4	6.0	— 0.2	+ 1.8
South-Western ...	6.3	3.1	6.5	10.9	7.3	6.6	+ 0.8	+ 1.9
Midlands ...	14.1	7.5	3.8	22.5	16.1	14.4	+ 1.1	+ 5.7
North-Eastern ...	24.4	10.4	41.4	27.1	10.3	25.3	+ 0.1	+ 6.3
North-Western ...	21.9	9.8	21.5	9.4	12.5	19.4	+ 0.7	+ 6.5
Scotland ...	21.2	14.0	24.1	30.3	9.4	21.0	+ 0.6	+ 4.1
Wales ...	46.3	13.1	18.2	17.7	10.2	36.1	+ 0.8	+ 21.5
Northern Ireland ...	23.7	12.4	37.6	33.3	12.6	27.6	...	+ 5.6
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	17.5	7.9	28.5	22.1	11.5	16.3	+ 0.5	+ 4.7
<i>Ditto, July, 1926</i>	<i>17.1</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>27.2</i>	<i>23.9</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>15.8</i>	...	...
<i>Ditto, Aug., 1925</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>22.6</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>11.6</i>	...	...

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad on the whole, more especially in marine engineering. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire conditions continued bad without showing much change. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment continued very bad, and showed a decline except in the electrical section, where there was a slight improvement. In the Birmingham and Coventry district employment in the electrical section remained somewhat slack; in other sections it continued bad, a decline being experienced in general engineering and on motor work. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment remained bad on the whole, and was rather worse than in July.

In London and in the Eastern and Southern Counties employment continued only moderate, some decline being experienced on the whole. In the electrical section, however, it was fair, and showed an improvement; while aircraft firms remained busy, and an improvement was reported with makers of agricultural machinery.

In South Wales employment was very bad, and showed a slight decline. Some decline was also experienced in Scotland, where employment remained very bad. At Belfast employment continued very bad and showed little change.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during August, partly owing to the continued dispute in the coal mining industry and the consequent shortage of materials. Compared with July a decline was shown in all districts, especially on the North-East Coast and in Scotland. Compared with a year ago there was a heavy decline on the North-East Coast, in Scotland and in Wales; but in London and the South-Western and North-Western Counties some improvement was shown.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd August, 1926, and the increase or decrease as compared with 26th July, 1926, and with a year ago :—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd August, 1926.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with		Percentage Unemployed at 23rd August, 1926.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
London...	2,204	+ 120	— 320	17.7	+ 0.9	— 2.6
South-Eastern...	698	+ 28	+ 153	7.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.6
South-Western	3,479	+ 141	— 687	13.8	+ 0.6	— 2.7
Midlands	52	+ 7	— 3	18.6	+ 2.5	— 1.0
North-Eastern...	39,504	+ 2,415	+ 6,135	59.0	+ 3.6	+ 9.2
North-Western	10,395	+ 146	— 568	31.7	+ 0.4	— 1.8
Scotland	29,512	+ 1,601	+ 6,327	45.7	+ 2.5	+ 9.8
Wales ...	5,361	+ 61	+ 1,014	49.2	+ 0.6	+ 9.3
Northern Ireland	6,401	+ 40	+ 2	34.4	+ 0.2	...
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	97,606	+ 4,559	+ 12,053	40.4	+ 1.9	+ 5.0

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad, and was considerably worse than during the previous month, the percentage unemployed increasing to 59.0. In London and the South-Western Counties employment was slack, but not so bad as in other districts. It was very bad on the Bristol Channel and bad on the Mersey and at Belfast. In Scotland it was very bad, and considerably worse than in July.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

In this industry employment continued bad, but, on the whole was slightly better than in July. In many of the districts there was a week's holiday stoppage, extended, in some cases, to eight or ten days; with a number of firms this resulted in fuller employment during the remaining part of the month. The shortage of fuel restricted employment in some areas.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at employment exchanges, was 20.8 on 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 23.1 on 26th July, 1926, and with 18.3 on 24th August, 1925.

In the wool sorting and combing branches and in worsted spinning there was no general change as compared with the previous month, but there was a slight improvement in the alpaca and mohair sections; many firms curtailed production owing to difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of coal. The returns received from employers show that in the sorting, combing and preparing departments of the worsted trade about 53 per cent. of the workpeople worked short time in the week ended 28th August, with a loss of 20½ hours, on the average; while in worsted spinning, 51 per cent. worked short time, with a loss of 11½ hours on the average. A small amount of overtime was also worked in each of these sections.

In worsted manufacturing employment continued bad, with little change in a number of areas but showing a slight improvement in the Huddersfield and Keighley districts. The returns received from employers for the week ended 28th August show that 42 per cent. of the workpeople employed in worsted manufacturing worked short time in that week, with a loss of 14 hours, on the average,* and 2½ per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of about 5 hours, on the average.

In both woollen spinning and woollen weaving employment was still bad, but showed a little improvement as compared with a month earlier. About 41 per cent. of the spinners and 40 per cent. of the weavers* covered by the returns received from employers in the woollen section worked short time, with an average loss of about 9½ hours and 10½ hours respectively during the week ended 28th August; while 7 per cent. of the spinners and 2 per cent. of the weavers worked overtime, to the extent of 8 hours, and 6½ hours respectively. In the heavy woollen districts of Dewsbury and Batley there was no improvement, and the rag trade in these areas remained acutely depressed; at Morley there was an increased amount of under-employment in the low wool trade. In the Yeadon and Guiseley area there was an appreciable improvement. Employment with woollen workers in the Stockport district continued fair.

In blanket manufacturing in Yorkshire employment remained bad, but there was a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. At Witney the operatives continued to be well employed, and almost full time was worked.

Employment in the flannel trade of Rochdale and Saddleworth continued bad, but was somewhat better than a month ago, although affected by the shortage of fuel.

In Scotland there was some improvement in the woollen trade as compared with a month earlier. Spinners were on full time at Stirling, and fairly busy at Galashiels. Tweed manufacturers were fairly well employed, and some firms were running full time.

* These figures do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps," and tending one instead of two looms.

In the carpet industry employment showed some improvement less short time being worked, but was still bad on the whole, and was affected by the fuel shortage. At Kidderminster and Halifax it was reported as bad and as worse than a year ago. Practically all the Trade Union members were on short time in the Kidderminster district, while in the Halifax district about two-thirds were working only three days a week. In Scotland employment continued good at Ayr, but poor at Johnstone.

The following Table shows, for the principal districts, and departments of the industry, the percentage changes between the week ended 24th July and that ended 28th August in the numbers of workpeople employed and in the total wages paid by firms from whom information has been obtained:—

Departments:	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Aug., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago.	Index figure. (Jan. 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 28th Aug., 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month ago.	Index figure. (Jan. 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION:						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	10,864	+ 0.4	96.3	22,517	- 3.3	75.4
Spinning... ..	41,847	+ 1.2	94.5	60,528	+ 1.7	86.8
Weaving... ..	20,326	+ 2.2	99.7	37,733	+ 2.0	89.8
Other Depts. ...	13,544	- 5.9	93.6	30,927	- 3.5	89.5
Not specified ...	2,257	+ 1.2	105.8	3,991	- 2.9	88.7
Total—Worsted	88,838	+ 0.2	95.9	155,696	- 0.1	86.1
WOOLLEN SECTION:						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	1,036	+ 2.0	95.9	2,424	+ 3.3	98.4
Spinning... ..	14,263	+ 1.2	95.2	30,440	+ 3.3	100.7
Weaving... ..	25,361	+ 6.9	105.9	45,834	+ 6.9	107.7
Other Depts. ...	19,942	- 5.5	91.1	45,275	- 2.8	96.0
Not specified ...	2,169	+ 1.0	96.1	4,718	+ 4.0	99.5
Total—Woollen	62,771	+ 1.1	98.0	128,691	+ 2.3	101.2
CARPET SECTION ...	10,326	- 0.2	98.3	17,251	+ 11.9	79.1
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	161,935	+ 0.5	96.6	301,638	+ 1.5	91.6
Districts* :						
WORSTED SECTION:						
Bradford ...	40,867	- 0.5	94.2	72,030	- 3.5	79.5
Huddersfield ...	9,631	- 0.1	101.6	19,676	+ 4.0	94.5
Halifax ...	10,260	+ 1.0	94.4	16,761	+ 7.1	86.4
Leeds ...	8,908	+ 1.5	98.7	15,811	+ 5.0	95.1
Keighley ...	9,183	+ 2.1	96.5	15,423	+ 0.7	94.8
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley etc.) ...	3,037	- 1.3	95.0	4,513	- 4.4	91.8
Total, West Riding ...	81,886	+ 0.2	95.9	144,214	- 0.0	85.5
West of England and Midlands ...	4,787	+ 0.0	97.6	8,259	- 1.4	90.8
Lancs ...	332	- 0.6	115.6	623	+ 1.3	105.4
Scotland... ..	1,833	- 0.7	92.4	2,600	- 1.9	109.3
Total—Worsted	88,838	+ 0.2	95.9	155,696	- 0.1	86.1
WOOLLEN SECTION:						
Huddersfield ...	13,071	+ 1.5	98.6	29,015	+ 1.9	95.5
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	12,480	+ 0.0	100.6	25,911	+ 0.1	111.1
Leeds ...	9,096	+ 1.5	95.2	19,174	+ 4.2	99.6
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,912	+ 2.1	100.6	6,699	+ 2.9	103.3
Bradford ...	1,146	+ 1.1	102.8	2,670	+ 4.1	100.8
Total, West Riding ...	38,705	+ 1.1	98.7	83,469	+ 2.0	101.9
Lancs ...	5,066	+ 2.0	95.0	10,033	+ 3.4	94.8
West of England and Midlands ...	4,562	+ 1.4	104.0	8,039	+ 4.3	110.2
Scotland... ..	14,426	+ 0.8	96.3	27,127	+ 2.3	100.4
Wales ...	12	...	24.7	23	+ 4.5	25.7
Total—Woollen	62,771	+ 1.1	98.0	128,691	+ 2.3	101.2
CARPET SECTION ...	10,326	- 0.2	98.3	17,251	+ 11.9	79.1
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	161,935	+ 0.5	96.6	301,638	+ 1.5	91.6

In the *worsted* section of the industry, taken as a whole, the returns received from employers show that 47½ per cent. of their workpeople were on short time in the week ended 28th August, with a loss, on the average, of about 13½ hours each.† In the *woollen* section the returns show that in the same week about 37 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, with a loss of 10 hours† on the average. In the *carpet* section the employers' returns show 61 per cent. on short time with a loss of 10 hours each, on the average. The corresponding particulars for overtime were 2 per cent., averaging 7 hours each, in the *worsted* section, and 4 per cent. averaging 8 hours each, in the *woollen* section.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of employment exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at the 23rd August, 1926:—

* Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.
† See note * on page 335.

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd August, 1926.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	318	15	333	478	3	481	814
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	280	250	530	866	436	1,302	1,832
Wool Combing ...	198	144	342	1,042	1,125	2,167	2,509
Wool Carding ...	346	100	446	1,164	227	1,391	1,837
Woollen Spinning ...	268	102	370	777	438	1,215	1,585
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	297	921	1,218	1,106	5,708	6,814	8,032
Wool Winding and Warping ...	85	22	107	317	119	436	543
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	38	163	201	193	1,504	1,697	1,898
Woollen Weaving ...	101	521	622	488	3,842	4,330	4,952
Worsted Weaving ...	58	720	778	228	4,141	4,369	5,147
Other Processes ...	524	84	608	1,217	316	1,533	2,141
TOTAL ...	2,513	3,042	5,555	7,876	17,859	25,735	31,290

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with the 26th July, 1926:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	+ 31	+ 8	+ 39	- 248	- 10	- 258	- 219
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	- 38	- 12	- 50	- 273	+ 17	- 256	- 306
Wool Combing... ..	+ 46	- 4	+ 42	- 26	+ 43	+ 17	+ 59
Wool Carding ...	- 39	+ 8	- 31	- 236	- 61	- 297	- 328
Woollen Spinning ...	+ 13	- 7	+ 6	- 117	- 164	- 281	- 275
Worsted Drawing and Spinning..	+ 32	+ 23	+ 55	- 235	- 1,246	- 1,481	- 1,426
Wool Winding and Warping..	+ 2	+ 3	+ 5	- 41	- 78	- 119	- 114
Worsted Winding and Warping..	- 14	+ 7	- 7	- 19	- 243	- 262	- 269
Woollen Weaving ...	- 2	- 73	- 75	- 202	- 200	- 402	- 477
Worsted Weaving ...	- 14	+ 190	+ 176	- 25	- 826	- 851	- 675
Other Processes ...	- 21	+ 27	+ 6	- 115	- 146	- 261	- 255
TOTAL ...	- 4	+ 170	+ 166	- 1,537	- 2,914	- 4,451	- 4,285

The imports, less re-exports, of raw wool (sheep's or lambs'), were 10,984,300 lbs. in August, 1926, compared with 22,551,200 lbs. in July, 1926, while the imports were 28,279,500 lbs. for August, 1925, and the re-exports amounted to 31,053,300 lbs. for that month.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,415,300 lbs. compared with 3,561,800 lbs. in July, 1926, and with 3,091,200 lbs. in August, 1925.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 16,521,000 square yards, compared with 17,998,400 square yards in July, 1926, and 16,023,700 square yards in August, 1925.

The exports of blankets were 66,706 pairs, 79,554 pairs, and 67,819 pairs in August, 1926, July, 1926, and August, 1925, respectively.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT was still bad, and worse than a year ago; but there was some improvement in August in most districts as compared with the previous month, partly owing to an increase in the available supplies of foreign coal, and partly to the further adaptation of plant to the use of oil fuel. In the American spinning section the mills as a rule were still only working alternate weeks or the equivalent, and in some cases even less; in the Egyptian spinning section the operatives were fairly well employed. In the weaving section the depression continued to be severe, and there were extensive stoppages during the month. The local trade holidays were prolonged by many firms.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23.5 on the 23rd August, as compared with 28.2 on the 26th July, 1926, and with 13.2 on the 24th August, 1925.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stockport and Salford districts employment with spinners continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago; firms stopped for a week at a time, and in some cases for longer periods, partly owing to bad trade and partly to shortage of coal. There was, however, some decline in the number unemployed as compared with July. In the weaving departments in the Oldham district employment was also bad, and worse than a year ago.

At Bolton there was some improvement in the spinning section, though stoppages owing to the coal shortage were still prevalent; in the weaving section employment remained bad. At Leigh employment was described as good with spinners; at Chorley it was fair. At Bury a temporary improvement in the spinning section was reported; at Rochdale employment continued bad.

In all the principal weaving centres employment continued very depressed. At Burnley employment continued very bad; a large number of mills were closed down pending the settlement of the coal dispute, and others were working alternate weeks.

At Blackburn the shortage and high price of fuel produced an exceptional amount of intermittent employment; but there was some decline in unemployment as compared with a month earlier. At Accrington a number of firms were closed down through fuel shortage; there was also, as for some time past, under-employment at a number of mills. At Darwen the partial solution of the fuel difficulties resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of unemployed; but alternate weeks were still being worked at several mills, and six mills were still closed down at the end of the month. At Nelson there was little change as compared with the previous month; much under-employment was still reported, weavers working two or three looms instead of four. At Preston the position, apart from the fuel shortage, was unsatisfactory; though there was an increase in the number of mills at work at the end of the month. At Todmorden, most of the weavers were working very irregularly, from one to three days a week.

In Yorkshire employment generally was bad, though there was some improvement at Brighouse and at Sowerby Bridge.

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 28th Aug. 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th Aug. 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	10,445	+ 3.3	- 2.7	15,521	+ 7.0	- 10.4
Spinning... ..	20,418	+ 3.1	- 1.2	32,228	+ 6.3	- 8.3
Weaving... ..	31,627	+ 3.9	- 6.9	52,379	+ 2.9	- 12.2
Other	7,838	+ 3.3	- 3.1	17,751	+ 2.5	- 10.2
Not Specified	7,628	- 3.7	- 2.9	13,503	+ 4.5	- 13.7
TOTAL	77,956	+ 2.7	- 4.1	131,382	+ 4.3	- 11.0
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	4,670	+ 3.5	- 5.5	6,486	+ 5.5	- 13.6
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	8,959	+ 1.8	- 2.4	15,411	+ 4.5	- 6.7
Oldham	7,461	+ 1.3	- 0.6	11,954	+ 21.0	- 18.9
Bolton and Leigh	13,229	+ 1.2	+ 2.3	22,796	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden	7,886	+ 5.4	- 6.8	11,266	+ 10.2	- 23.4
Manchester	4,433	+ 9.0	- 4.3	6,690	+ 2.5	- 8.2
Preston and Chorley	5,033	- 2.9	- 3.6	8,119	- 4.1	- 13.9
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	8,640	- 0.8	- 9.1	16,211	- 0.9	- 9.2
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	8,571	+ 5.5	- 14.1	17,355	+ 0.6	- 20.3
Other Lancashire Towns	2,572	+ 30.2	+ 2.0	4,105	+ 27.4	- 9.5
Yorkshire Towns	4,010	- 1.6	- 2.0	7,275	+ 12.2	+ 8.0
Other Districts	2,492	- 0.5	+ 6.0	3,714	- 2.0	+ 1.0
TOTAL	77,956	+ 2.7	- 4.1	131,382	+ 4.3	- 11.0

Returns from firms employing about 75,500 workpeople in the week ended 28th August showed that about 27 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 18½ hours on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 23rd August, 1926 :—

Department.	Numbers (excluding casuals) on the Register at 23rd August, 1926.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blow- ing Room ...	582	1,628	2,210	2,792	12,082	14,8 74	17,084
Spinning ...	2,748	1,739	4,487	12,035	11,848	23,8 83	28,370
Beaming, Wind- ing and Warp- ing ...	699	1,405	2,104	2,746	14,415	17,161	19,265
Weaving ...	2,065	3,508	5,573	7,502	22,136	29,638	35,211
Other Processes	434	79	513	801	521	1,322	1,835
Total ...	6,528	8,359	14,887	25,876	61,002	86,878	101,765

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 26th July, 1926 :—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blow-ing Room	- 1	+ 73	+ 72	- 784	- 3,503	- 4,287	- 4,215
Spinning	+ 277	+ 119	+ 396	- 5,342	- 1,453	- 6,795	- 6,399
Beaming, Wind-ing and Warp-ing	+ 59	+ 10	+ 69	- 553	- 698	- 1,251	- 1,182
Weaving	+ 365	+ 734	+ 1,099	- 1,885	- 7,270	- 9,155	- 8,056
Other Pro-cesses	+ 32	- 15	+ 17	- 366	- 188	- 554	- 537
Total	+ 732	+ 921	+ 1,653	- 8,930	- 13,112	- 22,042	- 20,389

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 66,606,700 lbs. in August, 1926, compared with 95,625,600 lbs. in July, 1926, and with 44,112,700 lbs. in August, 1925.

The exports of cotton yarn were 12,513,300 lbs. in August, 1926, compared with 12,363,500 lbs. in July, 1926, and with 15,037,900 lbs. in August, 1925.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 297,933,000 square yards as compared with 359,610,800 square yards in the previous month and with 344,277,300 square yards in August, 1925.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT remained poor, on the whole, especially with makers of workmen's boots. In most centres the factories closed for extended periods at the holidays. After the resumption of work, employment was generally on a short time basis, but slightly better than in the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at employment exchanges, was 13.6 on 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 14.3 on 26th July, 1926, and with 12.3 on 24th August, 1925.

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

	Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
England and Wales :—						
London	1,750	- 0.4	- 5.6	3,786	- 2.1	- 6.9
Leicester	8,745	- 0.1	- 0.1	19,126	- 0.3	+ 1.8
Leicester Country Dis-trict	2,020	+ 1.0	- 3.6	4,241	+ 0.3	- 0.9
Northampton... ..	6,795	+ 1.3	+ 1.1	16,539	+ 1.0	+ 4.4
Northampton Country District	7,881	+ 1.4	- 1.3	17,090	+ 6.6	- 3.2
Kettering	3,411	+ 0.6	+ 1.7	8,381	+ 1.7	- 3.0
Stafford and District	2,554	+ 2.4	+ 3.8	5,607	+ 5.6	+ 2.4
Norwich and District	4,727	+ 0.4	+ 6.0	9,579	- 0.9	+ 5.1
Bristol, Kingswood and District	1,855	+ 1.1	- 8.3	3,803	+ 2.8	- 9.9
Leeds and District	1,720	- 3.0	- 7.6	3,533	+ 18.1	- 7.1
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	4,852	- 0.6	- 0.5	9,986	- 0.4	- 3.4
Birmingham and Dis-trict	955	- 0.2	- 0.2	1,744	+ 14.1	+ 7.1
Other parts of England and Wales	1,693	+ 0.5	+ 4.7	3,022	- 0.6	- 4.8
England and Wales	48,958	+ 0.5	- 0.1	106,437	+ 2.2	- 0.5
Scotland	2,363	- 2.2	- 7.0	4,544	- 3.1	- 11.8
Great Britain	51,321	+ 0.4	- 0.5	110,981	+ 1.9	- 1.1

Returns from firms employing 41,500 operatives in the week ended 28th August, 1926, showed that practically 50 per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, losing, on an average, about 12½ hours each.

Employment in London declined and was only moderate on the whole, more short time being worked than in July. Many firms at Leicester extended the bank holiday stoppage, and when work was resumed employment was very slack, with short time working prevalent. At Hinckley employment was bad, and worse than in July. At Northampton, after extended holidays, few factories were able to work more than half time; but during the latter part of the month there was a slight improvement. Short time working continued with some firms in the Higham and Rushden area, but employment on the whole was fair. There was an improvement at Wellingborough, but employment was still poor and short time working prevalent; at Irthlingborough employment remained moderately good. At Kettering there was a slight reduction in short time working when the factories re-opened after the holidays, but the average hours worked were still only from one-half to three-quarters of normal.

Employment at Stafford was fairly good, and slightly better than in July, but many operatives were working reduced hours. At Norwich more short time was worked than in July, and employment, with most firms, was only moderate. A further slight improvement was reported in the Bristol and Kingswood area; employment was, however, much below normal for the time of year, especially in the case of factories producing heavy boots. In the Leeds area less short time was worked than in July, but employment was still poor, and worse than a year ago. In the Rossendale Valley employment was about the same as a month earlier and there was a considerable amount of under-employment in the Bacup and Rawtenstall districts.

In Scotland, taken as a whole, there was a decline as compared both with July and with a year ago. Employment was good at Maybole and fairly good at Kilmarnock, and an improvement as compared with the previous month was reported in each of these districts. At Glasgow, however, employment declined and was

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

very slack, with much short time working; at Edinburgh, also, it was not so good as in July, being very quiet on the whole. In the remaining Scottish centres employment was generally moderate or slack.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of employment exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 23rd August, 1926.

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 23rd August, 1926.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manu- facture :							
Preparing Depart- ment	118	26	144	135	47	182	326
Rough Stuff De- partment	353	6	359	298	27	325	684
Clicking Department	814	7	821	939	15	954	1,775
Closing Department	20	786	806	12	1,682	1,694	2,500
Making Department	2,015	61	2,076	1,243	67	1,310	3,386
Finishing Depart- ment	1,087	362	1,449	970	345	1,315	2,764
Slipper Making ...	174	20	194	575	517	1,092	1,286
Clog Making... ..	29	2	31	4	...	4	35
Repairing and Hand- sewn Work ...	429	6	435	25	1	26	461
TOTAL	5,039	1,276	6,315	4,201	2,701	6,902	13,217

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 26th July, 1926.

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture :							
Preparing Department ...	- 20	- 1	- 21	+ 11	- 9	+ 2	- 19
Rough Stuff Department ...	- 3	- 18	- 21	+ 4	...	+ 4	- 17
Clicking Department ...	+ 43	+ 4	+ 47	- 457	- 1	- 458	- 411
Closing Department ...	- 1	+ 1	...	- 8	- 633	- 641	- 641
Making Department ...	+ 73	+ 2	+ 75	- 882	- 20	- 902	- 827
Finishing Department ...	+ 6	+ 33	+ 39	- 644	- 37	- 681	- 642
Slipper Making ...	- 52	- 4	- 56	+ 411	+ 328	+ 739	+ 683
Clog Making ...	+ 1	- 1	...	- 2	...	- 2	- 2
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	- 39	- 1	- 40	- 19	- 1	- 20	- 60
TOTAL ...	+ 8	+ 15	23	- 1586	- 373	- 1959	- 1936

The exports of boots and shoes in August, 1926, amounted to 124,272 dozen pairs, or 2,972 dozen pairs less than in July, 1926, but 5,523 dozen pairs more than in August, 1925.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade continued slack on the whole, but showed a slight improvement on the previous month in some districts; a number of mills were still working irregularly, mainly owing to shortage of fuel, and a few were reported to have closed down temporarily.

With letterpress printers employment generally remained moderate. It showed a slight decline on the whole compared with July, though an improvement was reported at Bradford, Hull, Leeds and Bristol. Employment with electrotypes and stereotypers remained very good in London, and fairly good generally at other centres, except Liverpool, where it was slack.

In the lithographic printing trade employment, while fair on the whole, showed a decline on the previous month; at Birmingham employment was reported as bad, and at Glasgow as very good. Employment with lithographic artists continued fair in London and slack at Manchester; it was worse than in the previous month in both centres.

In the bookbinding trade employment continued to improve, but it was not so good as during August, 1925.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 5.9 at 23rd August, compared with 5.9 at 26th July and 4.4 at 24th August, 1925. In the paper and paper board industry, the percentage was 9.1 at 23rd August, compared with 8.3 at 26th July and 7.1 at 24th August, 1925. In the cardboard box, paper-bag and stationery trades the percentage was 6.1 at 23rd August, compared with 5.9 at 26th July and 5.7 at 24th August, 1925.

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

	No. of Members of Unions at end of August, 1926.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		August, 1926.	July, 1926.	August, 1925.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Letterpress Printing :						
London ...	45,294	4.5	3.4	2.0	+ 1.1	+ 2.5
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	19,161	5.2	5.0	3.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.1
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	12,681	3.2	3.5	2.3	- 0.3	+ 0.9
Scotland ...	7,927	5.9	5.2	2.1	+ 0.7	+ 3.8
Other Districts ...	12,900	3.8	4.4	2.2	- 0.6	+ 1.6
Total ...	97,963	4.5	4.0	2.3	+ 0.5	+ 2.2
Lithographic Printing	10,507	3.4	3.1	2.4	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Bookbinding ...	23,153	4.3	5.3	3.2	- 1.0	+ 1.1

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the industry showed little change, on the whole, during August. It continued good with most classes of skilled operatives and generally moderate with unskilled workers. The continued stoppage in the coal-mining industry was again responsible for a shortage of materials in some districts. Employment was not so good as in August, 1925.

As regards individual occupations, employment remained very good generally with plasterers; it was good, on the whole, with bricklayers, carpenters and joiners; and fairly good, in most districts, with masons and slaters. In several districts there was again a demand for one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, chiefly plasterers and bricklayers. Employment with plumbers and painters varied considerably in different districts, but it was fair on the whole; it remained 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 23rd August, 1926, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with August, 1925:—

	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1925.	Total Number Unemployed at 23rd August, 1926.	Number included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with	
					A Month ago.	A Year ago.*
OCCUPATIONS.						
Carpenters ...	114,030	5,534	449	4.9	- 0.2	+ 2.9
Bricklayers ...	65,120	2,735	551	4.2	+ 0.5	+ 3.1
Masons ...	23,840	1,231	132	5.2	- 0.1	+ 2.7
Slaters ...	5,310	271	22	5.1	- 0.7	+ 0.8
Plasterers ...	17,880	351	37	2.0	...	+ 0.9
Painters ...	108,590	10,761	540	9.9	- 0.7	+ 1.9
Plumbers ...	28,610	2,441	156	8.5	- 0.9	+ 2.1
Labourers to above ...	229,210	28,859	1,961	12.6	+ 0.3	+ 2.5
All other occupations ...	161,530	23,055	1,725	14.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
Total ...	754,120	75,238	5,573	10.0	...	+ 2.2
DIVISIONS.						
London ...	157,290	12,339	27	7.8	- 1.7	+ 0.4
South-Eastern ...	116,280	4,737	25	4.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
South-Western ...	92,610	6,396	139	6.9	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
Midlands ...	84,350	9,475	1,776	11.2	+ 0.1	+ 3.7
North-Eastern ...	96,650	13,795	1,742	14.3	+ 1.3	+ 5.1
North-Western ...	97,120	12,502	1,139	12.9	+ 1.2	+ 3.3
Scotland ...	69,440	7,091	325	10.2	- 0.3	+ 1.5
Wales ...	26,900	4,841	386	18.0	+ 2.4	+ 7.2
Northern Ireland ...	13,480	4,062	14	30.1	- 0.5	+ 6.0
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	754,120	75,238	5,573	10.0	...	+ 2.2

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 138 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,573,000, show that in August, 1926, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £2,829,300, as compared with £5,757,000 in July, 1926, and £2,727,600 in August, 1925. Of the total for August, 1926, dwelling-houses accounted for £1,990,900; factories and workshops for £129,200; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £155,600; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £553,600.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued to be adversely affected by the shortage of coal. Some yards were standing idle through lack of fuel, and short time was worked in many districts. In the Peterborough district, however, employment continued good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books

* 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.

lodged at Employment Exchanges, at 23rd August, 1926, was 21.0, as compared with 23.4 at 26th July, 1926, and 6.4 at 24th August, 1925.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th August, 1926.
	Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	1,743	+ 2.7	— 3.6	4,380	+ 6.0	— 4.9
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	4,592	+ 0.5	— 14.0	12,936	+ 1.9	— 6.1
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,123	— 2.0	— 33.4	2,851	— 0.3	— 38.1
Scotland	62	— 47.9	— 69.0	176	— 31.0	— 65.8
TOTAL	7,520	— 0.2	— 16.7	20,343	+ 2.0	— 13.4

Returns from employers relative to short time working showed that of 7,339 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 798, or 11 per cent., were working on an average 12 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th August, 1926.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during August, though still bad, showed considerable improvement as compared with the previous month, owing to a better supply of fuel. Some works which had closed down were reported to have re-opened during the month.

The percentage of insured work-people unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 46.2 at 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 57.7 at 26th July, 1926, and with 19.8 at 24th August, 1925.

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.		
	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th August, 1926.
	Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
China Manufacture ...	1,054	+ 17.1	— 28.2	1,844	+ 22.6	— 31.2
Earthenware Manufacture ...	6,093	+ 24.5	— 33.0	10,466	+ 37.4	— 38.0
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,663	+ 26.8	— 8.9	3,157	+ 34.1	— 10.4
TOTAL	8,810	+ 24.0	— 28.9	15,467	+ 34.8	— 33.0
DISTRICTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th August, 1926.
	Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
North Staffordshire ...	6,857	+ 33.0	— 27.9	11,171	+ 50.3	— 33.7
Other Districts	1,953	+ 0.2	— 32.1	4,296	+ 6.3	— 31.2
TOTAL	8,810	+ 24.0	— 28.9	15,467	+ 34.8	— 33.0

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 8,228 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 4,156, or 51 per cent., were working on an average about 16 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th August, 1926.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during August remained slack on the whole. It continued fairly active at the liner ports, but was subject to the adverse effect of the coal-mining stoppage at the coal exporting centres. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 23rd August, 1926, was 20.5, compared with 21.7 at 26th July, 1926, and 19.2 at 24th August, 1925.

The demand for men on the Thames was fair, and showed a considerable improvement at the end of August. It was quiet throughout the month on the Tyne and the Wear, and was poor on the Tees. The demand at Hull was fairly brisk during the first three weeks of August, but there was an appreciable decline subsequently. It was moderate to fair at Southampton. At Bristol and at Avonmouth the demand improved during August, being described at the end of the month as moderate at Bristol and fair at Avonmouth. At Newport it was small, but increased towards the end of August; at Cardiff it was poor to moderate throughout the month. The demand at Swansea continued quiet to fair. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey it was moderate at the beginning of the month and active afterwards. The demand was fair to good at Manchester and generally quiet on the Clyde. It was fair at Leith in the first week of August, but declined later; and was poor on the whole at Belfast.

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 August :—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	August, 1926.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Eight months ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	August, 1926.	August, 1925.
ENGLAND & WALES :					
Liverpool†	13,307	+ 309	— 431	92,785	98,730
Manchester	1,333	— 26	+ 694	6,998	6,613
London	11,764	+ 474	+ 4,568	73,282	63,336
Southampton	10,030	— 2,151	— 453	80,655	76,377
Tyne Ports	977	— 342	— 906	11,683	15,825
Sunderland	108	+ 43	— 292	1,490	2,300
Middlesbrough	332	+ 104	— 84	2,666	3,069
Hull	1,891	— 152	+ 650	11,224	11,936
Bristol‡	1,424	+ 189	+ 234	8,736	8,765
Newport, Mon.	433	+ 268	— 134	5,189	6,587
Cardiff §	879	— 75	— 923	13,664	19,705
Swansea	526	— 154	— 21	5,859	5,350
SCOTLAND :					
Leith	390	+ 51	— 24	2,757	2,818
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	220	— 97	— 251	2,468	2,863
Glasgow	3,326	— 78	— 22	23,427	24,367
NORTHERN IRELAND :					
Belfast	191	— 68	+ 18	1,210	1,354
TOTAL for above Ports	47,131	— 1,705	+ 2,623	344,093	349,995

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during August was still generally bad, but at several ports improvements were reported, due mainly to work provided by the importation of foreign coal.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service, 32.2 per cent. were unemployed at 23rd August, 1926, as compared with 32.0 per cent. at 26th July, 1926, and with 30.2 per cent. at 24th August, 1925.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
7th August, 1926...	4,610	1,500	6,110	7,074	13,184
14th " ...	4,437	1,376	5,813	7,313	13,126
21st " ...	4,690	1,649	6,339	7,200	13,539
28th " ...	4,473	1,743	6,216	7,246	13,462
Average for 4 weeks ended 28th August, 1926	4,550	1,570	6,120	7,214	13,334
Average for July, 1926	4,831	1,845	6,676	7,343	14,019
Average for Aug., 1925	4,559	1,630	6,189	7,056	13,245

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during August was 895, as compared with 854 in July, and with 1,044 in August, 1925.

East Coast.—At the North-East coast ports employment remained bad generally, but there was a slight improvement with dockers on the Tyne, due to coal imports. There was also an improvement at Middlesbrough and West Hartlepool. At the Humber ports the improvement reported last month was maintained, and employment was fair. It continued moderate on the average at the East Anglian ports.

Liverpool.—Employment was slack, but a little better than in the previous month. Coal heavers and trimmers continued to be well employed on foreign coal. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 27th August was 14,282, compared with 14,168 in July, and with 15,186 in August, 1925. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £37,892 in the four weeks ended 27th August, compared with £36,064 in July, and with £40,837 in August, 1925.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports was moderate, more work being available at Newport, Cardiff and Swansea on cargoes of foreign coal and timber. Employment at Bristol and Avonmouth was also moderate and better than in July. It was fair at Southampton and slack at Plymouth and other south-western ports.

Scotland.—Employment remained slack at Glasgow and Aberdeen. At Dundee, Leith, Grangemouth, Burntisland, Methil and Ardrossan employment was brisk on account of the importation of coal. At Greenock it was fair, and at Belfast moderate.

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

† Including Birkenhead and Garston.

‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

§ Including Barry and Penarth.

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

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 23rd August, 1926 (exclusive of persons in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute), and the increase or decrease at that date in the total 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 343 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 statistics of unemployment in insured industries are presented in two separate Tables, one showing the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the other showing the estimated number insured and the percentages unemployed.

Each of these Tables gives an analysis of the figures, distinguishing between persons who are wholly unemployed (in the sense that they are definitely without a job) and those who are temporarily stopped or suspended from the service of an employer. The figures under the heading "temporary stoppages" include those persons recorded as unemployed on the date of the return who were either on short time or were otherwise stood off or suspended on the definite understanding that they were to return to their former employment within a period of six weeks from the date of suspension. In cases where there was no definite prospect of return within six weeks the individuals have been included in the statistics as "wholly unemployed." The only exception to this rule arises in the small number of cases where, although the expectation of resumption within the six weeks' period was not realised, a definite date for resumption of work had nevertheless been fixed. In such cases the individuals concerned have been included under the heading "temporary stoppages." The figures given in the grand total columns in both Tables are strictly comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD AUGUST, 1926.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing	4,393	89	4,482	153	68	221	4,546	157	4,703	4,529	157	4,686
Mining:—												
Coal Mining*	107,945	678	108,623	...	...	...	107,945	678	108,623	107,891	678	108,569
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	2,971	...	2,971	7,208	2	7,210	10,179	2	10,181	10,139	2	10,141
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	700	...	701	241	...	241	941	1	942	941	1	942
Stone Quarrying and Mining	3,218	11	3,229	2,962	4	2,966	6,180	15	6,195	5,775	15	5,790
Slate Quarrying and Mining	166	...	166	154	...	154	320	...	320	320	...	320
Other Mining and Quarrying	2,173	43	2,216	1,388	92	1,480	3,561	135	3,696	3,427	135	3,562
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	675	20	695	295	9	304	970	29	999	958	29	987
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	3,322	36	3,358	5,103	...	5,103	8,425	36	8,461	8,424	36	8,460
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	1,905	76	1,981	774	63	837	2,679	139	2,818	2,668	139	2,807
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	962	26	988	280	8	288	1,242	34	1,276	1,160	34	1,194
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	6,001	823	6,824	8,163	1,519	9,682	14,164	2,342	16,506	13,876	2,342	16,218
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	3,102	3,244	6,346	11,474	16,112	27,586	14,576	19,356	33,932	14,554	19,349	33,903
Glass Trades:—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scien- tific Glass) Manufacture	2,184	286	2,470	1,512	124	1,636	3,696	410	4,106	3,690	410	4,100
Glass Bottle Making	3,185	159	3,344	2,959	308	3,267	6,144	467	6,611	6,136	467	6,603
Ammunition Explosives, Chemicals, etc.:—												
Chemicals Manufacture	6,977	717	7,694	4,036	237	4,273	11,013	954	11,967	10,835	949	11,784
Explosives Manufacture	1,357	488	1,845	330	663	993	1,687	1,151	2,838	1,680	1,150	2,830
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	644	161	805	145	66	211	789	227	1,016	788	227	1,015
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	4,751	1,023	5,774	1,527	217	1,744	6,278	1,240	7,518	6,253	1,218	7,471
Metal Manufacture:—												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	4,673	24	4,697	11,117	10	11,127	15,790	34	15,824	15,788	34	15,822
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Fur- naces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	31,099	254	31,353	77,677	387	78,064	108,776	641	109,417	108,728	641	109,369
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	4,916	236	5,152	2,702	106	2,808	7,618	342	7,960	7,558	342	7,900
Manufacture of Tin Plates	2,511	293	2,804	12,879	1,583	14,462	15,390	1,876	17,266	15,389	1,876	17,265
Iron and Steel Tube Making	2,716	111	2,827	5,539	40	5,579	8,255	151	8,406	8,253	151	8,404
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manu- facture	1,957	406	2,363	3,559	215	3,774	5,516	621	6,137	5,508	621	6,129
Engineering and Ironfounding:—												
General Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	65,585	1,486	67,071	41,645	1,127	42,772	107,230	2,613	109,843	105,467	2,607	108,074
Electrical Engineering	4,109	767	4,876	893	310	1,203	5,002	1,077	6,079	4,977	1,076	6,053
Marine Engineering, etc.	16,297	39	16,336	1,206	18	1,224	17,503	57	17,560	15,371	57	15,428
Constructional Engineering	3,964	69	4,033	1,717	35	1,752	5,681	104	5,785	5,671	104	5,775
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	18,158	1,309	19,467	4,540	610	5,150	22,698	1,919	24,617	22,495	1,917	24,412
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	2,213	163	2,376	872	110	982	3,085	273	3,358	3,003	273	3,276
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram- car Building	4,268	42	4,310	6,560	32	6,592	10,828	74	10,902	10,816	74	10,890

* The figures are exclusive of persons in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute which commenced on 1st May.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	94,094	217	94,311	3,284	11	3,295	97,378	228	97,606	90,985	220	91,205
Metal Trades :—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ...	7,774	472	8,246	7,834	418	8,252	15,608	890	16,498	15,474	890	16,364
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	1,248	37	1,285	599	2	601	1,847	39	1,886	1,813	39	1,852
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ...	3,332	1,912	5,244	457	315	772	3,789	2,227	6,016	3,775	2,227	6,002
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,855	772	3,627	4,269	521	4,790	7,124	1,293	8,417	7,118	1,293	8,411
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ...	1,521	1,097	2,618	2,549	1,726	4,275	4,070	2,823	6,893	4,069	2,823	6,892
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ...	2,084	854	2,938	741	663	1,404	2,825	1,517	4,342	2,815	1,517	4,332
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	369	14	383	103	1	104	472	15	487	469	15	484
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ...	2,311	1,320	3,631	1,221	969	2,190	3,532	2,289	5,821	3,504	2,288	5,792
Other Metal Industries ...	9,928	4,936	14,864	6,103	3,070	9,173	16,031	8,006	24,037	15,866	8,004	23,870
Textile Trades :—												
Cotton ...	10,243	14,929	25,172	34,932	75,523	110,455	45,175	90,452	135,627	45,167	90,436	135,603
Woollen and Worsted ...	5,290	6,716	12,006	14,446	27,179	41,625	19,736	33,895	53,631	19,583	33,814	53,397
Silk ...	800	950	1,750	1,702	3,324	5,026	2,502	4,274	6,776	2,501	4,274	6,775
Linen ...	5,547	12,491	18,038	2,185	5,200	7,385	7,732	17,691	25,423	1,028	2,455	3,483
Jute ...	1,721	3,020	4,741	1,326	3,819	5,145	3,047	6,839	9,886	3,045	6,839	9,884
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ...	705	1,361	2,066	383	850	1,233	1,088	2,211	3,299	896	1,841	2,737
Hosiery ...	793	3,493	4,286	1,399	9,041	10,440	2,192	12,534	14,726	2,155	12,393	14,548
Lace ...	663	441	1,104	1,424	1,727	3,151	2,087	2,168	4,255	2,087	2,167	4,254
Carpet Manufacture ...	593	638	1,231	1,717	2,440	4,157	2,310	3,078	5,388	2,308	3,076	5,384
Other Textile Industries ...	985	2,621	3,606	494	1,842	2,336	1,479	4,463	5,942	1,372	3,679	5,051
Textile, Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	4,060	1,561	5,621	14,159	4,885	19,044	18,219	6,446	24,665	17,509	5,833	23,342
Leather and Leather Goods :—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	2,622	464	3,086	1,849	412	2,261	4,471	876	5,347	4,467	876	5,343
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture ...	1,190	746	1,936	373	350	723	1,563	1,096	2,659	1,530	1,092	2,622
Clothing Trades :—												
Tailoring ...	5,576	4,765	10,341	1,955	11,866	13,821	7,531	16,631	24,162	7,018	16,279	23,297
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ...	702	3,959	4,661	93	2,564	2,657	795	6,523	7,318	764	6,305	7,069
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ...	515	1,193	1,708	226	364	590	741	1,557	2,298	724	1,556	2,280
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ...	404	2,630	3,034	74	3,279	3,353	478	5,909	6,387	340	4,186	4,526
Other Dress Industries ...	635	461	1,096	156	530	686	791	991	1,782	782	986	1,768
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	7,573	2,444	10,017	5,995	3,619	9,614	13,568	6,063	19,631	13,341	6,048	19,389
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	7,317	2,481	9,798	481	414	895	7,798	2,895	10,693	7,161	2,814	9,975
Grain Milling ...	2,005	183	2,188	216	111	327	2,221	294	2,515	2,115	277	2,392
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	1,501	2,364	3,865	437	3,489	3,926	1,938	5,853	7,791	1,932	5,841	7,773
Other Food Industries ...	4,381	5,303	9,684	224	733	957	4,605	6,036	10,641	4,502	5,983	10,485
Drink Industries ...	5,561	1,485	7,046	461	375	836	6,022	1,860	7,882	5,435	1,819	7,254
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture ...	632	937	1,569	27	410	437	659	1,347	2,006	554	1,229	1,783
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—												
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	5,228	180	5,408	864	138	1,002	6,092	318	6,410	5,878	318	6,196
Wood Box and Packing Case Making	1,345	161	1,506	354	103	457	1,699	264	1,963	1,639	263	1,902
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	6,424	940	7,364	933	324	1,257	7,357	1,264	8,621	7,180	1,248	8,428
Other Woodworking ...	2,030	558	2,588	757	433	1,190	2,787	991	3,778	2,606	963	3,569
Printing and Paper Trades :—												
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	1,676	497	2,173	2,042	809	2,851	3,718	1,306	5,024	3,535	1,230	4,765
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	1,021	1,506	2,527	116	705	821	1,137	2,211	3,348	1,099	2,183	3,282
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining ...	124	84	208	7	39	46	131	123	254	129	123	252
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ...	159	88	247	39	49	88	198	137	335	198	137	335
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	9,228	3,982	13,210	631	708	1,339	9,859	4,690	14,549	9,650	4,548	14,198
Building and Construction of Works :—												
Building ...	69,521	144	69,665	5,561	12	5,573	75,082	156	75,238	71,025	151	71,176
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	30,478	24	30,502	1,578	1	1,579	32,056	25	32,081	30,148	24	30,172
Other Manufacturing Industries :—												
Rubber Manufacture ...	2,908	1,846	4,754	2,931	1,998	4,929	5,839	3,844	9,683	5,838	3,842	9,680
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture	665	90	755	4,061	354	4,415	4,726	444	5,170	4,724	444	5,168
Brush and Broom Making ...	774	347	1,121	462	362	824	1,236	709	1,945	1,208	708	1,916
Scientific and Photographic Instrument and Apparatus Manufacture	519	208	727	59	50	109	578	258	836	571	257	828
Musical Instrument Making ...	1,877	173	2,050	466	106	572	2,343	279	2,622	2,334	279	2,613
Toys, Games, and Sports Requisites Manufacture ...	424	361	785	191	57	248	615	418	1,033	611	418	1,029
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...	9,865	140	10,005	1,156	31	1,187	11,021	171	11,192	10,504	171	10,675
Transport and Communication :—												
Railway Service ...	12,718	245	12,963	10,311	120	10,431	23,029	365	23,394	22,666	364	23,030
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	4,653	256	4,909	914	42	956	5,567	298	5,865	5,503	298	5,801
Other Road Transport ...	21,489	159	21,648	2,006	7	2,013	23,495	166	23,661	22,489	166	22,655
Shipping Service ...	25,377	206	25,583	620	42	662	25,997	248	26,245	25,124	244	25,368
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ...	55,604	102	55,706	5,909	35	5,944	61,513	137	61,650	60,037	137	60,174
Other Transport and Communication and Storage ...	3,171	132	3,303	89	22	111	3,260	154	3,414	3,230	154	3,384
Distributive Trades ...	66,982	23,897	90,879	7,517	4,615	12,132	74,499	28,512	103,011	70,683	27,853	98,536
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...	5,452	994	6,446	211	51	262	5,663	1,045	6,708	5,489	1,020	6,509
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—												
National Government ...	9,459	729	10,188	499	21	520	9,958	750	10,708	8,747	705	9,452
Local Government ...	20,055	404	20,459	1,306	47	1,353	21,361	451	21,812	20,088	448	20,536
Professional Services ...	2,493	910	3,403	200	39	239	2,693	949	3,642	2,608	925	3,533
Entertainments and Sports ...	4,417	1,605	6,022	306	116	422	4,723	1,721	6,444	4,531	1,690	6,221
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	8,931	11,593	20,524	223	461	684	9,154	12,054	21,208	8,871	11,884	20,755
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	1,212	3,412	4,624	73	935	1,008	1,285	4,347	5,632	1,242	4,166	5,408
Other Industries and Services ...	24,482	1,658	26,140	1,454	842	2,296	25,936	2,500	28,436	25,044	2,450	27,494
TOTAL* ...	927,388	159,978	1,087,366†	387,350	209,791	597,141	1,314,738	369,769	1,684,507*	1,272,501	348,336	1,620,837

* The figures are exclusive of persons in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute which commenced on 1st May.
† Including 80,449 Casuals (Males 79,246, Females 1,203).

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.															GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PER- CENTAGE UNEM- PLOYED AT 23RD AUG., 1926.
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1925.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD AUGUST, 1926.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PER- CENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	26TH JULY, 1926.	24TH AUG., 1925.	25TH AUG., 1924.	
Fishing	25,710	880	26,590	17.1	10.1	16.9	0.6	7.7	0.8	17.7	17.8	17.7	- 2.4	+ 7.0	+ 6.5	17.8
Mining:—	1,231,900	8,550	1,240,450	8.8	7.9	8.8	...	...	...	8.8	7.9	8.8	+ 0.1	-13.8	+ 1.1	8.8
Coal Mining*	16,150	40	16,190	18.4	...	18.4	44.6	5.0	44.5	63.0	5.0	62.9	- 0.2	+28.1	+42.8	63.1
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	5,350	40	5,390	13.1	2.5	13.0	4.5	...	4.5	17.6	2.5	17.5	- 0.3	+ 5.6	+ 0.5	17.5
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	38,650	280	38,930	8.3	3.9	8.3	7.7	1.5	7.6	16.0	5.4	15.9	- 2.8	+ 9.1	+10.7	15.3
Stone Quarrying and Mining	10,730	10	10,740	1.5	...	1.5	1.5	...	1.5	3.0	...	3.0	...	- 1.2	+ 1.9	3.0
Slate Quarrying and Mining	19,330	1,580	20,910	11.2	2.7	10.6	7.2	5.8	7.1	18.4	8.5	17.7	+ 0.6	+10.6	+11.8	17.4
Other Mining and Quarrying	14,220	180	14,400	4.7	11.1	4.8	2.1	5.0	2.1	6.8	16.1	6.9	+ 0.1	+ 3.6	+ 2.4	6.9
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	11,600	120	11,720	28.6	30.0	28.7	44.0	...	43.5	72.6	30.0	72.2	+ 1.5	+54.6	+64.8	72.2
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—	12,810	910	13,720	14.9	8.4	14.4	6.0	6.9	6.1	20.9	15.3	20.5	- 0.2	+ 6.9	+ 4.9	20.6
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	17,570	780	18,350	5.5	3.3	5.4	1.6	1.1	1.6	7.1	4.4	7.0	- 0.6	+ 3.2	+ 0.1	6.6
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	70,710	7,800	78,510	8.5	10.6	8.7	11.5	19.4	12.3	20.0	30.0	21.0	- 2.4	+14.6	+13.6	21.0
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	34,320	39,050	73,370	9.0	8.3	8.6	33.5	41.3	37.6	42.5	49.6	46.2	-11.5	+26.4	+32.8	46.3
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	20,880	5,300	26,180	10.5	5.4	9.4	7.2	2.3	6.3	17.7	7.7	15.7	+ 0.6	+ 3.8	+ 2.3	15.7
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	16,700	2,320	19,020	19.1	6.9	17.6	17.7	13.2	17.2	36.8	20.1	34.8	+ 0.8	+14.7	+12.6	34.8
Glass Trades:—	75,320	21,580	96,900	9.3	3.3	7.9	5.3	1.1	4.4	14.6	4.4	12.3	- 0.1	+ 2.7	+ 3.5	12.2
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	13,020	5,500	18,520	10.4	8.9	10.0	2.6	12.0	5.3	13.0	20.9	15.3	- 1.2	+ 8.4	+ 6.9	15.3
Glass Bottle Making	12,900	3,810	16,710	5.0	4.2	4.8	1.1	1.8	1.3	6.1	6.0	6.1	- 0.9	+ 1.1	+ 1.4	6.1
Ammunition Explosives, Chemicals, etc.:—	58,940	21,590	80,530	8.1	4.7	7.2	2.6	1.0	2.1	10.7	5.7	9.3	- 0.6	+ 2.4	+ 1.9	9.3
Chemicals Manufacture	25,500	280	25,780	18.3	8.6	18.2	43.6	3.5	43.2	61.9	12.1	61.4	- 1.5	+ 37.2	+47.1	61.4
Explosives Manufacture	195,110	5,020	200,130	15.9	5.1	15.7	39.9	7.7	39.0	55.8	12.8	54.7	- 1.5	+27.8	+31.6	54.7
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	38,680	3,530	42,210	12.7	6.7	12.2	7.0	3.0	6.7	19.7	9.7	18.9	+ 1.1	+ 7.1	+ 7.8	18.9
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	23,850	4,320	28,170	10.5	6.8	10.0	54.0	36.6	51.3	64.5	43.4	61.3	- 1.4	+44.9	+57.7	61.3
Metal Manufacture:—	26,340	1,550	27,890	10.3	7.2	10.1	21.0	2.5	20.0	31.3	9.7	30.1	- 2.8	+10.3	+15.3	30.2
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	20,640	4,260	24,900	9.5	9.5	9.5	17.2	5.1	15.1	26.7	14.6	24.6	+ 2.4	+ 9.9	+12.2	24.6
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Fur- naces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	583,590	43,690	627,280	11.2	3.4	10.7	7.2	2.6	6.8	18.4	6.0	17.5	+ 0.4	+ 4.9	+ 3.4	17.4
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	61,320	15,400	76,720	6.7	5.0	6.4	1.5	2.0	1.5	8.2	7.0	7.9	- 0.6	+ 2.4	+ 2.3	7.9
Manufacture of Tin Plates	60,670	1,050	61,720	26.9	3.7	26.5	1.9	1.7	2.0	28.8	5.4	28.5	+ 1.3	+ 5.9	+12.2	27.5
Iron and Steel Tube Making	25,110	1,020	26,130	15.8	6.8	15.4	6.8	3.4	6.7	22.6	10.2	22.1	- 1.8	+10.6	+ 9.1	22.1
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manu- facture	193,300	21,540	214,840	9.4	6.1	9.1	2.3	2.8	2.4	11.7	8.9	11.5	+ 1.4	+ 3.8	+ 1.3	11.4
Engineering, etc.:—	21,700	2,930	24,630	10.2	5.6	9.6	4.0	3.7	4.0	14.2	9.3	13.6	+ 0.2	+ 2.2	+ 3.1	13.5
General Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	54,810	1,440	56,250	7.8	2.9	7.7	12.0	2.2	11.7	19.8	5.1	19.4	- 0.1	+12.8	+13.2	19.5
Electrical Engineering	238,360	3,340	241,700	39.5	6.5	39.0	1.4	0.3	1.4	40.9	6.8	40.4	+ 1.9	+ 5.0	+12.3	40.9
Marine Engineering, etc.	77,590	7,970	85,560	10.0	5.9	9.6	10.1	5.3	9.7	20.1	11.2	19.3	- 0.3	+ 8.3	+ 7.6	19.3
Constructional Engineering	11,670	990	12,660	10.7	3.7	10.2	5.1	0.2	4.7	15.8	3.9	14.9	+ 3.0	+ 6.9	+ 4.6	15.0
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—	50,940	30,410	81,350	6.5	6.3	6.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	7.4	7.3	7.4	- 0.3	+ 0.9	- 0.3	7.4
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	24,380	9,460	33,840	11.7	8.2	10.7	17.5	5.5	14.2	29.2	13.7	24.9	+ 3.0	+12.5	+ 9.4	24.9
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	15,130	11,920	27,050	10.1	9.2	9.7	16.8	14.5	15.8	26.9	23.7	25.5	+ 4.8	+12.2	+12.2	25.5
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram- car Building	18,680	11,690	30,370	11.2	7.3	9.7	3.9	5.7	4.6	15.1	13.0	14.3	+ 0.5	+ 2.1	- 2.9	14.3
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	7,080	520	7,600	5.2	2.7	5.0	1.5	0.2	1.4	6.7	2.9	6.4	- 1.8	+ 2.1	+ 1.9	6.4
Metal Trades:—	25,680	19,530	45,210	9.0	6.8	8.0	4.8	4.9	4.9	13.8	11.7	12.9	- 1.6	+ 1.7	+ 0.9	12.9
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	114,800	66,020	180,820	8.6	7.5	8.2	5.4	4.6	5.1	14.0	12.1	13.3	- 0.2	+ 3.3	+ 1.1	13.2
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	208,770	367,950	576,720	4.9	4.1	4.4	16.7	20.5	19.1	21.6	24.6	23.5	- 4.7	+10.3	+ 8.2	23.5
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	107,340	150,360	257,700	4.9	4.5	4.7	13.5	18.0	16.1	18.4	22.5	20.8	- 2.3	+ 2.5	+13.2	20.8
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	18,470	28,420	46,890	4.3	3.3	3.7	9.2	11.7	10.8	13.5	15.0	14.5	+ 1.9	+ 6.9	+ 8.9	14.4
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	27,110	59,510	86,620	20.5	21.0	20.8	8.0	8.7	8.6	28.5	2					

* The figures for July and August, 1926, are exclusive of persons in the coal mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute which commenced on 1st May.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.																	GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PER- CENTAGE UNEM- PLOYED AT 23RD AUGUST 1926.
INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1925.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD AUGUST, 1926.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENT- AGES AS COMPARED WITH				
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.							
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	26TH JULY, 1926.	24TH AUG., 1925.	25TH AUG., 1924.		
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—																	
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	91,330	50,460	141,790	8.0	4.9	6.9	0.5	0.8	0.6	8.5	5.7	7.5	...	- 0.6	- 0.5	7.3	
Grain Milling ...	27,890	3,470	31,360	7.2	5.3	7.0	0.8	3.2	1.0	8.0	8.5	8.0	- 0.2	+ 3.5	+ 1.7	7.8	
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Con- fectionery ...	26,050	51,080	77,130	5.8	4.6	5.0	1.6	6.9	5.1	7.4	11.5	10.1	- 3.8	+ 3.4	+ 2.4	10.1	
Other Food Industries ...	54,250	60,070	114,320	8.1	8.8	8.5	0.4	1.2	0.8	8.5	10.0	9.3	+ 0.9	- 0.5	- 1.4	9.3	
Drink Industries ...	87,830	25,350	113,180	6.3	5.9	6.2	0.6	1.4	0.8	6.9	7.3	7.0	+ 0.5	+ 0.7	- 0.5	6.6	
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture ...	13,340	30,620	43,960	4.7	3.1	3.6	0.2	1.3	1.0	4.9	4.4	4.6	...	- 0.7	- 2.7	4.3	
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—																	
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	54,060	2,830	56,890	9.7	6.4	9.5	1.6	4.8	1.8	11.3	11.2	11.3	...	+ 1.8	+ 1.6	11.1	
Wood Box and Packing Case Making	11,540	2,170	13,710	11.7	7.4	11.0	3.0	4.8	3.3	14.7	12.2	14.3	+ 1.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	14.1	
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	83,150	18,530	101,680	7.7	5.1	7.2	1.1	1.7	1.3	8.8	6.8	8.5	- 0.6	+ 2.3	+ 0.9	8.4	
Other Woodworking ...	19,500	6,050	25,550	10.4	9.2	10.1	3.9	7.2	4.7	14.3	16.4	14.8	...	+ 2.0	+ 2.1	14.2	
Printing and Paper Trades :—																	
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	39,320	15,700	55,020	4.3	3.2	3.9	5.2	5.1	5.2	9.5	8.3	9.1	+ 0.8	+ 2.0	+ 1.3	8.7	
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	18,560	36,290	54,850	5.5	4.1	4.6	0.6	2.0	1.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.4	6.1	
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining ...	3,450	1,470	4,920	3.6	5.7	4.2	0.2	2.7	1.0	3.8	8.4	5.2	+ 1.1	+ 1.6	- 0.4	5.1	
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ...	2,050	2,770	4,820	7.8	3.2	5.1	1.9	1.7	1.9	9.7	4.9	7.0	+ 0.7	+ 1.6	+ 1.5	7.0	
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	158,460	86,880	245,340	5.8	4.6	5.4	0.4	0.8	0.5	6.2	5.4	5.9	...	+ 1.5	+ 0.8	5.9	
Building and Construction of Works :—																	
Building ...	746,210	7,910	754,120	9.3	1.8	9.2	0.8	0.2	0.8	10.1	2.0	10.0	...	+ 2.2	- 0.9	9.6	
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	148,030	850	148,880	20.6	2.8	20.5	1.1	0.1	1.0	21.7	2.9	21.5	+ 0.5	+ 6.1	+ 3.6	20.8	
Other Manufacturing Industries :—																	
Rubber Manufacture ...	34,210	26,360	60,570	8.5	7.0	7.8	8.6	7.6	8.2	17.1	14.6	16.0	+ 0.4	+ 6.3	+ 5.0	16.0	
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture	11,500	2,300	13,800	5.8	3.9	5.5	35.3	15.4	32.0	41.1	19.3	37.5	- 2.7	+ 31.3	+ 32.4	37.5	
Brush and Broom Making ...	5,760	4,580	10,340	13.4	7.6	10.8	8.1	7.9	8.0	21.5	15.5	18.8	- 1.6	+ 4.7	+ 4.8	18.7	
Scientific and Photographic Instru- ment and Apparatus Manufacture	13,230	7,670	20,900	3.9	2.7	3.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	4.4	3.4	4.0	- 1.4	- 0.4	- 0.6	4.0	
Musical Instrument Making ...	17,870	3,770	21,640	10.5	4.6	9.5	2.6	2.8	2.6	13.1	7.4	12.1	- 3.4	+ 7.4	+ 3.6	12.1	
Toys, Games, and Sports Requisites Manufacture ...	5,930	5,100	11,030	7.2	7.1	7.1	3.2	1.1	2.3	10.4	8.2	9.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.5	+ 0.2	9.3	
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...	171,820	6,830	178,650	5.7	2.0	5.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	6.4	2.5	6.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	6.1	
Transport and Communication :—																	
Railway Service ...	159,870	8,740	168,610	8.0	2.8	7.7	6.4	1.4	6.2	14.4	4.2	13.9	- 2.6	+ 8.0	+ 8.8	13.8	
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	115,730	5,430	121,160	4.0	4.7	4.1	0.8	0.8	0.7	4.8	5.5	4.8	+ 0.3	+ 1.7	+ 1.7	4.8	
Other Road Transport ...	151,880	4,340	156,220	14.1	3.7	13.9	1.4	0.1	1.2	15.5	3.8	15.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	- 0.4	14.9	
Shipping Service ...	122,260	5,670	127,930	20.8	3.6	20.0	0.5	0.8	0.5	21.3	4.4	20.5	- 1.2	+ 1.3	+ 2.0	20.3	
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ...	189,570	2,150	191,720	29.3	4.7	29.1	3.1	1.7	3.1	32.4	6.4	32.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.0	+ 5.7	32.0	
Other Transport and Communication and Storage ...	20,450	2,240	22,690	15.5	5.9	14.6	0.4	1.0	0.4	15.9	6.9	15.0	+ 1.1	+ 0.2	- 1.7	15.0	
Distributive Trades ...	880,060	578,140	1,458,200	7.6	4.1	6.2	0.9	0.8	0.9	8.5	4.9	7.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.6	6.9	
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...	147,350	72,760	220,110	3.7	1.4	2.9	0.1	...	0.1	3.8	1.4	3.0	...	- 0.2	- 0.7	3.0	
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—																	
National Government ...	126,870	29,620	156,490	7.5	2.5	6.5	0.3	...	0.3	7.8	2.5	6.8	+ 0.1	- 0.4	- 1.4	6.3	
Local Government ...	238,970	19,400	258,370	8.4	2.1	7.9	0.5	0.2	0.5	8.9	2.3	8.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.9	+ 1.0	8.2	
Professional Services ...	67,210	46,070	113,280	3.7	2.0	3.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	4.0	2.1	3.2	+ 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.7	3.2	
Entertainments and Sports ...	42,370	22,650	65,020	10.4	7.1	9.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	11.1	7.6	9.9	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 2.5	9.7	
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	104,790	189,240	294,030	8.5	6.1	7.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	8.7	6.4	7.2	...	- 0.8	- 3.0	7.1	
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	22,730	94,560	117,290	5.3	3.6	3.9	0.4	1.0	0.9	5.7	4.6	4.8	+ 0.4	- 0.7	- 1.4	4.7	
Other Industries and Services ...	84,940	30,340	115,280	28.8	5.5	22.7	1.7	2.7	2.0	30.5	8.2	24.7	- 0.1	+ 2.8	- 3.2	24.3	
Total ...	8,717,400	3,174,600	11,892,000	10.6	5.0	9.1	4.5	6.6	5.1	15.1*	11.6*	14.2*	- 0.4	+ 2.1	+ 3.7	13.9*	

* These percentages include coal-mining, those miners who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the dispute being taken as unemployed for the purpose of the percentage, but not those who ceased work owing to the dispute. If coal-mining were excluded, the percentage of unemployment in other trades at 23rd August would be Males, 16.1, Females, 11.7, Total, 14.8, as compared with 16.3, 12.8, and 15.3 respectively at 26th July, 1926. The percentage for Great Britain only at 23rd August, exclusive of coal-mining, is 14.6, compared with 15.1 at 26th July, 1926.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

At 30th August, 1926, the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,549,759; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,605,739.

Comparative figures for men, boys, women and girls, separately, for 26th July and 30th August are given below* :—

		26th July, 1926.		30th August, 1926.			
		Total.	Persons normally in regular employment.		Persons normally in casual employ- ment.	Total.	
			Wholly Unemployed.	Temporary Stoppages.			
		Great Britain.					
Men	...	1,188,248	718,176	373,878	76,403	1,168,457	
Boys	...	45,095	33,826	13,184	138	47,148	
Women	...	324,850	103,422	184,426	705	288,553	
Girls	...	47,227	31,044	14,541	16	45,601	
Total...		1,605,420	886,468	586,029	77,262	1,549,759	
		Great Britain and Northern Ireland.					
Men	...	1,226,048	750,165	375,775	79,153	1,205,093	
Boys	...	45,928	34,443	13,265	139	47,847	
Women	...	343,876	117,132	188,476	705	306,313	
Girls	...	48,203	31,618	14,852	16	46,486	
Total...		1,664,055	933,358	592,368	80,013	1,605,739	

The following Table gives particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the five weeks ended 30th August, 1926. Of the 92,784 vacancies filled, 47,878 were for men, 23,955 for women, and 20,951 for juveniles :—

Week ended	Applications from Employers.		Vacancies Filled.†	Number of Work-people on Registers.*
	During Week.	At end of Week.		
26th July, 1926 ...	22,732	16,730	20,794	1,664,055
2nd Aug., 1926 ...	17,426	16,332	15,068	1,677,018
9th " " ...	22,260	16,040	19,158	1,653,701
16th " " ...	22,741	14,929	20,401	1,637,632
23rd " " ...	21,778	14,015	19,343	1,616,804
30th " " ...	22,000	14,262	18,814	1,605,739
Total (5 weeks) ...	106,205	...	92,784	...

* The figures include all workpeople on the Registers of Exchanges with the exception of those who ceased work in the coal-mining industry on account of the dispute. They include 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 five weeks ended 26th July, 1926, the average number of such placings was 4,466 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, during the five weeks ended 30th August, 1926, was 970 per week.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 30th August, 1926. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area:—

Area.	Number of Persons on Registers at 30th August, 1926.*				Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 26th July, 1926.
	Men.	Women.	Juven-iles.	Total.	
London Division ...	97,901	20,714	9,073	127,688	— 3,586
South-Eastern Division ...	26,235	5,728	3,712	35,675	— 536
Brighton ...	1,207	221	258	1,686	+ 72
Chatham ...	1,330	189	429	1,948	— 59
Ipswich ...	2,225	251	208	2,684	— 96
Norwich ...	2,200	735	159	3,094	— 245
Rest of South-Eastern	19,273	4,332	2,658	26,263	— 208
South-Western Division ...	46,785	6,538	4,800	58,123	+ 942
Bristol ...	10,737	1,596	1,201	13,534	+ 205
Plymouth ...	4,310	412	443	5,165	+ 127
Portsmouth ...	4,338	430	410	5,178	+ 384
Reading ...	908	67	213	1,188	+ 43
Southampton ...	3,491	410	484	4,385	+ 743
Swindon ...	811	79	171	1,061	+ 315
Rest of South-Western	22,190	3,544	1,878	27,612	+ 1,021
Midlands Division ...	162,831	60,829	13,634	237,294	— 17,643
Birmingham ...	27,820	11,852	1,748	41,420	— 2,197
Coventry ...	5,095	958	187	6,240	+ 756
Cradley Heath ...	4,433	855	191	5,479	+ 522
Derby ...	3,142	1,076	505	4,723	+ 559
Leicester ...	5,952	3,942	416	10,310	— 920
Northampton ...	1,513	355	129	1,997	+ 28
Nottingham ...	8,532	4,489	839	13,860	+ 291
Smethwick ...	3,510	1,035	290	4,835	+ 85
Stoke-on-Trent ...	14,907	11,057	2,130	28,094	— 10,159
Walsall ...	5,220	1,192	527	6,939	— 424
West Bromwich ...	3,630	697	288	4,615	— 53
Wolverhampton ...	5,697	1,010	454	7,161	+ 907
Rest of Midlands	73,380	22,311	5,930	101,621	— 7,038
North-Eastern Division ...	312,992	55,330	21,424	389,746	— 2,254
Barnsley ...	2,877	879	238	3,994	+ 727
Bradford ...	10,003	7,742	895	18,640	— 2,587
Darlington ...	4,003	456	257	4,716	+ 110
Dewsbury ...	1,449	1,249	357	3,055	— 182
Doncaster ...	1,644	350	420	2,414	+ 653
Gateshead ...	9,698	926	1,195	11,819	+ 236
Grimsby ...	2,856	208	265	3,329	— 743
Hallifax ...	3,121	2,292	172	5,585	— 1,357
Hartlepool ...	10,792	180	525	11,497	— 116
Huddersfield ...	4,048	2,384	405	6,837	— 1,096
Hull ...	10,171	812	989	11,972	— 796
Leeds ...	16,337	7,622	1,227	25,186	+ 1,883
Lincoln ...	2,174	359	151	2,684	— 13
Middlesbrough ...	21,850	421	885	23,156	— 771
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	15,956	2,049	1,334	19,339	+ 1,274
Rotherham ...	7,105	260	504	7,869	+ 195
Sheffield ...	32,412	3,453	2,456	38,321	— 871
South Shields ...	9,990	543	839	11,372	+ 677
Stockton-on-Tees ...	9,346	252	455	10,053	— 317
Sunderland ...	19,845	1,133	903	21,881	+ 1,366
York ...	1,575	181	148	1,904	+ 219
Rest of North-Eastern	115,740	21,579	6,804	144,123	— 745
North-Western Division ...	227,169	103,240	21,177	351,586	— 20,503
Accrington ...	6,572	2,533	366	9,471	— 986
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	4,620	3,770	389	8,779	— 1,590
Barrow ...	5,389	153	265	5,807	+ 634
Birkenhead ...	5,383	306	359	6,048	+ 409
Blackburn ...	6,068	7,401	691	14,160	+ 1,863
Blackpool ...	873	167	62	1,102	+ 105
Bolton ...	7,224	3,315	594	11,133	— 2,713
Burnley ...	4,317	5,630	330	10,277	— 3,616
Bury ...	1,742	2,736	218	4,696	— 206
Chorley ...	1,724	1,230	142	3,096	— 608
Liverpool ...	44,234	5,257	3,929	53,420	— 542
Manchester ...	23,207	8,646	2,477	34,330	+ 722
Nelson ...	2,437	1,868	170	4,475	+ 1,243
Oldham ...	10,496	8,635	592	19,723	— 2,389
Preston ...	4,480	4,164	432	9,076	+ 2,225
Rochdale ...	5,151	2,474	386	8,011	+ 3,977
St. Helens ...	3,937	377	591	4,905	+ 446
Salford ...	9,290	3,557	1,330	14,177	+ 395
Stockport ...	2,825	3,016	444	6,285	— 3,075
Warrington ...	3,490	1,001	580	5,071	+ 647
Wigan ...	5,739	3,835	557	10,131	— 664
Rest of North-Western	67,971	33,169	6,273	107,413	— 8,008
Scotland Division ...	174,194	30,400	12,849	217,443	— 11,995
Aberdeen ...	4,875	666	308	5,849	— 253
Clydebank ...	3,042	240	213	3,495	+ 342
Dundee ...	5,839	3,204	476	9,519	— 16,291
Edinburgh ...	12,460	2,164	995	15,619	+ 1,916
Glasgow ...	65,812	9,477	4,854	80,143	+ 2,981
Greenock ...	9,776	864	396	11,036	+ 1,178
Motherwell ...	8,183	329	448	8,960	+ 721
Paisley ...	3,286	452	397	4,135	+ 334
Rest of Scotland	60,921	13,004	4,762	78,687	— 2,923
Wales Division ...	120,350	5,774	6,080	132,204	— 86
Cardiff ...	11,896	1,006	888	13,790	+ 606
Llanelli ...	7,746	528	494	8,768	+ 219
Newport ...	7,976	324	421	8,721	+ 244
Swansea ...	8,457	390	829	9,676	— 688
Rest of Wales	84,275	3,526	3,448	91,249	— 467
Northern Ireland ...	36,636	17,760	1,584	55,980	— 2,655
Belfast ...	25,051	10,640	951	36,642	— 607
Londonderry ...	2,032	831	59	2,922	— 61
Lurgan ...	654	628	32	1,314	— 280
Lisburn ...	612	682	77	1,371	+ 122
Newry ...	984	480	31	1,495	+ 69
Rest of Northern Ire-land	7,303	4,499	434	12,236	— 1,898
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	1,205,093	306,313	94,333	1,605,739	— 58,316

* The figures are exclusive of persons in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute which commenced on 1st May.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

On page 340 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 23rd August, 1926, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained.

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Unemployed — Special Schemes ...	1,998	9	227	3	2,237
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	1,073,850	25,310	268,978	20,363	1,388,501
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	76,735	923	9,670	464	87,792
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	10,429	1,414	1,731	1,274	14,848
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	9,465	20,247	13,915	24,170	67,797
6. Two months' file ...	77,048	4,785	41,181	4,445	127,459
Persons on Register (lines 2-5) ...	1,170,479	47,894	294,294	46,271	1,558,938
Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6) ...	1,240,060	32,441	321,787	26,549	1,620,837

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

Claims to "extended" benefit—i.e., benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted for decision to the Local Employment Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and work-people. The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 13th July to 9th August, 1926:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	258,280	46,909	305,189
Applications admitted by Committees during period:—			
(a) For 12 weeks ...	55,324	4,779	60,103
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...	173,166	30,249	203,415
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period:—			
General Conditions:			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	1,478	656	2,134
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	1,073	340	1,413
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	10,700	1,731	12,431
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	7,515	2,851	10,366
Special Conditions:			
Single persons residing with relatives ...	4,672	2,195	6,867
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...	...	2,374	2,374
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	179	...	179
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	2,783	1,218	4,001
Aliens ...	14	2	16
Total definitely recommended for disallowance ...	28,414	11,367	39,781
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	1,376	514	1,890

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the four weeks ended 28th August, 1926, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table:—

	Four weeks ended 28th Aug., 1926.	Five weeks ended 31st July, 1926.	Four weeks ended 29th August, 1925.
Contributions (Receipts):—			
By Employers ...	£ 1,050,000	£ 1,370,000	£ 1,540,000
„ Employed Persons ...	930,000	1,195,000	1,400,000
„ Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry) ...	20,000	25,000	20,000
„ Exchequer ...	780,000	1,020,000	1,060,000
Total ...	2,780,000	3,610,000	4,020,000
Payments:—			
Benefit ...	4,460,000	5,730,000	3,530,000
Other Payments* ...	380,000	650,000	390,000
Total ...	4,840,000	6,380,000	3,920,000
Treasury Advances Outstanding ...	14,570,000†	12,570,000†	7,650,000‡

* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, etc.

† Excludes sum apportioned to Irish Free State on account of the deficit of the Unemployment Fund as at 31st March, 1922. This sum with interest up to 31st December, 1925, amounts to £332,431 8s. 3d.

‡ Includes sum apportioned to Irish Free State on account of the deficit of the Unemployment Fund as at 31st March, 1922. This sum with interest up to 30th June, 1925, amounted to £324,277 17s. 1d., the matter not being settled at this stage.

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 August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £10,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 124,000 workpeople and in an increase of about £3,100 in those of over 45,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as follows:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Iron and Steel	5,250	85,900	£ 80	£ 5,700
Textile	1,350	20,000	70	2,800
Food, Drink and Tobacco	24,500	—	1,830	—
Other	14,500	18,100	1,130	1,500
Total	45,600	124,000	3,110	10,000

The principal change in the iron and steel industries was a reduction of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the standard basis rates of workpeople employed in steel smelting shops and rolling mills in various districts of England and Scotland. This reduction, which was equivalent to about 1 per cent. on current rates, did not apply to men with basis rates of 7s. per shift or less. At puddling furnaces and rolling mills and forges in the Midlands there was a reduction under the sliding scale agreement of 5 per cent. on standard rates, equivalent to nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current wages. Steel sheet millmen in various districts also had their wages reduced by an amount equivalent to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on current rates. Workpeople whose wages were increased in August included blastfurnace workers in North Lincolnshire and in West Cumberland and North Lancashire.

In the textile group the principal change affected workpeople in the weaving department of the linen industry in Northern Ireland, whose wages were reduced by 10 per cent. on current rates.

The increase in the food, drink and tobacco industries was mainly accounted for by increases in the minimum rates fixed under Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the aerated waters trade, the increase amounting in the case of adults to 2s. per week, or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour.

In industries other than the above the principal bodies of workpeople affected by increases were iron miners in North Lincolnshire and Cumberland, leather belt makers in Great Britain, and furniture trade operatives in North East Lancashire,

at Nottingham and in certain towns in Scotland. Workpeople employed in non-trading departments of local authorities in London sustained a reduction in their cost-of-living bonus. For sea-going wireless operators new scales of pay were fixed, based on class and tonnage of vessels in lieu of a former scale based on length of service.

Of the total increase of £3,110 per week, £1,000 took effect under sliding scales based on the cost of living, £1,850 under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, £200 took effect under sliding scales based upon selling prices, and the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

Of the total reduction of £10,000 per week £1,350 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, £1,300 of which took effect under such scales agreed upon by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, £5,900 took effect under scales based upon selling prices, and the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY–AUGUST, 1926.*

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople† affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	9,250	14,300	£ 1,000	£ 1,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc....	5,550	830	800	120
Iron and Steel	11,700	120,000	1,050	26,220
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal ...	2,000	52,500	470	5,650
Textile	7,150	186,000	350	14,850
Clothing	1,000	177,250	40	18,550
Food, Drink and Tobacco	24,400	21,200	1,900	2,050
Woodworking, etc. ...	550	15,750	60	1,450
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	16,600	25,500	1,900	1,900
Building and Allied Trades	37,600	120	5,200	10
Transport	1,700	194,000	680	10,250
Public Utility Services...	12,600	112,000	1,350	8,250
Other	700	30,250	100	2,600
Total	130,800	949,700	14,900	92,900

In the corresponding eight months of 1925 there were net reductions of £152,000 in the weekly wages of 960,000 workpeople, and net increases of £75,000 in the weekly wages of 836,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in August.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1926.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Changes. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE.				
Agriculture	Suffolk	7 Aug.	Male workers 21 years and over ...	Minimum rate fixed at 30s. per week (in lieu of 7d. per hour) of 50 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter; those employed wholly or mainly as horsemen, cowmen, or shepherds to receive 6s. per week more.‡
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Iron Mining	Cumberland... ..	16 Aug.	Workpeople employed at iron-ore mines.	Increases§ of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. to 8s. 1d.) of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift for winding enginemen, of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift for boys under 16 years; also temporary increases previously granted increased by 1d. per shift on miners' minimum wage, by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift for winding enginemen, by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift for other men, and by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift for boys. Inclusive rates after change: miners' minimum wage, 7s. 10d.; winding enginemen, 9s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; underground 1st class labourers, 7s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	North Lincolnshire...	1 Aug.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	Increases§ of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates of 1909 making wages 32 per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.|| Minimum rate after change for labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 32 per cent., plus 1s. 7d. per shift.
	Wearhead and Alledale.	2 Aug.	Underground and surface workers...	Bonus§ increased from 4s. to 5s. 6d. per week. Rates after change (including bonus) for labourers: underground, 8s. 4d. per shift; surface, 7s. 2d.
Quarrying	Gotham, Cropwell Bishop, and Newark-on-Trent.	Aug.	Gypsum miners, millhands and stone dressers.	Increase¶ of 2d. in the £ on earnings. Rates after change: mill hands and stone dressers at Gotham, 64s. per week less 6s. 8d. in the £; day workers at Cropwell Bishop, 60s. per week less 6s. 8d. in the £.
IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Aug.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work, and also labourers) employed at blast furnaces.	Increases in bonuses¶ of amounts varying, according to base rates, from 2·6d. to 7d. per week, making total amounts of bonuses from 2s. 3·7d. to 5s. 9·5d. per week.
	North Lincolnshire and certain firms in the Leeds District.	1 Aug.	Blastfurnacemen	Increases§ of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on datal basis rates, making wages 32 per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift||, and the percentage payable on output bonus earnings increased§ from 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 27. Minimum rate after change for labourers: 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 32 per cent., plus 1s. 7d. per shift.

* 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 provide a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of nearly 50,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

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

§ Under selling-price sliding scale arrangements.

|| Men on base earnings of from 3s. 8d. to 4s. 6d. per shift have also been, since 1st November, 1925, in receipt of bonuses varying from 2d. to 6d. per shift.

¶ Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1926 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Changes. (Decreases in italics.)
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	England* and West of Scotland.	1 Aug.	IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES (continued).	
			Men employed in steel-melting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladle-men, furnace-helpers, etc., and gas producers and charge wheelers (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift). Semi-skilled workers and labourers on 8-hour shifts (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).† Semi-skilled workers and labourers whose wages are based on a 47-hour week (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift)‡; also youths and boys under 21 years of age.	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on the standard of 1905, leaving wages 21½ per cent. above the standard (basic process) and 3½ per cent. below the standard (acid process). Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wage 21½ per cent. above the standard.
	North of England ...	1 Aug.	Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., employed at puddling furnaces and in rolling mills, whose wages are based on a 47-hour week (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 6s. per shift)‡; also youths and boys under 21 years of age.	Decrease† of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1st May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.
	North - East Coast Area (except certain men employed at Newburn, West Hartlepool and Gateshead).	1 Aug.	Men on direct production in steel-rolling mills (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 21½ per cent. above the standard.
	Midlands and part of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire.	9 Aug.	Workpeople employed at iron-puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges.	Decrease† of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.§ Minimum rates after change for labourers: 3s. 10d. per day or shift, plus 40 per cent., plus 10d. per day for day workers and 11d. per shift for shift workers.
	Certain districts in England and Wales (principally Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire).||	9 Aug.	Steel-sheet millmen... ..	Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1891.
	Barrow-in-Furness	9 Aug.	Wire and hoop millmen	Decrease† of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.§
		1 Aug.	Rail millmen (excluding those on base rates below 7s. per shift). Enginemen, crane-men, etc. (except those on base rates below 7s. per shift).	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above the standard of 1909. Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 21½ per cent. above the standard of 1909.
	Workington ...	1 Aug.	Steel millmen (except those on base rates below 7s. per shift).	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates.
	Scunthorpe ...	1 Aug.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers and general labourers (excluding those in receipt of base rates from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 21½ per cent. above the standard.
	West of Scotland ...	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in steel-rolling mills:— Millmen, gas producers, enginemen, crane-men, firemen, and mill-labourers (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates of from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift).	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 21½ per cent. above the standard.
			Semi-skilled workers and general labourers* (excluding adult workers in receipt of base rates of from 3s. 10d. to 7s. per shift), and youths and boys under 21 years of age.	Decrease† of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total net decrease since 1st May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.
OTHER METAL INDUSTRIES.				
Galvanising	England and Wales¶	9 Aug.	Workpeople employed in galvanising departments (excluding process of annealing).	Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard.
Chain Making	Great Britain ...	16 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the hand-hammered and dollied or tommied chain-making trade.	Special minimum piece rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, for certain classes of chain for the end portions of back bands and chain for use in meat chains; also the general minimum piece rates for dollied or tommied short link chain as fixed under Trade Boards Acts at 1st February, 1924, extended to include all dollied or tommied chain made from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including iron 3½ inch diameter, other than the special classes of chain mentioned above. Bonus previously paid, of 50 per cent. on the first £2 of weekly earnings and of 40 per cent. on all weekly earnings over £2, reduced to a flat-rate bonus of 40 per cent. on all earnings.**
Wire Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	10 July	Skilled iron and steel wire drawers	
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.				
Linen Weaving	Northern Ireland ...	30 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the weaving department of the linen industry.	Decrease of 10 per cent. on current wages. Rates after change for timeworkers include: tenters, power loom yarn dressers, and card cutters, 58s.; slashers, 54s.; mounters, 50s.
Machine Calico Printing.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Sept.	Machine calico printers	Supplementary cost-of-living wage increased†† from 46·90 to 49·00 per cent. on basis wages, the flat-rate bonuses of 19s. per week for journeymen and 13s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.

* Principally North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands.

† Under selling price sliding scale arrangements.

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

§ Men on base earnings of not more than 5s. 10d. per shift have also been, since 2nd 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.

|| This change took effect under an arrangement made by the Sheet Trade Board.

¶ Certain firms—members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.

** These particulars are in amplification of those published in regard to this reduction in bonus on page 304 of the August issue of the GAZETTE.

†† Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1926 (continued).

RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1926 (continued).				
Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Changes (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 14 Aug.	Male workers	Increase* of 3d. per week for those 19 and under 22½ years, and of 6d. per week for those 22½ years and over, the rates for those under 19 years remaining unchanged. Rates after change: 15s. 6d. at 14 years increasing to 30s. 6d. at 18, 43s. 9d. at 21 and to 49s. 9d. at 22½ years, plus special advance of 2s. for those 21 and over.
			Female workers	Increase* of 3d. per week for those 18 years and over. Rate after change: 27s. 2d., plus 1s. 3d.
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES.				
Baking and Confectionery.	Northwich	14 Aug.	Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 2s. per week for adult male workers and of proportionate amounts for youths and female workers. Rate after change for tablehands, 60s.
	Bristol	7 Aug.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s.
	Bath... ..	7 Aug.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 60s. 3d.
Aerated Waters	England and Wales	9 Aug.	Male workers	Increases in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1s. per week for those 15 and under 20 years and of 2s. per week for those 20 years and over (the rate for those 14 and under 15 remaining unchanged), and of ½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5d.)
			Female workers	Minimum time rates after change: 12s. at 14 and under 15 increasing to 27s. at 18 and under 19 and to 52s. at 21 and over. Increases in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1s. per week for those 15 and under 17 years and of 2s. per week for those 17 years and over (the rate for those 14 and under 15 remaining unchanged), and of ½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate (8½d. to 9½d.). Minimum time rates after change: 12s. at 14 and under 15 increasing to 28s. at 18 and over.
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES.				
Furniture Manufacture.	London district ...	20 Aug.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair-makers and shapers, wood-working machinists, french polishers (male and female), japanners, enamellers, and packers and porters in wholesale establishments.	Rates previously applicable to the area within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross extended to cover the area within a 15-mile radius, subject to the rate for female french polishers being increased by 1d. per hour (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1½d.)†
	North-East Lancashire† and Todmorden.	1 Aug.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair-makers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists.	Increase* of ½d. per hour for journeymen and of proportionate amounts for improvers and apprentices. Rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 8d.
	Nottingham... ..	1st pay day in Aug.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair-makers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, sanders by hand or machine, and packers.	Increase* of ½d. per hour for journeymen and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: sanders (single band) and packers, 1s. 3½d.; other workers 1s. 6½d.
	Beith, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch.	1st full pay week in Aug.	Cabinet makers, chair makers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, upholstery sewers and sand paperers.	Increase* of 1d. per hour for men, ½d. per hour for women, 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, and proportionate amounts for apprentices. Minimum rates after change: Beith, Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch—men, 1s. 5½d.; women, 8½d.; Glasgow—men, 1s. 6½d.; women, 9½d.
TRANSPORT.				
Merchant Shipping	Great Britain ...	1 Aug.§	Seagoing wireless operators ...	New scales of pay fixed, based partly on class and tonnage of vessel on which operator is employed, in lieu of old scale, which was based on number of years' service, with consequential adjustments.§
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities.	Certain Authorities in London.||	1st pay day in Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease* of ⅓th of the cost-of-living bonus as revised in 1922, making a total reduction of ⅓th from the revised bonus. Scheduled minimum rates after change include: Grade A workpeople (scavengers, etc.), 57s. 2d. per week; Grade B (general labourers, etc.), 60s. 5d., female lavatory and bath attendants, 44s. 8d.
	Poplar	31 July	Manual workers in non-trading departments, and certain employees in Electricity Department.	Decreases of from 1s. 8d. to 2s. per week. Rates after change: road and general labourers and road sweepers, 70s. 10d., refuse collectors, 73s. 3d., male and female lavatory attendants, 70s. 10d.
MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES.				
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in Aug.	Semi-skilled timeworkers	Increase* of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: London, 1s. 0½d.; Provinces, 1s.
Leather Goods Manufacture.	London¶	Aug.	Pieceworkers, and cutters on daywork.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November 1922 increased* from 68 to 70.
			Workpeople employed in the fancy and solid leather goods trade.	Minimum rates adopted of 1s. 3d. per hour for skilled men 21 years of age and over who have served four years in the trade, and of 7½d. per hour for skilled women 20 years of age and over who have served three years in the trade, and piece rates to be fixed so as to ensure an average worker earnings in excess of the above rates.

* Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.

† The above changes took effect under an Agreement dated 20th August, 1926, between the London Cabinet and Upholstery Trades' Federation and the following Trade Unions, viz., National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades' Association, United French Polishers' London Society, Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, Progressive Union of Cabinet Makers, etc., Progressive Society of French Polishers, and the Workers' Union. The agreement also revised the cost-of-living sliding scale previously in force, the current rates being equated to a cost-of-living index number of 72, with variations of 1d. per hour for 12 points for skilled men, 1d. per hour for 18 points for packers and porters, and sandpaperers, and 1d. per hour for 24 points for female polishers and caners. As an immediate effect of the revision of the sliding scale, a reduction of ¼d. per hour which should have taken effect under the old scale became inoperative.

‡ Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Padiham and Preston.

§ The new scales were to operate from 1st August in the case of new entrants and from 1st September in the case of operators already employed. Where the latter, however, were in receipt of higher rates than those now fixed a graduated scale of reductions was arranged, spread over a period of six years. For further particulars reference should be made to Decision No. 1240 of the Industrial Court.

¶ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the London Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Service, and include: London County Council, Camberwell, Chelsea, Finsbury, Fulham (certain classes excluding labourers), Greenwich (certain classes excluding labourers), Hackney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Leyton, St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, Stoke Newington, Walthamstow (subject to a minimum wage of 60s. per week), Wandsworth. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the scheduled rates quoted above.

¶ The change took effect under an agreement made 15th July between the London Branch of the National Leather Goods and Saddlery Manufacturers' Association (Inc.) and the National Society of Portmanteau, Trunk, Bag, and Fancy Leather Workers.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

(1) COAL-MINING DISPUTE.

THE general stoppage of work in the coal-mining industry, which began on 1st May, involved about one million workpeople in that industry in a loss of about 21 million working days during August. The aggregate number of working days lost by workpeople taking part in this dispute, from 1st May up to 31st August, was about 87 million. Special articles on the subject of this dispute appear on pages 280-3 of the GAZETTE for August and on pages 320-1 of the current issue.

(2) OTHER DISPUTES.

The other disputes in progress in August involved only small numbers of workpeople. A statistical summary relating to these other disputes is given below, the corresponding figures for a month earlier and a year earlier also being given.

Month.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
August, 1926...	19	16	35	2,000	18,000
July, 1926 ...	14	10	24	2,000	18,000
August, 1925...	36	39	75	219,000	2,814,000

Causes.—Of the 16 disputes beginning in August, two arose on wages questions, four on questions as to working hours, five on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, and five on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of eleven new disputes and of six old disputes. Of these disputes, one was settled in favour of the workpeople, twelve in favour of the employers, and four were compromised. In the case of two other disputes, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1925 AND 1926.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first eight months of 1926, as compared with the corresponding period of 1925.

Groups of Industries.	January to August, 1925.			January to August, 1926.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
General Strike ...	...	...	...	1	1,580,000	15,000,000
Mining and Quarrying.	117	101,000	2,024,000	50	1,094,000	88,419,000
Brick, Glass, Pottery, etc.	11	1,000	4,000	4	3,000	43,000
Engineering ...	12	6,000	34,000	15	3,000	62,000
Shipbuilding ...	17	4,000	27,000	5	1,000	4,000
Other Metal ...	33	5,000	54,000	31	10,000	145,000
Textile ...	41	170,000	3,162,000	25	15,000	182,000
Clothing ...	19	3,000	20,000	7	1,000	6,000
Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	16	3,000	15,000	14	1,000	4,000
Woodworking and Furnishing.	20	3,000	34,000	12	2,000	34,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	8	17,000	70,000	3	1,000	42,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc.	40	5,000	65,000	26	2,000	22,000
Transport ...	33	16,000	38,000	34	21,000	159,000
Public Administration Services.	18	2,000	13,000	7	1,000	28,000
Other ...	25	17,000	102,000	9	1,000	16,000
Total ...	410	353,000	5,662,000	243	2,736,000†	104,166,000

[The usual tabular statement of principal disputes is omitted, as, apart from the coal-mining stoppage, there were no disputes in August involving large numbers of workpeople.]

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

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, not very considerable, except in the mining and quarrying group in 1926, when about 44,000 workpeople were involved in more than one dispute, and in the case of industries involved in the General Strike in May.

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 August, 1926, was 41. Eight deaths* were reported during the month, two due to lead poisoning and six to epitheliomatous ulceration. In addition, five cases of lead poisoning among house painters (including one death) and two cases among house plumbers (including one death) came to the knowledge of the Home Office during August, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—	
Smelting of Metals ...	3
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1
Shipbreaking ...	2
Printing ...	1
Tinning of Metals ...	1
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...	...
White and Red Lead Works ...	1
Pottery† ...	3
Vitreous Enamelling ...	...
Electric Accumulator Works ...	5
Paint and Colour Works ...	3
Indiarubber Works ...	...
Coach and Car Painting ...	1
Shipbuilding ...	2
Paint used in Other Industries ...	1
Other Industries ...	...

TOTAL OF ABOVE ... 24

HOUSE PAINTING ...	5
HOUSE PLUMBING ...	2

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Aniline Poisoning ...	1
(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.	
Handling of Horsehair ...	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ...	1

TOTAL, ANTHRAX ... 2

(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.

Pitch ...	2
Tar ...	3
Oil ...	7
TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ...	12

(e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.

Dyeing and Finishing ...	2
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FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during August, 1926, was 97, as compared with 89 in the previous month and with 181 in August, 1925. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 44 in August, 1926, as compared with 42 in the previous month, and 55 a year ago.

RAILWAY SERVICE.

Brakesmen and Guards ...	1
Engine Drivers ...	2
Firemen ...	...
Guards (Passenger) ...	1
Permanent Way Men ...	7
Porters ...	2
Shunters ...	1
Mechanics ...	1
Labourers ...	...
Miscellaneous ...	3
Contractors' Servants ...	...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ...	18

MINES.

Underground ...	11
Surface ...	2
TOTAL, MINES ...	13

QUARRIES over 20 feet deep

5

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Cotton ...	...
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ...	2
Other Textiles ...	...
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ...	1
Metal Extracting and Refining ...	...
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ...	3
Metal Founding ...	2
Engineering and Machine Making ...	4
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ...	1

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued):

Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ...	3
Other Metal Trades ...	1
Shipbuilding ...	5
Wood ...	1
Gas ...	...
Electric Generating Stations ...	1
Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...	5
Chemicals, etc. ...	3
Food and Drink ...	1
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	4
Tanning, Currying, etc. ...	1
Rubber Trades ...	...
Other Non-Textile Industries ...	1
PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.	
Docks, Wharves, etc. ...	10
Buildings ...	12
Warehouses and Railway Sidings ...	...
TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ...	61

Total (excluding Seamen) ... 97

SEAMEN.

Trading Vessels, Sailing ...	...
" " Steam ...	40
Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...	1
" " Steam ...	3

TOTAL, SEAMEN... 44

Total (including Seamen) ... 141

* Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

† The persons affected in the Pottery industry were males.

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 August, 1926, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 1,103,330, or 1.7 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 50.5 per cent. more than in August, 1925. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 617, 627‡ and 411‡ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Selected Urban Areas.	Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in August 1926.				Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District ...	8,834	6,967	15,801	190	— 2	+ 7
North District ...	10,161	19,474	29,635	287	— 3	+ 20
Central District ...	2,247	2,725	4,972	370	— 12	— 4
East District ...	10,066	66,140	76,206	1,169	— 7	+ 158
South District ...	19,018	76,766	95,784	488	— 4	+ 37
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	50,326	172,072	222,398	482	— 4	+ 44
West Ham ...	4,477	55,348	59,825	781	— 37	— 57
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District	2,648	70,778	73,426	1,448	+ 31	+ 817
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,186	20,900	22,086	795	+ 48	+ 281
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	4,152	10,999	15,151	191	+ 9	+ 35
Wigan District ...	1,841	70,908	72,749	1,595	— 21	+ 1,318
Manchester District	8,920	42,742	51,662	493	— 17	+ 153
Liverpool District	9,834	57,354	67,188	535	+ 7	+ 77
Bradford District ...	1,851	9,754	11,605	313	+ 74	— 21
Halifax and Huddersfield ...	1,352	3,515	4,867	129	+ 5	+ 5
Leeds ...	2,550	21,942	24,492	514	+ 2	+ 256
Barnsley District ...	951	50,771	51,722	1,552	— 55‡	+ 1,257
Sheffield ...	2,498	40,601	43,099	832	— 19	+ 319
Hull District ...	1,723	12,416	14,139	440	— 6	+ 18
North Staffordshire	2,225	37,702	39,927	950	— 111	+ 753
Nottingham District	2,161	56,392	58,553	1,239	+ 1	+ 950
Leicester ...	1,101	3,546	4,647	192	— 5	+ 35
Wolverhampton District ...	3,292	25,763	29,055	388	— 25	+ 127
Birmingham ...	7,237	20,384	27,621	292	— 1	+ 24
Bristol District ...	2,445	14,390	16,835	406	+ 6	+ 78
Cardiff and Swansea	2,489	28,114	30,603	636	+ 7	+ 260
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	60,456	598,971	659,427	632	— 2‡	+ 301
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	115,259	826,391	941,650	594	— 6‡	+ 207
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	5,499	94,670	100,169	1,042	— 87	+ 218‡
Paisley and Greenock District ...	878	16,180	17,058	886	+ 39	+ 151‡
Edinburgh ...	1,649	19,130	20,779	492	+ 4	+ 133‡
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	751	6,957	7,708	355	+ 9	+ 151‡
Aberdeen ...	534	3,581	4,115	262	+ 10	+ 63‡
Coatbridge and Airdrie	369	11,482	11,851	1,161	— 306	+ 483‡
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	9,680	152,000	161,680	788	— 50	+ 188‡
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Aug., 1926.	124,939	978,391	1,103,330	617	— 10‡	+ 206‡

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during August, 1926, 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 Aug., 1926.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Aug., 1926.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1925.	Jan.-Aug., 1926.		1922 to 1925.	Jan.-Aug., 1926.
To Australia	2,627	82,156‡	20,120‡	2,708	78,689	22,424‡
„ New Zealand	1,020	25,630‡	6,483‡	593	22,625	7,201‡
„ Canada :						
Dominion of Canada	1,264	21,405	17,568‡	1,226	21,489	15,927
Province of Ontario	...	1,367	...	...	1,356	...
„ South Africa	20	167	218	18	79	114
Minor Schemes	114	5,582	729‡	134	4,939	547
Total ...	5,045	136,307‡	45,118‡	4,679	129,177	46,213‡

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

* 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 28th August, and those for Scotland to 15th August.

‡ Revised figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.*

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	Per cent.	Rise.	Date.
	Per cent. 80	Per cent. 62	Per cent. 62	Per cent. 67	Per cent. 62		
UNITED KINGDOM ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1926. 1st Sept.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Czechoslovakia ...	...	...	737	816	776	July	
Denmark ...	84	88	100	110	59	July	
Egypt (Cairo)†	72	52	48	58	57	June	
Finland ...	1,005	868	916	1,007	952	June	
France (Paris)†	197	221	260	321	487	Aug.	
„ (other towns)†	212‡	249‡	300‡	351‡	423	May	
Germany ...	...	...	...	54	45	July	
Holland (The Hague)	...	...	67	76	63	May	
Italy (Milan) ...	392	396	408	502	557	June	
„ (Rome) ...	...	482	469	527	496	June	
Norway ...	133	118	148	160	96	Aug.	
Spain (Madrid)†	79	72	82	90	86	July	
„ (Barcelona)†	73	65	72	82	63	July	
Sweden†	79	60	59	69	56	Aug.	
Switzerland ...	57	66	70	69	59	July	
United States ...	39	44	40	59	54	July	
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.							
Australia ...	48	64	49†	56	59	July	
Canada ...	38	37	34	41	49	July	
India (Bombay) :							
Native families ...	60	48	51	52	53	Aug.	
"European" do....	...	...	80	78	68	Apr.	
Irish Free State ...	85†	82	85	88	74	July	
New Zealand ...	44	42	48	51	49	July	
South Africa ...	16	16	17	20	16	July	

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.	Rise.	Date.
		Per cent. 84	Per cent. 69	Per cent. 70	Per cent. 73	Per cent. 72		
UNITED KINGDOM A,B,C,D,E		84	69	70	73	72		1926. 1st Sept.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	266	329	393	409	581	Aug.	
Czechoslovakia (Prague) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	600	589	641	593	June	
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	99	104	114	119	84	July	
Estonia (Tallinn) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	14	11	July	
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,018	990	1,032	1,094	1,052	June	
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	189**	231**	267**	301**	385	2nd qr.	
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	43	43	Aug.	
Greece (Athens) ...	A,B,C,D,E	516	933	1,225	1,372	1,631	Apr.	
Holland (Amsterdam) ...	A,B,C,D,E	87†	74†	73†	79†	74	Mar.	
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	388	387	412	498	550	June	
„ (Rome) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	450	449	495	448	June	
Luxemburg ...	A,C,D	259	340	381	415	586	Aug.	
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	155†	139†	151†	161†	118	June	
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	57	77	July	
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	90	74	71	76	72	July	
Switzerland ...	A,B,C,D	...	...	...	68	62	July	
United States ...	A,B,C,D,E	67†	70†	69†	74†	75	June	
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.								
Australia ...	A,B	43**	56**	48**	55**	56	1st qr.	
Canada ...	A,B,D	46	46	44	46	50	July	
India (Bombay) :								
Native families ...	A,B,C,D	65	53	57	57	55	Aug.	
"European" do. ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	65	60	58	Apr.	
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	85†	80	83	88	82	July	
New Zealand ...	A,B,C,D,E	59‡	58‡	60‡	63‡	61	July	
South Africa ...	A,B,D,E	35	30	32	33	30	July	

* 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; Germany, average, 1913-1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and light 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 : Amsterdam, 1911-1913; France, Poland, 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, 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. 332-333 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 Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office. (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in August.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 28th August was 8,578 (5,204 men and 3,374 women). The corresponding total at the end of July was 7,682 and that for August, 1925, 9,154. The total vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date numbered 11,416 (6,938 for men and 4,478 for women), as compared with 12,546 at the end of July and 9,571 in August, 1925. During the last week of August the Exchanges succeeded in placing 27,989 workers in situations, including 9,011 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 1,793 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in July.—During July the improvement in the labour market was more decided than in the previous month. This was mainly attributable to a seasonal improvement in agriculture and building. At the same time increased activity was to be observed in mining and various other industries.

The number of members‡ of statutory health insurance societies showed a slight increase during July. On 1st August the societies making returns had a total of 13,440,863 members, as compared with 13,412,146 on 1st July—an increase of 0.2 per cent.

Returns relating to unemployment were received from 40 national trade unions which had an aggregate membership of 3,398,000. Of these, 599,917, or 17.7 per cent., were out of work on 31st July, as compared with 18.1 per cent. at the end of June and 3.7 per cent. in July, 1925. A further 563,823, or 16.6 per cent., were working short time on 31st July, as against 17.2 per cent. in June and 5.8 per cent. in July, 1925.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal unions included in the returns:—

UNIONS. S.D. = Social-Democratic. H.D. = Hirsch - Duncker (neutral). C. = Christian.	Membership reported on at end of July, 1926.	Percentage Totally Unemployed at end of Month.		
		July, 1926.	June, 1926.	July, 1925.
All Unions making Returns ...	3,398,000	17.7	18.1	3.7
Porcelain (S.D.) ...	29,000	17.5	15.8	2.8
Glass (S.D.) ...	34,000	19.2	19.2	1.6
Metal (S.D.) ...	641,000	21.7	21.5	3.7
" (H.D.) ...	79,000	12.5	11.9	5.1
Textile (S.D.) ...	281,000	18.4	19.4	2.8
" (C.) ...	71,000	13.5	16.2	0.8
Clothing (S.D.) ...	69,000	33.0	30.1	4.7
Boot and shoe (S.D.) ...	73,000	28.9	30.4	4.6
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	50,000	16.1	15.7	8.1
Food and drink (S.D.) ...	66,000	5.6	5.9	2.2
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	51,000	20.1	22.7	9.2
Woodworking (S.D.) ...	269,000	28.9	28.5	3.4
Printing (S.D.) ...	75,000	7.9	8.3	1.2
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	49,000	16.3	16.9	2.1
Building (S.D.) ...	318,000	19.7	21.4	3.7
Carpenters (S.D.) ...	85,000	20.3	21.9	2.5
Transport (S.D.) ...	266,000	8.7	8.7	4.1
Factory workers (trades not distinguished) (S.D.) ...	307,000	14.8	15.2	3.6
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	45,000	13.9	13.6	5.4
Factory and transport (C.) ...	53,000	14.4	12.3	6.2
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	177,000	1.8	1.7	0.7

Figures relating to the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 15th August, on which date the total was 1,604,278. On 1st August the corresponding figure was 1,652,492, and on 15th July, 1,718,530.

At the end of July the employment exchanges making returns had 2,251,121 persons on the "live register," as against 2,337,963 at the end of June. There were in July, on an average, 578 applicants for each 100 vacancies registered at the Exchanges, as compared with 655 in June.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in July.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th August, 1926, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 152,485 at the end of July, as compared with 150,981 at the end of the preceding month and 111,886 at the end of July, 1925. In Vienna alone there were 81,658 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of August and 81,119 at the end of July.

* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 3rd September, 1926. Paris.

† *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 1st September, 1926. Berlin.

‡ "Members" of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums. During unemployment they are relieved of this obligation; hence paying members are assumed to be in employment.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in July.—Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 147 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 596,802, show that 5,153 (0.9 per cent.) of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month. In the preceding month the percentage was 0.9, and in July, 1925, 1.1. In addition, 10,233 members were employed intermittently during the month. The total days lost through unemployment in July numbered 185,170, or 1.29 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 1.38 and in July, 1925, 2.36.

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in July.—On 31st July, 1926, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 11,013, as compared with 10,272 at the end of June, and 9,751 at the end of July, 1925. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 1,876, 2,188, and 2,760 respectively. There were thus on an average 587 applications for each 100 vacancies on 31st July, as compared with 469 on 30th June, and 353 on 31st July, 1925.

ITALY.

Unemployment in June.—According to a report issued by the Italian Unemployment Insurance Department,‡ 83,264 workpeople were totally unemployed on 30th June, 1926, as compared with 98,490 at the end of May and 85,532 at the end of June, 1925. In addition, 6,650 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 8,600 on 31st May, and 6,994 on 30th June, 1925. During the month the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit, under the statutory unemployment insurance scheme, was 32,503, as compared with 28,987 in the preceding month, and 17,750 in June, 1925.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in June.—According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, out of 14,756 members of trade unions making returns 21.8 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of June. The corresponding figure for the end of May was 23.8 per cent., and that for June, 1925, 8.5 per cent.

DENMARK.§

Unemployment in July.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 268,743 workpeople, 17.4 per cent. were unemployed on 30th July, 1926, as against 16.3 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 8.3 per cent. at the end of July, 1925.

SWEDEN.||

Unemployment in July.—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 31st July, 1926, was 8.5, as compared with 9.5 on 30th June, and 7.5 on 31st July, 1925.

UNITED STATES.¶

Employment in July.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in July, based on returns from 10,128 establishments in 54 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 2,975,690, persons employed in July as against 3,028,601 in June. The aggregate wages paid for July show a decrease of 4.5 per cent. as compared with June, and the average earnings per head a decrease of 2.9 per cent.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1925, there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, of 1.8 per cent. in the aggregate wages paid, and of 1.3 per cent. in the average earnings per head. The most notable increases in employment in July, 1926, as compared with July, 1925, are shown in the pottery (24.2 per cent.), carriages and wagon (21.6 per cent.), and machine tool (17.1 per cent.) industries, whilst the greatest decline in employment is shown in the millinery and lace goods industry (20.8 per cent.) and in the rubber boots and shoes (19.8 per cent.) and woollen and worsted goods (11.2 per cent.) industries.

Index Number of Employment, July.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for July, 1926, is 89.8, as compared with 91.3 in June, and 89.3 in July, 1925.

CANADA.

*Employment in August.***—For 1st August, 1926, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,864 firms, with an aggregate of 854,604 upon their pay rolls. On 1st July the same firms reported 849,565 employed, and the total for August thus shows an increase of 5,039 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st August, 1926, is 104.2, as compared with 103.7 at the beginning of the preceding month, and 96.3 on 1st August, 1925.

Trade Union Unemployment in July.††—On 31st July, 1926, 2.3 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 4.1 per cent. at the end of June and 6.1 per cent. in July, 1926.

* *Revue du Travail*, 31st August, 1926. Brussels.

† *Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen*, August, 1926. Berne.

‡ *La Disoccupazione in Italia*, 30th June, 1926. Rome.

§ *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 20th August, 1926. Copenhagen.

¶ Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs.

|| *Employment in Selected Industries*, July, 1926. Washington.

** *The August Employment Situation*, 1926. Ottawa.

†† Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-26.

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. 1404/26. (14/7/26.) Section 7 (i) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended)—Genuinely seeking Work.

FUR MACHINISTS LOST EMPLOYMENT BEFORE SLACK SEASON—QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING WHETHER GENUINELY SEEKING WORK CONDITION IS FULFILLED—APPLICATION TO SEASONAL WORKERS—WHAT IS SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT.

The applicants, who normally were employed as fur machinists, lost their employment and made claims for unemployment benefit, which were disallowed on the ground that they were not genuinely seeking work. The disallowance was upheld by the Court of Referees, and the applicants appealed to the Umpire. The facts of the cases are set out in the following decision :—

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

“ The applicants’ usual occupation is that of fur machinists, an occupation requiring a good deal of skill. The Trade Board rate of wages is 45s. a week for time work and 60s. a week for piece work. In fixing these rates the Trade Board was no doubt influenced partly by the skill and training required for the work and partly by the fact that the trade is fluctuating. Usually from about April to August there is but little work to be had. A few permanent hands are kept on, but a number of workers greater or less according to the general state of trade are unable to get employment during the late spring and early summer.

“ These applicants lost their employment on the 8th January before the slack season set in, and they made claims for benefit on the 11th, which claims were disallowed on the ground that they were not genuinely seeking work. I am of opinion that they were; but as their cases have led to some discussion of general principles I have taken time to state my reasons fully. The applicants’ cases are typical of many that I have had to decide and the decision is a *résumé* of the decisions already given in cases of this kind. In most of the cases hitherto considered the applicants were women, and in giving my reasons it will be convenient to refer to the applicants as women. But the principles applicable to women are the same as those applicable to men. The statutory conditions for the receipt of benefit do not differentiate between the sexes.

“ In considering whether a person is genuinely seeking work the most important fact to be ascertained is the state of the applicant’s mind. If a person genuinely wants work, that is, really prefers working for wages to living on benefit, it is probable that she is genuinely seeking it. But if a person prefers benefit to wages, or is content to be without work so long as she receives benefit, it may be presumed that she is not genuinely seeking it. Action is guided by desire; and whilst few people genuinely seek what they do not desire, most people genuinely seek what they really desire.

“ The genuineness of an applicant’s desire for work must be considered in the light of all the circumstances available. Her record of employment is most important. If an applicant has been for many years a steady worker, and there has been no change in her circumstances which relieves her of the necessity of working, the inference that she wants work is very strong. Her present needs, the amount which she can earn when at work as compared with the amount of benefit which she would receive, and the circumstances in which she lost her last employment, are all matters for consideration; though it would not be fair to assume that a person does not desire work, and is not genuinely seeking work, merely because she can live in reasonable comfort without it or because she is as well off when on benefit as when at work.

“ As to the present applicants, their record of work, their present needs, the high rate of wages they get when at work as compared with the amount they would receive as benefit, and the circumstances in which they left their last employment, all indicate that they desire work and probably prefer it to idleness.

“ But though it may be probable that a person who wants work is genuinely seeking work, it is not necessarily so; and an applicant who is genuinely seeking work should generally be able to show that besides registering for work at an Exchange she is making personal efforts on her own behalf to find work, and is not content merely to wait till it is thrust on her. Moreover, she should be able to satisfy a Court of Referees that she is not merely looking for the particular kind of work which is most congenial to her or to which she has been accustomed, but that she is also trying to get other kinds of suitable employment, if there are any for which she is

qualified and which she has any reasonable chance of obtaining. It is impossible to set up any hard and fast rule as to what personal efforts should be shown. Much depends on the kind of work sought for and on the length of the period of unemployment. It would be unreasonable to expect that a person who is suspended for a short time and expects to return to regular work in a few days should be able to show that within a day or two of her suspension she has made an extensive search for work elsewhere, or that she has sought for any other kind of work than that to which she is used and to which she expects to return shortly.

“ In considering then whether an applicant’s personal efforts to find work are such as to show that she is genuinely seeking work, four questions must be considered :—

“ (1) What employment is suitable for the applicant? Presumably the employment for which she is registered is suitable, but other kinds of employment may be suitable for her. Regard must of course be had to the rate of wages and conditions which she has habitually obtained in her usual occupation, to her experience and training, her age and qualifications, and all the other points which are considered when questions arise of refusal of an offer of suitable employment. In the case of skilled workers (like the present applicants), unskilled or poorly paid work such as office cleaning would presumably be unsuitable; but there may be some branches of the tailoring or dressmaking trade which would be suitable for them and for which they have the necessary qualifications.

“ (2) What chance has the applicant of obtaining employment by her own efforts in any of the kinds of employment which are regarded as suitable for her? If her training and experience are such that she would have no reasonable chance of getting work of some particular kind, it is mere waste of time and effort to try and obtain work of that kind.

“ (3) What are the usual means of finding employment of the kinds for which the applicant is suitable and which she has some chance of getting? The usual means vary according to local custom and the usages in various trades. In some trades personal calls on employers may be useful, in others they would be mere waste of time. Some kinds of employment are obtained by answering advertisements, others through Trade Unions or other organisations, and others again through personal influence with foremen or fellow workers and some by applying at the vacancies counter of Exchanges. No general rule can be laid down.

“ There seems to be a tendency in some Courts of Referees to assume that the only way to get work is to tramp round and make personal applications day by day, whether or not there is any prospect of getting work by so doing; and to set this up as the sole test of the genuineness of a search for work. Personal applications may be most useful in some industries, but in others they are waste of time and futile as a test of the genuineness of a search for work.

“ I may add that a worker should not ordinarily be expected to travel out of her (or his) own district on a speculative search for work. One purpose for which the Exchanges were set up was to enable workers in one district to get into touch with employers in other districts, and so obviate the necessity of men tramping the country in search of work.

“ A person genuinely seeking work would, however, keep his eyes open for advertisements, and his ears open for information of vacancies in districts other than his own.

“ (4) Has the applicant with reasonable promptitude and diligence availed herself of the usual and most effective means of obtaining employment of those kinds which are suitable for her and which she has a reasonable possibility of securing?

“ It is specially incumbent on workers in an industry which has seasonal fluctuations to look for suitable employment of other kinds in the slack season; and in considering what alternative employment is suitable for them in the slack season, special regard must be had to the kinds of employment that they themselves have usually obtained in the slack season, and that others in the same trade usually obtain.

“ Wages in seasonal trades are sometimes (as in these cases) fluctuating and high because the trade is fluctuating or seasonal; and a worker in such a trade is not entitled to regard employment as unsuitable merely because it is at a lower rate of wages than that she habitually obtains in that trade, provided the rate is not lower than that which she might reasonably expect to obtain having regard to the rate which she has habitually obtained in her usual employment (Section 7 (1) (a) of the Act of 1920, as amended by the Act of 1924). These observations apply with more force to trades which are strictly seasonal—that is, those in which, except at certain seasons in each year, there is no employment to be had. Workers in these trades may be, but are not necessarily, seasonal workers—that is, workers who do not desire and do not seek work in the off season. If they claim to be entitled to benefit in the off season they must show clearly that they are looking for other work in the off season. Unless they do so they cannot be regarded as genuinely seeking work. I have in several cases disallowed the claims of persons engaged in seasonal and in fluctuating trades, when it seemed clear from their records and other circumstances that they made no real effort to get employment except at certain seasons of the year. Workers of that kind have been disallowed, not because their usual occupation was seasonal, but because they themselves were seasonal workers, who only desired and sought for work at certain seasons.

“ Applying these principles to the applicants—

“ In the first place their loss of employment was not in the slack season, and it cannot be said that they had no reasonable chance

* Volumes containing the collected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1924, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes, and either separate pamphlets or bound volumes may be purchased through any bookseller or direct from H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given subsequent to December, 1924, are printed in pamphlet form and may be obtained as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All inquiries and applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

of obtaining work in their usual occupation of fur machinists. They were, as far as I can see, doing all that they reasonably could to obtain employment in that occupation. They were discharged on the Friday, 8th January, and at once registered for employment as fur machinists. They had had no time to make any calls on possible employers or to make inquiries or, in fact, to take any actual steps to seek for work between the Friday evening when they became unemployed and the Monday morning, the 11th January, when they made their claims, which were at once disallowed.

"Although the season was not at its slackest, there was no great demand for workers; and it seems to me to be impossible to assume that because they had not found work, or applied at every workshop in the district between Friday and Monday, they were not genuinely seeking work. Their conduct, subsequent to the 11th January, confirms the view that they were on that date genuinely seeking work."

Case No. 2320/26. (13/8/26.) Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

MINERS' DISPUTE—COLLIERY BYE-PRODUCTS CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT A SEPARATE BRANCH OF WORK COMMONLY CARRIED ON AS SEPARATE BUSINESS FROM EITHER COAL MINING OR COKE-OVENS.

The applicant, a sulphate maker, employed at a coke oven plant, was stated by his employer to have ceased work on the 1st May, 1926, together with the other employees at the plant, when a stoppage of work occurred at the coal mines consequent upon a national dispute in the mining industry. They were not given notice to terminate their contracts, nor did they give the employers notice before leaving their employment. Accordingly, the applicant's claim for unemployment benefit was disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act.

The applicant stated that he was employed as a still attendant in the sulphate house of a colliery bye-products chemical department. He was instructed by the manager to close down and make secure at the end of his shift on the 1st May as his services would not be required until the termination of the mining dispute, the reason being that, through the failure of the supply of gas caused by the shortage of slack, no work could be done. He was not a member of a miners' union which was participating in the dispute, and his own union, the National Winding and General Engineers' Society, was not federated to any union affected by the dispute.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant was unemployed owing to a shortage of work, not as a result of a trade dispute. He belonged to a union which was not taking part in the dispute, and his wages would not be affected by fluctuation in the miners' rates, because he was under a separate agreement, made between his association and the employers' association.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his opinion, Decision 1422/26* appeared to be applicable in this case. The case was referred to the Deputy Umpire.

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

"The applicant was employed in the bye-products chemical department; and this, the evidence shows, was a separate branch of work commonly carried on as a separate business from either coal-mining or coke ovens. There was no trade dispute in this department; and the applicant lost his employment solely through the failure of a supply of gas to his department owing to the mining dispute."

Case No. 2392/26. (16/8/26.) Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act—Trade Dispute.

MINERS' DISPUTE—MINER AND PAN SHIFTER ON COMPENSATION PRIOR TO ISSUE OF NOTICES TO MINERS TERMINATING CONTRACTS—CERTIFIED FIT FOR WORK SHORTLY AFTER STOPPAGE COMMENCED—WOULD HAVE RESUMED WORK ON RECOVERY BUT FOR DISPUTE—UNEMPLOYMENT DUE TO DISPUTE.

The applicants, who were respectively a miner and a colliery pan shifter, sustained injuries during the course of their employment in the early part of April, 1926, and were off work and in receipt of compensation until the 7th and 26th May respectively, when they were certified fit to resume work. Meantime, however, a stoppage of work had occurred at the colliery on the 30th April, 1926, consequent upon a national dispute in the mining industry; and their claims for unemployment benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act.

The applicants maintained that, since they met with their injuries prior to the posting of the notices terminating the miners' contracts, their loss of employment was not due to the dispute.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be allowed. The Court considered that the applicants lost employment for reasons independent of the dispute.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his view the cases were governed by Decision No. 1586/26.† Representatives of the applicants' trade union appeared before the Deputy Umpire and gave evidence as to the general position and practice.

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

"These applicants' cases are similar in principle, and the only substantial difference in the facts is as to the dates of incapacity and recovery."

* See the July, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, p. 274.

† Not published.

"It was admitted that, with possibly one exception, it was the recognised practice of the Scottish colliery owners to re-instate incapacitated employees on recovery. In these cases, therefore, as in the cases dealt with in Decision 1586/26, the inference to be drawn is that, but for the dispute, these applicants would have been working from, or within a short time of, their recovery."

Case No. 2081/26 (4/8/1926). Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended)—Unable to obtain Suitable Employment.

GENERAL STRIKE—TINPLATE WORKER WHOSE UNION BECAME INVOLVED IN GENERAL STRIKE, SUSPENDED FROM WORK FOR EMPLOYER'S CONVENIENCE DURING WEEK PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF STRIKE—RE-OPENING OF WORKS ON DAY PRIOR TO STRIKE CANCELLED OWING TO KNOWN THREAT OF TRADES UNION CONGRESS—BENEFIT CLAIM DISALLOWED DURING PERIOD OF GENERAL STRIKE.

The applicant, who had last been employed as a bar cutter at a tinplate works in South Wales, became unemployed on the 24th April, 1926, when the employer closed the works in order to carry out repairs to plant and machinery. On the 30th April, a notice was posted at the works intimating that employment would be available for the workmen on the 3rd May, the employer having sufficient coal and other materials to reopen the works on that date, in spite of the national stoppage of the coal mines due to the dispute in the mining industry. On Sunday, the 2nd May, however, a further notice was posted at the works in view of the contemplated espousing of the miners' cause by the Trades Union Congress, which had threatened to order a "General Strike" as from the 4th May, in which members of the applicant's trade union were to be involved. The notice referred to read as follows:—

"Owing to the extension of the coal strike to the utility services these works will not restart to-morrow (Monday), 3rd May, as intended. Work will be resumed only on settlement of the present dispute."

The employers reported that as from the 4th May, all their work-people were unemployed as a result of the General Strike which had been proclaimed. Work would have been resumed as originally intended on 3rd May had the intentions of the Trades Union Congress not been known. To support this statement, they intimated that if, in spite of the threatened General Strike, they had re-opened their works on the 3rd May, they would have incurred a loss of approximately £100.

In view of the above-mentioned circumstances, the applicant's claim was disallowed as from the commencement of the General Strike (i.e., 4th May), on the ground that he had left his employment voluntarily without just cause; and in appealing against this disallowance, he submitted that he was entitled to benefit as he had been unemployed and in receipt of benefit immediately prior to the date when the General Strike commenced.

Recommended by a majority of the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed, on the ground that employment would have been available for the applicant as from 3rd May, had it not been for the contemplated action of the Trades Union Congress. The insured contributors' representative dissented, as he was of opinion that the notice of the 2nd May given by the employer to the workpeople should be regarded as having definitely terminated their contracts of service.

The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire against the disallowance of the claim, and an oral hearing of the case took place before the Deputy Umpire who gave the following decision:—

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

"The employer inferred that there was a likelihood of a General Strike which would include his works, and he did not consider it worth while to start the works on Monday if the men were likely to stop work on Tuesday. If the applicant on Tuesday was not intending to join in the strike he could have told his employer, and he would probably have had work. He does not show that he was unable to obtain suitable employment from 4th May to 12th, inclusive."

DECISIONS OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

Employment as Cook and Steward on Private Yachts.

ON the 29th July, 1926, the following questions, which had been referred for decision by the Minister of Labour under Section 10(1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, were decided by the High Court of Justice. The questions so referred for decision were whether persons employed as—

- (1) a first steward on a private yacht,
- (2) a mess room steward on a private yacht, and
- (3) a chief cook on a private yacht,

were or were not employed persons within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

The Judge held that each of the persons referred to was an employed person within the meaning of the Act. By reason of the nature of the disciplinary conditions under which they served none of these persons could be regarded as employed in domestic service, and they were accordingly not excepted under Part II (b) of the First Schedule to the Act. They were, in fact, members of the crew of the vessels on which they were employed, and their employment was expressly included in Part I (b) of that Schedule.

Unemployment contributions are, therefore, payable in respect of these and other persons similarly employed on private yachts.

INDUSTRIAL COURT.

IN connection with the arrangements for arbitration in the Civil Service* the Minister of Labour has appointed Sir Holberry Mensforth, K.C.B., C.B.E., Sir William McLintock, K.B.E., C.V.O., and Mr. Frank Pick, as representing the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to be members of the Industrial Court. He has also appointed Professor Harold J. Laski, M.A., as a representative of the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service on the Court, in the place of Miss Madeleine Symons, resigned.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order I (17) dated 19th August, 1926, confirming the fixing and variation for periods dependent upon the "Cost of Living" figure of minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers and the cancellation of minimum rates of wages for certain classes of Indentured Apprentices and specifying the 23rd August, 1926, as the date from which such rates and variations and cancellations of rates should become effective.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal R.B. (S.M.) 1, dated 20th August, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire (excluding that part which lies within the Metropolitan Police District) and Oxfordshire.

Objection period expires 20th October, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (C.M.) 1, dated 23rd August, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Gloucestershire (except the County Borough of Bristol), Herefordshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire.

Objection period expires 20th October, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (N.M.) 1, dated 24th August, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutlandshire.

Objection period expires 24th October, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (S.W.) 1, dated 24th August, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers in the area comprising the counties of Cornwall, Devonshire, Somersetshire, and the County Borough of the City and County of Bristol.

Objection period expires 24th October, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (Y) 1, dated 27th August, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the County of Yorkshire.

Objection period expires 27th October, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (E.L.) 1, dated 27th August, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Lancashire (Eastern part) and Westmorland.

Objection period expires 27th October, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (S.Wa.) 1, dated 30th August, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Brecknockshire, Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, and Radnorshire.

Objection period expires 27th August, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (N.) 1, dated 1st September, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Cumberland, Durham and Northumberland.

Objection period expires 31st October, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (W.L.) 1, dated 2nd September, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Cheshire, Lancashire (Western part) and Shropshire.

Objection period expires 31st October, 1926.

Proposal R.B. (C.S.) 1, dated 6th September, 1926, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Dorsetshire, Hampshire (including the Isle of Wight) and Wiltshire.

Objection period expires 3rd November, 1926.

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

Examinations for Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines and for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines.

EXAMINATIONS for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines will be held on the 24th and 25th November, 1926, at Edinburgh, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sheffield, Wigan, Cardiff and Birmingham.

The written part of an Examination for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines will be held at the same Centres on the 25th November, 1926.

Applications for the necessary forms should be made not later than the 6th October, 1926. In order that the appropriate Forms may be sent, it is important that Candidates should state whether they have already sat at one or more of the Board's Examinations.

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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—*Acreage and live stock returns of Scotland, with a summary for Great Britain and Ireland. Agricultural Statistics, 1925, Vol. XIV, Part I.* (S.O. publication; price 3s.)

BUILDING MATERIALS.—*Inter-departmental Committee appointed to survey the prices of building materials. 5th Interim Report. Ministry of Health.* (Cmd. 2719; price 4d.)

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.—*Employers' Liability Insurance. Undertaking given by the Accident Offices Association for the purpose of limiting the charges to employers in respect of employers' liability insurance. Certificate of the auditors of the Association showing the effect of the undertaking in respect of the year 1925.* (Cmd. 2715; price 1d.)

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—*Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1925.* (Cmd. 2714; price 2s. 6d.) (See page 327.)

FAMILY BUDGET ENQUIRIES.—*Methods of conducting family budget enquiries. Studies and Reports, Series N. (Statistics), No. 9. International Labour Office.* (Geneva, price 1s. 6d.)

FOOD PRICES.—*Report of the Imperial Economic Committee on marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the Empire. Fourth Report. Dairy produce.* (Cmd. 2725; price 1s.)

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—*Methods of compiling statistics of industrial disputes. Studies and Reports. Series N. (Statistics), No. 10. International Labour Office.* (Geneva, price 1s.)

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*The Bristol Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment: Annual Report, 1925.* (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

MINING.—*Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended 31st December, 1925.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication, price 4d.)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.—*Seventh Annual Report of the Ministry of Health, 1925-1926.* (Cmd. 2724, price 3s. 6d.)

Includes public health, housing and town planning, local government and finance, administration of the Poor Law, Old Age Pensions, and National Health Insurance. For a summary of the housing statistics, see page 325.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR.—*Report of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1925.* (Cmd. 2736; price 3s.) (See page 322.)

OFFICIAL STATISTICS.—*Guide to current official statistics of the United Kingdom. Volume IV., 1925. Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics.* (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (See page 328.)

SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES.—*Safeguarding of industries. Report of the Committee on Hosiery.* Board of Trade. (Cmd. 2726; price 6d.)

Contains an estimate of the volume of employment in the industry, and a comparison of wages and hours with those of foreign competitors.

SAFETY.—*Fencing and other safety precautions for laundry machinery. Safety Pamphlet No. 11.* Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.)

TRADE UNIONS.—*Return showing details of membership, income, expenditure and funds of registered trade unions with 10,000 or more members in the years 1924 and 1925.* Registry of Friendly Societies. (Cmd. 2720; price 3d.)

Gives income from members, from refund of Unemployment Insurance benefits and administration expenses, and from other sources; and expenditure on various benefits (disputes, sick and accident, funeral, superannuation and other), payments from political fund, grants to federations and other societies, etc., salaries and allowances of officers, expenses of executive committee, other working expenses, and other outgoings.

UNEMPLOYMENT.—(1) *Bibliography of unemployment.* Studies and Reports. Series C. (Unemployment), No. 12. International Labour Office. (Geneva, price 2s.) (2) *Unemployment Grants (Viscount St. Davids) Committee. Fifth Interim Report of the proceedings from June 25, 1925, to June 24, 1926.* (S.O. publication; price 1s.) See page 321.)

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

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, AUGUST, 1926.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Chatham: **Railway Turnouts:** T. Summerson & Sons, Ltd., Darlington.—**Lizard:** **Block of Houses:** C. Williams, Falmouth.—**Portsmouth:** **Galvanized Water Tubing:** S. Dixon & Son, Ltd., Leeds.—**Timber:** W. Crundall & Co., Ltd., Dover; The Commercial Timber Co., London, E.C.—**Sheerness:** **Timber:** W. Crundall & Co., Ltd., Dover.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Biscuits, Cabin: Peter Brown & Co., N. Shields; Spillers Victoria Foods, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Blooms, Steel:** Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow; D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Lanarkshire Steel Co., Ltd., Motherwell.—**Boiler Feed Apparatus:** A. G. Mumford, Ltd., Colchester.—**Boots, Half:** John Horrell & Son, Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds.—**Bronze Rod:** Bull's Metal & Melloid Co., Ltd., Yoker, near Glasgow.—**Bunting:** Wm. Bancroft & Sons of Halifax, Ltd., Halifax; G. Clough & Son, Shipley.—**Cables, Electric:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Anchor Cable Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Hoopers & Telegraph & India Rubber Works, Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Carpets and Rugs:** Brintons, Ltd., Kidderminster; Tomkinson & Adam, Kidderminster.—**Cells, Electric:** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester; D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell.—**Chain Cable and Fittings:** N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Netherton; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney; S. Taylor & Sons (Brierley Hill), Ltd., Brierley Hill; Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypriid.—**Chests of Drawers:** Hoskins & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Coamings and Covers:** Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Coats, Oilskin Long:** E. Macbean & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Compressor, Air:** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Cathcart, Glasgow.—**Crane, Jib, Electrically driven:** T. Broadbent & Sons, Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Cutters and Pinnaces, Machinery for:** Dixon Bros. & Hutchinson, Southampton.—**Cutters and Pinnaces, Repairs to:** Groves & Guttridge, Ltd., Cowes, I.O.W.; W. White & Sons (Cowes), Ltd., Cowes, I.O.W.; Mashford Bros., Saltash; Clare Lallow, Cowes, I.O.W.—**Electric Lighting Installation:** G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C.—**Fans, Ventilating:** Electromotors, Ltd., Manchester; Newtons Dynamo Works, Taunton; James Keith & Blackman Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Flour:** Buchanan's Flour Mills, Ltd., Liverpool; J. Wilson & Co., Ltd., Leith; Riverside Milling Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Jam, Apricot:** Chivers & Son, Ltd., Histon, Cambs.; Chas. Southwell & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Jam, Plum:** Chivers & Son, Ltd., Histon, Cambs.—**Lamps, Electric:** British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby and Chesterfield; Siemens & English Electric Lamp Co., Ltd., Preston, Lemington-on-Tyne, and Middlesex or Chesterfield; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex; Metro-Vick Supplies, Ltd., Brimsdown, Lemington & London, W.; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W., & Lemington-on-Tyne.—**Lanterns and Fittings, Navigation:** Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; E. Griffiths & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; W. Harvie & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Telford Grier & Mackay, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Louvers and Baffles, Aluminium:** Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Machine, Horizontal Surfacing, &c.:** H. W. Kearns & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Pipe Bending with Hydraulic Pump:** Henry Berry & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Paint, Black:** Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol.—**Panels, Fuse:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Panels, Switch:** Bertram Thomas, Manchester.—**Pipes, Voice, and Fittings:** Interlock Metal Hose Co., London, N.; Power Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Plant, Fuel Oil Pumping and Electric Generating:** W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Plant, Steam Generating:** Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., Aylesbury and Nottingham.—**Plates, Mild Steel:** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Cardiff.—**Racks, Steel:** Estler Bros., Ltd., London, E.—**Sailcloth, Canvas:** The Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee; F. Webster & Sons, Arbroath; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Screws and Slips:** Douglas Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne.—**Skins, Chamois:** Chuter & Son, Ltd., London, S.W.; C. Kirkham & Son, Nottingham; C. F. Stead & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Speed Gear, Variable:** Variable Speed Gear Co., Ltd., Crayford.—**Steel, Bar:** Dorman Long & Co., Middlesbrough; Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Patent Shaft & Axletree Co., Ltd., Wednesbury; Earl of Dudley's Round Oak Works, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe.—**Switchboards, Charging:** Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Switches, Watertight:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Wembley.—**Thermometer Apparatus, Electrical:** Foster Instrument Co., Ltd., Letchworth, Herts.—**Timber for packing cases:** A. G. Paterson, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Traveller, Overhead Electric:** Cowans Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Valve Holders:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.—**Valves, Wireless:** Mullan Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London & Wallsend-on-Tyne.—**Vices and Clamps:** New Alldays & Onions, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Evans & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.

WAR OFFICE.

Air Heating Apparatus: Underfeed Stoker & Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Asbestos Cement Tiles and Slates:** British Fibrocement Works, Ltd., Erith.—**Batteries, Inert:** Siemens Bros & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Batteries, Secondary:** Pritchett & Gold and E.P.S. Co., Ltd., Dagenham.—**Bedsteads, McDonald's:** Hill & Smith, Ltd., Brierley Hill, Staffs.—**Boilers, Independent:** National Radiator Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Bronze Stampings:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brooms, Bass:** Radcliffe & Co., Ltd., Widnes; Yates & Co. (Halifax) Ltd., Halifax; E. A. & W. Greenslade, Ltd., Bristol.—**Brushes, Paint and Whitewash:** Vale & Bradnack, Walsall.—**Brushes, Sweeping and Dusting:** C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; Newton & Cook, London, S.W.; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; S. D. Warren & Co., London, N.W.—**Buckets and Pails:** J. Hill Galvanising Co., Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Cable, Submarine:** Standard Telephone & Cables Ltd., North Woolwich.—**Cases, Battery:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cases, Lamp:** C. F. Timbers, London, S.E.—**Chassis and Vehicles, 6-wheeled:** Vulcan Motor & Engr. Co., Ltd., Southport; Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cloth, D.M.:** J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth. J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley, Leeds.—**Copper, Sheet:** W. West & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Desks, Children:** Kingfisher Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Drain Pipes:** Stoneware, Ltd., Dosthill, Tamworth.—**Drill, brown:** Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Manchester.—**Engines, Air-Cooled:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Helmet Bodies, Khaki:** Helmets, Ltd., St. Albans.—**Hollowware, Cast Iron:** T. Holcroft & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Jackets, Lasting:** Hartley, Son & Co., Ltd., Hebden Bridge.—**Khaki, Jean:** Moss Bros. (Hebden Bridge), Ltd., Hebden Bridge.—**Knives, clasp:** G. Butler & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Lathes:** C. Redman & Sons, Ltd., Halifax.—**Limousines:** Star Engr. Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Milling Machine:** J. Archdale & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Mop Heads:** J. Warburton & Sons, Dewsbury.—**Motor Vans:** A. E. Gould, Ltd., London; Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Oil, Linseed, Raw:** Younghusband Barnes & Co., London, S.E.—**Oil, Lubricating, Mineral:** Medina Refinery, Ltd., London, S.E.; Fletcher, Miller, Ltd., Dukinfield.—**Saddlery:** A. Wood, Ltd., Walsall.—**Saddles:** D. Mason & Sons, Walsall.—**Serge, S.D.:** P. Womersley & Sons, Pudsey; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Som.; J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth; J. Harper & Sons, Calverley, Leeds; R. Gaunt & Sons, Farsley, Leeds.—**Sheets, Barrack, Linen:** R. Buckton & Son, Leeds; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.—**Target Frames:** J. Robertson & Co., Keppochhill, Glasgow.—**Tin:** J. Batt & Co. (London), Ltd., London.—**Tinplates:** W. E. Hughes & Co., S. Wales; Wilbraham & Smith, S. Wales; Baglan Bay Tinplate Co., Ltd., Briton Ferry.—**Trailers:** Weybridge Motor Engr. Co., Ltd., Weybridge.—**Twine:** J. Holmes & Son, E. Ardsley, Wakefield.—**Tyres and Tubes:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Work Services:** *Building Works and Services:* Brighton, Preston Bks. Erection of Married Soldiers Quarters: J. B. Edwards & Co., London, S.W. Woolwich, Repairs to W.D. Roads: E. J. Logan, London, W.C. Devonport & Plymouth, Periodical Painting: C. J. Else & Co., Ltd., Matlock. Edinburgh, Redford Bks., Resurfacing and Drainage of Cavalry Exercise Ground: M. M. Hart, Glasgow. *Installations:* Catterick Camp, Heating Apparatus: Dilworth & Carr, Ltd., Preston. Aldershot, Wellington Lines, Heating and Hot Water Services, Regimental Institutes: Manley & Regulus, Ltd., Wolverhampton.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich; George Parnall & Co., Bristol; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Aircraft and Spares:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware, Middlesex; G. Parnall & Co., Bristol; S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight; Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of:** H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston, Surrey.—**Aircraft Spares:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Air-screws and Cases:** Airscrew Co., Weybridge.—**Air-screws, Metal:** Metal Propellers, Ltd., Croydon.—**Bands, Cap:** Dalton, Barton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Brackets, Suspension:** Pinnacle Switchgear, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Brushes, sweeping, platform:** Rigby, Battock, Ltd., London, E.—**Buildings and Works Services:** Fire Pumps (Waddington): Pulsometer Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Heating & Hot Water Supply (Spittlegate): Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Hospital—Subsidiary Buildings (Halton): H. J. & A. Wright, Ltd., Gt. Missenden. Mechanical Stokers (Ickenham): J. Hodgkinson (Salford), Ltd., Pendleton, Manchester. Painting Services (Uxbridge & District): A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Quarters for W.O.'s and Airmen (Leuchars): W. & J. R. Watson, Ltd., Edinburgh. Underground Mains (Halton): Malcolm & Allan, Ltd., London, W.C. Sewage Compressors, etc. (Castle Bromwich): Adams Hydraulics, Ltd., York. Weighbridge (Felixstowe): Ashworth, Son & Co., Ltd., Dewsbury. W. T. Building, Operations Block, etc. (Hawkinge): J. G. Parsons & Son, Folkestone.—**Coal, House (Various Stations):** Wm. Cory & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cloth, blue grey:** Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Somerset.—**Colours, Identification, Nitro:** Cellon (Richmond), Ltd., Richmond.

—**Condensers, Mains, Earth & Grid** : H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cylinders, Oxygen, High Pressure** : Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Engines, Aircraft** : Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Ricardo & Co. (Engineers), Ltd., London, S.W.;—**Engines, Aircraft, and Supercharger** : D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Drawings for Modifications to** : E.L.S. Engines, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Fitting Supercharger to** : Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Engine, Aircraft, Modification to** : E.L.S. Engines, Ltd., London, S.W.; Sunbeam Motor Car Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Engine, Aircraft, Replacement of parts on** : D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares** : De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware, Middlesex; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Test on** : Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Fabric, Linen, Solid** : Stevenson & Son, Ltd., Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.—**Gloves, worsted, blue** : Overhand Glove Co., Leicester.—**Grindery** : Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Hubs, Airscrew, All Metal** : Metal Propellers, Ltd., Croydon.—**Indicators, Revolution, Repair & Modification of** : North & Sons, Ltd., Watford.—**Jackets, blue** : H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Loading Handles (Vickers Gun)** : Vickers, Ltd., Erith.—**Magneto Spares** : British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**"Panther" Motor Cycle Spares** : Phelon & Moore, Ltd., Cleckheaton, Yorks.—**Radiators** : Excelsior Motor Radiator Co., Ltd., Leeds; John Marston, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Reels, Aerial** : A. W. Hart & Co., London, N.—**Sighting Installation** : Barr & Stroud, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Tanks, Petrol, Portable** : F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Telephone-Telegraph W/T Installation** : Marconis W/T Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Timber (Milton)** : M. L. Meyer, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Trousers, blue** : J. Hammond & Co. (1922), Ltd., Newcastle, Staffs.; J. Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Valves, W/T** : The General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Wheels, Tyres, etc., Aircraft** : Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, E.C.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, mail bag exchanging : Barrow Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; S. E. Norris & Co., London, E.—**Apparatus, telephonic** : Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Hall Telephone Accessories, Ltd., London, E.C.; Peel-Conner Telephone Works (General Electric Co., Ltd.), Coventry; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Apparatus, testing, protective and miscellaneous** : Phoenix Telephone & Electrical Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, N.W.; M. W. Woods, Colchester.—**Battery Stores** : Accumulators of Woking, Ltd., Woking, Surrey; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester; Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Bicycles** : Components, Ltd., Bournbrook, Birmingham.; New Hudson, Ltd., Birmingham; **Blocks, wood** : A. Bailey, Stone, Staffs.—**Boxes, service** : General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Cable, various** : Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex.—**Castings, joint box** : General Foundry and Engineering Co., Ltd., Arlesey, Beds; McDowall, Steven & Co., Ltd., Falkirk; United Steel Cos. Ltd. (Thos. Butlin & Co.), Wellingborough.—**Clothing, uniform** : Sim Rose & Son, Leeds; Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Coils, loading** : General Electric Co., Ltd., Salford.—**Cords for telephones** : British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., London, E.; Reliance Electrical Wire Co., London, E.C.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Handcarts, wicker work for** : M. J. Hills, Ltd., Stanningley, Yorks.—**Ironwork, telegraphic** : Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Jelly, petroleum** : F. Chiesman & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Lancashire Tallow & Fat Co., Ltd., Prescott.—**Lamps, electric** : British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby; Cryselco Ltd., Bedford; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Metro-Vick Supplies, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; Siemens & English Electric Lamp Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Material, reinforcing** : British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd., Stafford; Indented Bar and Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd. (Robert Heath & Low Moor, Ltd.), Stoke-on-Trent.—**Materials for clothing, uniform** : Cottrill & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Eccles Spinning & Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Patricroft, near Manchester; Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Manchester; Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester; A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Geo. Howarth & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Milns, Cartwright Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.; Rawden Briggs & Co., Ltd., Dewsbury; J. F. & H. Roberts, Ltd., Manchester; Hugh Spencer & Co., Manchester; Stott & Smith, Ltd., Bury; Fred Taylor & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Machines, ledger posting** : Merkhams Trading Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Motor Cycles** : B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Redditch and Birmingham.—**Oil, lubricating** : Frank How & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Paper** : Reed & Smith, Ltd., Bradninch, Devon.—**Pipe, steam** : Foster Bros., Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Rods, pruning** : H. F. Foster's Machine Tool & Engine Co., Ashstead, Surrey.—**Rope, steel wire** : Glaholm & Robson, Ltd., Sunderland.—**Solder** : Tyne Solder Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Tents, jointers', Repair of** : John Smith & Co. (London, E.) Ltd., London, E.—**Thread** : John Holmes & Son, East Ardsley, Yorks; W. P. King & Son, London, E.C.; J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Vans, motor** : W. H. Perry, London, N.—**Wire, copper** : Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Conveyance of mails** : W. J. Willis & Sons, Bodmin, Cornwall; F. Turner, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Cable—Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing : Birmingham-Redditch-Evesham: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Conduits—Laying** : King's Lynn: Manchester (Openshaw-Gorton): Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Plymouth (Embankment Road); Windsor; Fleet (Hants); Tavistock-Penzance (St. Austell, Truro, Redruth, Camborne and Hayle); Farnham Common (Bucks): Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. Exeter-Taunton (Pinhoe Bridge-Hazelstone); Birmingham (Erdington Exchange Area, etc.) and Birmingham-Lye; Minehead: E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Leamington Spa: Moore & Rowley, Northfield, Birmingham. Ilford-Aldersbrook; Bletchingly and Tatsfield (Surrey); Yateley and Crondale (Surrey) and Eversley (Hants): J. E. Billings & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Carlisle: A. Monk & Co., Irlam, Lancs. Bishopsgate-Royal Jc.; Croydon, etc.: A. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Richmond, etc.: T. Muirhead & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Liverpool (Old Swan, Alder Rd. and Walton, Orrell Park); Old Swan (Uppingham Rd.) Liverpool: J. E. Turner, Heywood, Lancs. Northwood (Middlesex): J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W. Bradford (Scheme No. 5): Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Penrith (Cumberland); Dewsbury-Wakefield: J. McLaren, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Edinburgh, etc.: Fisher Bros., Edinburgh. Crowhurst (Sussex); Sellindge (Kent); Bristol-Temple, Cloud-Gurney; Motherwell: W. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh. Kingsland Road, E.: H. Farrow, Golders Green, N.W. 11. Walsall (N.E. & S.W.) and Oldbury (Staffs.): Martin & Element, Ltd., Smethwick, Staffs. Stepney, etc.: O. C. Summers, London, N. Caterham (Surrey); Milshead and Headcorn (Kent): J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Carmarthen: G. F. Leadbetter, Newport (Mon.). Bramley (Surrey); Oxshott (Surrey): G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C. Honley and Meltham (Yorks.): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. North Cadbury: J. F. Hodge, Rednal, Birmingham. Letchworth: J. J. Howes & Son, Norwich. Northampton; Helsby; Wilmslow: W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Grappenhall, Near Warrington. **Telephone Exchange Equipment** : Rowe Bros & Co., Ltd. (Liverpool); Rylands Bros., Ltd. (Warrington); Hampton & Sons, Ltd., (S.W. 1); E. & R. Garrould (W. 2); Beswick Co-operative Society, Ltd. (Manchester); Equitable Trust Co. of New York (E.C. 2); Messrs. John Gardner (E.C. 3); Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Co., Ltd. (Preston); Blackley Co-operative Society, Ltd.; Calico Printers Association, Ltd. (Manchester); Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Colwyn Bay; Llandudno: Siemens Bros & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E. for Batteries. English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. for Charging Machines. Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. Old Colwyn; Llandudno Junction; Penrhynside: Siemens Bros & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham, S.E. for Dynamotor. Leeds Trunk: Siemens Bros & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Monument: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., London, S.W. for Batteries. Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby, for Machines. Merstham (Surrey): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Wallington (Surrey): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries. Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford for Machines. Belfast Relief: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., London, S.W. for Batteries. Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford for Machines. Norwich: Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., London, W.C. **Telephone Repeater Station—4-Wire Repeater Equipment** : Leeds: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Wireless Station—Lattice Steel Masts, Erection of** : Portishead: C. F. Elwell, London, W.C.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Cards : J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead.—**Cloth, Tracing** : B. J. Hall & Co., Ltd., Cheadle; Winterbottom Book-Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Envelopes** : Pirie, Appleton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paper of various descriptions** : J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; Caldwells Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing, Fife; J. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal, Westmorland; Culter Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Peterculter, Aberdeen; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton, Nr. Bristol; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend, Kent; Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet, Kent; T. H. Saunders & Co., Ltd., Hawley, nr. Dartford.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.** : Letterpress Bookbinding Div. I (1926): Thos. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Classified Trades Telephone Directory—Birmingham and District: J. Weiner, Ltd., London, W.C. Bdg. 40,000 copies Field Service Pocket Book: Adams and Harrison, Ltd., London, E.C. Bdg. 20,000 copies: G. & J. Kitcat, Ltd., London, E.C. Bdg. 40,000 copies, Covers 50,000 copies: Webb Son & Co., London, E.C. 10,000 Books D. 193—T.S. 64 Admiralty: J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead. 38,400 copies Income Tax Receipt Books: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. 24,100 copies Income Tax Receipt Books: Manifoldia, Ltd., West Bromwich. 4,500 "S.O. Book 122," 2,500 Copying Letter Books "D.458": Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Waterproof Packing Paper** : Jerrard & Co., London, E.C.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

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The "MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE" is published on or about the 18th of each month, price 6d. net. The annual subscription (post free) is 7s.

The Publishers (to whom should be addressed all communications concerning subscriptions and sales) are H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and branches (see Cover).

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, LTD., HIS MAJESTY'S PRINTERS, EAST HARDING STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.