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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed continued improvement in almost every industry. The improvement was again most marked in those industries in which unemployment nevertheless remained severe, such as shipbuilding, marine engineering, public works contracting, and the hand tool and cutlery industry. In the building and clothing industries there was a further seasonal improvement, and employment was good on the whole. There was also an improvement in general engineering, in the wool textile industry, textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., and the boot and shoe industry. In the coal-mining industry both the numbers wholly unemployed and the numbers temporarily stopped showed a slight decrease as compared with 25th April, but employment remained slack on the whole. Employment in the tinplate industry and among workers in the canal, river, dock, etc., service continued bad, and was worse than in the previous month.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) in all industries taken together at 23rd May, 1927, was 8·8, as compared with 9·4 at 25th April, 1927, and 14·3 at 24th May, 1926. The percentage wholly unemployed declined from 7·2 at 25th April to 6·7 at 23rd May. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 30th May, 1927, was approximately 1,015,000, of whom 823,000 were men and 136,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 25th April, 1927, it was 1,075,000, of whom 867,000 were men and 144,000 were women, and at 31st May, 1926, it was 1,675,000, of whom 1,246,000 were men and 333,000 were women. The figures for May, 1926 (although exclusive of coal miners disqualified for unemployment benefit under the trade dispute provisions), were, of course, affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £77,600 in the weekly full-time wages of 512,000 workpeople and in an increase of £600 in those of 9,000 workpeople. The reduction was accounted for mainly by decreases in the coal-mining industry in Yorkshire, Scotland, the Forest of Dean, and Shropshire, the amounts of reduction ranging from nearly 5 per cent. of current wages in the Forest of Dean to about 10 per cent. in Scotland. In the iron and steel industry the wages of various

groups of workers were reduced under the operation of sliding scales based on selling prices. There were also reductions, under cost-of-living sliding scales, in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing, paper box, paper bag, and brush and broom trades, and in the wages of electrical cable makers, penmakers at Birmingham, dyers and dry cleaners, road transport workers in Scotland, tramway workers at Liverpool, and the employees of various local authorities in London and the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The principal group of workpeople who obtained increases in rates of wages during May were iron-ore miners in Cumberland and Furness.

During the first five months of 1927 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics are compiled have resulted in net increases amounting to £23,250 in the weekly full-time wages of 311,000 workpeople and in net reductions of £167,000 in those of 1,120,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1926 there were net increases of £14,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 116,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £52,000 in those of 519,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st June the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 63 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. a month ago and 68 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 54, 54 and 58 respectively.

The fall in the index number at 1st June, as compared with a month earlier, was due to reductions in retail prices of coal.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, 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 number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in May was 38. In addition, 15 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in May (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 16,000; and the aggregate duration of all disputes during May was about 73,000 working days. The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first five months of 1927 was about 594,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 45,000.

PROFIT-SHARING AND LABOUR CO-PARTNERSHIP IN 1926.

ENQUIRIES have recently been made by the Department as to the operation, in 1926, of schemes of profit-sharing and labour co-partnership known to have been in existence in that year, and statistics compiled from the information obtained are given below together with comparative figures for earlier years. These statistics are in continuation of those contained in the Report on Profit-sharing and Labour Co-partnership in the United Kingdom issued in 1920 (Cmd. 544) and in annual articles subsequently published in this GAZETTE. The figures relate only to definite schemes under which employees participate in profits on some pre-arranged basis; schemes consisting in the giving of bonuses or gratuities at the discretion of the employer, without any specified basis, and schemes providing for bonuses which depend only on output, sales, etc., and not on profits, are excluded from these statistics.

ALL SCHEMES IN OPERATION.

The total number of undertakings of all kinds known to have been practising profit-sharing at the end of 1926, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 424. Of these, six firms had each two separate schemes in operation, and the total number of schemes was therefore 430. About 426,000 workpeople were employed in the businesses concerned, of whom about 218,000 participated, or were entitled to participate, in the benefits of the schemes.

The following Table gives comparative figures for the years 1923-26 as to the numbers of schemes in operation, the numbers of employees covered, and also, so far as the information is available, as to the bonuses paid under these schemes:—

Year.	Number of firms or societies.*	Number of schemes.*	Approximate number of employees entitled to participate.	Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available.			
				Number of schemes.†	Average amount per head.‡	Average percentage addition to earnings.‡	
1923	407	413	189,000	334	£ s. d. 6 16 5	4·8	
1924	414	420	202,000	339	7 13 2	4·8	
1925	422	428	211,000	352	9 0 6	5·1	
1926	424	430	218,000	351	8 16 5	4·4	

The figures given in the above Table include schemes in co-operative societies as well as schemes in ordinary businesses. Detailed particulars for each of these two groups are given below.

I.—SCHEMES IN BUSINESSES OTHER THAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

According to the returns received in connection with the enquiries made this year, 270 firms were practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of 1926; six of these firms had each two separate schemes. In addition there were four schemes as to which no recent returns have been received but which are still in operation so far as is known to the Department, making totals of 274 firms and 280 schemes at the end of 1926, as compared with 268 firms and 274 schemes at the end of 1925. Five other schemes were suspended, though not definitely terminated, at the end of 1926.

The number of workpeople employed by the 274 firms in 1926 was approximately 400,000, of whom about 193,000 were eligible to participate in the benefits conferred by the schemes. In the previous year the number participating in the schemes then in existence was 187,000. In the case of a considerable number of schemes, such participation is available only to those who are able and willing to deposit savings with the firm, or to purchase shares in the undertaking. In most schemes, also, employees have to fulfil certain conditions, such as serving for a minimum period, in order to qualify for benefit.

The following Table shows, for various groups of industries, the total number of schemes known to have been started in past years, the number of such schemes still in operation at the end of 1926, and the number of employees covered by these schemes:—

Industry or Business.	Total number of schemes started.	Schemes still in operation at 31st December, 1926.‡		
		Number of schemes.	Total number of employees.	Approximate number of employees entitled to participate.
Agriculture ...	30	6	700	300
Glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. ...	28	15	48,300	24,800
Engineering, shipbuilding or other metal ...	81	44	71,900	22,200
Textile ...	39	26	43,900	16,200
Food or drink (manufacture) ...	55	28	43,400	27,300
Paper manufacture; printing, bookbinding, publishing, etc. ...	57	21	7,600	5,200
Gas, water or electricity supply§	60	49	45,400	39,300
Insurance, banking or other financial businesses ...	9	9	36,800	32,600
Merchants, warehousemen or retail traders ...	92	41	36,700	9,800
Other businesses ...	103	41	65,100	15,200
Total ...	554	280	399,800	192,900

* The figures exclude schemes reported as suspended in any year.

† Schemes in operation under which no bonus was paid are included.

‡ Exclusive of schemes temporarily suspended.

§ The firms in this group are almost entirely gas companies.

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

Types of Scheme.

In the simplest, and most numerous, type of profit-sharing scheme the employees' bonus consists of a specified proportion of the total net profits, or of the profits remaining after a certain minimum return has been paid on capital; in other schemes the bonus is a sum which automatically rises or falls with the rate of dividend paid on capital. A type of scheme which has become prominent in recent years admits employees to a share in the profits of the undertaking by the issue of employees' shares, either free or on specially favourable terms as to price or dividend; 49 such schemes are at present known to be in operation. Twenty-seven further schemes are based on arrangements for the payment of interest on money deposited with the firm by its employees, a guaranteed minimum rate being paid, together with an additional rate which varies with the profits or with the rate of dividend on capital. In the gas companies' schemes, the bonus usually takes the form of a percentage on wages varying inversely with the price charged for gas, which itself regulates the rate of dividend paid on the capital; in some cases the bonus is a percentage on wages varying directly with the rate of dividend, or is a fixed percentage of the amount paid in dividends.

The majority of schemes provide for the payment of employees' bonuses in cash, or in credits to savings or deposit accounts from which amounts may readily be withdrawn. In 34 cases (including 23 gas companies) the whole bonus is retained for investment in the capital of the undertaking, or the bonus itself is paid in the form of shares: in some of these schemes, however, employees may receive part or the whole of their subsequent bonuses in cash, etc., after a given period or after they have accumulated a given amount of capital. In other cases a portion—frequently one-half—of the bonus is retained for investment, the remainder being paid out in cash or credited to a provident fund, etc.; gas companies account for no fewer than 21 out of 30 such cases. In twelve schemes, the bonus is wholly set aside for provident purposes, superannuation, etc.

Bonuses Paid.

In the case of 205 of the total of 280 schemes in operation at the end of 1926, the Department has been able to collect information as to the bonuses paid or credited to employees in that year. For certain schemes, however, these particulars cannot be obtained, owing in some cases to the firms' inability to furnish the required information, and in others to the nature of the scheme itself, which makes it impracticable to state the amount of bonus and the proportion which it bears to the earnings of those participating. Where, for example, shares are allotted to employees on specially favourable terms, the "bonus" may be regarded as that part of the dividends on the shares which represents the advantage given to the employees over ordinary shareholders—an advantage usually insusceptible of exact calculation.

The following Table gives details of the bonuses paid or credited during 1926 under the 205 schemes for which these particulars can be given:—

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

Industry or Business.	Number of schemes to which particulars relate.	Number of employees entitled to participate in 1926.	Average amount of bonus per head.*	Average percentage addition to earnings.*
Agriculture ...	2	100	£ s. d. 0 18 7	0·9
Glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. ...	10	21,400	6 8 3	3·8
Engineering, shipbuilding or other metal ...	28	17,800	2 17 4	2·6
Textile ...	21	13,900	3 11 5	3·5
Food or drink (manufacture) ...	22	12,200	2 1 3	2·2
Paper manufacture; printing, bookbinding, publishing, etc. ...	18	10,700	2 6 7	2·5
Gas, water, or electricity supply	23	23,600	8 5 7	5·6
Insurance, banking or other financial businesses ...	20	22,700	8 11 5	5·8
Merchants, warehousemen or retail traders	18	4,700	10 1 3	7·1
Other businesses ...	17	4,500	10 7 10	7·4
Gas, water, or electricity supply	46	39,000	7 9 7	4·1
Insurance, banking or other financial businesses ...	45	38,700	7 10 5	4·1
Merchants, warehousemen or retail traders	5	24,400	23 16 0	†
Other businesses ...	26	5,900	18 8 2	11·0
Gas, water, or electricity supply	24	5,800	18 13 7	11·0
Insurance, banking or other financial businesses ...	25	10,900	6 9 3	5·6
Merchants, warehousemen or retail traders	24	7,800	9 0 10	8·0
Total ...	205	160,000	9 8 7	4·4
	185	149,900	10 0 7	4·7

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

† Not available.

The results of the same schemes, classified according to the rate of bonus paid, are shown below :—

Percentage addition made by bonus to earnings.	Number of schemes to which particulars relate.	Total number of employees.	Number of employees entitled to participate in 1926.	Amount of bonus paid (or credited) in 1926.
Nil	52	120,700	37,900	£ Nil.
Under 2 per cent. ...	42	47,800	29,400	Nil.
2 and under 4 per cent. ...	10	4,500	2,400	4,300
4 " 6 " "	8	2,600	2,100	3,300
6 " 8 " "	26	37,500	32,800	225,700
8 " 10 " "	31	26,500	24,600	183,600
10 " 12 " "	23	16,900	14,900	156,400
12 " 14 " "	11	17,900	12,000	173,400
14 " 16 " "	7	4,300	3,800	47,800
16 " 18 " "	12	4,400	3,000	57,400
18 " 20 " "	4	3,300	2,700	50,300
20 per cent. or over ...	5	2,300	1,800	77,400
Percentage not stated...	24	36,100	24,100	532,300
	16	26,900	22,800	528,300
Total	205	274,400	160,000	1,508,600
	185	190,400	149,900	1,503,600

Of the 274,400 workpeople employed by the firms included in the foregoing Tables, 122,100, or about 44 per cent., actually received a bonus in 1926. In almost exactly one-quarter of the schemes, however, no bonus was available owing to insufficient profits having been made; the number of employees who would have participated under these latter schemes had sufficient profits been available was 37,900, so that in all 160,000, or about 58 per cent., of the 274,400 employees of these firms participated, or were entitled to participate, in bonuses. These figures include 20 schemes where the bonus consists of interest paid on sums deposited by employees with the firm; and in these schemes, taken as a whole, only about 12 per cent. of the workpeople employed avail themselves of the benefit of the schemes. If these 20 schemes are excluded from the statistics, the proportion of the total number of employees who actually received a bonus in 1926 is increased from 44 per cent. to 63 per cent., and the proportion who either participated or who would have done had profits sufficed is increased from 58 per cent. to 79 per cent.

The bonuses yielded by profit-sharing schemes in 1926 were on the average slightly below the level of the previous year. The average amount paid or credited, per head, in the 205 schemes in 1926 was £9 8s. 7d. as compared with £9 12s. 8d.* in 204* schemes in 1925. In certain cases firms found it impossible to express the bonus as a percentage addition to the earnings of those participating; but averaging all those cases for which this information was available the bonuses in 1926 represented an addition to earnings of 4.4 per cent., as compared with 5.3 per cent. in 1925. In calculating these average amounts and percentages, those schemes which yielded no bonus owing to insufficient profits have been included.

In 1926, as in 1925, the highest average amount of bonus (£23 16s. 0d. per head) was paid in the small group of insurance, banking, etc. businesses; but it was not possible to obtain sufficient information to calculate the average percentage addition to earnings in this group. For some years comparatively high rates of bonus have been paid by firms in the group "merchants, warehousemen or retail traders," and 1926 was no exception, the average bonus in 1926 amounting to £18 8s. 2d. per head, or 11.0 per cent. on earnings. Firms engaged in paper manufacture, printing, book-binding, publishing, etc., paid bonuses averaging £10 1s. 3d. per head, approximately the same average as in 1925; in the glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. group the bonus averaged £6 8s. 3d. per head, a figure well below the level of the last two or three years. Out of six schemes in agriculture only two supplied information as to bonuses paid in 1926, and in these two cases the average bonus amounted to less than £1 per head.

New Schemes in 1926.

Eleven new schemes have come to the notice of the Department as having been introduced in 1926. These schemes are briefly summarised below :—

Industry or Business.	Approximate total number of employees.	Type of scheme.
Road transport ...	3,700	Deposits received from employees on which interest is paid at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, with an additional 2½ per cent. when a dividend of 10 per cent. or more is declared on the ordinary shares.
Cycle and motor-cycle manufacture.	3,150	Bonus distributed to employees in cash as a percentage on wages, the total sum distributed varying with the amount by which profits exceed, or fall short of, the profits of a specified basis year.
Brewing	3,000	Employees receive a bonus equalling from one to three weeks' wages, the amount depending upon the dividend in excess of 10 per cent. paid on the Company's deferred ordinary stock.
Brick manufacture	2,900	Each employee having attained the age of 21 years, with three years' service or more, receives a bonus in cash, equivalent to the dividend which would be payable on five ordinary £1 shares for each year of service up to a maximum of ten years.

* The figures published in the June, 1926, GAZETTE have since been revised to include returns received subsequent to publication.

Industry or Business.	Approximate total number of employees.	Type of scheme.
Electrical engineering.	1,700	After setting aside sums for reserve, depreciation, etc., and after payment of 10 per cent. on ordinary shares, the remaining profits are apportioned between the employees and the shareholders in proportion to the total wages and salaries and the amount paid in dividends, respectively.
Chocolate, cake and biscuit manufacture, and catering.	800	Deposits received from employees carrying a fixed rate of interest of 6 per cent. per annum. If dividend on ordinary shares exceeds 10 per cent., employees are entitled to a supplementary rate of interest of 1 per cent. for each 1 per cent. of dividend over 10 per cent.
Varnish, paint and printing ink manufacture.	670	Issue of employees' cumulative participating preference shares on favourable terms.
Brewing	400	For each 8 per cent. dividend paid on ordinary shares employees get a bonus in cash equal to one week's wages or salary.
Mill furnishing, ironmongery, etc.	110	After setting aside an amount sufficient to pay a fixed percentage on capital, one-half of remaining profits is allocated to employees. Bonus is paid in cash, but the right is reserved to pay not more than 50 per cent. in ordinary shares.
Metal and rubber dealing, etc.	90	Fixed percentage of profits, after payment of 5 per cent. dividend on share capital, devoted to building up pension fund for staff.
Engineering and boilermaking.	80	After setting aside the equivalent of 10 per cent. on share capital for dividends and reserve, employees receive a bonus equal to the whole of the first £500 of remaining profits, plus one-half of all further profits.

Schemes discontinued in 1926.

Three schemes were reported to the Department as having been definitely terminated during 1926; details of these schemes are given below :—

Date of starting.	Industry or Business.	Approximate total number of employees.	Reasons given by employers for termination.
1917	Engineering ...	520	Dissatisfaction of firm with results.
1916	Coco mat and matting manufacture and engineering.	500	Do. do.
1922	Drapers and furnishers.	200	Substitution of other benefits; e.g., extension of sick pay, etc.

In addition to the above cases, one firm modified its scheme during 1926 in such a way that it no longer came within the definition of profit-sharing adopted for the purpose of these statistics; this scheme formerly consisted of an arrangement under which interest, varying with the profits, had been paid on employees' deposits, but in 1926 the arrangement was abandoned in favour of the payment of a fixed rate of interest irrespective of profits.

Comparison with previous years.

The following Table shows the total number of firms known to have been practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of each of the years 1910-26, the number of schemes in operation in connection with these firms, and the approximate number of employees entitled to participate under the schemes. The Table also gives particulars, so far as these are available, of the average bonus paid in each year; but, as explained above, it is not possible in the case of a number of schemes to obtain statistics of bonuses paid, and the figures given in the last two columns, therefore, relate only to certain schemes for which this information is available.

Year.	Number of firms.*	Number of schemes.*	Approximate number of employees entitled to participate.	Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available.		
				Number of schemes.†	Average amount per head.‡	Average percentage addition to earnings.‡
1910	118	119	57,000	76	£ s. d.	Per cent.
1911	122	123	61,000	89	+	5.0
1912	134	136	68,000	98	5 0 6	5.5
1913	145	147	73,000	111	5 6 0	5.9
1914	158	162	79,000	117	5 4 9	6.7
1915	158	162	+	99	3 18 0	5.3
1916	151	156	+	101	3 4 3	4.6
1917	155	161	+	105	3 15 2	5.3
1918	161	166	103,000	107	3 13 9	5.1
1919	208	212	108,000	122	5 0 7	4.9
1920	247	253	134,000	160	9 17 11	6.4
1921	249	255	149,000	182	6 13 10	3.5
1922	257	262	145,000	186	6 8 1	4.0
1923	259	265	167,000	188	7 5 7	5.1
1924	261	267	180,000	192	8 2 1	5.0
1925	268	274	187,000	204	9 12 8	5.3
1926	274	280	193,000	205	9 8 7	4.4

Of a total of 554 schemes of profit-sharing or co-partnership that are known to have been started up to the end of 1926, approximately one-half were still in operation at the end of that year. Over one-half of the schemes still existing date from after the war; of the remainder, 31 date from 1900 or earlier.

* The figures exclude schemes reported as suspended in any year.
† Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included.
‡ Statistics not available.

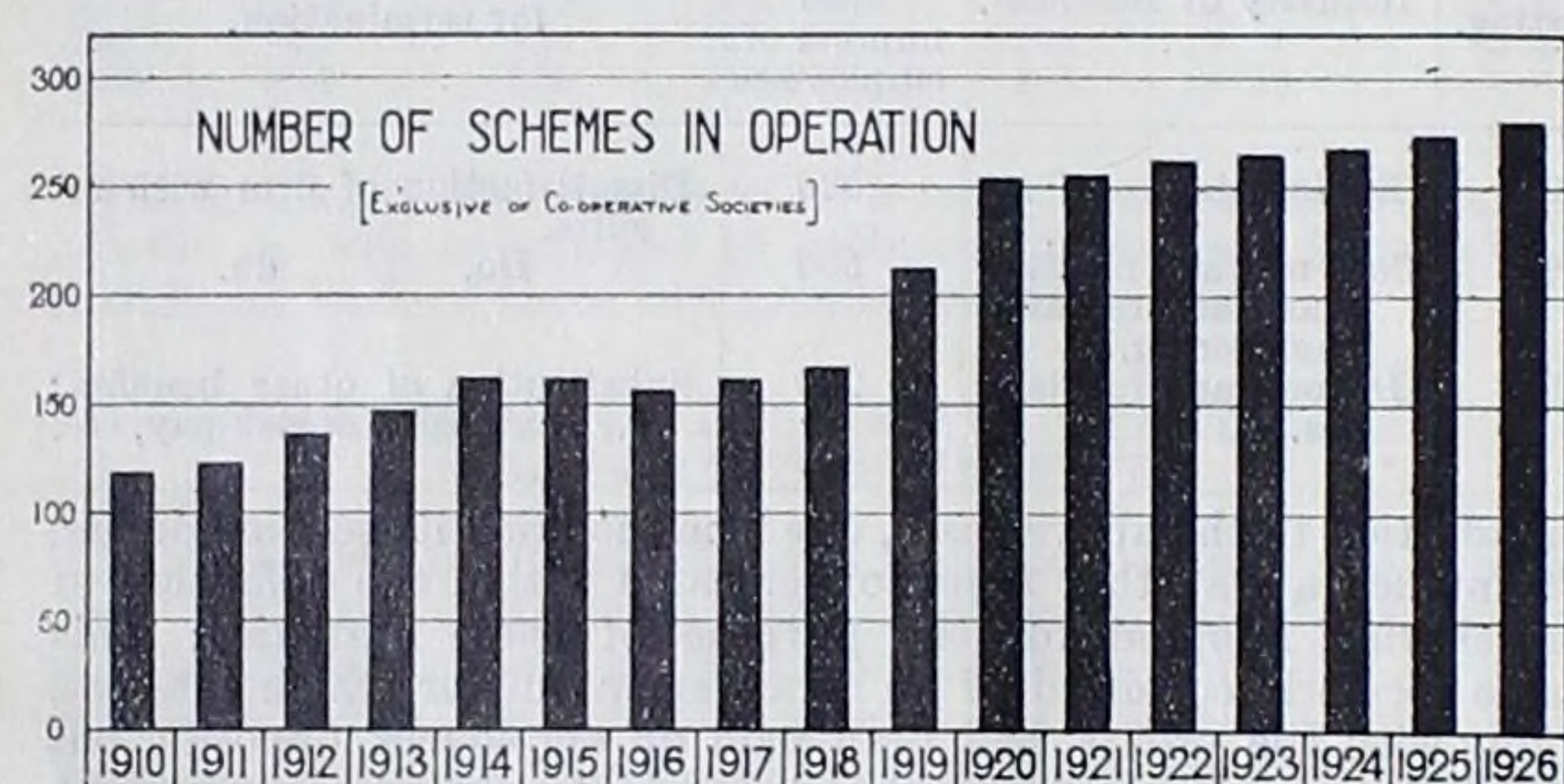
For a period of about two years immediately following the war—a period of great industrial activity—there was a marked advance in the profit-sharing movement. In these two years 112 schemes are known to have been started; and, after allowing for schemes discontinued, there was a net addition of 88 schemes in this period. During the succeeding period of industrial depression, though this advance has been checked, there has nevertheless been a slight but continuous increase in the numbers of schemes; during the years 1921–26, 76 new schemes were started, and 48 schemes were terminated the net addition being thus 28.

The following Table shows the total numbers of schemes started in various periods, the numbers of such schemes no longer in existence, and the numbers still in operation at the end of 1926 :—

Period in which started.	Total schemes started.	Schemes discontinued by end of 1926.	Schemes suspended at end of 1926.	Schemes still in operation at end of 1926.
Up to 1880 ...	35	30	...	5
1881–1890 ...	80	68	...	12
1891–1900 ...	77	63	...	14
1901–1905 ...	26	19	...	7
1906–1910 ...	55	24	...	31
1911–1915 ...	67	24	2	41
1916–1918 ...	26	10	1	15
1919 ...	56	16	...	40
1920 ...	56	12	1	43
1921 ...	14	1	...	13
1922 ...	11	1	...	10
1923 ...	18	1	1	16
1924 ...	10	...	...	10
1925 ...	12	...	...	12
1926 ...	11	...	...	11
Total ...	554	269	5	280

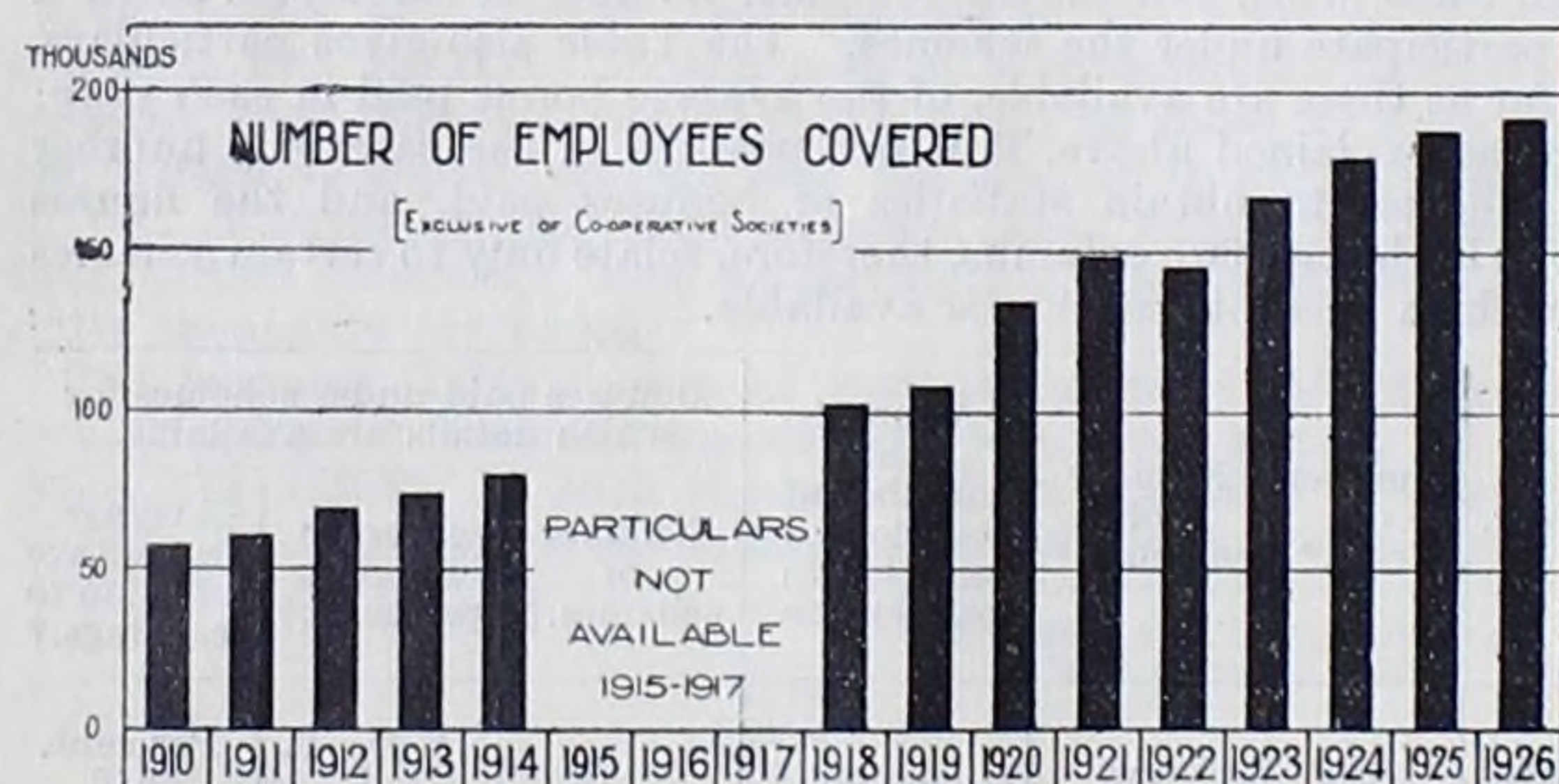
The variations from year to year in the number of schemes in operation, as shown in the above Table, are illustrated in the following diagram :—

DIAGRAM I.



The next diagram illustrates the variations in the numbers of employees covered, i.e., participating or entitled to participate in the schemes concerned :—

DIAGRAM II.



II.—SCHEMES IN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

In the article on profit-sharing and labour co-partnership in 1925 which appeared in the June, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, some statistics were given relating to profit-sharing in co-operative societies in the years 1923–5 inclusive. These statistics were based mainly upon returns furnished to the Department by societies which were known to have paid a bonus to their employees under profit-sharing schemes in one or more of those years. Returns have now been obtained from these same societies as to the operation of their schemes during 1926; and in addition enquiries have been addressed to a number of other societies which did not appear to have paid any bonus to their employees in the last three or four years, but which were nevertheless believed to have incorporated in their constitution and rules the principle of sharing profits with their workers. As a result of these latter enquiries a number of additional societies were found to have definite profit-sharing schemes in operation, although in many cases the profits realised in recent years have not sufficed to permit of any bonus to employees under the provisions of the schemes.

In connection with the above enquiries information was collected regarding a total of 150 schemes in operation in co-operative societies at the end of 1926. About 26,000 workers were employed by the societies having these schemes in operation, and nearly 25,000 of these workers participated, or were entitled to participate, in bonuses in 1926.

Of the 150 societies referred to above, 48 were agricultural societies employing about 500 workpeople in the aggregate, and 102 were industrial productive or retail distributive societies. With one exception, the schemes in force with the agricultural societies provided for a bonus to employees consisting of a fixed proportion of the net profits.

Of the 102 industrial societies, 49, employing about 7,100 workpeople, were workers' productive societies; one, employing about 2,000 workpeople, was a baking society; and 52, employing 16,600 workpeople, were retail distributive societies. Practically all of the 52 retail distributive societies have sections engaged in production, and in such cases the profit-sharing arrangement applies almost invariably to both the productive and the trading sections. The schemes adopted by the majority of productive societies provide for a specified proportion of the profits to be set aside for the workers, but in a number of cases the employees receive a bonus on wages at a rate which varies with the rate of dividend declared on customers' purchases. The type of scheme most favoured in the retail distributive societies consists in paying employees "not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on gross sales and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on net profits"; in which case, of course, the portion of the bonus representing the farthing in the pound on gross sales, and therefore having no element of profit-sharing, usually far exceeds the profit-sharing bonus proper. In many societies, however, the employees' bonus is at a rate which varies with the rate of dividend declared upon customers' purchases.

The Department has collected particulars relating to the bonuses paid in 1926 under 146 of the 150 schemes known to have been in operation in that year. The summarised figures for 1926 are shown below, together with comparable figures for the years 1923–25 :—

Year.	Total number of schemes in operation.	Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available.			
		Number of schemes to which particulars relate.	Number of employees entitled to participate.	Average amount of bonus per head.*	Average percentage addition to earnings.*
<i>Agricultural Societies</i>					
1923	48	48	500	£ s. d. 3 5 9	Per cent. 3.0
1924	51	49	500	2 17 1	2.5
1925	51	48	600	1 19 10	1.7
1926	48	46	500	2 0 6	1.6
<i>Industrial Productive Societies.</i>					
1923	49	49	8,200	4 17 5	4.3
1924	50	49	8,300	5 4 9	4.9
1925	50	50	8,500	4 18 6	4.6
1926	50	50	8,700	5 0 11	4.5
<i>Retail Distributive Societies.</i>					
1923	51	49	12,500	3 13 3	2.9
1924	52	49	12,900	4 1 5	3.2
1925	53	50	14,000	4 13 6	3.5
1926	52	50	15,500	4 17 0	3.8
<i>Totals—All Societies.</i>					
1923	148	146	21,200	4 2 5	3.5
1924	153	147	21,700	4 9 8	3.8
1925	154	148	23,100	4 14 1	3.9
1926	150	146	24,700	4 17 2	4.1

In the case of those retail distributive societies which pay a bonus to employees of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on sales and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on profits, only that part of the bonus which depends on profits has been included in the statistics given above. The statistics also exclude arrangements under which societies pay their employees additional remuneration in the form of bonus on output, commission on sales, etc., and other benefits not coming within the Department's definition of profit-sharing.

During the four years covered by the above Table the average bonus paid by the societies furnishing returns has shown a slight but steady increase, rising from £4 2s. 5d., or 3.5 per cent. on earnings, in 1923 to £4 17s. 2d., or 4.1 per cent. on earnings, in 1926; but in each of these years the average has been below that shown for schemes in force in businesses other than co-operative societies in the Table on page 208.

The agricultural type of society, on the average, paid the lowest rate of bonus in each of the years in question; many paid no bonus for one or more of the years. In 1926, for example, no bonus was paid under 13 of the 46 schemes included in the Table. With productive societies, failure to pay any bonus was still more prevalent; in 1926 one-half of the societies paid no bonus, while in roughly two out of every five cases no bonus was paid in any of the four years. Owing, however, to the fact that the type of scheme adopted in this class of society usually provides that a large share of the profits, if any, shall be set aside for the workers, the average rate of bonus in the productive societies was higher than that in the other groups of societies in each of the four years.

* Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included.

REST-PAUSES IN INDUSTRY.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued a Report,* summarising the knowledge at present available on the subject of rest-pauses in industry.

The wide adoption in recent years of the one-break day in industries has almost always been accompanied by the division of the full working day into two work spells of approximately equal length, separated by a meal interval of about one hour's duration. At the same time the breaking up of the spells themselves by means of one or more short pauses interpolated at regular intervals has become an increasingly common practice, and much investigation has lately been devoted to its effects.

In the opinion of the Board there are strong grounds for thinking that, as a general rule, the influence of such rest-pauses is definitely beneficial. In many of the cases tried, the introduction of the system has been followed by an unconscious response on the part of the workers, reflected in an increase in the total output in spite of the reduction in the actual working time; whilst the opinions of the workers themselves, after they have once become accustomed to the change of practice, have usually been favourable.

It should be noted that the increase, or even the maintenance, of total output shown in many of the instances investigated clearly cannot always be expected. In strictly automatic processes, where production depends upon the machine alone, there must necessarily be a loss in output corresponding with the time spent in resting; even in these cases, however, rest-pauses may be found beneficial to the worker, though not reflected in increased production.

The effect of a rest is particularly beneficial in repetitive work of a monotonous character, and the influence on production is most marked in processes which are largely dependent on the activities of the worker. Heavy muscular work, and operations involving a continuous standing or sitting posture, are also suitable cases for the introduction of rests. The speed of industrial operations is another factor which should be considered in relation to rests. Industrial conditions which require a working rate in excess of the natural rhythm of the body are conducive to fatigue; and, if unavoidable, their effects should certainly be alleviated by means of suitable rests.

The introduction of rest-pauses has been mostly empirical, and carried out without due regard to the nature and conditions of work. In such cases the results have sometimes been unfavourable; and it is suggested that, before rest-periods are introduced, a careful investigation of the existing conditions of work should be made, and when possible a typical curve of output obtained. A consideration of such a curve will show whether a rest is necessary, and will indicate the most suitable position for the pause. Results obtained have shown that, in certain cases, shorter but more frequent rests are preferable to fewer but longer rests.

Individuals vary in their susceptibility to the effects of rest, and consequently the effects are more favourable in some cases than in others. In practice, however, it is necessary to determine the conditions which will give the best average results. Further, an operative rests better when all the others are also resting; and her inclination to work is stimulated by the atmosphere of industry in the room.

The possibility of combining rests with team work has not been sufficiently explored. The few results which have been obtained show that such an arrangement is capable of reducing the cost of production, and at the same time enables the work to be done with less fatigue.

FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE fifty-ninth annual Congress of delegates from co-operative societies in the United Kingdom was held at Cheltenham on the 6th, 7th and 8th June, 1927, and was attended by about 1,630 delegates, representing some 566 Societies. There were also representatives from various other bodies in the United Kingdom and from co-operative organisations in Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine. The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a federation of about 1,300 Societies, with an aggregate membership of some 4,850,000. The Congress President was Mr. J. T. Jackson, General Manager of the Gloucester Co-operative Society.

The Chairman of the Labour Committee, in moving the adoption of the Committee's Report to the Congress, called attention to the fact that no labour disputes had occurred in the movement during 1926. "In a year of unparalleled trouble in the industrial world the co-operative movement was in the happy position of peace with its employees in 1926." A resolution was passed expressing "regret that workers employed by co-operative societies were required to cease work during the national strike of 1926," and welcoming "the decision of the Co-operative Union and the General Council of the Trades Union Congress to appoint a joint committee to formulate proposals intended to promote closer harmony between the two movements and to prevent a repetition of events which occurred during the national strike of 1926." Another resolution regretted "that a large number of the societies affiliated to the Co-operative Union have not yet established Joint Advisory Councils, composed of representatives of their management committee and their employees, of the type approved by the Southport (1925) Congress," and now urged all to do so without delay. The question of shop hours was discussed, and a resolution declared:

* *Industrial Fatigue Research Board; Report No. 42.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

"That this Congress views with apprehension the pressure which is being brought to bear upon the Government to amend the Shops (Early Closing) Act by extending the hours of opening. . . ." A resolution calling upon the Co-operative Union to initiate a national scheme of superannuation for co-operative employees was lost in favour of an amendment, which affirmed that societies should initiate schemes for their own employees.

On the Report submitted to the Congress by the Co-operative Party, a resolution was proposed asking the Congress to accept "the agreement reached between the National Committee of the Co-operative Party and the National Executive of the Labour Party," and affirming "that the agreement provides the basis of an amicable understanding between the two movements." The agreement in question is one designed to secure co-operation for political purposes between the two national executives and to avoid the possibility of the two parties opposing each other in the constituencies; it is optional upon local co-operative and labour parties. The resolution was carried on a card vote by 1,960 votes to 1,843.

A resolution proposing that, commencing with the 1927 Congress, any resolution passed at the annual Co-operative Congress should be subject to a referendum of the societies, members of the Co-operative Union, if demanded within 21 days by ten societies, members of the Union, was lost.

The standing orders were suspended to permit the taking of an emergency resolution regarding relations with Russia; and a resolution was carried unanimously: "That this Congress renews its greetings of friendship to Russian co-operators, and urges all sections of the Co-operative Movement to maintain and develop trading relations with the Russian co-operative movement, and to work for the full renewal of peaceful relations with that country."

Other resolutions dealt with the work of the International Co-operative Alliance, with the methods of voting at Congress, and with the rules of the Co-operative Union.

The next Congress is to be held at West Hartlepool in Whit-week, 1928.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.

ENGLAND AND WALES: QUARTER ENDING IN MARCH, 1927.

A STATEMENT* has been issued by the Minister of Health showing the number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in March, 1927 (excluding lunatics in the county and borough asylums, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals), and giving some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of relief.

The total number of persons (men, women and children) in receipt of poor-law relief in England and Wales on the last Saturday in March, 1927, was 1,240,500 (equivalent to 319 per 10,000 of the estimated population), compared with 1,484,000 at the end of December, 1926, 1,240,000 at the end of March, 1926, and 644,000 at the end of March, 1914.

The totals given above include large numbers returned as persons who would ordinarily be employed. Nearly all the relief given to these persons is domiciliary. The following Table, giving comparative figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales for the months of February, 1927, and February, 1926, may therefore be taken to include practically all the "unemployed" persons in receipt of poor-law relief together with their wives and dependent children:—

Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.	England and Wales.	
	Numbers.	Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population.
1. Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts (i.e., persons holding the appropriate form issued by an Employment Exchange) and their dependants	429,000	110
2. Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange, and their dependants	43,000	11
3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants	108,000	28
4. Totals of above three classes:—		
February, 1927	580,000	149
February, 1926	559,000	144
5. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief:—		
February, 1927	485,000	125
February, 1926	482,000	124
6. Totals (all persons in receipt of domiciliary relief):—		
February, 1927	1,065,000	274
February, 1926	1,041,000	268

The 580,000 persons recorded in the first three classes in February, 1927, included 159,000 men, 137,000 women, and 284,000 children. This figure of 580,000 shows a decrease of 910,000 compared with the corresponding total in November, 1926, during the period of the coal dispute.

Statistics relating to the numbers of persons receiving poor-law relief in certain districts in May, 1927, are given on page 237 of this GAZETTE.

* H.M. Stationery Office (32-187-1-27); price 4d. net.

GERMAN LABOUR COURTS ACT.

AN Act, dated 23rd December, 1926, provides for the establishment in Germany of a system of Labour Courts, and for the abolition of the existing Industrial and Commercial Courts* and other bodies at present empowered to deal with certain classes of labour disputes. The powers of the new Labour Courts are wider than those of the Industrial and Commercial Courts, and, unlike these bodies, they are directly connected with the Department of Justice.

The tribunals under the new Act are to be: (1) the local Labour Courts; (2) the State Labour Courts; and (3) the Federal Labour Court. The Labour Courts have jurisdiction, to the exclusion of the ordinary courts, and irrespective of the amount in dispute, in all civil disputes between parties to collective agreements, or between such parties and third parties in disputes arising out of collective agreements, or concerning the existence or non-existence of collective agreements, or between parties competent to make collective agreements or between these parties and third parties with regard to illegal actions, "so far as measures for the purpose of the labour conflict or questions of the right of combination are concerned."† They also have jurisdiction in disputes between employers and workers arising out of employment or apprenticeship, or concerning the existence or non-existence of a contract of employment or apprenticeship, or arising out of illegal actions in so far as these are concerned with employment or apprenticeship, or in disputes arising out of the Works Council Act for which the conciliation committees have hitherto been competent.

The new Labour Courts have no jurisdiction in disputes relating to conditions of employment when they arise out of a claim to vary such conditions. The competent authorities in this class of case are the Conciliation Committees.

The courts of first instance or local Labour Courts, whose area of jurisdiction will normally coincide with that of one or more of the local civil courts,‡ will consist of the requisite number of presidents, vice-presidents and assessors. Each chamber of the Court is to consist of one chairman with one assessor representing the employers and one representing the workers. In cases arising out of collective agreements, the membership of the chamber is to be increased by two assessors, one representing the employers and one the workers. Chambers are to be set up to deal with disputes affecting manual and non-manual workers respectively and special chambers (handicrafts courts) must be set up for disputes relating to handicrafts. Where necessary, special chambers may be set up to deal with disputes in particular occupations and trades or particular groups of workers.

The presidents and vice-presidents are to be appointed by the State Department of Justice, in conjunction with the Supreme State Authority for social administration. They are either to be judges or persons possessing special knowledge of labour matters, preference being given to judges who are ex-chairmen of conciliation committees. They are to be appointed for not less than one year and not more than nine. After holding office for three years, presidents may be appointed for life. Presidents and vice-presidents have the rights and duties of State judicial officials. Assessors are to be appointed by the Higher Administrative Authorities for a period of three years (with due consideration for minority representation) from nomination lists submitted by the local trade associations of employers and workers. Persons appointed as assessors may not refuse to act except for serious (specified) reasons. Assessors receive compensation for travelling expenses and loss of wages or salary arising out of the execution of their office.

Similar regulations apply to the constitution of the State Labour Courts, which are normally to be presided over by judges on the rota of the State Labour Court who are specially qualified by their knowledge of labour matters. The Federal Labour Court will function as a branch of the Federal Court and will consist of presidents chosen from the chief judges of the Federal Court, judicial assessors, and non-judicial assessors, representing employers and workers, appointed by the Federal Minister of Labour in conjunction with the Federal Minister of Justice from nomination lists submitted by the respective national trade organisations.

Assessors representing employers and workers are to have the official title of "Labour Judge," "State Labour Judge" or "Federal Labour Judge," as the case may be.

Disputes are to be settled by judgment or decision.§ The local Labour Courts have jurisdiction in the first instance. Appeal may be made to the State Labour Courts in cases where the amount in dispute exceeds 300 Reichsmarks, or where the local court admits the appeal on account of the importance of the dispute. In special cases appeal may be had from the judgment of the State Labour Courts to the Federal Labour Court. The ordinary procedure is similar to that applicable to civil disputes. It is laid down that legal procedure in all the labour tribunals shall be conducted expeditiously.

Litigants in the local courts may appear in person or be represented by duly accredited members or officials of their respective trade associations. Solicitors or counsel are not permitted to appear on behalf of clients in these courts. Proceedings in the State Labour

Courts may be conducted either by solicitors or counsel or by accredited members or officials of the trade association of the litigant; while in the Federal Labour Court parties to disputes must be legally represented.

Labour Court fees are to be a proportion of the amount involved in the dispute; one mark if the amount involved is 20 marks or less; two marks if the amount is from 20 to 60 marks; three marks if the amount is from 60 to 100 marks, rising by three marks for every additional 100 marks up to a maximum of five hundred marks.

The costs of the local and State Labour Courts are to be borne by the State by which they are established, and the costs of the Federal Labour Court by the Reich.

The last section of the Act contains provisions relating to agreements for excluding the jurisdiction of the labour tribunals. The parties to a collective agreement may, by express agreement, exclude the jurisdiction of the Labour Courts in respect of such agreement, on condition that disputes arising out of the agreement are to be settled by an arbitration court. Such an arbitration agreement is to constitute a bar to all legal proceedings. The arbitration court is normally to consist of an equal number of employers and workers. It may also include impartial persons. The award of the court is given by a simple majority of the members and has the same effect as a judgment of the Labour Court. Appeal for annulment of such award may be made to the Labour Court which would be competent to enforce the award.

The parties capable of entering into an arbitration agreement in connection with labour disputes may also, without excluding the jurisdiction of the Labour Court, agree that legal proceedings may be preceded by conciliation proceedings conducted by persons agreed upon between them. Such a conciliation agreement also constitutes a bar to legal proceedings. The bar is removed after conciliation has failed.

Parties to an agreement who are capable of concluding an arbitration agreement in labour disputes may also, without excluding the jurisdiction of the Labour Court, agree that questions of fact material to the settlement of the dispute shall be decided by expert arbitration (expert arbitration agreement). All questions so settled by arbitration are excluded from the matters requiring proof in the legal proceedings before the Labour Court.

The Act is to come into force on 1st July, 1927, unless the Federal Minister of Labour in conjunction with the Federal Minister of Justice decides on a later date, and the relevant provisions of other Acts will thereafter be repealed. Detailed regulations for the application of the Act are to be issued by the Federal Ministers of Labour and Justice jointly.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF GERMAN INDUSTRIAL CENSUS, 1925.

THE publication of the Federal Statistical Office, *Wirtschaft und Statistik* (No. 4 for the current year), contains provisional results of the German industrial census carried out simultaneously with the quinquennial census of population in June, 1925. The former comprised all industrial and commercial undertakings in Germany (with the exception of the Saar Territory), including establishments owned by Federal, State, communal and other public authorities. The information furnished covers the number of undertakings, the number of workers employed, the horse-power of the machinery in use, and of motor vehicles, watercraft and aircraft utilised in connection with the various undertakings. The most recent comparable figures available are those resulting from the Census of Occupations taken in 1907, but owing to differences in the methods adopted, exact comparisons are in many cases impossible. Moreover, the 1907 figures include those districts ceded to other States under the Peace Treaty of 1919, as well as the Saar Territory. Allowing for these factors, and excluding from the 1925 figures those relating to State, etc., establishments (which were not dealt with in the 1907 census) the figures for the respective years are as follows:—

Total Number of	1907. Present German territory excluding Saar.	1925. Present German territory excluding Saar.	Percentage increase in 1925 compared with 1907.
Industrial undertakings ...	2,983,000	3,412,000	14·4
Employed persons (male) ...	9,993,000	12,488,000	25·0
Employed persons (female) ...	3,282,000	4,565,000	39·1
Total employed persons (male and female) ...	13,275,000	17,053,000	28·5

While the total population of Germany (excluding the Saar) is stated to have increased by 13·5 per cent between 1907 and 1925,* it will be seen from the above figures that the number of persons employed in industry and commerce increased by 28·5 per cent. It is pointed out, however, that this census was taken in a period of considerable industrial prosperity, and that, owing to the subsequent economic depression, the number of manual and non-manual workers in employment is now about one million less than it was in June, 1925.

The total number of undertakings and employed persons (including those categories disregarded in the above table in order to afford a comparison with the 1907 figures) are stated to be respectively 3,455,111 and 18,388,696.

* The total population of Germany (excluding the Saar), according to the provisional results of the 1925 population census, was 62,539,098 (Supplement No. 2, *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, 1925).

* These courts were State or communal institutions of old standing which were not connected with the Department of Justice. They existed primarily to adjust individual disputes and claims, but, on the request of both parties to a collective dispute, they could act as boards of conciliation and arbitration. Neither the industrial courts nor the nominated boards of conciliation possessed powers to enforce their decisions. Later, under the Conciliation Order of 30th October, 1923, in order to lighten the work of the conciliation committees, all "individual" disputes were transferred to these courts, pending the establishment of the Labour Courts.

† The conciliation committees appointed under the order of 30th October, 1923, are the competent bodies for assisting in the conclusion of collective agreements.

‡ In setting up local Labour Courts, regard is to be had, wherever possible, to the areas of jurisdiction of the former Industrial and Commercial Courts.

§ Decisions are given in cases arising under the Works Council Act.

ITALIAN LABOUR CHARTER.

THE *Gazzetta Ufficiale* for 30th April, 1927, contains the text of a "Labour Charter" drafted by the Italian Prime Minister and other Ministers, in accordance with a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Fascist Grand Council held in January last. This document, which has no legislative effect, is intended as a definition of the rights and duties of citizens and groups of citizens towards the Fascist State as a whole. Certain sections have already found expression in recent legislation, e.g., the regulation of collective labour relations and the co-ordination of the corporate organisations of employers and workers*; while, according to a statement recently made by the Prime Minister, legislative effect will shortly be given to the clauses of the Charter dealing with collective labour agreements, employment exchanges, and social welfare work.

The full text of the Charter is as follows:—

The Corporative State and its Organisation.

1. The Italian Nation is an organism having aims, life and modes of action superior in power and duration to those of the separate individuals or groups composing it. It is a moral, political and economic unity, which is integrally realised in the Fascist State.

2. Labour in all its organising and executive forms, intellectual, technical and manual, is a social duty. This constitutes its sole and only title to be protected by the State.

The whole body of production is unitary from the national point of view: its objects are unitary and are summed up in the well-being of individuals and the development of the power of the nation.

3. Occupational and trade organisation is free. But only trade associations which are legally recognised and placed under the supervision of the State have the right to represent legally the whole category of employers or workers for which they are constituted, to safeguard their interests in relation to the State and to the other occupational associations, to conclude collective labour agreements which are binding on all persons belonging to each category, to collect contributions from them, and to exercise on their behalf delegated functions of public interest.

4. The solidarity between the various factors of production finds its concrete expression in the collective labour agreement, by means of the conciliation of the opposing interests of the employers and workers, and their subordination to the higher interests of production.

5. The Labour Courts are the organs by means of which the State intervenes to settle labour disputes, whether they turn on the observance of agreements or other existing rules, or on the determination of new conditions of labour.

6. The legally recognised trade associations will ensure juridical equality between employers and workers, and maintain and endeavour to perfect the discipline of production and labour.

The corporations constitute the unitary organisation of the forces of production and completely represent its interests.

By reason of this complete representation and inasmuch as the interests of production are national interests, the corporations are legally recognised as State organs.

As representing the unitary interests of production, the corporations may prescribe compulsory rules to govern labour relations and also to co-ordinate production, whenever so authorised by the conjoint associations.

7. The Corporative State considers private enterprise in the field of production the most efficacious and useful instrument in the interests of the Nation.

Since the private organisation of production is a function of national interest, the organiser of an undertaking is responsible to the State for the direction of production. From the collaboration of productive forces is derived a reciprocity of rights and duties. The worker, whether technical, non-manual or manual, is an active collaborator in the economic undertaking, the direction of which devolves upon the employer, whose responsibility it is.

8. Trade associations of employers are required to promote in every way the increase and improvement of production and the reduction of costs. The representatives of persons engaged in a liberal profession or an art and associations of public employees will co-operate in safeguarding the interests of art, science and literature, in the improvement of production, and in the fulfilment of the moral objects of the corporative order.

9. The State will intervene in economic production only when private enterprise is lacking or is inadequate, or when the political interests of the State are at stake. Such intervention may assume the form of supervision, encouragement or direct management.

10. In the case of collective labour disputes, recourse may not be had to legal action until the corporative organ has previously made efforts at conciliation.

In individual disputes concerning the interpretation and application of collective labour agreements, trade associations have the right to interpose their services for conciliation.

The ordinary courts are competent to deal with such disputes with the assistance of assessors nominated by the trade associations concerned.

Collective Labour Agreements and Labour Guarantees.

11. Trade associations are required to regulate, by means of collective agreements, labour relations between the categories of employers and workers whom they represent.

* See this GAZETTE, June, 1926, page 207, and October, 1926 page 366.

The collective labour agreement is concluded between associations of the first grade, under the direction and supervision of the central organisations, subject to substitution by the higher grade association in cases provided for by law and the articles of association.

Every collective labour agreement must, under penalty of nullification, contain precise rules concerning disciplinary relations, periods of probation, the rates and methods of payment of wages, and hours of work.

12. Trade association action, the conciliatory activities of the corporative organs and the awards of the Labour Courts will ensure that wages are commensurate with the normal requirements of life, with the possibilities of production, and with the output of labour.

The determination of wages is not governed by any general rules, but is subject to agreement between the parties to collective agreements.

13. The data collected by Public Departments, by the Central Statistical Institute, and by legally recognised trade associations, concerning conditions of production and labour, the state of the money market, and variations in the workers' standard of living, after having been co-ordinated and prepared by the Ministry of Corporations, will serve as the criterion for the mutual adjustment of the interests of the various categories and classes among themselves and of these interests with the higher interests of production.

14. Remuneration should be paid in the manner most suitable to the requirements of the worker and the undertaking.

When wages are paid on a piece-work basis, and the settlement of the piece account takes place over periods of more than a fortnight, adequate fortnightly or weekly payments on account must be made.

Night work not included in regular periodical shifts must be paid at a higher rate than day work.

When wages are paid on a piece-work basis, the rates must be calculated in such a manner that a diligent worker of normal capacity may be enabled to secure minimum earnings higher than the basic wage.

15. The worker is entitled to a weekly rest day coinciding with Sunday.

Collective agreements will apply this principle, taking into account existing laws and the technical requirements of the undertaking, and, subject to these requirements, will further ensure that civil and religious holidays are respected in accordance with local traditions. The time-table must be scrupulously and rigidly observed by the workers.

16. After one year's unbroken service, workers in undertakings working the year round have the right to an annual period of paid holiday.

17. In undertakings working the year round, the worker, if dismissed through no fault of his own, has the right to an indemnity proportionate to his years of service. Such indemnity is also due in the event of the death of the worker.

18. In undertakings working the year round, the transfer of the ownership of the undertaking does not terminate the labour agreement, and the staff employed therein retain their rights under the new proprietor. Similarly, the sickness of the worker, if it does not exceed a certain period, does not terminate the labour agreement. Recall to the army or militia does not constitute a cause of dismissal.

19. Breaches of discipline and acts which disturb the normal working of the undertaking, committed by the worker, are punished, according to the gravity of the offence, by fine, suspension from duty, or, in the case of more serious offences, by summary dismissal without indemnity.

The cases in which the employer may inflict fines, or may suspend or summarily dismiss a worker without indemnity, will be specified.

20. A newly engaged worker is subject to a period of probation, during which the right to cancel the agreement may be exercised by either party, subject only to payment of remuneration for the time during which work was actually performed.

21. The benefits and discipline of collective agreements are also applicable to home workers. Special rules will be prescribed by the State to ensure cleanliness and hygiene in home work.

Employment Exchanges.

22. The State investigates and supervises the phenomenon of employment and unemployment among the workers, which together form an index of the conditions of production and labour.

23. Employment exchanges are set up on a joint basis under the supervision of the corporative organs of the State. Employers are required to engage workers through these exchanges. They are at liberty to select from the persons on the registers, giving preference to members of the Fascist party and trade unions, according to seniority of registration.

24. Workers' trade associations are required to exercise a selective action among the workers with the view of improving progressively their technical ability and moral qualities.

25. The corporative organs ensure the observance of laws for the prevention of accidents, and of labour regulations as regards the various members of the conjoint associations.

Insurance, Social Assistance and Education.

26. Insurance is a lofty manifestation of the principle of collaboration. The employer and the worker must contribute proportionately to the cost thereof. The State, through the medium of the corporative organs and the trade associations, will seek to co-ordinate and standardise, as far as possible, the insurance system and institutions.

27. The Fascist State proposes—

- (1) To perfect the accident insurance system.
- (2) To improve and extend maternity insurance.
- (3) To introduce a system of insurance against occupational diseases and tuberculosis, with a view to the inauguration of a general system of insurance against all diseases.
- (4) To perfect the system of insurance against involuntary unemployment.
- (5) To adopt special forms of insurance for the endowment of young workers.

28. It is the task of the workers' associations to safeguard the interests of their members in administrative and legal matters in connection with accident insurance and social insurance.

Collective labour agreements will, whenever technically possible, provide for the setting up of mutual sickness benefit funds to which employers and workers will contribute, to be administered by representatives of both parties under the supervision of the corporative organs.

29. It is the right and the duty of the trade associations to assist the persons they represent, whether members or not. The former must exercise their functions of assistance directly: they may not delegate them to other bodies or institutions except for purposes of a general character which go beyond the sphere of interest of the individual categories.

30. One of the chief duties of the trade associations is the education and instruction, in especial the technical instruction, of the persons they represent, whether members or not. They must support the activities of the National Workers' Spare-Time Institutes and other educational schemes.

WAGES IN THE METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES IN THE NETHERLANDS.

THE April issue of the *Maandschrift*, the journal of the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, contains particulars of the wages paid and the hours worked in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries of the Netherlands, from which the Tables given below are extracted. (Corresponding details for earlier periods were published in this GAZETTE for May and July, 1926). The data relate to 102 undertakings employing 36,030 workers, of whom 28,772 were adults. Of the latter number, 13,505 were skilled, 8,970 semi-skilled, and 6,297 unskilled workers.

The following Table affords a comparison of the actual hourly earnings of adult workmen of the above mentioned categories during the second half of 1926, compared with the average of the hourly rates actually paid at 1st January, 1927, and the average minimum hourly wage recognised by the *Metaalbond* (an association of employers in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries).

For the purpose of regulating wages, the various centres of the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in the Netherlands have been divided by the *Metaalbond* into four groups. Class I includes Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Schiedam; Class II, Utrecht, Haarlem, Dordrecht, Hengelo, Flushing, etc.; Class III, Breda, Winschoten, Deventer, Kinderdijk, etc.; while Class IV comprises less important towns.

Class of Town.	Skilled.			Semi-skilled.			Unskilled.		
	Actual Earnings per Hour during second half of 1926.*	Average of the Hourly Rates actually paid at 1st January, 1927.	Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the <i>Metaalbond</i> .	Actual Earnings per Hour during second half of 1926.*	Average of the Hourly Rates actually paid at 1st January, 1927.	Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the <i>Metaalbond</i> .	Actual Earnings per Hour during second half of 1926.*	Average of the Hourly Rates actually paid at 1st January, 1927.	Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the <i>Metaalbond</i> .
Cents.†									
I	70	57	54	65	53	47	54	46	40
II	65	54	50	56	47	43	51	44	36
III	58	52	47	49	43	40	43	39	33
IV	59	51	45	52	46	38	41	37	31

The next Table contains particulars of the average hourly earnings of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled adult workmen in these industries in six towns during the second half of 1926, showing the class to which each town belongs and the number of workpeople concerned.

Name of Town.	Class of Town.	Skilled.		Semi-skilled.		Unskilled.	
		Number of Work-people.	Average Hourly Earn-ings.	Number of Work-people.	Average Hourly Earn-ings.	Number of Work-people.	Average Hourly Earn-ings.
			Cents.†		Cents.†		Cents.†
Amsterdam	I	2,328	76	1,154	69	701	59
Rotterdam	I	5,042	68	2,908	64	2,826	53
Hengelo -	II	1,291	67	921	58	378	52
Haarlem -	II	601	68	374	63	258	52
Flushing -	II	896	61	409	53	312	44
Kinderdijk	III	268	55	172	48	56	45

* These are the rates shown in the middle column under each category, increased by payments for piecework, contract work, bonuses, etc., including payments for overtime.

† 100 cents = 1 Gulden (or florin) = 1s. 8d. approximately.

EARNINGS AND HOURS IN THE UNITED STATES.

FOUNDRIES AND MACHINE SHOPS IN 1925.

THE United States Bureau of Labour Statistics have published the results* of an inquiry made in the spring of 1925 into earnings and hours of labour in representative foundries and machine shops. The foundries covered by the inquiry were mainly engaged in the production of castings which go to machine shops of the kind investigated. The latter shops were producing engines, machines for mines, saw mills, cotton ginning and textile factories, for excavating, roadbuilding, hoisting, steel mills and rolling mills; ice, brick, rubber, shoe and sugar making machinery, conveyers, pumps, printing presses, and other machinery of like nature.

Particulars as to hours and earnings in 1925 were obtained in respect of 40,393 foundry workers and of 86,274 machine shop workers employed in 413 foundries and 511 machine shops.

The following Table shows for some of the principal occupations and for all workpeople covered by the inquiry (including those not separately specified) the average full-time hours per week and the average earnings per hour and per week at the period of the investigation:—

Occupation.	Sex.	Average full-time hours per week.	Average Earnings per hour.	Average full-time earnings per week.
I.—FOUNDRIES.				
Moulders, hand, bench ...	Male	50.2	·768	38.55
" hand, floor ...	"	50.4	·802	40.42
" machine ...	"	50.1	·733	36.72
Pattern makers ...	"	50.4	·804	40.52
Chippers and rough grinders ...	"	51.5	·521	26.83
Core makers ...	"	50.3	·734	36.92
Labourers ...	"	52.5	·481	25.25
All occupations† ...	"	51.5	·612	31.52
" " ...	Female	49.0	·427	20.92
All occupations† ...	Both Sexes	51.5	·610	31.42
II.—MACHINE SHOPS.				
Drill presshands and operators	Male	50.4	·579	29.18
Assemblers ...	"	49.6	·634	31.45
Fitters and bench hands ...	"	49.8	·643	32.02
Lathe hands and operators:—				
Engine ...	"	50.3	·663	33.35
Turret ...	"	50.2	·647	32.48
Machinists ...	"	49.9	·702	35.03
Milling machine hands and operators ...	"	49.7	·653	32.45
Planerhands and operators ...	"	50.2	·705	35.39
Toolmakers ...	"	50.0	·727	36.35
Labourers ...	"	50.6	·456	23.07
All occupations† ...	"	50.4	·604	30.44
" " ...	Female	49.3	·420	20.71
All occupations† ...	Both Sexes	50.4	·602	30.34

As compared with 1923, when a similar inquiry was made, there was an average reduction of nine-tenths of an hour in the weekly full-time working hours in foundries and of four-tenths of an hour in machine shops. The average hourly earnings per head rose in the same period by 5.2 cents in foundries and by 4.3 cents in machine shops.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 27,500 employers on the King's National Roll. Enrolled employers include Government Departments and Government industrial establishments, Local Authorities, railway companies, electricity, gas and water authorities, and most of the large industrial and commercial undertakings in the country.

The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by enrolled employers is approximately 380,000.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 31st May, 1927, the number of men in training was 244, and the number awaiting training, 80. Since August, 1919, 100,141 men have terminated training.

* *Bulletin of the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics, No. 422. Wages and Hours of Labour in Foundries and Machine Shops, 1925.* Washington, January, 1927.

† Including certain occupations not separately specified in this Table.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	63%
Food only	...	...	54%

FOOD.

At 1st June the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food was about the same as a month earlier, small increases in the average prices of flour and bread and potatoes being counterbalanced by small reductions in the average prices of fish, milk and butter.

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 54 per cent. at 1st June, 1927, as compared with 54 per cent. a month ago, and 58 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 30th April and 1st June, 1927:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ½d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 1st June, 1927, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	30th April, 1927.	1st June, 1927.	July, 1914.	30th April, 1927.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	s. d. 0 10	s. d. 1 4½	s. d. 1 4½	+ 0 6½	...
Thin Flank	0 6½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 2½	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 2½	...
Thin Flank	0 4½	0 5	0 5	+ 0 0½	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 6½	1 6½	+ 0 7½	...
Breast	0 6½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3½	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 4½	...
Breast	0 4	0 4½	0 4½	+ 0 0½	...
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11½	1 5	1 5½	+ 0 6	+ 0 0½
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 5½	1 5½	+ 0 7½	+ 0 0½
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 4	+ 0 0½
Tea ...	1 6½	2 4½	2 4½	+ 0 10½	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3½	0 3½	+ 0 1½	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 2	— 0 0½
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	1 9½	1 9½	+ 0 6½	— 0 0½
Salt	1 2½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 6½	...
Cheese† ...	0 8½	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 4	...
Margarine ...	0 7	0 7½	0 7½	+ 0 0½	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 1½	0 1½	+ 0 0½	...
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 8	0 8½	+ 0 3½	+ 0 0½

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st June, 1927, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 30th Apr., 1927.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	70	66	68	67
Thin Flank	38	39	39	39
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	32	31	31	31
Thin Flank	1	8	5	5
Mutton, British—				
Legs	74	75	75	75
Breast	54	51	53	53
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	67	60	63	64
Breast	18	19	19	19
Bacon (streaky)*	54	53	53	52
Fish ...	115	92	104	115
Flour ...	64	69	66	65
Bread ...	69	66	67	65
Tea ...	51	59	55	55
Sugar (granulated) ...	94	81	88	88
Milk ...	55	63	59	63
Butter—				
Fresh	46	48	47	50
Salt	45	44	44	45
Cheese† ...	46	49	48	47
Margarine ...	10	5	8	8
Eggs (fresh) ...	24	15	19	18
Potatoes ...	86	57	71	65
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	55	53	54	54

* 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 (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st June, 1927, was approximately 51 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 June the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged between 110 and 115 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group, prices of coal showed a further decline, and at 1st June were, on the average, between 70 and 75 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The price of gas remained about 70 per cent. dearer than in July, 1914. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st June, as compared with July, 1914, was about 75 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 June is, approximately, **63 per cent.*** over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. at 30th April, 1927, and 68 per cent. at 1st June, 1926.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1927 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 readjustments 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 those 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: 1918 TO 1927.

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, 1918:—

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

Month.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Jan. ...	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75
Feb. ...	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72
Mar. ...	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71
April ...	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	65
May ...	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	64
June ...	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	63
July ...	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	...
Aug. ...	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	...
Sept. ...	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	...
Oct. ...	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	...
Nov. ...	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	...
Dec. ...	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	...

Figures for dates prior to 1918, together with the average increases for each of the five main groups of items (i.e., food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items) month by month from January, 1915, to December, 1925, are published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics" (Cmd. 2740).

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 MAY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed continued improvement in almost every industry. The improvement was again most marked in those industries in which unemployment nevertheless remained severe, such as shipbuilding, marine engineering, public works contracting, and the hand tool and cutlery industry. In the building and clothing industries there was a further seasonal improvement and employment was good on the whole. There was also an improvement in general engineering, in the wool textile industry, in textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., and in the boot and shoe industry. In the coal-mining industry both the numbers wholly unemployed and the numbers temporarily stopped showed a slight decrease as compared with 25th April, but employment remained slack on the whole. Employment in the tinplate industry and among workers in the canal, river, dock, etc., service continued bad, and was worse than in the previous month.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 12,000,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 23rd May, 1927 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 8·8 as compared with 9·4 at 25th April, 1927, and 14·3 at 24th May, 1926. For males alone the percentage at 23rd May was 10·0, as compared with 10·8 at 25th April, 1927; for females the corresponding figures were 5·3 and 5·7. The percentage wholly unemployed declined from 7·2 at 25th April to 6·7 at 23rd May. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 30th May, 1927, was approximately 1,015,000, of whom 823,000 were men and 136,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 25th April, 1927, it was 1,075,000, of whom 867,000 were men and 144,000 were women; and at 31st May, 1926, it was 1,675,000, of whom 1,246,000 were men and 333,000 were women.

The following Table shows, month by month since May, 1926, the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Month.	Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among Insured Workpeople.					Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.
	Males.	Females.	Males and Females.			
			Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	Total.	
1926.						
May	14·9	12·6	8·7	5·6	14·3*	1,675,000*
June	15·4	12·2	9·0	5·6	14·6*	1,699,000*
July	15·1	12·7	8·9	5·5	14·4*	1,664,000*
August	14·9	11·6	9·0	5·0	14·0*	1,606,000*
September ...	14·7	11·0	9·0	4·7	13·7*	1,582,000*
October	14·8	10·3	9·3	4·3	13·6*	1,610,000*
November ...	14·8	10·0	9·4	4·1	13·5*	1,545,000*
December† ...	13·1	8·4	9·1	2·8	11·9*	1,357,000*
1927.						
January	13·3	8·5	9·5	2·6	12·1*	1,375,000
February	12·2	7·5	8·8	2·1	10·9	1,208,000
March	11·2	6·2	7·9	2·0	9·9	1,115,000
April	10·8	5·7	7·2	2·2	9·4	1,075,000
May	10·0	5·3	6·7	2·1	8·8	1,015,000

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In coal-mining employment continued slack. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 28th May, 1927, was 1,025,670, a decrease of 0·3 per cent. as compared with April; the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th May was 4·63, as compared with 5·04 in April.

In the iron mining industry the total number of workpeople employed in the mines from which returns were received showed no change as compared with the previous month, but there was a decline in the number of days worked per week in the Cleveland district. In the shale mines in West Lothian there was a slight decrease in the workpeople employed as compared with April, 1927, and a decrease of 2·3 per cent. compared with May, 1926. Employment at limestone quarries continued good in the Weardale district, and fair in the Clitheroe district. At slate quarries in North Wales it improved, and was reported as good. At chalk quarries it remained very slack. At tin mines it continued good; at china clay quarries it was still moderate, on the whole.

Manufacture of Pig-Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed a further improvement, in spite of the fact that, of a total of 464 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of May, 1927, was 184, compared with 189 in April, 1927, and with 23 in May, 1926.

In the iron and steel trades employment continued slack on the

whole, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade employment was bad, and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month. The number of mills in operation at the end of May was 470, as compared with 541 in April, 1927, and with 264 in May, 1926.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment was still slack, on the whole, but continued to show an improvement in all sections, while in the motor vehicle and electrical sections it remained fairly good. It was very bad in marine engineering, and much short time was worked in the textile machinery section; in railway engineering little time was lost, and at some works overtime was reported. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment continued to improve, but was still very bad on the whole. In the other metal trades employment remained moderate on the whole. It was fairly good in the nut and bolt, lock and latch, and hollow-ware trades; fair in the sheet metal, tube, and file trades; moderate in the stove and grate, brass-work, needle and fishing tackle, and cutlery trades; and slack in the key, wire, metallic bedstead, chain and anchor, jewellery and plated ware trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade showed little change on the whole as compared with the previous month.

In the American spinning section employment was reported to represent about 75 per cent. of full time working; in the Egyptian spinning section nearly full time working continued general; in the weaving department there was still much under-employment, except with manufacturers of fine and fancy cloths, who were generally busy.

In the wool textile trade there was a further improvement in the woollen section, particularly in the heavy woollen branch; in the worsted section there was a slight decline in the wool sorting and combing and in the spinning departments, but a slight improvement in the weaving department.

In the hosiery trade employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, employment was fairly good; in the lace trade it showed an improvement; in the linen trade it also showed a further improvement, and was fairly good, on the whole; in the jute trade there was a marked decline. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment improved slightly, but was still slack.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade continued to improve, and was good generally. In the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch of the trade, employment was also good on the whole; a shortage of skilled labour was reported from several districts. The seasonal improvement in the dress-making and millinery trades continued, and employment was good generally. In the corset, and shirt and collar trades employment continued fairly good in most districts. In the felt-hat trade, employment continued good, with very little short time working. In the boot and shoe industry, employment showed a considerable improvement in all departments, and in all districts except Scotland.

Leather Trades.—Employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the tanning and currying section, it continued fair; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections it was moderate; with saddlery and harness makers it was slack.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a further improvement, and was generally good with skilled operatives, and fair with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations, employment was very good with bricklayers; with plasterers it improved, and was also very good in most centres. With masons, carpenters and joiners, it continued to improve, and was good in most districts; with slaters, it was fairly good; with plumbers it was moderate. Employment was again better with painters and decorators and was very good generally with skilled men; it improved, and was fair, on the whole, with tradesmen's labourers. With brickmakers employment continued good.

Employment in the furnishing trades, with millsawyers, and with coachbuilders improved during the month and was fairly good; with coopers it also improved, but was still poor; with packing-case makers it continued bad.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper trade, employment showed some improvement, and was fairly good on the whole. With letterpress printers, employment continued moderate; with electrotypes and stereotypers it was very good in London and at Manchester, and better than during April; in the lithographic printing trade it continued fair, on the whole; at Liverpool and Manchester, however, it was still bad. In the bookbinding trade employment remained moderate on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trade in North Staffordshire showed a slight improvement, and some sections were fairly well employed. In the glass trade employment was moderate on the whole but showed an improvement, particularly in the bottle making branch.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour at the end of May was quite sufficient for the demand, and little unemployment was reported. In the fishing industry employment showed a further improvement.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers declined slightly and was bad; with seamen employment was moderate to fair: the number of engagements showed an increase as compared with the previous month.

* In the coal-mining industry only those unemployed persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the trade dispute were taken into account in the unemployment statistics.

† For insured workpeople and for numbers registered the figures relate to 20th December, 1926.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts. It will be seen that in Great Britain the rates of unemployment continue to be highest in the areas which include the greatest proportions of coal mining and the heavy iron and steel industries :—

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1926. (Totals.)	Percentage Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,105,400	6.2	3.4	5.3	—0.5	—2.7
South-Eastern ...	840,200	4.4	3.1	4.1	—0.6	—2.4
South-Western ...	810,900	7.0	4.0	6.4	—0.8	—2.6
Midlands ...	1,777,400	9.1	6.4	8.3	—1.2	—5.2
North-Eastern ...	2,020,500	13.7	6.5	12.2	—1.3	—6.4
North-Western ...	2,145,700	10.8	6.4	9.4	...	—8.2
Scotland ...	1,323,100	11.4	6.3	10.0	—0.6	—8.4
Wales ...	626,800	16.7	5.3	15.6	+0.9	—6.0
Northern Ireland	266,000	17.0	5.4	12.5	—0.7	—12.4
Special Schemes	125,000	1.8	0.4	1.3	—0.1	—0.5
TOTAL ...	12,041,000	10.0	5.3	8.8	—0.6	—5.5

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

TABLE SHOWING, BY DIVISIONAL AREAS, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 1927.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Num-ber.	Per-centages of numbers insured at July, 1926.
South-Eastern :						
(a) London ...	1,696	5,729	2,621	5,605	15,651	0.74
(b) Rest of South						
Eastern ...	1,573	2,763	1,034	2,116	7,486	0.89
South-Western ...	1,513	2,192	1,075	1,562	6,342	0.78
Midlands ...	1,287	4,430	1,087	3,946	10,750	0.60
North-Eastern ...	1,554	5,450	1,328	3,437	11,769	0.58
North-Western ...	1,424	4,485	1,606	3,955	11,470	0.53
Scotland ...	1,132	3,408	967	2,871	8,378	0.63
Wales ...	573	2,042	512	615	3,742	0.60
GREAT BRITAIN ...	10,752	30,499	10,230	24,107	75,588	0.65

The above figures are exclusive of cases in which, as the result of systematic search, duplication of applications has been discovered.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to employment, 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 May, 1927.	May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	
			Month before.	Year before.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	1,025,670	4.63	—0.41	*
Iron " ...	7,347	5.56	—0.20	*
Shale " ...	2,710	5.75	—0.07	—0.11
		Furnaces in Blast.	Number.	Number.
Pig Iron ...	...	184	—5	+161
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	...	Mills working. 470	—71	+206
		Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel ...	74,722	405,825	—0.5	+172.5

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Textiles :—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton ...	80,520	+0.0	+3.3	150,864	+0.5	+11.5
Woollen ...	64,452	+1.1	+6.4	138,386	+2.8	+19.8
Worsted ...	89,551	—0.0	+1.3	172,849	—0.3	+6.0
Carpet ...	9,890	+0.6	+2.0	18,501	+1.9	+5.3
Boot and Shoe ...	50,258	+1.0	+6.8	123,054	+4.9	+18.9
Pottery ...	10,800	+1.1	+29.8	20,706	+2.0	+53.6
Brick ...	9,490	+0.7	+20.9	26,696	+0.6	+32.1

* Statistics not available. In May, 1926, there was a general stoppage of work at coal mines and most of the iron mines were closed.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

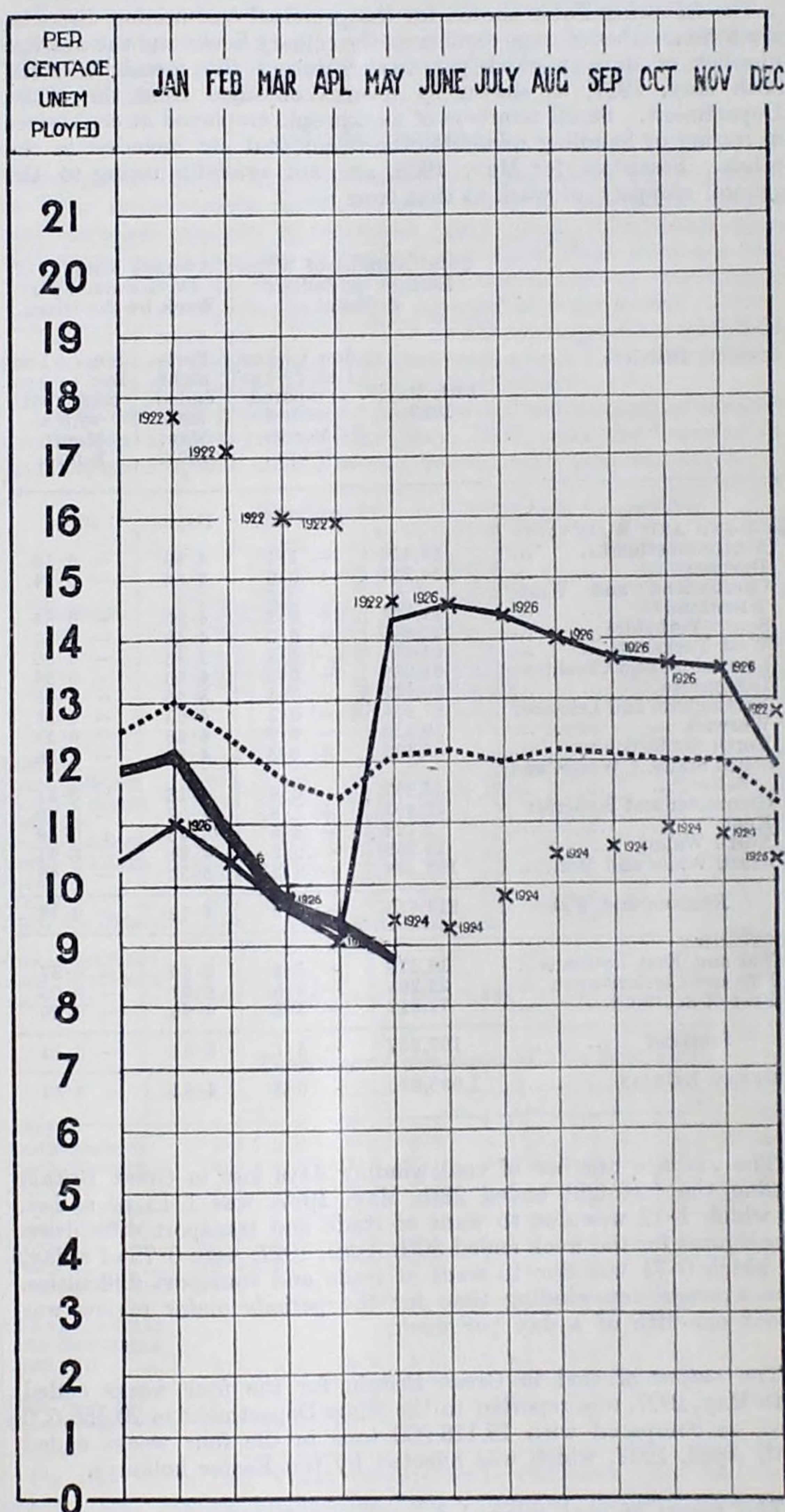
PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS :—

Thick Curve - - - - - = 1927.

Dotted Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1922-26.

Thin Curve - - - - - = 1926.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-1926.



NOTE.—From May to December, the curve for 1926 and the curve showing the mean for the years 1922-26 are influenced by the heavy increase in unemployment in those months due to the stoppage in the coal-mining industry of last year. The diagram shows that while the percentage rates of unemployment in January and February, 1927, were higher than those for the corresponding months of 1926, this difference had almost disappeared in March and April, and the downward trend of the curve continued during May. For the whole period of five months the rates were well below the mean for the past five years. The figures for the first two months of 1927 were still affected in some industries by the results of the coal-mining dispute and also by a comparatively high rate of unemployment in coal mining itself. The influence of the latter factor remained at the end of May.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed 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.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued slack. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17·2 at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 17·8 at 25th April, 1927.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 28th May, 1927, showed a decrease of 0·3 per cent., as compared with 30th April, 1927, and the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927, was 4·63, a decrease of 0·41 of a day as compared with the week ending 30th April, 1927.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927, as shown by returns obtained from the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals. Statistics for May, 1926, are not available owing to the general stoppage of work at that time:—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*	
	28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as compared with a Month before.	Fortnight ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as compared with a Month before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:				
Northumberland...	54,430	– 1·1	4·96	– 0·18
Durham ...	134,537	+ 0·0	4·84	– 0·24
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	11,794	+ 0·2	4·98	– 0·54
South Yorkshire ...	120,843	+ 0·0	4·58	– 0·50
West Yorkshire ...	63,354	– 1·1	3·86	– 0·50
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	91,069	+ 0·3	4·08	– 0·54
Derbyshire ...	60,662	+ 0·3	3·55	– 0·65
Nottingham and Leicester ...	67,534	+ 0·1	4·03	– 0·18
Warwick ...	19,130	– 0·9	4·88	– 0·35
North Staffordshire ...	33,129	+ 0·3	4·58	– 0·56
South Staffs.,† Wores. and Salop ...	33,997	– 0·9	4·13	– 0·81
Gloucester and Somerset ...	11,891	+ 1·8	4·07	– 0·79
Kent ...	2,124	– 3·4	5·45	+ 0·59
North Wales ...	15,965	– 0·2	4·91	– 0·93
South Wales and Mon. ...	197,354	+ 0·2	5·31	– 0·48
England and Wales	917,813	+ 0·0	4·59	– 0·44
SCOTLAND:				
Mid and East Lothians...	13,379	– 3·8	5·20	– 0·37
Fife and Clackmannan ...	23,266	– 0·6	5·07	– 0·03
Rest of Scotland...	71,212	– 3·8	4·95	– 0·09
Scotland ...	107,857	– 3·1	5·01	– 0·11
GREAT BRITAIN ...	1,025,670	– 0·3	4·63	– 0·41

The average number of coal winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927, was 1·15 of a day, of which 1·12 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the week ended 30th April, 1927, were 0·75 of a day, of which 0·71 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for the periods under review was about one-fifth of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 28th May, 1927, was reported to the Mines Department as 20,355,600 tons, as compared with 19,118,200 tons in the four weeks ended 30th April, 1927, which was affected by the Easter holidays.

The export of coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,507,600 tons in May, as compared with 5,669,800 tons in April, 1927.

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

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.

† Including Cannock Chase.

Area.	Percentage Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in percentages as compared with			
	Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).	Temporary stoppages.	Total.	A month before.			Two years before.
				Wholly Unemployed.	Temporary stoppages.	Total.	
ENGLAND AND WALES:							
Northumberland	9·3	2·0	11·3	+ 0·6	– 1·5	– 0·9	– 14·7
Durham ...	17·0	5·2	22·2	– 1·1	+ 4·2	+ 3·1	+ 1·1
Cumberland and Westmorland	3·2	2·0	5·2	– 0·3	+ 1·9	+ 1·6	– 12·3
Yorkshire ...	3·6	6·4	10·0	+ 0·3	– 7·0	– 6·7	+ 4·4
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6·0	13·7	19·7	+ 0·2	+ 5·1	+ 5·3	+ 4·2
Derbyshire ...	2·8	26·6	29·4	+ 0·1	– 9·2	– 9·1	+ 16·0
Notts and Leicester ...	2·1	10·5	12·6	– 0·1	– 7·8	– 7·9	– 5·9
Warwick ...	2·6	1·9	4·5	+ 0·1	+ 1·9	+ 2·0	+ 3·3
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	4·7	10·5	15·2	+ 0·2	+ 2·1	+ 2·3	+ 8·8
Glos. and Somerset ...	8·5	4·1	12·6	– 0·8	– 8·1	– 8·9	– 4·7
Kent ...	4·3	0·5	4·8	+ 1·3	– 3·2	– 1·9	– 1·5
Wales and Monmouth ...	12·6	7·3	19·9	– 1·2	+ 3·2	+ 2·0	+ 3·5
England and Wales ...	8·7	8·6	17·3	– 0·3	– 0·4	– 0·7	+ 2·5
SCOTLAND ...	12·2	4·8	17·0	+ 0·8	– 0·4	+ 0·4	– 5·8
GREAT BRITAIN	9·1	8·1	17·2	– 0·2	– 0·4	– 0·6	+ 1·4

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

THE total number of workpeople employed in the mines from which returns were received showed no change compared with the previous month. There was a substantial decline, however, in the average number of days worked per week by the mines in the Cleveland district.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7·9 at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 9·6 at 25th April, 1927, and 61·0 at 24th May, 1926.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for April and May, 1927. In May, 1926, most of the mines were closed owing to the stoppage of work at coal mines.

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*	
	Fortnight ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as compared with a Month before.	Fortnight ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) as compared with a Month before.
		Per cent.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,943	– 1·5	5·07	– 0·41
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	3,031	+ 1·6	6·00	...
Other Districts ...	1,373	– 0·1	5·61	+ 0·22
ALL DISTRICTS ...	7,347	+ 0·0	5·56	– 0·20

SHALE MINING.

According to the returns received, 2,710 workpeople were employed in the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927, a decrease of 0·3 per cent. compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 2·3 per cent. compared with May, 1926. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines from which returns were received was 5·75 in May, 1927, compared with 5·82 in April, 1927, and 5·86 in May, 1926.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed some further improvement during May.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11·5 on 23rd May, 1927 (including 2·5 per cent. temporarily stopped), compared with 13·5 on 25th April, 1927 (including 3·7 per cent. temporarily stopped), and with 58·4 on 24th May, 1926.

* See footnote * in previous column.

EMPLOYMENT during May was bad on the whole, and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month. At the end of May, 470 tinplate and steel-sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 541 in the previous month and with 264 in May, 1926. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 19·9 on 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 10·9 on 25th April, 1927, and with 75·3 on 24th May, 1926.

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	63	- 11	+ 26	343	- 63	+ 166
Steel Sheet	13	...	+ 5	127	- 18	+ 40
TOTAL ...	76	- 11	+ 31	470	- 71	+ 206

EMPLOYMENT during May was still slack on the whole, but continued to show improvement in all sections, while in the motor vehicle and electrical sections it remained fairly good. Conditions were still very bad in marine engineering, and much short time was still worked in the textile machinery section; but in railway engineering little time was lost, overtime being reported at some works.

Conditions were much better than in the corresponding period of last year when employment was seriously affected by the general strike and the stoppage in the coal mining industry.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16·5 on 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 17·3 on 25th April, 1927, and 58·1 on 24th May, 1926. Employment in May, 1926, was affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

According to returns received from firms employing 74,722 workpeople in the week ended 28th May, 1927, the volume of employment 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) decreased by 0.5 per cent. as compared with April, but showed an increase of 172.5 per cent. as compared with a year before. The average number of shifts* during which the works were open was 5.4 in May, 1927, the same as in April, 1927.

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

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927.							
	Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—, as compared with a	
							Month before.	Year before.
London ...	4,950	406	61	103	1,459	6,979	— 655	— 4,068
South-Eastern	1,648	240	151	49	915	3,003	— 702	— 3,735
South-Western	1,952	142	536	55	1,446	4,131	— 262	+ 143
Midlands ...	5,377	1,041	37	587	5,513	12,555	— 777	— 12,910
North-Eastern	18,774	571	4,439	738	774	25,296	— 2,531	— 15,997
North-Western	15,530	1,289	127	117	1,397	18,460	— 2,662	— 15,929
Scotland ...	8,754	195	2,153	598	676	12,376	— 1,593	— 14,734
Wales... ..	890	20	24	120	108	1,162	— 170	— 4,079
Northern Ireland	1,384	15	1,915	2	166	3,482	— 2	— 296
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	59,259	3,919	9,443	2,369	12,454	87,444	— 9,354	— 71,605

London ...	5.9	3.6	9.5	3.5	4.1	5.2	— 0.5	— 3.0
South-Eastern	3.9	2.8	4.5	7.7	3.5	3.7	— 0.8	— 4.7
South-Western	5.5	4.5	8.4	7.1	6.1	6.0	— 0.3	...
Midlands ...	5.9	4.4	2.4	9.1	5.9	5.8	— 0.4	— 5.9
North-Eastern	15.1	7.2	20.4	9.6	6.8	14.6	— 1.4	— 8.8
North-Western	11.1	6.9	9.8	4.8	7.3	10.2	— 1.5	— 8.6
Scotland ...	10.3	6.5	12.2	10.5	6.8	10.2	— 1.3	— 11.8
Wales ...	13.0	5.4	11.4	15.6	5.6	11.5	— 1.7	— 38.5
Northern Ireland	18.9	6.5	34.9	5.0	9.4	23.5	...	— 1.7
GRAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	9.6	5.1	16.2	8.6	5.6	8.7	— 1.0	— 7.1
<i>Ditto, Apr., 1927</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>9.7</i>	...	...
<i>Ditto, May, 1926</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>15.8</i>	...	...

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad in general and marine engineering, but improved in both sections. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire conditions were slack, but showed improvement on the whole. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was still bad, but continued to improve; at railway works overtime was in operation in some departments, but in the textile machinery section little improvement was experienced and much short time was still worked.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment was fairly good, and continued to improve. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district it continued to improve, and became fair on the whole. In London and the South-Eastern Counties employment was fairly good on the whole, and good on electrical and motor work. In the South-Western Counties it was again fair, and a little improvement was experienced.

Conditions in Wales were bad, but improved appreciably. In Scotland employment was still bad, but the general improvement continued. In Northern Ireland employment remained very bad, and showed no change on the whole.

*.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. Works closed are omitted in computing the average numbers of shifts.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING

EMPLOYMENT during May, though still very bad on the whole, continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. The improvement as compared with the previous month affected all the principal districts except the Bristol Channel, where there was a decline in repair work towards the end of the month. At Dundee employment was good for skilled workpeople.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with 25th April, 1927, and with 24th May, 1926:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London...	1,904	— 111	— 1,426	16.7	— 1.0	— 10.1
South-Eastern...	804	— 88	+ 136	9.0	— 1.0	+ 2.3
South-Western...	2,758	— 705	— 1,658	11.6	— 2.9	— 5.9
Midlands...	33	— 6	— 121	11.0	— 2.0	— 44.0
North-Eastern...	18,716	— 3,042	— 15,157	29.7	— 4.9	— 20.9
North-Western...	8,265	— 98	— 2,849	25.6	— 0.3	— 8.3
Scotland...	12,167	— 2,320	— 14,346	20.5	— 3.9	— 20.5
Wales...	3,185	+ 392	— 2,644	30.2	+ 3.8	— 23.3
Northern Ireland	4,034	— 185	— 2,764	27.6	— 1.3	— 9.0
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	51,866	— 6,163	— 40,829	23.1	— 2.8	— 15.2

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

DURING May there was a further improvement in the woollen section particularly in the heavy woollen branch; in the worsted section there was a slight decline in the wool sorting and combing and in the spinning departments, but a slight improvement in the weaving department, partly owing to pressure for delivery of seasonal goods before Whitsuntide. In the wool textile industry as a whole there was, on balance, a slight improvement.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.4 on 23rd May, as compared with 9.4 on 25th April, and with 21.0 on 24th May, 1926.

In the worsted section of the industry, taken as a whole, there was a slight decline as compared with April. Employment in the wool sorting and combing departments was not so good as a month earlier. About 36 per cent. of the workpeople in those departments covered by the returns received worked short time in the week ended 28th May, with a loss of about 11 hours each on the average; on the other hand, about 3 per cent. worked nearly 6 hours each, on an average, in overtime. In worsted spinning there was also a slight decline on the whole; about 28 per cent. of the spinners covered by the returns received lost nearly 11 hours each, on an average, in short-time working during the week ended 28th May. In the worsted weaving section employment showed a slight improvement, except in the fine worsted section. In Bradford half the looms on fine worsted goods (dress goods) were reported to be idle. In the Keighley and Halifax districts under-employment was common, and at Keighley there was a sharp decline in employment; while in the Armley area of Leeds there was much short time. In the Huddersfield district some improvement was reported. The returns received from employers for the week ended 28th May showed that nearly 18 per cent. of the worsted weavers worked short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 13* hours each.

The returns received from employers in the worsted section of the industry, taken as a whole, showed that, in the week ended 28th May, 25½ per cent. of their workpeople were on short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 11* hours each; while 4 per cent. were working overtime, to the average extent of about 6 hours each.

In the woollen section of the industry there was an improvement, particularly in areas where low-grade goods are manufactured. In the spinning section about 21 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 28th May, with a loss on the average of nearly 10 hours each; the corresponding figures for the weaving section were also 21 per cent. and nearly 10* hours. On the other hand, 13½ per cent. of the spinners were on overtime, to the extent of about 9 hours on the average, while about 8 per cent. of the weavers worked on an average 5 hours per week overtime. Taking the woollen section as a whole about 20 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, 10* hours each in short-time working; while 10 per cent. worked an average of about 8 hours each in overtime.

In the Huddersfield district there was little change as compared with the previous month. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley) and at Morley increased activity was reported, and there was a decrease in the numbers unemployed. Some mills

were working overtime, and weavers were better employed than for many months; a large number of weavers who had worked intermittently for more than two years were employed for the full 48-hour week. With woollen workers in the Leeds and Wakefield districts employment was fairly good. In the Stockport district there was a decline, and employment was only fair.

With blanket manufacturers employment showed a decline at Hebden Bridge, but some improvement at Dewsbury. At Witney the operatives were fully employed. In the flannel trade of Rochdale and Saddleworth employment was reported as moderate to fair; some overtime was reported at Saddleworth.

The mills at Newtown and Llanidloes worked intermittently throughout the month, owing to shortage of orders.

In Scotland employment continued good. At Galashiels most of the firms were on full time, with some overtime in the spinning and carding departments; and in the Border district generally operatives engaged in the tweed trade were well employed; much of the machinery which was inactive a year ago had been put into operation. There was also an improvement in tweed mills at Dumfries.

In the carpet trade there was an improvement as compared with a month earlier, and less short time was reported. At Kidderminster employment continued good, full time being general. In the West Riding there was an improvement, especially in the Halifax district. Taking the carpet trade as a whole, the employers' returns for the week ended 28th May showed 14 per cent. of the operatives working short time, with a loss on the average of about 8 hours each; while about 4 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each on an average.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(—) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	11,433	— 0.2	102.9	27,953	— 3.4	97.4
Spinning... ..	43,208	+ 0.0	99.4	67,471	— 0.7	98.8
Weaving... ..	21,688	— 0.2	99.7	45,006	+ 1.0	101.3
Other Depts. ...	11,280	+ 0.6	100.1	28,361	+ 1.6	100.0
Not specified ...	1,942	— 0.8	104.6	4,058	+ 2.0	107.5
Total—Worsted	89,551	— 0.0	100.0	172,849	— 0.3	99.5
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	1,039	+ 1.2	101.5	2,569	+ 1.7	109.5
Spinning... ..	14,831	+ 0.7	100.7	33,302	+ 2.3	115.9
Weaving... ..	27,192	+ 1.1	107.1	51,753	+ 1.8	116.4
Other Depts. ...	19,064	+ 1.5	101.1	45,478	+ 4.3	110.4
Not specified ...	2,326	+ 0.8	100.2	5,284	+ 4.8	105.5
Total—Woollen	64,452	+ 1.1	103.5	138,386	+ 2.8	113.6
CARPET SECTION ...	9,890	+ 0.6	101.0	18,501	+ 1.9	88.8
Total—Wool Textile Industry	163,893	+ 0.5	101.2	329,736	+ 1.1	104.4
Districts* :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	39,948	— 0.4	99.4	80,070	— 1.9	94.8
Huddersfield ...	10,335	+ 0.9	105.8	23,181	+ 1.1	111.5
Halifax ...	10,170	— 0.7	94.6	17,534	+ 0.2	92.9
Leeds ...	8,863	— 0.2	100.5	16,006	+ 1.7	100.0
Keighley ...	9,424	+ 0.5	102.2	17,631	— 0.6	114.2
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,472	— 0.4	99.7	5,816	+ 4.6	109.1
Total, West Riding	82,212	— 0.2	100.0	160,238	— 0.5	99.5
West of England and Midlands ...	5,042	+ 1.6	100.6	9,076	+ 2.9	94.7
Lancs ...	336	— 2.3	116.9	562	— 15.5	98.2
Scotland... ..	1,961	+ 2.1	98.4	2,973	+ 5.2	123.0
Total—Worsted	89,551	— 0.0	100.0	172,849	— 0.3	99.5
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Huddersfield ...	12,388	— 0.1	101.0	29,951	— 0.7	106.7
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	12,975	+ 3.9	104.7	28,741	+ 8.7	123.2
Leeds ...	8,852	+ 2.8	107.3	19,957	+ 6.8	126.8
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,858	+ 0.8	97.8	5,982	+ 4.0	94.3
Bradford ...	1,048	+ 1.2	108.2	2,478	+ 2.5	109.3
Total, West Riding	38,121	+ 2.0	103.4	87,109	+ 4.4	114.6
Lancs ...	6,133	+ 0.2	102.3	12,959	+ 0.5	111.9
West of England and Midlands ...	4,602	+ 0.8	108.0	8,520	+ 3.4	120.9
Scotland... ..	15,469	— 0.2	102.6	29,600	— 0.5	110.3
Wales ...	127	— 29.1	143.7	198	— 18.5	155.3
Total—Woollen	64,452	+ 1.1	103.5	138,386	+ 2.8	113.6
CARPET SECTION ...	9,890	+ 0.6	101.0	18,501	+ 1.9	88.8
Total—Wool Textile Industry	163,893	+ 0.5	101.2	329,736	+ 1.1	104.4

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

* Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed, in the week ended 28th May, 1927, by firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 30th April, 1927:—

	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change"; —, without a figure, signifies "no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WORSTED SECTION:					
Bradford ...	— 1.6	— 0.0	— 0.2	— 2.0	— 0.4
Huddersfield ...	— 0.9	+ 1.4	— 0.5	+ 2.5	+ 0.9
Halifax ...	+ 4.3	— 0.2	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	— 0.7
Leeds ...	+ 3.2	— 1.0	— 0.1	+ 1.8	— 0.2
Keighley ...	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	— 2.0	— 0.3	— 2.2	— 0.3	— 0.4
Total, West Riding	— 1.2	— 0.0	— 0.1	+ 0.5	— 0.2
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 23.6	— 0.6	— 1.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.6
Lancashire ...	—	— 0.7	—	— 15.8	— 2.3
Scotland ...	+ 1.2	+ 2.5	—	+ 1.6	+ 2.1
TOTAL ...	— 0.2	+ 0.0	— 0.2	+ 0.6	— 0.0
WOOLLEN SECTION:					
Huddersfield ...	+ 2.9	+ 0.5	— 0.9	+ 0.5	— 0.1
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 0.6	+ 5.9	+ 4.1	+ 3.1	+ 3.9
Leeds ...	+ 5.1	+ 1.8	+ 2.3	+ 4.3	+ 2.8
Halifax and Calder Vale	+ 3.1	— 0.5	—	+ 4.0	+ 0.8
Bradford ...	+ 5.9	— 2.3	+ 1.2	+ 3.4	+ 1.2
Total, West Riding	+ 2.6	+ 2.2	+ 1.6	+ 2.6	+ 2.0
Lancashire ...	+ 0.5	— 0.5	+ 1.4	— 1.0	+ 0.2
West of England and Midlands ...	—	— 0.9	+ 3.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Scotland ...	+ 1.9	— 2.0	— 0.4	+ 0.8	— 0.2
Wales ...	— 38.5	— 40.0	— 25.0	— 24.1	— 29.1
TOTAL ...	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.1	+ 1.5	+ 1.1

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 23rd May, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 23rd May, 1927.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	87	1	88	212	1	213	301
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	216	115	331	380	188	568	899
Wool Combing ...	128	71	199	350	330	680	879
Wool Carding ...	301	46	347	433	83	516	863
Woollen Spinning ...	189	36	225	268	135	403	628
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	237	546	783	238	1,615	1,853	2,636
Wool Winding and Warping ...	61	12	73	151	51	202	275
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	57	100	157	110	571	681	838
Woollen Weaving ...	58	139	197	73	1,122	1,195	1,392
Worsted Weaving ...	112	331	443	90	1,689	1,779	2,222
Other Processes ...	436	32	468	455	110	565	1,033
Total ...	1,882	1,429	3,311	2,760	5,895	8,655	11,966

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 25th April, 1927:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	— 24	— 1	— 25	+ 140	+ 1	+ 141	+ 116
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	— 20	— 32	— 52	— 64	— 96	— 160	— 212
Wool Combing ...	+ 6	+ 4	+ 10	— 56	+ 55	— 1	+ 9
Wool Carding ...	— 3	+ 5	+ 2	— 60	+ 1	— 59	— 57
Woollen Spinning ...	— 42	— 7	— 49	+ 4	— 31	— 27	— 76
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	— 4	+ 61	+ 57	— 35	+ 215	+ 180	+ 237
Wool Winding and Warping ...	— 5	—	— 5	— 41	— 32	— 73	— 78
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	+ 7	+ 12	+ 19	— 65	+ 164	+ 99	+ 118
Woollen Weaving ...	— 14	— 23	— 37	— 19	— 546	— 565	— 602
Worsted Weaving ...	— 3	+ 12	+ 9	— 70	— 92	— 162	— 153
Other Processes ...	— 127	— 3	— 130	— 168	— 56	— 224	— 354
Total ...	— 229	+ 28	— 201	— 434	— 417	— 851	— 1,052

The imports, less re-exports of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 36,506,800 lbs. in May, 1927, compared with 53,461,900 lbs. in April, 1927, and 60,206,200 lbs. in May, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,495,700 lbs., compared with 3,761,600 lbs. in April, 1927, and with 2,183,800 lbs. in May, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 11,406,300 square yards, compared with 9,479,100 square yards in April, 1927, and 9,719,600 square yards in May, 1926.

The exports of blankets were 80,607 pairs, 70,557 pairs and 66,771 pairs in May, 1927, April, 1927, and May, 1926.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed on the whole little change as compared with the previous month. In the American spinning section employment was reported to represent about 75 per cent. of full-time working. The Cotton Yarn Association issued, on 19th May, a recommendation to spinners of American cotton in favour of a further curtailment of production, to take effect from 23rd May. In the Egyptian spinning section nearly full-time working continued general. In the weaving department there was still much under-employment, except with manufacturers of fine and fancy cloths, who were generally busy.

In all sections and departments employment was better than in May, 1926, when it was affected by difficulties of transport and by coal shortage.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.9 on 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 6.8 on 25th April, 1927, and with 26.5 on 24th May, 1926.

Employment in all districts, with very few exceptions, was better than in May, 1926. In the Oldham and Ashton districts employment continued slack; short time was worked by most firms in accordance with the recommendations of the Cotton Yarn Association. In the weaving department at Oldham employment was also slack, nearly all weavers being under-employed: usually this under-employment consisted in working with a reduced number of looms; some improvement was reported with velvet weavers, but employment in this section was still particularly bad. A shortage of juvenile labour was reported at Royton (in the Oldham district). At Stalybridge and Stockport much short time was again reported; but a slight improvement was reported at Hyde.

At Bolton employment showed little change; it was reported as fair with spinners and as good with card-room workers. At Leigh employment in the spinning department was good, and better than in April. At Rochdale employment with spinners was slack, and a further decline was reported. At Bury much short time was worked.

At Preston the employment situation was reported as good with some firms, but others were still adversely affected by the almost total absence of demand from China. At Blackburn the position was moderate, less favourable than in May, though still very much better than at the beginning of the year; there was a good deal of under-employment. At Great Harwood there was slackness in the preparatory departments of the weaving section. At Accrington employment was good, and there was still an unsatisfied demand for weavers; with winders, on the other hand, employment was irregular. At Darwen the satisfactory position previously reported was generally maintained, but the demand for weavers was less urgent, and employment in the preparatory processes (winders, etc.) was somewhat irregular. At Burnley employment was moderate, and not so good as in April; a considerable amount of unsystematic short time was worked during the month by women weavers and winders. At Colne employment was good. At Nelson, many operatives, although working full time, were running two or three looms instead of four.

At Todmorden there was very little total unemployment, but 70 per cent. of the operatives were reported to be under-employed. At Halifax, Hebden Bridge, and Sowerby Bridge, the operatives, with few exceptions, were on full time. At Huddersfield there was a slight decline.

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 May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	11,295	— 0.4	+ 1.5	19,397	— 0.9	+ 12.8
Spinning ...	21,652	+ 0.5	+ 6.3	39,538	+ 1.2	+ 17.4
Weaving ...	32,860	+ 0.3	+ 3.1	58,697	+ 0.1	+ 10.0
Other ...	7,791	— 1.2	+ 0.6	18,940	+ 0.5	+ 5.4
Not Specified ...	6,922	— 0.7	+ 1.2	14,292	+ 1.9	+ 9.3
TOTAL ...	80,520	+ 0.0	+ 3.3	150,864	+ 0.5	+ 11.5
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton ...	4,186	— 2.0	+ 2.9	7,248	— 4.0	+ 18.4
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	8,185	+ 0.9	+ 5.3	14,769	+ 2.8	+ 12.5
Oldham ...	8,951	— 1.9	+ 4.4	17,439	— 5.0	+ 10.4
Bolton and Leigh ...	14,078	— 0.1	+ 2.9	25,406	+ 0.5	+ 7.6
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	7,076	— 0.3	— 1.5	12,946	+ 4.4	+ 28.7
Manchester ...	4,864	— 3.7	+ 11.9	8,335	— 1.0	+ 16.9
Preston and Chorley ...	6,459	— 0.9	— 0.1	11,562	+ 0.4	+ 2.4
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	8,771	+ 4.0	— 0.2	17,851	— 0.5	+ 0.6
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ...	8,252	+ 1.0	+ 2.8	18,088	+ 1.0	+ 5.9
Other Lancashire Towns	3,425	— 1.2	+ 11.7	5,795	+ 1.4	+ 39.2
Yorkshire Towns	3,654	+ 1.2	+ 4.0	6,854	+ 8.6	+ 30.6
Other Districts ...	2,619	+ 1.9	+ 5.6	4,571	+ 4.4	+ 17.3
TOTAL ...	80,520	+ 0.0	+ 3.3	150,864	+ 0.5	+ 11.5

Returns from firms employing about 78,700 workpeople in the week ended 28th May showed that about 12 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 9½ hours each 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 May, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 23rd May, 1927.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blow- ing Room ...	439	1,385	1,824	624	3,730	4,354	6,178
Spinning ...	1,935	1,089	3,024	3,995	3,261	7,256	10,280
Beaming, Wind- ing and Warp- ing ...	384	869	1,253	768	4,551	5,319	6,572
Weaving ...	868	1,343	2,211	1,006	2,670	3,676	5,887
Other Processes	303	79	382	219	132	351	733
[Total ...	3,929	4,765	8,694	6,612	14,344	20,956	29,650

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 25th April, 1927:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	+ 41	+ 247	+ 288	+ 6	+ 328	+ 334	+ 622
Spinning ...	+ 137	+ 202	+ 339	+ 326	- 177	+ 149	+ 488
Beaming, Winding and Warping ...	+ 3	+ 191	+ 194	+ 27	+ 203	+ 230	+ 424
Weaving ...	+ 62	+ 147	+ 209	+ 173	+ 538	+ 711	+ 920
Other Processes ...	- 12	- 11	- 23	- 22	- 59	- 81	- 104
Total ...	+ 231	+ 776	+ 1,007	+ 510	+ 833	+ 1,343	+ 2,350

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 117,666,000 lbs. in May, 1927, compared with 179,879,000 lbs. in April, 1927, and with 99,732,500 lbs. in May, 1926.

The exports of cotton yarn were 22,817,600 lbs. in May, 1927, compared with 17,327,600 lbs. in April, 1927, and with 10,579,000 lbs. in May, 1926.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 413,615,200 square yards, as compared with 316,947,700 square yards in the previous month, and with 304,213,500 square yards in May, 1926.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a considerable improvement in all departments, and in all districts except Scotland. Makers of women's and children's shoes and of sports goods, in particular, were often well employed; though the heavy boot trade remained depressed. Towards the end of the month many firms were very busy getting out orders before the Whitsuntide holiday; a fair amount of overtime was worked, while short time was reduced to a lower level than for many months.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6·3 on 23rd May, as compared with 8·1 on 25th April, and with 19·5 on 24th May, 1926.

Employment in London continued to be fair on the whole. At Leicester it was fair, and showed a considerable improvement; some short time was still worked, but on the other hand some overtime was worked on orders to be delivered before the Whitsuntide holidays. There was also an improvement at Hinckley, where employment was fair. At Northampton there was some improvement, and most of the larger factories were on full time at the end of the month in consequence of seasonal activity; but under-employment was still reported in many of the smaller factories. Employment continued good in the Higham and Rushden district; short time was exceptional, and some overtime was worked. At Wellingborough employment showed a further improvement, and was fairly good; most firms were on full time, and some overtime was worked. Employment was poor at Earl's Barton and at Wollaston; but at Raunds and at Irthlingborough it remained fair. At Desborough it was good, and better than in April. At Kettering there was a decided improvement; most factories were on full time, and some on overtime, at the end of the month.

There was a marked improvement at Stafford; employment was brisk, and some overtime was worked. At Norwich employment was moderate, except in the turnshoe department, which was very slack; there was some unemployment and irregular employment, especially among clickers in all departments. In the Bristol and Kingswood district there was a great improvement, particularly in the light shoe trade; but employment in the heavy boot trade was still very quiet, with much short time. At Leeds employment was better generally, and some of the bigger factories were well

employed, particularly in the sports goods department; but employment in the heavy boot trade was still only moderate. Employment was good generally in the slipper trade in the Rossendale Valley and at Preston, and better than in April.

At Kilmarnock employment remained fairly good; at other Scottish centres it was generally poor.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers:—

Department.	Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.*	Year before.*
England and Wales:—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London ...	2,052	+ 1·9	- 0·0	4,662	+ 1·0	+ 11·6
Leicester ...	8,742	+ 1·2	+ 0·7	24,808	+ 6·8	+ 12·1
Leicester Country District ...	1,727	+ 1·7	+ 8·2	4,197	+ 3·5	+ 21·0
Northampton ...	6,894	- 0·1	+ 14·3	17,462	+ 2·5	+ 24·7
Northampton Country District ...	7,517	+ 0·3	+ 13·1	18,122	+ 3·5	+ 33·4
Kettering ...	2,675	- 0·1	+ 15·0	7,698	+ 8·1	+ 27·2
Stafford and District ...	2,633	...	+ 1·0	6,392	+ 11·0	+ 18·1
Norwich and District ...	3,886	+ 0·9	+ 3·7	8,833	+ 2·6	+ 1·3
Bristol, Kingswood and District ...	1,756	+ 8·1	+ 13·0	3,460	+ 28·8	+ 40·0
Leeds and District ...	1,907	+ 0·6	+ 3·9	4,523	+ 7·8	+ 13·0
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ...	5,278	+ 3·2	+ 2·6	12,735	+ 5·1	+ 22·0
Birmingham and District ...	1,027	+ 0·4	+ 19·3	1,981	+ 0·6	+ 18·4
Other parts of England and Wales ...	1,894	- 0·8	+ 11·5	3,952	+ 6·5	+ 35·9
England and Wales	47,988	+ 1·1	+ 7·2	118,825	+ 5·5	+ 20·0
Scotland ...	2,270	- 0·5	- 0·7	4,229	- 11·3	- 4·6
Great Britain ...	50,258	+ 1·0	+ 6·8	123,054	+ 4·9	+ 18·9

Returns from firms employing nearly 47,000 operatives in the week ended 28th May showed that about 20 per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, losing 8½ hours each on the average. On the other hand, nearly 16 per cent. were working overtime in that week, to the extent of about 5 hours each 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 centres of the boot and shoe industry at 23rd May, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 23rd May, 1927.						Total
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manu- facture :							
Preparing Depart- ment ...	95	11	106	10	20	30	136
Rough Stuff De- partment ...	234	3	237	54	2	56	293
Clicking Department	267	1	268	196	8	204	472
Closing Department	14	328	342	10	367	377	719
Making Department	1,123	16	1,139	468	43	511	1,650
Finishing Depart- ment ...	793	155	948	325	53	378	1,326
Slipper Making ...	288	26	314	211	193	404	718
Clog Making... ..	12	...	12	4	1	5	17
Repairing and Hand- sewn Work ...	335	...	335	18	...	18	353
TOTAL	3,161	540	3,701	1,296	687	1,983	5,684

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 25th April, 1927:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department ...	- 11	- 3	- 14	- 22	- 6	- 28	- 42
Rough Stuff Department ...	- 54	+ 1	- 53	- 48	- 2	- 50	- 103
Clicking Department ...	- 147	...	- 147	- 195	- 2	- 197	- 344
Closing Department ...	+ 1	- 37	- 36	- 1	- 224	- 225	- 261
Making Department ...	- 174	- 11	- 185	- 466	- 3	- 469	- 654
Finishing Department ...	- 73	- 43	- 116	- 145	- 4	- 149	- 265
Slipper Making ...	- 64	- 6	- 70	- 130	- 132	- 262	- 332
Clog Making ...	+ 3	...	+ 3	+ 2	+ 1	+ 3	+ 6
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	- 32	- 2	- 34	- 8	...	- 8	- 42
TOTAL ...	- 551	- 101	- 652	- 1,013	- 372	- 1,385	- 2,037

The exports of boots and shoes in May, 1927, amounted to 99,672 dozen pairs, or 3,729 dozen pairs less than in April, 1927, but 19,158 dozen pairs more than in May, 1926.

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

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued good and showed a further improvement; it was much better than in the year before, when employment was adversely affected by the stoppage of work at coal mines.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, tile, etc. trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.3 at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 5.5 at 25th April, 1927, and 20.8 at 24th May, 1926.

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.		
	Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,073	+ 1.0	+ 19.0	5,640	+ 2.0	+ 26.9
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,591	+ 0.7	+ 15.1	16,348	— 0.3	+ 30.3
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,657	+ 0.6	+ 41.6	4,244	+ 2.1	+ 40.6
Scotland	169	...	+ 116.7	464	+ 3.6	+ 134.3
TOTAL	9,490	+ 0.7	+ 20.9	26,696	+ 0.6	+ 32.1

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further and general improvement during May, when weather conditions were very favourable for outside work; it was generally good with skilled operatives and fair with unskilled workers. Employment was better than in May, 1926, with all classes of operatives, except plasterers, and in practically all districts, especially in Scotland and Northern Ireland; it was adversely affected at that time, however, by shortage of materials due to transport and other difficulties.

As regards individual occupations employment was very good with bricklayers; it improved and was also very good, at most centres, with plasterers, and a shortage of these classes of operatives was again reported from a number of districts. Employment continued to improve with carpenters and joiners and with masons and was good in most districts; it remained fairly good with slaters and moderate with plumbers. Employment was again better with painters and decorators and was very good generally with skilled men; it improved and was fair, on the whole, 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 May, 1927, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with May, 1926:—

OCCUPATIONS.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1926.	Total Number Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
Carpenters ...	126,450	4,340	112	3.4	— 1.3	— 1.7
Bricklayers ...	72,150	947	63	1.3	— 0.7	— 1.5
Masons ...	25,240	1,134	42	4.5	— 1.4	— 3.0
Slaters ...	5,710	283	14	5.0	— 0.3	— 2.5
Plasterers ...	19,720	449	10	2.3	— 1.2	+ 0.4
Painters ...	112,930	3,877	57	3.4	— 1.5	— 4.4
Plumbers ...	31,860	2,439	60	7.7	— 0.4	— 1.4
Labourers to above ...	245,860	21,984	471	8.9	— 1.2	— 3.8
All other occupations ...	161,110	17,542	567	10.9	— 1.1	— 3.3
Total ...	801,040	52,995	1,396	6.6	— 1.2	— 3.1

DIVISIONS.					Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
London ...	162,020	9,777	12	6.0	— 0.8	— 4.5
South-Eastern ...	123,470	3,393	27	2.7	— 0.7	— 2.2
South-Western ...	98,750	4,568	20	4.6	— 1.0	— 2.0
Midlands ...	91,230	5,301	394	5.8	— 1.5	— 2.6
North-Eastern ...	103,190	10,097	452	9.8	— 1.7	— 1.7
North-Western ...	104,350	7,993	273	7.7	— 1.5	— 2.6
Scotland ...	73,690	4,769	86	6.5	— 0.8	— 6.2
Wales ...	29,310	3,553	129	12.1	— 1.9	— 1.9
Northern Ireland ...	15,030	3,544	3	23.6	— 1.2	— 7.0
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	801,040	52,995	1,396	6.6	— 1.2	— 3.1

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 137 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council Area), with a total population of 15,925,000, show that in May, 1927, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,979,800, as compared with £5,537,200, in April, 1927, and £5,283,000 in May, 1926. Of the total for May, 1927, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,835,800; factories and workshops for £377,600; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £274,600; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,491,800.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

IN the paper trade employment was fairly good on the whole, and showed some improvement on the previous month. A certain amount of irregularity was reported in some districts owing to a lack of orders.

With letterpress printers employment continued moderate on the whole; it showed an improvement in London, and in other districts was generally about the same as in April. It was again reported as bad at Liverpool and Manchester. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was very good in London and at Manchester, and better than in April at both centres; elsewhere it was generally good.

In the lithographic printing trade employment remained fair on the whole; at Liverpool and Manchester, however, it was still bad. With lithographic artists employment remained fair generally; it was reported as better than in the previous month in London and at Manchester.

Employment in the bookbinding trade was again moderate on the whole.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 4.7 at 23rd May, compared with 4.9 at 25th April and 5.8 at 24th May, 1926. In the paper and paper board industry, the percentage was 5.8 at 23rd May, compared with 6.5 at 25th April and 10.4 at 24th May, 1926. In the cardboard box, paper-bag and stationery trades, the percentage was 4.9 at 23rd May, compared with 5.2 at 25th April and 8.4 at 24th May, 1926.

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

	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1927.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) on a	
		May, 1927.	April, 1927.	May, 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing:						
London ...	41,156	5.5	6.1	3.4	— 0.6	+ 2.1
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	17,382	4.3	4.2	4.7	+ 0.1	— 0.4
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	11,012	2.7	2.8	3.7	— 0.1	— 1.0
Scotland ...	6,518	5.4	5.2	4.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
Other Districts ...	11,233	3.8	3.7	5.9	+ 0.1	— 2.1
Total ...	87,301	4.7	4.9	4.1	— 0.2	+ 0.6
Lithographic Printing	10,786	3.5	3.8	3.7	— 0.3	— 0.2
Bookbinding ...	20,581	4.8	4.8	4.8	...	...

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a slight improvement, but there was still much short-time working. At Worcester employment continued good; at Derby it was fairly good; at Bristol it showed an improvement, and was fair. In the stoneware section in Scotland it was reported to be moderate, and better than during the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.3 at 23rd May, as compared with 13.0 at 25th April, 1927, and 46.8 at 24th May, 1926.

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

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
BRANCHES.						
China Manufacture ...	1,130	+ 0.4	+ 34.2	2,100	— 2.3	+ 53.2
Earthenware Manufacture ...	7,812	+ 1.4	+ 33.0	15,097	+ 3.1	+ 64.6
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,858	+ 0.5	+ 15.8	3,509	— 0.1	+ 19.5
TOTAL ...	10,800	+ 1.1	+ 29.8	20,706	+ 2.0	+ 53.6
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire ...	8,106	+ 1.5	+ 25.1	14,407	+ 2.2	+ 54.0
Other Districts ...	2,694	+ 0.0	+ 46.4	6,299	+ 1.5	+ 52.9
TOTAL ...	10,800	+ 1.1	+ 29.8	20,706	+ 2.0	+ 53.6

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,692 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 2,908, or 27 per cent., were working on an average about 13 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th May, 1927.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during May was moderate to fair on the whole; the number of engagements was considerably higher than in the previous month. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, was 15.7, compared with 16.2 at 25th April, 1927, and 22.1 at 24th May, 1926.

The demand for men on the Thames was fair at the beginning of May, but showed a substantial decline towards the middle of the month; afterwards, however, it was fairly brisk. There was a decline on the Tyne until late in the month, when an improvement occurred, the demand then being described as fair. It was quiet to moderate on the Wear. The demand was fair on the Tees at the beginning of May, but became very slack subsequently; it was generally quiet at Hull. It was fair to brisk at Southampton during the first three weeks of the month, but a falling-off was noticeable later. The demand was moderate to good at Bristol and good on the whole at Avonmouth. It was generally fair at Newport, and good at Cardiff and Swansea; a shortage of deck hands was reported at the latter port. On the Mersey, the demand was moderate to good. It continued generally fair at Manchester and quiet to moderate on the Clyde. The demand was quiet to moderate at Leith and rather quiet 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 May:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	May, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) on a		Five Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	May, 1927.	May, 1926.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool†	13,888	+ 2,235	+ 4,448	58,445	52,704
Manchester	739	+ 4	+ 259	3,930	3,677
London	10,122	+ 1,956	+ 3,777	42,473	38,407
Southampton... ..	11,831	+ 1,146	– 1,320	45,262	46,046
Tyne Ports	3,165	+ 715	+ 2,548	12,543	8,113
Sunderland	440	+ 4	+ 387	1,702	1,174
Middlesbrough ...	414	+ 134	+ 143	1,716	1,836
Hull	1,147	+ 60	+ 710	6,120	5,648
Bristol†	1,108	+ 84	+ 185	5,188	4,956
Newport, Mon. ...	758	– 133	+ 606	3,897	4,390
Cardiff§	3,404	+ 960	+ 2,854	14,416	10,757
Swansea	1,103	+ 239	+ 494	4,131	3,860
SCOTLAND:					
Leith	401	– 34	+ 194	1,844	1,550
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	403	+ 18	+ 281	1,595	1,533
Glasgow	3,387	+ 743	+ 414	12,718	12,843
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast	169	– 41	+ 72	1,049	587
TOTAL for above Ports	52,479	+ 8,090	+ 16,052	217,029	198,081

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT declined slightly and was bad during May.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 25.7 per cent. were unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 25.0 per cent. at 25th April, 1927, and with 29.5 per cent. at 24th May, 1926.

London.—Employment remained slack. 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 May, 1927 ...	4,443	2,248	6,691	8,222	14,913
14th " ...	4,445	2,537	6,982	8,314	15,296
21st " ...	4,014	2,455	6,469	8,123	14,592
28th " ...	4,084	2,033	6,117	7,752	13,869
Average for 4 weeks ended 28th May, 1927 ...	4,247	2,318	6,565	8,103	14,668
Average for April, 1927	4,131	2,250	6,381	8,307	14,688
Average for May, 1926	5,093	2,261	7,354	8,633	15,987

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during May was 1,007, compared with 1,030 in April and with 1,754 in the fortnight ended 29th May, 1926.

* 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.

East Coast.—Employment on the North-East coast with coal trimmers was fair, but not so good as in April. With other classes of dock workers it was fair on the Tyne and moderate on the Wear and at Blyth. At Middlesbrough it was good, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month. Employment at Hull and Grimsby was fair and moderate respectively, and it remained fair at the majority of the East Anglian ports.

Liverpool.—Employment continued fair with coal trimmers, but declined with other dock workers. 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 May, was 15,116, compared with 15,627 in April, and with 16,398 in May 1926. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £39,592 in the four weeks ended 27th May, compared with £38,169 in April, and £44,924 in May, 1926.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports continued fairly good, a decline in coal shipments being counter-balanced by increased imports of iron ore, timber, fruit and general cargoes. At Bristol and Avonmouth work was slack, and it remained slack at Plymouth and other South Western ports. At Southampton it continued fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment at Dundee was bad and worse than in April. It was fairly good at Aberdeen, fair at Leith and Granton, and moderate at Glasgow. At Belfast it was fair, but not so good as in April.

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

At 30th May, 1927, the number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 985,513; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,015,011.

Comparative figures for men, boys, women and girls, separately, for 25th April, and 30th May, are given below†:—

—		25th April, 1927.	30th May, 1927.			
		Total.	Persons normally in regular employment.		Persons normally in casual employ- ment.	Total.
			Wholly Unemployed.	Temporary Stoppages.		
Great Britain.						
Men	...	841,762	528,299	203,428	67,319	799,046
Boys	...	31,834	21,057	6,460	92	27,604
Women	...	139,185	77,711	53,160	625	131,496
Girls	...	31,976	23,613	3,737	12	27,362
Total...		1,044,757	650,680	266,785	68,048	985,513
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.						
Men	...	866,719	549,790	204,227	69,317	823,334
Boys	...	32,345	21,560	6,491	92	28,143
Women	...	143,814	81,103	54,202	625	135,930
Girls	...	32,225	23,791	3,801	12	27,604
Total...		1,075,103	676,244	268,721	70,046	1,015,011

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 May, 1927. Of the 123,074 vacancies filled, 63,822 were for men, 30,698 for women, and 28,554 for juveniles:—

Week ended	Applications from Employers.		Vacancies Filled.†	Number of Work-people on Registers.†
	During Week.	At end of Week.		
25th April, 1927 ...	32,374	22,329	27,222	1,075,103
2nd May, 1927 ...	28,758	21,757	25,883	1,051,696
9th " " ...	29,482	22,195	25,239	1,028,549
16th " " ...	28,389	22,270	24,696	1,036,387
23rd " " ...	28,767	22,574	24,217	1,007,543
30th " " ...	27,362	23,010	23,039	1,015,011
Total (5 weeks) ...	142,758	...	123,074	...

* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

† The figures, in addition to those wholly unemployed, 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 work in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 25th April, 1927, the average number of such placings was 3,702 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, during the five weeks ended 30th May, 1927, was 675 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 May, 1927. 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 May, 1927.				Inc.(+) or Dec.(−) as compared with 25th April, 1927.
	Men.	Women.	Juven- iles.	Total.	
<i>London Division</i> ...	77,299	16,276	5,870	99,445	— 12,753
<i>South-Eastern Division</i> ...	23,832	4,275	3,014	31,121	— 5,300
Brighton ...	1,076	218	205	1,499	— 353
Chatham ...	1,993	189	449	2,631	— 407
Ipswich ...	1,353	149	99	1,601	— 290
Norwich ...	2,036	370	75	2,481	— 251
Rest of South-Eastern	17,374	3,349	2,186	22,909	— 3,999
<i>South-Western Division</i> ...	39,564	5,421	4,258	49,243	— 6,265
Bristol ...	10,752	1,573	1,150	13,475	— 631
Plymouth ...	4,232	347	493	5,072	+ 21
Portsmouth ...	3,595	356	402	4,353	— 639
Reading ...	881	60	157	1,098	— 311
Southampton ...	3,877	236	523	4,636	— 858
Swindon ...	772	89	125	986	— 50
Rest of South-Western	15,455	2,760	1,408	19,623	— 3,797
<i>Midlands Division</i> ...	108,572	25,075	6,225	139,872	— 19,944
Birmingham ...	14,809	5,798	866	21,473	— 2,016
Coventry ...	1,564	404	44	2,012	+ 314
Cradley Heath ...	2,068	504	91	2,663	— 999
Derby ...	1,375	371	193	1,939	— 357
Leicester ...	1,629	1,533	61	3,223	— 830
Northampton ...	1,006	205	54	1,265	— 298
Nottingham ...	4,758	929	551	6,238	— 1,152
Smethwick ...	2,077	677	130	2,884	— 312
Stoke-on-Trent ...	7,857	4,353	646	12,856	+ 1,439
Walsall ...	5,164	679	211	6,054	+ 326
West Bromwich ...	2,080	362	115	2,557	— 567
Wolverhampton ...	2,828	752	104	3,684	— 382
Rest of Midlands	61,357	8,508	3,159	73,024	— 15,110
<i>North-Eastern Division</i> ...	207,604	22,328	12,800	242,732	— 23,066
Barnsley ...	1,732	248	95	2,075	— 1,803
Bradford ...	5,697	2,957	271	8,925	— 1,451
Darlington ...	2,722	131	158	3,011	— 17
Dewsbury ...	1,082	777	107	1,966	— 260
Doncaster ...	2,388	132	217	2,737	— 7,477
Gateshead ...	7,791	454	653	8,898	— 581
Grimsby ...	3,132	201	298	3,631	— 69
Halifax ...	1,807	985	44	2,836	— 279
Hartlepool ...	5,174	123	464	5,761	— 18
Huddersfield ...	1,274	488	91	1,853	— 418
Hull ...	9,971	704	833	11,508	— 430
Leeds ...	9,235	1,952	329	11,516	— 1,399
Lincoln ...	1,245	221	117	1,583	— 276
Middlesbrough ...	7,049	249	409	7,707	+ 510
Newcastle-on-Tyne...	15,220	982	906	17,108	+ 1,485
Rotherham ...	2,050	174	267	2,491	— 232
Sheffield ...	18,061	2,232	1,594	21,887	— 3,110
South Shields ...	6,098	224	397	6,719	— 691
Stockton-on-Tees ...	4,673	171	297	5,141	— 313
Sunderland ...	10,659	485	569	11,713	— 2,795
Wakefield ...	3,039	215	192	3,446	+ 278
York ...	1,454	629	256	2,339	— 530
Rest of North-Eastern	86,051	7,594	4,236	97,881	— 3,190
<i>North-Western Division</i> ...	141,495	37,387	11,020	189,902	— 2,158
Accrington ...	1,674	422	73	2,169	+ 202
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	1,615	809	101	2,525	— 246
Barrow ...	2,373	188	128	2,689	— 9
Birkenhead ...	4,816	234	272	5,322	— 213
Blackburn ...	1,997	1,026	155	3,178	— 582
Blackpool ...	781	277	52	1,110	— 104
Bolton ...	3,651	1,634	231	5,516	— 686
Burnley ...	1,638	1,216	69	2,923	+ 349
Bury ...	1,099	698	80	1,877	— 328
Chorley ...	2,259	368	73	2,700	— 359
Liverpool ...	36,310	4,532	3,740	44,582	+ 559
Manchester ...	14,776	4,636	1,093	20,505	— 2,158
Nelson ...	603	379	33	1,015	— 147
Oldham ...	6,873	3,538	344	10,755	+ 952
Preston ...	2,222	889	66	3,177	— 1,394
Rochdale ...	2,247	1,003	104	3,394	— 24
St. Helens ...	4,809	238	328	5,375	+ 820
Salford ...	6,724	1,720	584	9,028	— 309
Stockport ...	1,554	841	94	2,489	— 566
Warrington ...	1,775	184	204	2,163	— 216
Wigan ...	6,202	1,211	267	7,680	+ 877
Rest of North-Western	35,457	11,344	2,929	49,730	+ 1,424
<i>Scotland Division</i> ...	98,391	17,778	7,739	123,908	— 8,565
Aberdeen ...	3,276	540	78	3,894	— 88
Clydebank ...	1,294	205	82	1,581	— 473
Dundee ...	3,536	2,828	436	6,800	+ 1,790
Edinburgh ...	8,498	1,797	714	11,009	— 1,300
Glasgow ...	35,634	5,888	3,278	44,800	— 4,660
Greenock ...	4,284	433	185	4,902	— 1,863
Motherwell ...	2,051	140	183	2,374	+ 376
Paisley ...	1,965	441	148	2,554	— 128
Rest of Scotland	37,853	5,506	2,635	45,994	— 2,219
<i>Wales Division</i> ...	102,289	2,956	4,045	109,290	+ 18,807
Cardiff ...	6,039	539	526	7,104	— 418
Llanelly ...	3,494	137	166	3,797	— 129
Newport ...	3,036	465	171	3,672	+ 241
Swansea ...	4,766	236	565	5,567	+ 389
Rest of Wales	84,954	1,579	2,617	89,150	+ 18,724
<i>Northern Ireland</i> ...	24,288	4,434	776	29,498	— 848
Belfast ...	17,387	2,797	570	20,754	— 598
Londonderry ...	1,531	234	45	1,810	+ 233
Lurgan ...	250	175	8	433	— 130
Lisburn ...	344	70	5	419	— 25
Newry ...	416	84	4	504	— 52
Rest of Northern Ire- land ...	4,360	1,074	144	5,578	— 276
<i>Great Britain and Northern Ireland</i> ...	823,334	135,930	55,747	1,015,011	— 60,092

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

On page 226 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 May, 1927, 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 ...	1,522	5	143	6	1,676
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	674,402	11,527	110,351	6,790	803,070
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	86,277	673	6,973	329	94,252
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	14,296	1,435	2,117	1,419	19,267
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	11,288	14,493	15,372	20,434	61,587
6. Two months' file ...	67,509	3,428	32,920	3,456	107,313
Persons on Register (lines 2-5) ...	786,263	28,128	134,813	28,972	978,176
Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6) ...	844,006	17,068	152,504	12,000	1,025,578

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 to Local Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople.

The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 12th April to 9th May, 1927:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	197,134	23,064	220,198
Applications admitted by Committees during period:—			
(a) For 12 weeks ...	24,621	1,469	26,090
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...	137,065	12,558	149,623
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period:—			
General Conditions:			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	1,185	499	1,684
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	1,520	274	1,794
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	13,178	1,289	14,467
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	8,117	2,199	10,316
Special Conditions:			
Single persons residing with relatives ...	4,076	1,569	5,645
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...	...	1,508	1,508
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	251	...	251
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	6,084	1,344	7,428
Aliens ...	3	2	5
Total definitely recommended for disallowance ...	34,414	8,684	43,098
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	1,034	353	1,387

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the four weeks ended 28th May, 1927, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table:—

	Four weeks ended 28th May, 1927.	Five weeks ended 30th April, 1927.	Four weeks ended 29th May, 1926.
Contributions (Receipts):—			
By Employers ...	£ 1,390,000	£ 1,400,000	£ 1,110,000
By Employed Persons ...	1,210,000	1,220,000	980,000
By Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry) ...	30,000	30,000	40,000
By Exchequer ...	1,010,000	1,050,000	830,000
Total ...	3,640,000	3,700,000	2,960,000
Payments:—			
Benefit ...	2,460,000	3,250,000	3,080,000
Other Payments* ...	370,000	460,000	370,000
Total ...	2,830,000	3,710,000	3,450,000
Treasury Advances Outstanding ...	23,890,000	24,700,000	7,780,000

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

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 May, 1927, 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 224 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 numbers 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 MAY, 1927.

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	3,107	122	3,229	100	40	140	3,207	162	3,369	3,188	162	3,350
Mining :—												
Coal Mining	110,662	561	111,223	99,647	623	100,270	210,309	1,184	211,493	210,217	1,184	211,401
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	1,102	...	1,102	108	2	110	1,210	2	1,212	1,199	2	1,201
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	364	2	366	17	...	17	381	2	383	381	2	383
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	2,202	6	2,208	176	...	176	2,378	6	2,384	2,174	6	2,180
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	94	1	95	272	...	272	366	1	367	365	1	366
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	1,347	51	1,398	239	6	245	1,586	57	1,643	1,520	57	1,577
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	587	5	592	48	1	49	635	6	641	619	6	625
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	984	8	992	149	1	150	1,133	9	1,142	1,132	9	1,141
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	1,476	61	1,537	295	19	314	1,771	80	1,851	1,765	80	1,845
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	780	21	801	475	1	476	1,255	22	1,277	1,226	22	1,248
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	3,439	388	3,827	423	152	575	3,862	540	4,402	3,652	540	4,192
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	1,619	1,406	3,025	2,420	3,631	6,051	4,039	5,037	9,076	4,033	5,037	9,070
Glass Trades :—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scien- tific Glass) Manufacture	1,731	243	1,974	610	71	681	2,341	314	2,655	2,335	314	2,649
Glass Bottle Making	1,902	117	2,019	487	20	507	2,389	137	2,526	2,388	137	2,525
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc. :—												
Chemicals Manufacture	4,741	630	5,371	446	109	555	5,187	739	5,926	5,120	737	5,857
Explosives Manufacture	880	400	1,280	98	76	174	978	476	1,454	976	476	1,452
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	594	121	715	25	8	33	619	129	748	619	129	748
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	3,377	736	4,113	1,065	139	1,204	4,442	875	5,317	4,417	860	5,277
Metal Manufacture :—												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	2,200	7	2,207	613	2	615	2,813	9	2,822	2,811	9	2,820
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Fur- naces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	16,231	128	16,359	15,458	104	15,562	31,689	232	31,921	31,678	232	31,910
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	2,862	183	3,045	772	24	796	3,634	207	3,841	3,563	207	3,770
Manufacture of Tin Plates	1,043	58	1,101	4,663	560	5,223	5,706	618	6,324	5,706	618	6,324
Iron and Steel Tube Making	1,984	126	2,110	1,269	23	1,292	3,253	149	3,402	3,249	149	3,398
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manu- facture	1,553	218	1,771	1,541	82	1,623	3,094	300	3,394	3,092	300	3,392
Engineering, etc. :—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	45,543	1,258	46,801	12,193	265	12,458	57,736	1,523	59,259	56,354	1,521	57,875
Electrical Engineering	2,852	611	3,463	334	122	456	3,186	733	3,919	3,171	733	3,904
Marine Engineering, etc.	9,053	30	9,083	358	2	360	9,411	32	9,443	7,496	32	7,528
Constructional Engineering	2,121	34	2,155	209	5	214	2,330	39	2,369	2,328	39	2,367
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ...	10,185	997	11,182	1,098	174	1,272	11,283	1,171	12,454	11,119	1,169	12,288
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	1,372	121	1,493	226	23	249	1,598	144	1,742	1,543	144	1,687
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram- car Building	2,160	17	2,177	521	...	521	2,681	17	2,698	2,669	17	2,686

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 ...	50,528	123	50,651	1,210	5	1,215	51,738	128	51,866	47,710	122	47,832
Metal Trades :—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General												
Iron Founding ...	5,698	454	6,152	1,451	161	1,612	7,149	615	7,764	7,063	615	7,678
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	1,132	35	1,167	92	1	93	1,224	36	1,260	1,186	36	1,222
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric												
Lamp Manufacture ...	3,492	1,781	5,273	678	525	1,203	4,170	2,306	6,476	4,158	2,306	6,464
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,655	712	3,367	1,494	405	1,899	4,149	1,117	5,266	4,145	1,117	5,262
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails,												
etc., Manufacture ...	1,098	794	1,892	608	202	810	1,706	996	2,702	1,706	996	2,702
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manu-												
facture ...	1,499	876	2,375	465	271	736	1,964	1,147	3,111	1,961	1,147	3,108
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	381	16	397	59	1	60	440	17	457	437	17	454
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery,												
etc., Manufacture ...	1,745	1,071	2,816	671	671	1,342	2,416	1,742	4,158	2,380	1,740	4,120
Other Metal Industries ...	7,030	4,246	11,276	2,379	1,494	3,873	9,409	5,740	15,149	9,302	5,737	15,039
Textile Trades :—												
Cotton ...	6,714	8,423	15,137	7,823	16,759	24,582	14,537	25,182	39,719	14,533	25,181	39,714
Woolen and Worsted ...	3,893	3,501	7,394	4,875	9,194	14,069	8,768	12,695	21,463	8,736	12,675	21,411
Silk ...	720	640	1,360	452	1,442	1,894	1,172	2,082	3,254	1,171	2,082	3,253
Linen ...	2,710	2,393	5,103	413	799	1,212	3,123	3,192	6,315	310	730	1,040
Jute ...	1,206	1,367	2,573	615	1,582	2,197	1,821	2,949	4,770	1,821	2,949	4,770
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope,												
Cord, Twine, etc. Making ...	459	647	1,106	157	515	672	616	1,162	1,778	500	994	1,494
Hosiery ...	545	2,221	2,766	482	3,872	4,354	1,027	6,093	7,120	1,015	6,052	7,067
Lace ...	399	226	625	504	326	830	903	552	1,455	903	552	1,455
Carpet Manufacture ...	346	313	659	214	403	617	560	716	1,276	555	716	1,271
Other Textile Industries ...	706	1,647	2,353	156	810	966	862	2,457	3,319	789	2,175	2,964
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing,												
etc. ...	3,563	965	4,528	7,528	1,744	9,272	11,091	2,709	13,800	10,664	2,506	13,170
Leather and Leather Goods :—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	2,024	421	2,445	626	168	794	2,650	589	3,239	2,647	589	3,236
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather												
Goods Manufacture ...	948	656	1,604	200	320	520	1,148	976	2,124	1,122	974	2,096
Clothing Trades :—												
Tailoring ...	2,178	1,462	3,640	160	717	877	2,338	2,179	4,517	2,213	2,137	4,350
Dress and Mantle Making and												
Millinery ...	484	1,565	2,049	16	279	295	500	1,844	2,344	490	1,696	2,186
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait)												
Manufacture ...	342	271	613	60	68	128	402	339	741	401	337	738
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Undercloth-												
ing, etc., Making ...	288	1,275	1,563	15	550	565	303	1,825	2,128	228	938	1,166
Other Dress Industries ...	552	354	906	69	508	577	621	862	1,483	616	861	1,477
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	4,862	1,259	6,121	1,953	1,173	3,126	6,815	2,432	9,247	6,639	2,410	9,049
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	6,787	2,311	9,098	246	180	426	7,033	2,491	9,524	6,496	2,440	8,936
Grain Milling ...	1,382	149	1,531	504	58	562	1,886	207	2,093	1,807	194	2,001
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Con-												
fectionery ...	1,830	2,291	4,121	537	2,436	2,973	2,367	4,727	7,094	2,358	4,722	7,080
Other Food Industries ...	4,012	4,576	8,588	125	663	788	4,137	5,239	9,376	4,055	5,161	9,216
Drink Industries ...	4,572	1,377	5,949	144	150	294	4,716	1,527	6,243	4,349	1,515	5,864
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff												
Manufacture ...	564	1,127	1,691	17	370	387	581	1,497	2,078	488	1,403	1,891
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—												
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	4,043	137	4,180	211	23	234	4,254	160	4,414	4,100	159	4,259
Wood Box and Packing Case Making	1,013	115	1,128	206	43	249	1,219	158	1,377	1,182	158	1,340
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	4,380	618	4,998	342	85	427	4,722	703	5,425	4,568	698	5,266
Other Woodworking ...	1,351	401	1,752	261	125	386	1,612	526	2,138	1,512	500	2,012
Printing and Paper Trades :—												
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	1,372	380	1,752	1,065	413	1,478	2,437	793	3,230	2,411	792	3,203
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and												
Stationery ...	878	1,192	2,070	173	536	709	1,051	1,728	2,779	1,031	1,690	2,721
Wall Paper Making and Paper												
Staining ...	98	71	169	2	4	6	100	75	175	100	75	175
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites												
(not paper) ...	105	109	214	9	15	24	114	124	238	113	124	237
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	7,500	3,646	11,146	260	584	844	7,760	4,230	11,990	7,611	4,125	11,736
Building and Construction of Works :—												
Building ...	51,454	145	51,599	1,376	20	1,396	52,830	165	52,995	49,286	165	49,451
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	24,352	26	24,378	640	..	640	24,992	26	25,018	23,553	26	23,579
Other Manufacturing Industries :—												
Rubber Manufacture ...	2,267	1,246	3,513	315	330	645	2,582	1,576	4,158	2,577	1,573	4,150
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture	388	61	449	25	4	29	413	65	478	410	65	475
Brush and Broom Making ...	382	186	568	138	89	227	520	275	795	510	275	785
Scientific and Photographic Instru-												
ment and Apparatus Manufacture	448	186	634	23	49	72	471	235	706	461	233	694
Musical Instrument Making ...	1,396	161	1,557	620	95	715	2,016	256	2,272	2,015	256	2,271
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites												
Manufacture ...	330	242	572	103	37	140	433	279	712	433	279	712
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply												
Industries ...	8,306	88	8,394	283	8	291	8,589	96	8,685	8,238	94	8,332
Transport and Communication :—												
Railway Service ...	6,757	126	6,883	358	41	399	7,115	167	7,282	6,914	163	7,077
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	3,543	165	3,708	188	3	191	3,731	168	3,899	3,683	168	3,851
Other Road Transport ...	17,056	131	17,187	622	10	632	17,678	141	17,819	16,985	139	17,124
Shipping Service ...	19,532	252	19,784	552	8	560	20,084	260	20,344	19,552	257	19,809
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour												
Service ...	47,575	98	47,673	840	1	841	48,415	99	48,514	47,739	98	47,837
Other Transport and Communication												
and Storage... ..	2,145	78	2,223	76	7	83	2,221	85	2,306	2,197	84	2,281
Distributive Trades ...	53,034	20,768	73,802	1,693	1,147	2,840	54,727	21,915	76,642	52,161	21,409	73,570
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and												
Finance ...	4,182	803	4,985	53	6	59	4,235	809	5,044	4,131	798	4,929
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—												
National Government ...	7,653	779	8,432	166	21	187	7,819	800	8,619	7,063	752	7,815
Local Government ...	17,523	326	17,849	525	8	533	18,048	334	18,382	17,095	334	17,429
Professional Services ...	2,144	723	2,867	81	15	96	2,225	738	2,963	2,167	717	2,884
Entertainments and Sports ...	4,075	1,599	5,674	70	63	133	4,145	1,662	5,807	4,008	1,642	5,650
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	8,504	11,271	19,775	93	204	297	8,597	11,475	20,072	8,330	11,361	19,691
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	1,054	2,833	3,887	30	394	424	1,084	3,227	4,311	1,049	3,111	4,160
Other Industries and Services ...	21,004	1,192	22,196	571	272	843	21,575	1,464	23,039	20,830	1,431	22,261
TOTAL ...	693,335	110,366	803,701*	195,323	59,767	255,090	888,658	170,133	1,058,791	861,074	164,504	1,025,578

* Including 69,969 Casuals (Males 69,343, Females 625).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.																
INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1926.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927.
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	25TH APR., 1927.	24TH MAY, 1926.	25TH MAY, 1925.	
Fishing	26,090	880	26,970	11.9	13.9	12.0	0.4	4.5	0.5	12.3	18.4	12.5	- 1.2	- 5.7	- 1.7	12.5
Mining :-																
Coal Mining	1,220,550	7,320	1,227,870	9.1	7.7	9.1	8.1	8.5	8.1	17.2	16.2	17.2	- 0.6	+ 8.6	+ 1.4	17.2
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	15,280	40	15,320	7.2	...	7.2	0.7	5.0	0.7	7.9	5.0	7.9	- 1.7	-53.1	-13.1	7.9
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,250	40	5,290	6.9	5.0	6.9	0.4	...	0.3	7.3	5.0	7.2	- 1.7	-13.9	- 8.5	7.2
Stone Quarrying and Mining	40,820	330	41,150	5.4	1.8	5.4	0.4	...	0.4	5.8	1.8	5.8	- 1.1	-11.4	+ 0.6	5.4
Slate Quarrying and Mining	10,860	10	10,870	0.9	10.0	0.9	2.5	...	2.5	3.4	10.0	3.4	+ 2.3	- 0.8	+ 0.4	3.4
Other Mining and Quarrying	17,920	1,630	19,550	7.5	3.1	7.2	1.4	0.4	1.2	8.9	3.5	8.4	- 0.8	-11.4	+ 1.4	8.3
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	14,960	170	15,130	3.9	2.9	3.9	0.3	0.6	0.3	4.2	3.5	4.2	- 0.5	- 1.5	+ 0.3	4.2
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :-																
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,560	160	11,720	8.5	5.0	8.5	1.3	0.6	1.2	9.8	5.6	9.7	+ 0.2	-40.3	- 2.4	9.7
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	15,230	1,230	16,460	9.7	5.0	9.3	1.9	1.5	1.9	11.6	6.5	11.2	- 1.3	-11.5	- 3.0	11.3
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	17,970	950	18,920	4.3	2.2	4.2	2.7	0.1	2.5	7.0	2.3	6.7	+ 1.5	- 5.9	+ 2.1	6.7
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	75,230	7,680	82,910	4.6	5.1	4.6	0.5	1.9	0.7	5.1	7.0	5.3	- 0.2	-15.5	- 1.3	5.1
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	35,220	38,590	73,810	4.6	3.6	4.1	6.9	9.5	8.2	11.5	13.1	12.3	- 0.7	-34.5	- 2.7	12.3
Glass Trades :-																
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scien- tific Glass) Manufacture	21,320	5,270	26,590	8.1	4.6	7.4	2.9	1.4	2.6	11.0	6.0	10.0	- 1.0	- 5.9	- 2.2	10.0
Glass Bottle Making	15,910	2,100	18,010	12.0	5.6	11.2	3.0	0.9	2.8	15.0	6.5	14.0	- 2.3	-11.0	- 5.3	14.0
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc. :-																
Chemicals Manufacture	72,680	21,850	94,530	6.5	2.9	5.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	7.1	3.4	6.3	- 0.2	- 5.8	- 2.7	6.2
Explosives Manufacture	12,520	6,070	18,590	7.0	6.6	6.9	0.8	1.2	0.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	+ 0.3	-15.6	+ 0.4	7.8
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	13,450	3,900	17,350	4.4	3.1	4.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	4.6	3.3	4.3	- 0.4	- 2.5	- 1.0	4.3
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	59,550	20,850	80,400	5.7	3.5	5.1	1.8	0.7	1.5	7.5	4.2	6.6	- 0.2	- 4.7	- 1.1	6.6
Metal Manufacture :-																
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	24,210	280	24,490	9.1	2.5	9.0	2.5	0.7	2.5	11.6	3.2	11.5	- 2.0	-46.9	- 6.2	11.5
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Fur- naces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	189,980	3,870	193,850	8.5	3.3	8.4	8.2	2.7	8.1	16.7	6.0	16.5	- 0.8	-41.6	- 7.1	16.5
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	39,120	3,370	42,490	7.3	5.4	7.2	2.0	0.7	1.8	9.3	6.1	9.0	- 0.8	- 8.3	- 3.4	9.0
Manufacture of Tin Plates	27,290	4,500	31,790	3.8	1.3	3.5	17.1	12.4	16.4	20.9	13.7	19.9	+ 9.0	-55.4	- 2.8	19.9
Iron and Steel Tube Making	26,580	1,760	28,340	7.5	7.2	7.4	4.7	1.3	4.6	12.2	8.5	12.0	- 2.4	-23.0	- 5.5	12.0
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manu- facture	20,830	4,240	25,070	7.5	5.1	7.1	7.4	2.0	6.4	14.9	7.1	13.5	- 0.2	- 7.0	- 0.7	13.6
Engineering, etc. :-																
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	572,820	43,100	615,920	8.0	2.9	7.6	2.1	0.6	2.0	10.1	3.5	9.6	- 1.1	- 7.6	- 2.7	9.5
Electrical Engineering	61,240	15,760	77,000	4.7	3.9	4.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	5.2	4.7	5.1	- 0.5	- 5.5	- 0.6	5.1
Marine Engineering, etc.	57,370	1,000	58,370	15.8	3.0	15.6	0.6	0.2	0.6	16.4	3.2	16.2	- 1.6	- 9.7	- 2.4	14.2
Constructional Engineering	26,370	1,050	27,430	8.0	3.2	7.9	0.8	0.5	0.7	8.8	3.7	8.6	- 1.7	-12.8	- 5.0	8.6
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :-																
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	201,780	22,260	224,040	5.0	4.5	5.0	0.6	0.8	0.6	5.6	5.3	5.6	- 0.4	- 4.4	- 0.3	5.5
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	19,350	2,350	21,700	7.1	5.1	6.9	1.2	1.0	1.1	8.3	6.1	8.0	- 0.7	- 6.2	- 1.6	7.9
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram- car Building	54,970	1,320	56,290	3.9	1.3	3.9	1.0	...	0.9	4.9	1.3	4.8	- 0.8	- 6.0	- 2.0	4.8
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	220,820	3,300	224,120	22.9	3.7	22.6	0.5	0.2	0.5	23.4	3.9	23.1	- 2.8	-15.2	- 8.4	22.8
Metal Trades :-																
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	82,160	8,330	90,490	6.9	5.5	6.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	8.7	7.4	8.6	- 0.7	- 7.6	- 2.2	8.5
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	12,740	1,170	13,910	8.9	3.0	8.4	0.7	0.1	0.7	9.6	3.1	9.1	+ 1.7	- 1.2	+ 0.2	9.0
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	56,030	31,880	87,910	6.2	5.6	6.0	1.2	1.6	1.4	7.4	7.2	7.4	- 0.3	- 2.2	- 0.4	7.4
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	24,620	10,520	35,140	10.8	6.8	9.6	6.1	3.8	5.4	16.9	10.6	15.0	- 1.9	-10.4	+ 2.5	15.0
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manu- facture	15,020	11,380	26,400	7.3	7.0	7.2	4.1	1.8	3.0	11.4	8.8	10.2	- 0.8	- 8.4	- 3.6	10.2
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	19,180	11,980	31,160	7.8	7.3	7.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	10.2	9.6	10.0	- 0.6	- 5.0	- 2.4	10.0
Other Metal Industries	6,610	490	7,100	5.8	3.3	5.6	0.9	0.2	0.8	6.7	3.5	6.4	- 1.1	- 1.9	+ 0.4	6.4
Textile Trades :-																
Cotton	210,730	368,460	579,190	3.2	2.3	2.6	3.7	4.5	4.3	6.9	6.8	6.9	+ 0.1	-19.6	- 0.7	6.8
Woollen and Worsted	106,380	148,370	254,750	3.7	2.4	2.9	4.5	6.2	5.5	8.2	8.6	8.4	- 1.0	-12.6	- 9.4	8.4
Silk	21,350	29,870	51,220	3.4	2.1	2.7	2.1	4.9	3.7	5.5	7.0	6.4	- 1.8	- 9.1	- 0.8	6.4
Linen	28,000	61,590	89,590	9.7	3.9	5.7	1.5	1.3	1.3	11.2	5.2	7.0	- 0.7	-18.7	-33.1	6.3
Jute	13,430	28,130	41,560	9.0	4.9	6.2	4.6	5.6	5.3	13.6	10.5	11.5	+ 4.4	-20.3	- 1.7	11.5
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	7,490	12,250	19,740	6.1	5.3	5.6	2.1	4.2	3.4	8.2	9.5	9.0	+ 0.8	-13.9	- 5.1	9.0
Hosiery	21,190	76,700	97,890	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.2	5.0	4.5	4.8	7.9	7.3	- 0.4	-11.4	- 2.2	7.3
Lace	8,110	10,890	19,000	4.9	2.1	3.3	6.2	3.0	4.4	11.1	5.1	7.7	- 2.0	-14.7	-10.0	7.7
Carpet Manufacture	10,730	15,510	26,240	3.2	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.6	2.4	5.2	4.6	4.9	- 0.6	-24.8	- 3.1	4.8
Other Textile Industries	13,360	31,160	44,520	5.3	5.3	5.3	1.2	2.6	2.2	6.5	7.9	7.5	- 0.9	-11.0	- 4.1	7.5
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	86,540	32,740	119,280	4.1	2.9	3.8	8.7	5.4	7.8	12.8	8.3	11.6	- 1.7	-12.4	- 0.2	12.0
Leather and Leather Goods :-																
Tanning, Currying and Dressing	32,080	8,450	40,530	6.3	5.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	8.3	7.0	8.0	- 0.9	- 7.5	- 4.4	8.0
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	13,750	12,970	26,720	6.9	5.1	6.0	1.4	2.4	1.9	8.3	7.5	7.9	- 1.0	- 8.2	- 2.6	7.9
Clothing Trades :-																
Tailoring	66,830	126,930	193,760	3.3	1.2	1.9	0.2	0.5	0.4	3.5	1.7	2.3	- 0.9	- 5.2	- 2.2	2.3
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	11,740	95,060	106,800	4.1	1.6	1.9	0.2	0.3	0.3	4.3	1.9	2.2	- 0.7	- 5.2	- 2.7	2.2
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	13,400	20,940	34,340	2.6	1.3	1.8	0.4	0.3	0.4	3.0	1.6	2.2	- 1.0	- 5.9	- 3.6	2.2
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Undercloth- ing, etc., Making	7,240	65,750	72,990	4.0	1.9	2.1	0.2	0.9	0.8	4.2	2.8	2.9	- 0.4	- 7.8	- 3.6	2.9
Other Dress Industries	10,520	17,830	28,350	5.2	2.0	3.2	0.7	2.8	2.0	5.9	4.8	5.2	+ 0.4	- 6.1	- 3.6	5.2
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	92,070	53,930	146,000	5.3	2.3	4.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	7.4	4.5	6.3	- 1.8	-13.2	- 3.8	6.3

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.															GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PER- CENTAGE UNEM- PLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927.
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1926.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927.									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.	25TH APR., 1927.	24TH MAY, 1926.	25TH MAY, 1925.	
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—																
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	94,280	51,550	145,830	7.2	4.5	6.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	7.5	4.8	6.5	- 0.5	- 2.0	- 2.6	6.4
Grain Milling ...	28,020	3,580	31,600	4.9	4.2	4.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	6.7	5.8	6.6	...	- 0.2	+ 1.6	6.5
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Con- fectionery ...	27,110	49,630	76,740	6.8	4.6	5.4	1.9	4.9	3.8	8.7	9.5	9.2	- 1.1	- 2.4	- 0.6	9.2
Other Food Industries ...	56,430	57,750	114,180	7.1	7.9	7.5	0.2	1.2	0.7	7.3	9.1	8.2	- 0.6	- 2.4	- 3.2	8.1
Drink Industries ...	87,950	23,180	111,130	5.2	5.9	5.4	0.2	0.7	0.2	5.4	6.6	5.6	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 0.9	5.4
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture ...	15,040	29,620	44,660	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.1	1.3	0.9	3.9	5.1	4.7	- 0.6	- 2.1	- 3.2	4.5
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—																
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork ...	55,090	2,940	58,030	7.3	4.7	7.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	7.7	5.4	7.6	- 0.5	- 4.5	- 2.1	7.5
Wood Box and Packing Case Making ...	11,170	1,950	13,120	9.1	5.9	8.6	1.8	2.2	1.9	10.9	8.1	10.5	- 1.0	- 5.4	- 4.6	10.4
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc. ...	88,170	19,640	107,810	5.0	3.1	4.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	5.4	3.6	5.0	- 0.7	- 5.6	- 0.8	4.9
Other Woodworking ...	19,270	5,680	24,950	7.0	7.1	7.0	1.4	2.2	1.6	8.4	9.3	8.6	- 1.1	- 5.7	- 2.0	8.2
Printing and Paper Trades :—																
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	40,780	15,190	55,970	3.4	2.5	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.7	6.0	5.2	5.8	- 0.7	- 4.6	- 1.6	5.8
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	19,840	37,230	57,070	4.4	3.2	3.6	0.9	1.4	1.3	5.3	4.6	4.9	- 0.3	- 3.5	- 1.5	4.8
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining ...	4,000	1,390	5,390	2.5	5.1	3.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	2.5	5.4	3.2	- 1.3	- 5.1	- 0.9	3.3
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ...	2,220	2,910	5,130	4.7	3.7	4.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	5.1	4.3	4.6	- 0.4	- 4.6	- 2.4	4.6
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding ...	163,700	88,850	252,550	4.6	4.1	4.4	0.1	0.7	0.3	4.7	4.8	4.7	- 0.2	- 1.1	- 0.4	4.7
Building and Construction of Works :—																
Building ...	793,170	7,870	801,040	6.5	1.8	6.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	6.7	2.1	6.6	- 1.2	- 3.1	- 0.9	6.3
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	162,820	1,330	164,150	15.0	2.0	14.9	0.3	...	0.3	15.3	2.0	15.2	- 2.1	- 5.6	- 0.8	14.8
Other Manufacturing Industries :—																
Rubber Manufacture ...	34,760	25,540	60,300	6.5	4.9	5.8	0.9	1.3	1.1	7.4	6.2	6.9	- 1.0	- 4.7	- 2.1	6.9
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture ...	12,470	2,380	14,850	3.1	2.6	3.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	3.3	2.7	3.2	- 2.5	- 26.8	- 1.5	3.2
Brush and Broom Making ...	5,940	4,800	10,740	6.4	3.9	5.3	2.4	1.8	2.1	8.8	5.7	7.4	- 0.7	- 11.6	- 2.7	7.4
Scientific and Photographic Instru- ment and Apparatus Manufacture ...	14,440	7,970	22,410	3.1	2.3	2.8	0.2	0.6	0.4	3.3	2.9	3.2	...	- 2.2	- 1.0	3.1
Musical Instrument Making ...	19,870	4,680	24,550	7.0	3.4	6.3	3.1	2.1	3.0	10.1	5.5	9.3	...	- 11.0	+ 2.3	9.3
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites Manufacture ...	5,970	5,390	11,360	5.5	4.5	5.0	1.8	0.7	1.3	7.3	5.2	6.3	- 0.2	- 3.7	- 2.6	6.3
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...	178,820	6,560	185,380	4.6	1.3	4.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	4.8	1.5	4.7	- 0.5	- 1.1	- 1.4	4.6
Transport and Communication :—																
Railway Service ...	152,630	8,020	160,650	4.4	1.6	4.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	4.7	2.1	4.5	- 0.5	- 5.4	- 1.5	4.5
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	124,450	5,290	129,740	2.8	3.1	2.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	3.0	3.2	3.0	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 0.3	3.0
Other Road Transport ...	155,930	4,770	160,700	10.9	2.7	10.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	11.3	3.0	11.1	- 0.5	- 4.0	- 2.8	10.9
Shipping Service ...	123,590	5,820	129,410	15.8	4.3	15.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	16.3	4.5	15.7	- 0.5	- 6.4	- 5.1	15.7
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ...	186,860	2,250	189,110	25.5	4.4	25.2	0.4	0.0	0.5	25.9	4.4	25.7	+ 0.7	- 3.8	- 6.9	25.8
Other Transport and Communication and Storage... ..	19,040	2,040	21,080	11.3	3.8	10.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	11.7	4.2	10.9	+ 0.1	3.2	4.6	10.9
Distributive Trades ...	914,270	596,580	1,510,850	5.8	3.5	4.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	6.0	3.7	5.1	0.4	- 1.7	1.6	5.0
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...	149,040	71,120	220,160	2.8	1.1	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	1.1	2.3	- 0.1	- 1.0	1.2	2.3
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—																
National Government ...	123,040	28,430	151,470	6.2	2.7	5.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	6.4	2.8	5.7	- 0.5	- 1.9	- 2.0	5.3
Local Government ...	242,390	18,860	261,250	7.2	1.7	6.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	7.4	1.8	7.0	- 0.7	- 2.0	- 1.1	6.8
Professional Services ...	68,800	47,420	116,220	3.1	1.5	2.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	3.2	1.6	2.5	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 1.0	2.5
Entertainments and Sports ...	42,060	22,900	64,960	9.7	7.0	8.7	0.2	0.3	0.2	9.9	7.3	8.9	- 0.1	- 2.0	- 3.0	8.8
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services ...	107,490	185,890	293,380	7.9	6.1	6.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	8.0	6.2	6.8	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 3.3	6.8
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning ...	23,430	98,800	122,230	4.5	2.9	3.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	4.6	3.3	3.5	- 0.2	- 1.7	- 2.3	3.5
Other Industries and Services ...	89,680	32,360	122,040	23.4	3.7	18.2	0.7	0.8	0.7	24.1	4.5	18.9	- 1.7	- 8.9	- 5.2	18.7
TOTAL ...	8,843,800	3,197,200	12,041,000	7.8	3.5	6.7	2.2	1.8	2.1	10.0	5.3	8.8	- 0.6	- 5.5	- 2.1	8.7

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 May, 1927, differed from the figures for 25th April, 1927, 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 May, 1927, as compared with 25th April, 1927.			Services	Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries	559	966	1,525
	Males.	Females.	Total.			1,009	35	1,044
Building	- 9,170	- 25	- 9,195	Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service		+ 1,216	+ 1	+ 1,217
Coal Mining	- 7,269	+ 220	- 7,049	Jute		+ 461	+ 1,368	+ 1,829
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	- 6,529	- 123	- 6,652	Manufacture of Tin Plates ...		+ 2,569	+ 294	+ 2,863
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	- 6,144	- 19	- 6,163	Net variation for above industries		- 41,883	- 5,345	- 47,231
Distributive Trades	- 3,518	- 2,505	- 6,023	Total Net Variation for all insured industries		- 62,088	- 12,211	- 74,299
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	- 3,445	+ 11	- 3,434					
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	- 1,991	- 552	- 2,543					

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

IN the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of £77,600 in the weekly full-time wages of 512,000 workpeople and in an increase of about £600 in those of 9,000 workpeople. The industries principally affected were as shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	7,600	301,000	£ 470	£ 59,300
Metal ...	...	44,000	...	2,900
Clothing ...	...	68,000	...	6,500
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...	25,000	...	1,900
Public Administration Services ...	250	23,000	10	2,250
Other ...	1,150	51,000	140	4,750
Total ...	9,000	512,000	620	77,600

There were reductions in the percentage additions to the base rates of coal miners in Yorkshire, Scotland, the Forest of Dean and Shropshire, the amount of reduction, compared with the rates previously in force, varying from nearly 5 per cent. in the Forest of Dean to 10 per cent. in Scotland. In the latter district subsistence allowances were also reduced. The increase in the mining group mainly affected iron ore miners in Cumberland and Furness, amounting to 2d. or 3d. per shift.

In the metal group Siemens steel workers in South West Wales, with the exception of the lower-paid men, had their wages reduced by an amount equivalent to over 2 per cent. on the previous rates. There was a reduction of nearly 5 per cent. on the previous rates of blastfurnace workers in Scotland, and of about 1½ per cent. on those of iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England. Electrical cable workers sustained reductions amounting to 1s. 11½d. or 2s. per week in the case of men and 1s. per week in that of women.

The principal body of workpeople in the clothing group whose wages were changed were those employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade, the minimum time rates of adult workers being reduced by 2s. or 3s. per week. There were also reductions in the wages of workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning industry.

The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the paper box and paper bag making trades were reduced under cost-of-living sliding scales, the reductions in the minimum time rates of men amounting to from 2s. to 3s. per week and in those of women to 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week.

In the public administration services there was a reduction of ½d. per hour in the wages of men employed in the non-trading services

of various local authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and the wages of similar classes of men in London were reduced by an amount equivalent in most cases to 1s. 8d. or 1s. 9d. per week.

In industries other than the above there were reductions in the wages of road transport workers in Scotland, brush and broom makers, leather belt makers, and tramway workers at Liverpool.

Of the total reduction of £77,600 per week, £60,000 took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry (coal mining) or on selling prices; £16,500 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including over £8,000 under scales embodied in Trade Board Orders, and over £4,000 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople. The remaining sum was mainly the result of direct negotiation between the parties.

Of the total increase of £620, £400 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and the remainder was mainly the result of direct negotiation.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-MAY, 1927.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople† affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	13,000	529,000	£ 1,400	£ 107,100
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	160	7,000	20	660
Iron and Steel ...	23,250	114,000	2,400	9,200
Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal ...	5,000	28,250	370	3,700
Textile... ..	...	217,000	...	18,700
Clothing ...	150	68,000	30	6,600
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	520	10,000	160	1,400
Woodworking, etc. ...	2,000	17,500	230	2,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...	25,000	...	1,900
Building and Allied Industries	29,000	34,000	4,600	6,600
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...	31,500	250	3,100	20
Transport ...	196,000	16,000	9,800	3,320
Public Administration Services	10,150	25,000	1,100	2,350
Other ...	270	29,000	40	3,400
Total ...	311,000	1,120,000	23,250	166,950

In the corresponding five months of 1926, there were net increases of £14,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 116,000 workpeople and net reductions of £52,000 in those of 519,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The changes reported during May resulted in an average increase of 4.5 hours in the normal working week of 3,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of 1 hour in that of 400 workpeople. During the first five months of 1927 there has been an average increase of 3.3 hours per week for 7,700 workpeople and a reduction of 1.3 hours per week for 600 workpeople.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Agriculture	Durham ...	14 May	AGRICULTURE.	
			Horsemen, 21 and over ...	Decrease of 1s. per week (except for those who are householders), leaving minimum rates for a week of 50 hours as follows:—Householders, 32s., plus 7s. for time spent in attention to horses; men receiving board and lodging, 31s.†; others, 31s., plus 3s. 6d. for time spent in attention to horses.‡
			Stockmen and shepherds, 21 and over.	Decrease of 1s. per week (except for those who are householders), leaving minimum rates as follows:—Householders, 43s.; those receiving board and lodging, 35s.†; others, 36s. 10½d.§
			Other male workers, 21 and over...	Decrease of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 31s. for a week of 50 hours.§
			All classes of male workers under 21	Decrease of 1s. or 2s. per week for those 18 and under 21, the rates for those under 18 remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates for a week of 50 hours as follows:—12s. at 14 years, increasing each year to 29s. at 20.§
	Northumberland ...	13 May	Male workers employed as stewards, horsemen, cattlemen, stockmen or shepherds.	Decrease of 1s. per week (except for those under 15 years, for whom there was no change), leaving minimum rates as follows:—Householders—15s. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 39s. at 21 and over; not householders—11s. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 36s. at 21 and over.§
			Other male workers (except casual workers).	Decrease of 1s. per week (except for those under 16 years, for whom there was no change), leaving minimum rates for a week of 48 hours in winter and 52½ hours in summer as follows:—10s. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 32s. at 21 and over.§
	Lancashire:— Eastern Area ...	2 May	Male agricultural labourers ...	Decreases of from 1s. to 4s. 6d. per week for those under 18 years and 19 and under 20 years of age, and increase of 6d. per week for those 18 and under 19, and 20 and under 21, the rate for those 21 and over remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates for a week of 60 hours as follows:—16s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing each year to 42s. at 21 and over.§
	Northern Area ...		Male agricultural labourers (other than those employed as stockmen and teamsmen).	Decreases of from 6d. to 4s. per week for those under 18 years, and 19 and under 20 years, and increase of 6d. per week for those 18 and under 19, and 20 and under 21, the rate for those 21 and over remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates for a week of 60 hours as follows:—15s. at 14 years, increasing each year to 37s. 6d. at 21 and over.§
	Essex ...	1 May	Female agricultural labourers, 21 and over.	Decrease of ½d. per hour in minimum rate (6d. to 5½d.).§

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes 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 80,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ This rate is subject to the deduction of 15s. per week for board and lodging.

§ The minimum rates 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.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE (continued).				
Agriculture (contd.)	Herefordshire ...	1 May	Male agricultural labourers (other than those employed as bailiffs, waggoners, stockmen or shepherds).	Minimum rates previously fixed made applicable to a week of 53 hours in summer (in lieu of 52 hours previously fixed) and 48 hours in winter (as previously).*
	Radnorshire and Brecknockshire.	1 May	Male agricultural labourers ...	Increases of from 5d. to 1s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change for a week of 54 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter: 12s. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 31s. at 21 and over.*
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Cumberland ...	1 May	Youths 18 to 21 years of age employed in or about coal mines.	Subsistence allowance previously paid increased up to a maximum limit of 6d. per day, in lieu of previous limit of 3d., providing gross wages do not exceed 6s. 6d. per day (in lieu of previous limit of 6s. 3d. per day).
	West Yorkshire ...	1 May	Women employed in or about coal mines.	Subsistence wage of 3s. 7d. per day previously paid increased to 3s. 8d.
	South Yorkshire ...	1 May		Decrease of 9·37 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 41·71 per cent. above basis rates for underground workers, and, for surface workers, 40·04 per cent. above basis rates in the Eastern sub-division and 36·71 per cent. in the Western sub-division.†
	Shropshire ...	1 May		Decrease of 9·37 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 41·71 per cent. above basis rates.†
	Forest of Dean ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Decrease of 12·84 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 33·83 per cent. above basis rates, subject to the proviso that the wages of any adult able-bodied day-wage workman shall not fall below 6s. 2d. per shift.‡
	Scotland ...	1 May		Decrease of 8·69 per cent. on basis rates of 1919 (equivalent to 6·43 per cent. on 1921 standard rates), leaving wages 71·31 per cent. above basis rates (equivalent to 26·9 per cent. on 1921 standard rates), subject to the proviso that the wages of any adult able-bodied day-wage workman shall not fall below 6s. 1½d. per shift.‡
	Scotland ...	1 May		Decrease of 23·33 per cent. on basis rates of 1888,‡ leaving wages at the minimum of 110 per cent. above basis rates; also subsistence allowances paid to day-wage surface workers reduced from a maximum of 1s. 1½d. to 1s. per shift for men 18 years of age and over, from 6½d. to 6d. per shift for youths under 18, from 9d. to 8d. per shift for women 18 and over, and from 4½d. to 4d. per shift for girls under 18.§
Coke, etc., Manufacture.	South Yorkshire ...	1 May	Cokemen and by-product workers.	Decrease of 9·37 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 41·71 per cent. above basis rates.
Iron Mining	Cumberland...	9 May	Workpeople employed at iron ore mines.	Increase|| of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. 6d. to 8s. 9d.), of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. to 7s. 3d.), of 3d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of 1½d. per shift for youths under 18 years of age. Rates after change: joiners, blacksmiths and winding enginemen, 8s. 9d.; pumping enginemen, loco drivers and crane drivers, 8s. 3d.; leading labourers, 7s. 7d.
	Furness and District	9 May	Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters).	Increase|| of 2d. per shift in the bargain price (7s. 6d. to 7s. 8d.), of 2d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 9d. to 6s. 11d.), of 2d. per shift for surfacemen and of 1d. per shift for boys.
	North Lincolnshire...	1 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	Decrease|| of ½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 35½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
Lead Mining	Wearhead and Alledale.	9 May	Underground and surface workers	Decreases|| in bonuses of 1½d. or 3d. per shift for lead ore dressers, of 3d. per shift for surface enginemen and labourers, and underground enginemen, and of 3½d. per shift for underground labourers, hauliers and timbermen—leaving the wages of all workers at their base rates, viz.: lead ore miners, 10s. 6d. per shift; surface enginemen, 6s. 9d. to 7s. 9d.; surface labourers, 6s. 3d.; underground labourers and hauliers, 7s. 3d.; timbermen, 8s. 3d.
Other Mining	Gotham, Cropwell Bishop and Newark-on-Trent.	May	Gypsum miners, mill hands and stone dressers.	Increase|| of 4d. in the £ on earnings. Rates after change: mill hands and stone dressers at Gotham, 64s. per week less 6s. 3d. in the £; day workers at Cropwell Bishop, 60s. per week, less 6s. 3d. in the £.
Quarrying	West Cumberland ...	9 May	Limestone quarrymen ...	Increase|| of 1½d. per shift for men, and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: knobblers, 7s. 6½d.; haulage enginemen, 7s. 2½d.; blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 0½d.; day borers, 1st class, 7s. 0½d.; day labourers, 6s. 4½d.; plus, in each case, a temporary advance of 1s. per shift; ruddmen, 5s. 10½d.; plus a temporary advance of 1s. 6d. per shift.
IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.				
Pig-Iron Manufacture.	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in May.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work and also labourers) employed at blastfurnaces.	Decreases** in bonuses of amounts varying according to base rates from 7·8d. to 1s. 9d. per week, leaving total amount of bonuses varying from 1s. 9·2d. to 4s. 4d. per week.††
			Keepers, slaggars, fillers, enginemen, etc., employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase|| of 3½ per cent. on output bonus earnings, making the percentage payable, 53½ in the Workington Area and 48½ in the Furness Area.
	North Lincolnshire and certain firms in the Leeds District.	1 May	Blastfurnacemen ...	Decrease|| of ½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 35½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift, and the percentage payable on output bonus earnings reduced under sliding scale from 35½ to 35½. Minimum rate after change for general labourers: 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 35½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus 4d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire...	1 May††	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces and in steel works.	Decrease|| of ½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving rates 25½ per cent. above the standard, plus a tonnage bonus.
	West of Scotland ...	1 May§§	Blastfurnacemen ...	Decrease|| of 3 per cent. on standard rates for lower-paid day-wage men and of 6 per cent. for other men, leaving wages 21 per cent. and 18 per cent. above the standard respectively.

* The minimum rates 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.

† In the case of adult day-wage workmen whose gross wages are less than 8s. 9d. per shift a subsistence allowance is granted sufficient to bring wages up to 8s. 9d. per shift, provided that the maximum addition in any instance does not exceed 6d. per shift.

‡ The above reduction is based on the proceeds of the industry, and is the first change to take effect in this district under the revised arrangement made for determining wages by the proceeds, following the stoppage of work in 1926.

§ The subsistence allowance varies inversely with the gross daily wage, being now calculated to ensure total earnings of at least 7s. per shift for men with a gross daily wage of 6s. or over, 3s. 6d. per shift for youths with 3s. or over, 5s. per shift for women with 4s. 4d. or over, 2s. 6d. per shift for girls with 2s. 2d. or over, workers with a gross daily wage of less than the above amounts receiving the maximum allowance, and those with a gross daily wage equal to or exceeding 7s., 3s. 6d., 5s. and 2s. 6d. per shift in the case of men, youths, women, and girls respectively, receiving no allowance. The previous limits of payment exceeded these four amounts by one-eighth in each case: thus in the case of men a subsistence allowance (up to 1s. 1½d. per shift) was paid providing the total earnings did not exceed 7s. 10½d. per shift.

|| Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.
¶ This increase was granted as the result of an arrangement between the employers and workpeople, whereby the sliding scale has been adjusted 10 points—or 10d. in the £ on earnings—in favour of the employees, the original sliding scale having justified a decrease in May of 6d. in the £ on earnings.

** Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
†† The percentage addition to the day and tonnage basis rates remained at 16 in accordance with the arrangement made in October, 1925.

‡‡ In some cases the decrease operated from 6 February.

§§ The change took effect from the pay starting nearest 1st May—in most cases this was 1st May.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	North of England ...	30 May	Iron puddlers	Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 42 per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	30 May	Iron millmen	Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 39½ per cent. above the standard.
	Barrow-in-Furness	30 May	Merchant millmen	Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 42½ per cent. above the standard.
	South and West Wales.	1 May	Workpeople (excluding maintenance men) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Sliding-scale percentage on base rates decreased* from 15 to 12½. Bonuses paid to men on base rates up to 30s. per week increased from 35 to 37½ for adults, leaving total wages as previously for such workers, viz., 30s. per week, plus 50 per cent. <i>Ex gratia</i> bonus granted to boys under 18 years to remain at 5 per cent., making wages 17½ per cent. above base, plus 3d. per shift. Bonuses paid to men rated over 30s. up to 50s. to remain as previously (6d. per shift for those at 30s. 1d. to 40s., and 4d. per shift for those at 40s. 1d. to 50s.), subject to the proviso that men on base rates from 30s. 1d. to 37s. 4d. are to have their bonus made up so that they receive the same gross earnings (viz., 45s.) as men with a base rate of 30s.†
OTHER METAL INDUSTRIES.				
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.	3rd pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.).	Decrease‡ of 1s. 11½d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 5½d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 5½d. or 6d. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages to be correspondingly reduced. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 52s. 10½d. to 58s. 9d.; women 18 years and over, 27s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.§
	Other districts in Great Britain.			Decrease‡ of 2s. per week for men 21 years and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages to be correspondingly reduced. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 47s. 6d. to 53s. 6d.; women 18 years and over, 27s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.§
Manufacture of Steel and Metal Pens and Stationers' Metal Sundries.	Birmingham and District.	Pay day following 1 May	Male timeworkers 21 years of age and over.	Decrease‡ of 2s. 8d. per week for skilled men and charge hands and of 2s. per week for others. Rates after change: toolmakers over 25 years of age, 76s. 8d. and 67s. 2d.; toolmakers 21 to 25 years, 57s. 2d.; chargehands in hardening shops and rolling mills, 69s. 2d.; chargehands in shaking mills and tempering and colouring shops, 61s. 2d.; others, 47s.
			Male timeworkers under 21 years of age, and apprentices. Female workers and learners ...	Decrease‡ of amounts varying according to age from 4d. to 1s. 6d. per week. Decreases‡ of amounts varying according to age from 4d. to 10d. per week. Rate after change for dayworkers 18 years and over, 23s. 10d. per week.
Metallic Bedstead Manufacture.	Birmingham, Smethwick, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge, Keighley and Glasgow.	6 May	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade.	Decrease‡ in flat-rate bonus of 2s. per week for men 18 years and over|| of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys under 18 years and girls under 18 but over 16 years. Rates after change: men—cupola men, 1s. 3d. per hour (56 hours); frame setters, 1s. 4d. per hour (48 hours); stockfitters in charge, 85s. per week; stockfitters (second hands, able to fit all classes of stocks) 70s. per week; stockfitters (improvers, not less than 3 years' experience), 30s. per week; bending, 1s. 3d. per hour; cutting off and other sections, 1s. 1½d. per hour; less 12½ per cent. in each case, and plus a bonus of 12s. per week; women 18 years and over—wrappers and lacquerers, 7d. per hour; colour painters and transferrers 8d. per hour; plus, in each case, a bonus of 6s. per week.
Musical Instrument Manufacture.	London and St. Albans	1st pay day in May.	Military orchestral musical instrument makers. ...	Decreases‡ of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of 4½ per cent. on piece price list for pieceworkers. Rates after change for timeworkers: brass instrument makers, 1s. 5½d. and 1s. 6½d. per hour; drum makers, 1s. 5½d.; wood, wind and saxophone makers, 1s. 6½d.; brass finishers and polishers, 1s. 4½d.; improvers, 11½d. to 1s. 1d.
Typefoundry	London	2 May	Apprentices employed in type foundries.	Adoption of a new scale of wages for new entrants, starting at 20s. per week in first year and rising to 25s. in second year, 32s. 6d. in third year, 42s. 6d. in fourth year and 55s. in fifth year.
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.				
Hosiery Manufacture.	Dumfries	1st pay in May.	Workpeople employed in hosiery manufacture.	Decrease‡ of ½d. in the shilling on rates adopted in November 1919, making a total reduction of 2½d. in the shilling on these rates. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers—men, 44s. 4d., women, 25s. 4d.; pieceworkers—men, 47s. 6d., women, 28s. 6d.
Elastic Web Weaving.	Leicester	Pay day in week beginning 9 May.	Elastic web weavers (male workers)	Bonus reduced‡ from 14s. to 13s. in the £.
Textile Dyeing, Bleaching, Printing, etc.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in June	Machine calico printers	Supplementary cost-of-living wage reduced‡ from 50·40 per cent. to 44·80 per cent. on basis wages, and flat rate bonuses of 20s. per week for journeymen and 14s. per week for apprentices reduced‡ to 19s. and 13s. per week respectively.
	Macclesfield	Pay day in week ending 14 May.	Workpeople employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trades:— Male workers Female workers 18 years and over.	Decrease‡ of 2s. 7d. per week for those 22½ years and over and of from 6d. to 2s. per week for those under 22½ years. Rates after change: 15s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing each half-year to 30s. at 18, 42s. 6d. at 21, and to 48s. 6d. at 22½ years, plus special advance of 2s. for those 21 and over. Decrease‡ of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change, 26s. 7d., plus 1s. 3d.
CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.				
Boot and Shoe Making, etc.	Rossendale district (including Bacup, Stacksteads, Rawtenstall and Waterfoot).	After 1st making-up day in May.	Workpeople employed in shoe and slipper manufacture.	Decrease‡ of 3½ per cent. on basis wages of 1920, leaving wages 22½ per cent. below basis wages.

* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

† Men in receipt of base rates of 50s. 1d. to 51s. 8d. per week (i.e., those who do not receive a bonus) are to receive a make-up sufficient to bring their gross earnings up to those of men with a base rate of 50s. per week.

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

§ Excluding any service bonus that may be due.

|| The decrease for youths engaged after 18th October 1926 was 1s. per week for those 18 to 20 years of age, and 1s. 6d. per week for those from 20 to 21 years of age.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)			
CLOTHING INDUSTRIES (continued).							
Boot and Shoe Making, etc. (contd.).	Great Britain	1 May	Workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade:—	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see page 203 of MAY GAZETTE):— Decrease* of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 62s.			
			Male and female workers wholly or mainly employed in making bespoke hand-sewn leather footwear (including bespoke hand-sewn surgical work).	Decrease* of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 67s.			
			Male workers employed as pressmen, who are responsible for cutting and costing.	Decreases* of 2s. or 3s. per week.			
			Male workers 21 years and over employed in operating Power Sole Stitchers and Blake etc. Machines.	Decrease* of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 72s.			
			Male and female workers employed as foremen and managers.	Decreases* of from 3d. to 3s. 6d. per week.			
			Male indentured apprentices...	Decrease* of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 57s.			
			All other male workers 21 years and over; also female workers employed on benching and/or finishing in the repairing of leather footwear.	Decrease* of 1s. or 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 12s. at 14 years, increasing each year to 41s. at 20.			
			Male learners (other than indentured apprentices); also female learners employed on benching and/or finishing.	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. or 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 18s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing each year to 49s. 6d. at 20.			
			All other male workers under 21 years of age.	Decrease* of 1s. or 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 12s. at 14 years, increasing each year to 40s. at 21 and over.			
			All other female workers	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on piece prices for bespoke hand-sewn, bespoke hand-sewn surgical, bespoke pegged and bespoke riveted work, making wages 7½ per cent. below list prices, and of 5 per cent. for repairing, making wages 12½ per cent. below list prices.			
Dyeing and Dry Cleaning.	England and Scotland	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry-cleaning trade.	Decrease* of 2s. per week for men 21 and over, and of 6d. or 1s. per week for youths under 21 and for women and girls. Rates after change: men—skilled dyers, 66s. or 71s.; dyers (one colour), 61s.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers and other skilled workers, 56s.; labourers, 51s.; boys—10s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing each year to 42s. at 20; female workers—10s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing each year to 28s. at 21.			
			FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES.				
			South Yorkshire district†, Chesterfield, Grimsby and Goole.	9 May	Bakers and confectioners employed by co-operative societies.	Decrease* of 3s. per week for adult male workers and of 1s. 6d. per week for female workers and juniors. Rates after change for adult male workers: foremen, chargemen, and singlehands, 68s.; doughmakers, ovenmen, and secondhands, 63s.; tablehands, 58s.; allied workers, 50s.	
					Male workers	Decrease* of 2s. per week for adult workers, 1s. 4d. per week for those 18 to 21 years, and 4d. per day for jobbers. Daywork rates after change: forehands and ovenmen, 69s.; assistant ovenmen and platers, second hands and doughmakers, 66s.; other adult bakers, 64s.; jobbers, 10s. 8d. per day; juniors, 18 to 21 years, 42s. 8d.; firemen and stokers, 58s.; bread packers, 54s.; tin greasers, cleaners and other general workers, 49s.	
			Manchester and District.‡	1 May	Female workers	Decrease* of 1s. 4d. per week for adult workers, 11d. per week for those 18 to 21, and 2½d. per day for jobbers. Rates after change: forehands, 46s.; second hands, 44s.; other adult bakers, 42s. 8d.; jobbers, 7s. 1½d. per day; bread packers, 36s.; tin greasers, cleaners, and other general workers, 32s. 8d.	
					Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 59s. 9d.	
			Baking and Confectionery.	Bristol	7 May	Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 59s.
				Bath	7 May	Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 3s. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s.
				Loughborough	7 May	Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 3s. per week for adult male workers, 1s. 6d. per week for adult female workers and of proportionate amounts for juveniles.
				Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough.	Pay preceding pay day in week beginning 30 May.	Workpeople employed in the baking and confectionery trades.	Rates after change for dayworkers: foremen, 65s. 6d., 69s. or 70s.; single and second hands, 63s. 6d.; tablehands, 61s.; confectioners, 2s. per week more.
Pontypridd and Rhondda Valley.	30 April	Workpeople employed in the baking and confectionery trades.		Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers and of proportionate amounts for improvers and female workers. Rates after change for adult male workers: daywork—foremen, 68s.; first and single hands, 66s.; second hands and doughmakers, 61s. and 63s.; tablehands, 60s.; nightwork, 5s. more in each case.			
Ayrshire§	1st pay day in May.	Bakers and confectioners		Decrease* of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.			
Brewing	Coatbridge and Hamilton.	1st pay day in May.	Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 73s. 6d.			
	Paisley, Vale of Leven, Dumbarton and Helensburgh.	27 or 28 May.	Bakers and confectioners	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 72s.			
	Various towns in Lancashire.||	1st full pay in May.	Brewery workers	Decrease* of 2s. per week for men 19 years and over, 1s. per week for women and 6d. to 1s. per week for youths. Rates after change: men 19 and over, 54s.; women, 37s.; youths, 17s. 6d. at 14, increasing each year to 28s. at 18.			
			WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES.				
Packing Case Making.	Leicester	1st pay day in May.	Packing case makers	Decrease* of ½d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3½d.).			
Furniture Manufacture.	Liverpool and District	1 May	Cabinet makers and polishers when employed on fixing work to a building, and upholsterers employed on fixed upholstery work on new buildings (other than dwelling houses).	Increase of 1½d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 10d.).			
			Carpet planners (men)	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.).			
			Carpet sewers (women)	Increase of ½d. per hour (9½d. to 9¾d.).			

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

† Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, and Pontefract.

‡ Including Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Didsbury, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Stretford, Urmston, Flixton, Irlam and Cadishead, Barton, Patricroft, Eccle. Swinton, Pendlebury, Prestwich, Middleton, Oldham, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Walkden, Hyde, Denton, Royton, Shaw, Crompton and Glossop.

§ Auchinlech, Dalmellington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilmanning, Maybole, Stevenston, Troon, etc.

¶ Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Brierfield, Barrow-in-Furness, Cloughfold, Haslingden, Preston, Waterfoot, and Whittle Springs.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Furniture Manufacture— (contd.).	Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton, Stockport and District.	1 May	Furniture trade operatives ...	Decrease* of 1d. per hour for male workers, ½d. per hour for female workers, and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinetmakers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists (after 4 years on machines), upholsterers, polishers and mattress makers, 1s. 7½d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.; upholstresses and women polishers, 11½d.; glass workers—bevelers, silverers and cutters, 1s. 7½d.; brilliant cutters, 1s. 8½d.; fitters, 1s. 5½d.; packers, 1s. 4½d.
	North East Lancashire† and Todmorden.	1 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists.	Decrease* of ½d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.), and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers.
	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 28 May.	Caners of common bedroom chairs bored 18, 19 and 20.	Decrease* of ½d. per chair. Rates after change: bored 18, 6½d.; bored 19 and 20, 7½d. per chair.
	Nottingham... ..	1 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, sanders by hand or machine, and packers. Upholstresses and female polishers	Decrease* of ½d. per hour for journeymen and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: sanders (single band) and packers, 1s. 3d.; other workers, 1s. 6d.
Paper Manufacture	Colwyn Bay and Llandudno.	1 May	Cabinet makers, upholsterers, and french polishers.	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: upholstresses, 7½d.; polishers, 9½d.
	Glasgow	1st full pay in May.	Rocking and baby chairmakers ...	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 6d.).
PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.				
Paper Box Manufacture.	Dartford, Maidstone, Ashford, Laverstoke Wells and Totnes.	25 April	Workpeople employed in hand-made paper mills.	Decrease* of 4d. per "day's work" † for journeymen and of 2½d. per "day's work" † for apprentices.
	Great Britain ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in paper-box making:—	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see page 203 of May GAZETTE):—
			Male timeworkers:— Other than learners ...	Decrease* of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. General minimum time rate after change, 49s.
			Learners	Decreases* of from 6d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 12s. 6d. at under 15 years, increasing each year to 42s. 6d. at 20.
Female timeworkers:— Other than learners ... Learners§ Pieceworkers			Decrease* of 1s. per week (30s. 6d. to 29s. 6d.). Decreases* of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week. Decrease* in the minimum piecework basis time rates of 3s. per week (57s. 6d. to 54s. 6d.) for men, and 1s. per week (32s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.) for women.	
Paper Bag Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in paper bag making:—	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see page 203 of May GAZETTE):—
			Male timeworkers:— Other than learners ...	Decreases* of from 1s. to 3s. per week. General minimum time rate after change, 52s. 6d.
			Learners	Decreases* of from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week.
			Female timeworkers:— Other than learners ... Learners§ Female pieceworkers ...	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week (30s. 6d. to 29s.). Decreases* of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week. Decrease* in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 1s. per week (32s. to 31s.).
BUILDING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.				
Building	Various towns in North Wales.¶	1 May	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. 1½d.¶
	Belfast	23 May	Carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, painters and labourers.	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 8d.; hodsmen and scaffolders, 1s. 1d.; labourers, 1s.
Stone Carving	Manchester, Salford and District.	16 May	Plumbers	Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 9½d. to 1s. 9d.).
		21 May	Stone carvers	Increase of 1d. per hour. Minimum rate after change, 2s. 3d.
TRANSPORT.				
Tramways Service.‡	Great Britain ...	1st full pay period in May.	Youths under 19 years employed as parcels, messenger, point and trolley boys.	Decrease* of 6d. per week. Rates after change: 14 to 15 years, 13s. 3d.; 15 to 16 years, 15s. 3d.; 16 to 17 years, 17s. 3d.; 17 to 18 years, 21s. 9d.; 18 to 19 years, 27s. 3d.
	Liverpool	3 May	Drivers, conductors and shed attendants.	Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: motormen, 62s. 5d. to 64s. 9d.; conductors, 57s. 8d. to 62s. 5d.; shed attendants, 57s. 11d. to 62s. 9d.
Road Transport	Various towns in Scotland¶ (excluding those in Forfarshire)..	2 May	Road transport workers (other than those employed by railway contractors).	Decrease* of 2s. per week for men and of 1s. per week for boys under 18 years. Rates after change: Glasgow and Paisley—one-horse drivers, 52s.; petrol wagon drivers (2 tons and over), 61s.; steam wagon drivers, 71s.; second men on steam wagons, 66s.; Aberdeen—one-horse drivers, 49s. 6d.; petrol wagon drivers (2 tons and over) and steam wagon drivers, 55s. 6d.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES.				
Local Government Services (Non-Trading).	Hartlepool	1 May	Manual workers	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 1s. 2d.; roadmen, 1s. 4d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 3d.; street sweepers, 1s. 1½d.
	Stockton-on-Tees ...	4 March	Manual workers	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: general labourers, 1s. 2d.; road labourers, 1s. 3d.; scavengers, 1s. 1½d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d.
	Certain Authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire.**	1st full pay week in May.	Manual workers	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Minimum hourly rates after change for labourers: Grade A areas, 1s. 0½d.; B1, 1s. 0d.; B2, 11½d.; C1, 11d.; C2, 10½d.; D1, 10d.; D2, 9½d.**
	York... ..	5 May	Manual workers	Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, carters, refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d.; day scavengers, 1s. 2½d.; night scavengers and carters 1s. 3½d.
	Bootle	5 May	Manual workers	Bonus decreased* from 75 to 65 per cent. Rates after change: labourers, 1s. 1-2d. and 11-786d. per hour; scavengers and sweepers, 7s. 8d. per day; refuse collectors, 8s. 8d. per day.

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

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

‡ A "day's work" signifies a quantity of paper, which varies according to the different sizes.

§ Excluding those starting at 14 years of age in their first six months' employment, for whom the rate remained unaltered.

¶ The increase described is in accordance with the terms of a recommendation made for re-grading under the Grading Scheme of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry, and approved by the National Council. The towns re-graded are as follows:—Abergele, Bagillt, Bettws-y-Coed, Colwyn Bay, Conway, Denbigh, Holywell, Llandudno, Mostyn, Prestatyn, Rhyl, Ruthin and St. Asaph.

** Including Aberdeen, Bathgate, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, Motherwell, Paisley, Stirling.

The authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council, and include:—Grade A areas: Batley, Dewsbury, Halifax, Harrogate, Leeds, Rotherham, Wakefield, Bolton-upon-Deane, Conisbrough, Darfield, Golcar, Holmfirth, Honley, Kirkheaton, Lepton, Linthwaite, Marsden, Meltham, Oxenhope, Saddleworth, South Crosland, Stanley, Yeadon, West Riding C.C. (urban areas). Grade B1: Brighouse, Doncaster, Keighley, Pontefract, Todmorden, Adwick-le-Street, Bingley, Castleford, Maltby, Rawmarsh, Spenborough, Whitwood, West Riding C.C. (urban and rural areas, partly industrial), Rotherham R.D.C. Grade B2: Ossett, Altofts, Barnoldswick, Featherstone, Mirfield, Normanton, Otley, Selby, Skipton, Sowerby. Grade C1: Horbury, Horsforth, Hunsworth, Stocksbridge. Grade C2: Clayton, Farsley, Garforth, Gildersome, Greasborough, Haworth, Hebden Bridge, Oakworth, Penistone, Royston, West Riding C.C. (rural areas). Grade D1: Pontefract R.D.C. Grade D2: Barnsley R.D.C. (made change from first full pay week in June), Doncaster R.D.C., Halifax R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the minimum rates shown.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES (continued).				
Local Government Services (Non-Trading) —(contd.).	Certain Authorities in the London Area.*	1st pay day in May.	Manual workers	Decrease† of 1/3th of the revised cost-of-living bonus, making a total reduction of 3/4ths. Scheduled minimum weekly rates include: Grade A workpeople (scavengers, etc.), 57s. 2d. Grade B (general labourers, etc.), 60s. 5d.; female lavatory and bath attendants, 44s. 8d.*
	Poplar	30 April	Manual workers	Decrease† of from 1s. 8d. to 2s. per week. Rates after change: road and general labourers and sweepers, 70s. 10d.; refuse collectors and carters, 73s. 3d.; paviors and masons, 83s.
	Torquay	31 March‡	Manual workers	Increase of 6d. per week. Rate after change for general and road labourers, road sweepers and refuse collectors, 50s. per week.
	Glamorganshire ...	18 May	Manual workers employed by County Council.	Decrease† of 1s. 7 1/2d. per week. Rate after change for fillers, sweepers, and roadmen, 50s. 5 1/2d. per week.
	Paisley	4 May	Manual workers	Decrease† of 1/4d. per hour. Rates after change: refuse collectors and road labourers, 1s. 0 1/2d.; scavengers, 1s. 0 1/2d.; carters, 1s. 1 1/2d.
	Perth	11 May	Road labourers, scavengers and sweepers, waterworks labourers and pipe layers.	Decrease† of 1s. per week. Rates after change: road labourers, 54s.; scavengers and sweepers, 55s. 6d.; waterworks labourers, 56s.; pipe layers, 65s. 6d.
	Londonderry ...	8 April	Labourers employed in non-trading, water, and electricity departments.	Decrease† of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 44s. per week.
MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES.				
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in leather belt manufacture.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922 reduced† from 75 to 65. Rates after change for timeworkers: skilled—London, 1s. 3 1/2d.; Provinces, 1s. 2 1/2d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s.; Provinces, 11 1/2d.
Roller Leather Manufacture.	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture.	Cost-of-living wage reduced† from 70 per cent. to 65 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: men—skilled, 9d.; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7 1/2d.; women, 5d.; plus in each case 65 per cent.
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in brush and broom making:—	Decreases† in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see page 203 of May GAZETTE):—
			Certain classes of male time-workers 21 years and over.‡	Decrease† of 1/2d. per hour (1s. 2 1/2d. to 1s. 2d.).
			All other male timeworkers ...	Decrease† of 1/4d. or 1/2d. per hour (except for those under 14 1/2, 15 and under 15 1/2, and 16 1/2 and under 17 years, for whom there was no change), leaving minimum rates as follows: 2 1/2d. at under 14 1/2 years, increasing to 6 1/2d. at 18 and under 19, and to 11d. at 21 and over.
			Female pan hands	Decrease† of 1/4d. or 1/2d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: time—6 1/2d., 10 1/2d., or 1s. 2d. (according to occupation); piece-work basis time rate, 7 1/2d. or 11 1/2d.
Basket Manufacture.	Yorkshire (except Hull and Sheffield).	2 May	Female workers (other than pan hands and learners).	Decrease† of 1/4d. per hour in time rates (except for those under 14 1/2, 15 and under 15 1/2, and 16 1/2 and under 17 years, for whom there was no change), and in the piecework basis time rate for all workers, leaving minimum rates as follows: time—2 1/2d. at under 14 1/2 years, increasing to 6 1/2d. at 18 and under 21, and to 6 1/2d. at 21 and over; piecework basis time rate, 7 1/2d.
			Female learners (other than pan-setting learners).	Decrease† of 1/4d. per hour during the first six months' employment for those starting at 16 and under 21 years, and during the third and fourth three months for those starting at 21 and over, the rates for other periods remaining unchanged.
			Male and female pieceworkers	Decrease† in minimum piece rates of 2 1/2 per cent., leaving wages 20 per cent. below the list.
			Apprentices	Decreases† proportionate to the above.
			Basket, skip and hamper makers ...	Decrease† of 10 per cent. on Yorkshire list prices, leaving wages 58 per cent. and 73 per cent. above the list for pieceworkers and timeworkers respectively.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
Shale Mining	Scotland	11 May	Underground workers	Increase of 1 hour per shift, Monday to Friday (7 to 8).
Typefoundry	London	2 May	Surface workers Casters, dressers, machinists, mixers, etc. employed in typefoundries.	Increase of 2 1/2 hours per week (46 1/2 to 49). Decrease of 1 hour per week (50 to 49).||

* The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the District Joint Industrial Council and include: London County Council, Battersea, 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 £3 per week), Wandsworth. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the scheduled rates quoted above.

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

‡ This change was made at 11th May to take effect from the date shown under an arrangement approved by the District Joint Industrial Council. The new rates were stabilised for twelve months.

§ Viz., men with three years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship in one or more of such operations.

|| The above change in hours took effect under an agreement between the London Master Typefounders' Association and the Amalgamated Typefounders' Trade Society. Under a previous agreement, the hours worked were 50 per week, but only 48 were paid for—the remaining two hours being credited to the employees and paid for as holidays. Under the new Agreement, the workpeople work 49 hours, but only 48 are paid for—the extra hour, together with another hour per week, being credited to the employees and paid for as holidays.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN JUNE, 1927.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in rates of wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in June: the changes referred to in all cases involve reductions.—Coal miners in Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and South Staffordshire; iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands; furniture trade operatives in Scotland (excluding Edinburgh); men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales; farriers in London and at Liverpool. Particulars of these and of other changes reported in June will be given in the July issue of the GAZETTE.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 38, as compared with 16 in the previous month and 19 in May, 1926. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 11,000. In addition, about 5,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 15 disputes which began before May and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 53, involving about 16,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss of approximately 73,000 working days.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in 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.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	3	12	15	12,000	34,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	1	8	9	2,000	27,000
Other	11	18	29	2,000	12,000
Total, May, 1927 ...	15	38	53	16,000	73,000
Total, April, 1927 ...	20	16	36	10,000	79,000
Total, May, 1926 ...	18	19†	37†	2,648,000†	36,014,000†

Causes.—Of the 38 disputes beginning in May, 11, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 12, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 7, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 8, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 22 new disputes, directly involving 5,700 workpeople, and 5 old disputes, directly involving 200 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 15, directly involving 4,500 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 8, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of two disputes, directly involving 400 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1926 AND 1927.‡

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first five months of 1927, as compared with the corresponding period of 1926:—

Groups of Industries.	January to May, 1926.			January to May, 1927.		
	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: General Coal Mining Stoppage ...	1	1,050,000	20,900,000	...	...	...
Other Stoppages Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	48	44,000	1,162,000	42	30,000	433,000
Other Metal ...	14	4,000	65,000	16	1,000	4,000
Textile ...	23	9,000	125,000	15	2,000	14,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	22	15,000	171,000	14	3,000	18,000
Transport ...	17	2,000	16,000	21	7,000	112,000
Other ...	25	16,000	150,000	10	1,000	4,000
Total ...	42	8,000	148,000	17	1,000	9,000
Total ...	193	2,728,000	37,737,000	135	45,000	594,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MAY, 1927.

Occupations and Locality.§	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.§	Result.§
	Directly.	Indirectly.§	Began.	Ended.		
Coal miners, etc.—Oakengates, Salop	1,315	...	1927. 2 May	1927. 9 May	Against proposed reduction in wages	Work resumed at reduced rates.
Coal miners, etc.—Shotts, Lanarkshire.	1,043	...	9 May	9 May	Alleged victimisation of a workman	Work resumed, the man in question not having been reinstated.
Platers, riveters and caulkers—Middlesbrough.	400	...	5 May	6 May	Dispute between platers and shipwrights respecting the allocation of erecting work on a ship.	Temporary settlement effected.
Building operatives—Londonderry...	700	...	2 May	...	Against proposed reduction in wages	No settlement reported.
Building operatives—Belfast ...	500||	...	6 May	9 June	Against proposed reduction in wages	Proposed reduction accepted in May by workpeople other than bricklayers and plasterers, in whose case proposal withdrawn in June. (See also page 234.)
Crane drivers and labourers—Blackpool.	25	130	12 May	17 May	For advance in wages ...	An advance granted.
Stevedores, slingers, checkers, etc.—Middlesbrough.	308	...	{ 13 May 16 May	{ 13 May 16 May	{ Dispute arising out of the retention of a non-registered checker after 8 p.m. when registered checkers were available.	Amicable settlement effected.

* 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.

† The General Strike, involving 1,580,000 workpeople, and the general coal-mining stoppage, involving 1,050,000 workpeople, began in May, 1926.

‡ 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, very slight, 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, 1926.

§ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," *i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

|| Estimated number.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of *cases** of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during May, 1927, under the Factory and Workshop Act or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 43. Three *deaths** were reported during the month, two due to lead poisoning and one due to epitheliomatous ulceration.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.				(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING			
Among Operatives engaged in—							
Smelting of Metals	...	...		(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.			
Plumbing and Soldering	...			Wool	...	...	2
Shipbreaking	...	...			
Printing	...	...		TOTAL, ANTHRAX			
Tinning of Metals	...	...			
Other Contact with				(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS			
Molten Lead	...	...	3	ULCERATION.			
White and Red Lead				Pitch	...	...	4
Works	...	...	2	Tar	...	...	1
Pottery†	...	...	1	Paraffin	...	...	1
Vitreous Enamelling	...	...	3	Oil	...	...	11
Electric Accumulator				TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS			
Works	...	...	3	ULCERATION			
Paint and Colour Works	...						
Indiarubber Works	...	...		(e) CASES OF CHROME			
Coach and Car Painting	1			ULCERATION.			
Shipbuilding	...	...		Manufacture of Bichro-			
Paint used in Other				mates			
Industries	...	...		Dyeing and Finishing	...	...	1
Other Industries	...	...	1	Chrome Tanning	...	...
Painting of Buildings	...	...	8	Other Industries	...	...	1
TOTAL OF ABOVE				TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION			
22				2			

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported during May, 1927, as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 197, as compared with 200 in the previous month and with 94½ in May, 1926. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in May numbered 28, as compared with 43 in the previous month and with 29 a year ago.

RAILWAY SERVICE.			
Brakesmen and Goods			
Guards	2		
Engine Drivers	1		
Firemen	1		
Guards (Passenger) ... ..	...	
Permanent Way Men	4		
Porters ... ..	...	
Shunters ... ..	...	
Mechanics ... ..	...	
Labourers ... ..	...	
Miscellaneous	3		
Contractors' Servants ... ..	...	
	—		
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	11		
	—		
MINES.			
Underground	92		
Surface	7		
	—		
TOTAL, MINES	99		
	—		
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep	5		
	—		
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.			
Cotton	1		
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ... ..	...	
Other Textiles	1		
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ... ..	...	
Metal Extracting and Refining	8		
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making	3		
Metal Founding	2		
Engineering and Machine Making	3		
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering	2		
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued).			
Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft	3		
Other Metal Trades	3		
Shipbuilding	11		
Wood	4		
Gas	1		
Electric Generating Stations	2		
Clay, Stone, Glass, etc.	2		
Chemicals, etc.	8		
Food and Drink	2		
Paper, Printing, etc.	2		
Tanning, Currying, etc.	2		
Rubber Trades ... ..	...	
Other Non-Textile Industries	1		
PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.			
Docks, Wharves, etc.	4		
Buildings	15		
Warehouses and Railway Sidings	2		
	—		
TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS	82		
	—		
Total (excluding Seamen)	197		
	—		
SEAMEN.			
Trading Vessels, Sailing	2		
" " Steam	25		
Fishing Vessels, Sailing ... ..	...	
" " Steam	1		
	—		
TOTAL, SEAMEN	28		
	—		
Total (including Seamen)	225		

* 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 person affected in the pottery industry was a male.

† Affected by the general coal-mining dispute. The figure previously published for May, 1926, has been revised.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT
BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in May, 1927, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 777,045, or 3·8 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 34·0 per cent. less than in May, 1926. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 434, 452, and 660‡ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Selected Urban Areas.	Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in May 1927.				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 ...	8,892	6,219	15,111	182	– 6	– 31
North District ...	10,383	17,635	28,018	272	– 14	– 75
Central District ...	2,332	2,532	4,864	362	– 17	– 86
East District ...	9,760	61,882	71,642	1,099	– 70	– 188
South District ...	19,208	71,799	91,007	464	– 32	– 108
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	50,575	160,067	210,642	457	– 28	– 97
West Ham ...	4,542	35,040	39,582	516	– 42	– 561
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District	2,816	26,788	29,604	584	– 25	– 728
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,259	16,253	17,512	630	– 14	– 609
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	4,110	8,410	12,520	158	– 10	– 43
Wigan District ...	1,796	12,595	14,391	316	– 2	– 1,123
Manchester District	9,036	36,895	45,931	438	– 20	– 50
Liverpool District	9,458	61,477	70,935	565	– 14	– 12
Bradford District ...	1,761	6,376	8,137	219	– 5	– 10
Halifax and Huddersfield ...	1,487	3,011	4,498	119	– 2	+ 1
Leeds ...	2,639	10,169	12,808	269	– 9	– 221
Barnsley District ...	905	10,145	11,050	332	+ 5	– 1,140†
Sheffield ...	2,402	27,610	30,012	579	– 7	– 208
Hull District ...	1,729	13,933	15,662	487	– 19	– 49
North Staffordshire	2,263	7,458	9,721	231	– 3	– 1,034
Nottingham District	2,095	12,063	14,158	300	– 45	– 959
Leicester ...	1,142	3,696	4,838	200	– 3	+ 21
Wolverhampton District ...	3,458	15,162	18,620	248	– 5	– 312
Birmingham ...	7,291	18,670	25,961	274	– 21	– 24
Bristol District ...	2,496	14,943	17,439	420	– 12	– 38†
Cardiff and Swansea	2,529	17,952	20,481	425	– 18	– 384†
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	60,672	323,606	384,278	367	– 14	– 296†
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	115,789	518,713	634,502	401	– 19	– 250†
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	5,954	86,265	92,219	959	– 3	– 59
Paisley and Greenock District ...	900	16,382	17,282	897	+ 6	+ 78†
Edinburgh ...	1,618	15,585	17,203	408	– 9	– 51
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	820	4,762	5,582	257	– 5	– 15
Aberdeen ...	511	4,243	4,754	302	– 6	+ 57
Coatbridge & Airdrie	370	5,133	5,503	539	– 1	– 83
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	10,173	132,370	142,543	694	– 4	– 33†
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in May, 1927...	125,962	651,083	777,045	434	– 18	– 226†

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during May, 1927, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table :—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in May, 1927.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in May, 1927.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1926.	Jan.- May, 1927.		1922 to 1926.	Jan.- May, 1927.
To Australia	2,530	113,428§	11,967§	2,352	111,716	13,235
„ New Zealand	467	35,510§	2,917§	204	34,404	2,660
„ Canada :						
Dominion of Canada	4,649	41,051§	18,785§	5,729	40,862	13,213
Province of Ontario	...	1,367	...	...	1,356	...
„ South Africa	11	500	107§	5	251	70
Minor Schemes	97	6,752	442§	189	5,927	382
Total	7,754	198,608§	34,218§	8,479	194,516	29,560

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 May, and those for Scotland to 15th May.

† The rates previously published for May, 1926, have been revised.

§ Revised figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*				Latest figures available.	
	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	Rise.	Date.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	1927.
UNITED KINGDOM ...	62	62	67	61	54	1 June
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Czechoslovakia ...	...	737	816	776	815	Mar.
Denmark ...	88	100	110	59	52	Apr.
Egypt (Cairo)†	52	48	58	58	52	Apr.
Finland ...	868	916	1,007	967	934	Apr.
France (Paris)†	221	260	321	474	489	May
„ (other towns)†	249§	300§	351§	510§	486	Feb.
Germany ...	...	...	54	45	51	May
Holland (The Hague)	...	67	76	68	68	Mar.
Italy (Milan)	396	408	502	554	517	Apr.
„ (Rome)	382	369	427	498	464	Mar.
Norway ...	118	148	160	98	69	May
Spain (Madrid)†	72	82	90	86	96	Apr.
„ (Barcelona)†	65	72	82	63	69	Apr.
Sweden†	60	59	69	56	50	May
Switzerland ...	66	70	69	59	56	Apr.
United States ...	44	40	56	54	51	Apr.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.						
Australia ...	64	49†	56	59	52	Mar.
Canada ...	37	34	41	49	45	May
India (Bombay):						
Native families ...	48	51	52	55	50	May
„ European do...†	...	80	78	72	70	Jan.
Irish Free State ...	82	85	88	74	65	Apr.
New Zealand ...	42	48	51	49	45	Apr.
South Africa ...	16	17	20	16	19	Apr.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.¶	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.¶				Latest figures available.	
		July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	Rise.	Date.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	1927.
UNITED KINGDOM	A,B,C,D,E	69	70	73	70	63	1 June
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	329	393	409	537	674	Apr.
Czechoslovakia (Prague) ...	A,B,C,D,E	600	589	641	618	643	Apr.
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	104	114	119	84	78	Apr.
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	990	1,032	1,094	1,018	1,052	Apr.
France (Paris)†	A,B,C,D,E	231**	267**	301**	439**	424	1st qr.,
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	43	42	47	May
Greece (Athens)	A,B,C,D,E	933	1,225	1,372	1,708	1,789	Dec.'26
Holland (Amsterdam) ...	A,B,C,D,E	74†	73†	79†	71†	66	Mar.
Italy (Milan)	A,B,C,D,E	387	412	498	549	551	Apr.
„ (Rome)	A,B,C,D,E	350	349	395	462	445	Mar.
Luxembourg ...	A,C,D	340	381	415	509	661	Apr.
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	139†	151†	161†	121†	101	May
Poland (Warsaw)	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	57	77	101	Feb.
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	74	71	76	72	70	Apr.
Switzerland ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	68	62	58	Apr.
United States	A,B,C,D,E	70†	69†	74†	75†	76	Dec.'26
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.							
Australia ...	A,B	56**	48**	54**	58**	57	4th qr., '26
Canada ...	A,B,D	46	44	46	50	48	May
India (Bombay):							
Native families	A,B,C,D	53	57	57	57	52	May
„ European families ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	65	60	59	56	Jan.
Irish Free State	A,B,C,D,E	80	83	88	82	71	Apr.
New Zealand ...	A,B,C,D,E	58§	60§	63§	61	62	Apr.
South Africa ...	A,B,C,D,E	30	32	33	30	31	Apr.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; 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; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States, 1913. ** 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. 216-217 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 May.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the exchanges on 28th May, 1927, was 47,827 (30,181 men and 17,646 women). At the end of April the corresponding total was 68,030. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 7,189 (4,042 for men and 3,147 for women), as compared with 7,289 at the end of April. During the last week of May the Exchanges succeeded in placing 23,289 persons in situations, including 8,513 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 49 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in April.—According to the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* a further improvement in the labour market was reported in April. In comparison with March progress was somewhat slower, but there were indications of steady improvement. As in the preceding month, the improvement was due mainly to the effect of seasonal influences, but there were also signs of a generally increasing activity. The seasonal improvement in 1927, at least as regards handicrafts, appeared to be much more pronounced than in 1926.

Statistical returns numbering 4,039 from representative establishments in various industries, covering the period from 15th March to 15th April, show an increase from 1,590,000 to 1,630,000, or 2 per cent. in the aggregate number of workpeople employed. The establishments with good or fair employment increased on 15th April as compared with 15th March, while the proportion of workpeople in establishments reporting bad employment fell from 23 per cent., on 15th March to 19 per cent. on 15th April. The improvement was particularly noticeable in the machine construction, textile and clothing, and metal industries, and better employment was also reported in the building and building materials industries.

The membership‡ of health insurance societies increased from 14,152,297 on 1st April to 14,708,521 on 1st May or by 3.9 per cent., as against an advance of 5.9 per cent. between 1st March and 1st April.

Returns relating to 3,666,995 organised workers were received from 39 national trade unions. Of these 326,786, or 8.9 per cent., were totally unemployed on 30th April, as compared with 11.5 per cent. on 26th March, and 18.6 per cent. at the end of April, 1926. In addition 136,338, or 3.7 per cent., were working short time, as against 4.4 per cent. on 26th March and 19.1 per cent. at the end of April, 1926.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal unions represented in the above totals:—

UNIONS.	Membership reported on at end of April, 1927	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		April, 1927.	Mar., 1927.	April, 1926.
S.D. = Social-Democratic. H.D. = Hirsch - Duncker (neutral). C. = Christian.				
All Unions making Returns ...	3,666,995	8.9	11.5	18.6
Mining (S.D.) ...	177,000	2.2	2.4	...
Metal (S.D.) ...	691,100	11.1	12.8	19.7
„ (H.D.) ...	75,200	9.4	10.2	11.9
Textile (S.D.) ...	268,300	4.7	6.5	20.0
„ (C.) ...	74,900	1.5	2.0	14.2
Clothing (S.D.) ...	67,500	8.3	11.6	24.0
Boot and shoe (S.D.) ...	72,900	9.2	11.8	32.3
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	52,100	13.3	12.8	17.1
Food and drink (S.D.) ...	68,600	3.7	5.6	3.2
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	59,000	13.7	14.2	31.2
Woodworking (S.D.) ...	265,400	15.3	17.9	29.3
Printing (S.D.) ...	75,400	3.1	2.5	6.5
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	52,000	8.2	8.4	16.8
Building (S.D.) ...	329,500	13.2	22.8	26.7
Carpenters (S.D.) ...	87,800	13.9	25.7	30.4
Transport (S.D.) ...	272,700	7.6	9.1	8.0
Factory workers (trades not distinguished) (S.D.) ...	359,500	8.9	11.4	16.5
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	46,200	6.5	8.6	13.3
Factory and transport (S.D.) ...	52,600	6.1	7.4	13.6
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	203,300	1.7	2.4	1.3

Figures showing the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 15th May, 1927, on which date the total was 972,260 (including 226,023 entitled to assistance from special relief funds). On 15th April the corresponding total was 1,217,552 (including 234,104 from special funds).

On 30th April the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 1,640,626 persons on the "live register," as against

* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 3rd June, 1927, Paris.

† *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 20th May and 1st June, 1927, 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.

1,919,518 at the end of March. The number of vacant situations at the end of April was 55,983, as compared with 56,679 at the end of March. During the month of April there were, on an average, 394 applications for each 100 vacancies registered at the Exchanges, as compared with 422 in March.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in April.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th May, 1927, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 181,175 at the end of April, as compared with 208,346 at the end of the preceding month. In Vienna alone there were 86,337 persons in receipt of benefit at the end of April, as against 90,723 at the end of March. The total number of applicants for work registered at the employment exchanges at the end of April was 207,878, including 101,083 in Vienna.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in April.—Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 143 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 608,250, show that 10,609 (1·7 per cent.) of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month. In the preceding month the percentage was 1·8, and in April, 1926, 1·2. In addition, 21,306 (3·5 per cent. of the total) members were employed intermittently during the month. The total days lost through unemployment in April numbered 347,672, or 2·38 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 2·36 and in April, 1926 1·61.

HOLLAND.†

Unemployment in February.—The Journal of the Dutch Statistical Office contains preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 289,777 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 26th February, 1927, 25,201 (8·7 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 8,826 (2·0 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 29th January) the percentages were respectively 11·5 and 2·9.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in April.—On 30th April, 1927, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 11,220 (or 8·5 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1920) as compared with 13,568 at the end of March (10·3 per thousand) and 11,320 at the end of April, 1926. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 3,692, 3,810, and 2,858 respectively.

Unemployment among insured workers, 31st March.—Returns from 134 subsidised unemployment funds show that out of an aggregate of 226,882 members, 6,312, or 2·8 per cent., were totally unemployed, and 6,833, or 3·0 per cent., partially so at the end of March, 1927. On 31st December, 1926, the corresponding percentages were 5·6 and 4·6 respectively. (Owing to an increase in the number of funds making returns for 31st March, 1927, the figures for the two dates are not strictly comparable.)

UNITED STATES.§

Employment in April.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in April, based on returns from 10,537 establishments in 54 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 3,071,884 persons employed in April as against 3,091,873 in March. The aggregate wages paid for April show a decrease of 1·1 per cent. as compared with March, and the average earnings per head a decrease of 0·3 per cent.

Index Number of Employment, April.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for April, 1927, is 90·6, as compared with 91·4 in March and 92·8 in April, 1926.

CANADA.

Employment in May.—For 1st May, 1927, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,948 firms, with an aggregate of 830,850 upon their pay rolls. On 1st April the same firms reported 794,146 employed and the total for May thus shows an increase of 36,704 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st May, 1927, is 100·6, as compared with 96·2 at the beginning of the preceding month and 94·3 on 1st May, 1926.

Trade Union Unemployment in April.¶—On 30th April, 6·0 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 5·7 at the end of March and 7·3 per cent. at the end of April, 1926.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN ARREAR—EMPLOYER CONVICTED BEFORE JUSTICES FOR FAILING TO PAY CONTRIBUTIONS—CIVIL JURISDICTION OF JUSTICES INVOKED, AND ORDER MADE FOR PAYMENT OF ONE YEAR'S ARREARS—RIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY TO TAKE CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST EMPLOYER FOR RECOVERY OF PREVIOUS ARREARS.

THIS was an appeal by the Crown from a decision of Mr. Justice Rowlatt, given on the 1st April last, in proceedings taken by way of an Information of the Attorney General, in the High Court of Justice, to recover from an employer, Mr. Ernest James Paine, of Wisbech, £5 0s. 2d., the balance of arrears of unemployment insurance contributions alleged to be due from him in respect of his employment of two persons, credit having been given to him for arrears in respect of the same persons, which he had previously been ordered to pay by the Justices in circumstances appearing below.

The case, which is of some importance because it bears very largely upon the recovery of arrears of contributions from an employer who has, over a protracted period, failed in his duty to affix the requisite stamps to an employed person's unemployment insurance book, was decided upon the construction of sub-sections (3) and (6) of Section 22 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

Subsection 2 of Section 22 of the Act provides, *inter alia*, for the imposition of a fine upon a person convicted upon a charge of failing or neglecting to pay any contributions which he is liable to pay under the Act.

Subsections (3) and (6) of Section 22 are as follows:—

Subsection 3.—Where an employer has been convicted under the foregoing provisions of this section of the offence of failing or neglecting to pay any contribution under this Act, he shall be liable to pay to the Unemployment Fund a sum equal to the amount which he has so failed or neglected to pay; and on such a conviction, if notice of the intention to do so has been served with the summons or warrant, evidence may be given of the failure or neglect on the part of the employer to pay other contributions in respect of the same person during the year preceding the date when the information was so laid, and on proof of such failure or neglect the employer shall be liable to pay to the Unemployment Fund a sum equal to the total of all the contributions which he is so proved to have failed or neglected to pay.

Any sum paid by an employer under the foregoing provision shall be treated as a payment in satisfaction of the unpaid contributions, and the employed person's portion of those contributions shall not be recoverable by the employer from the employed person.

* * * * *

Subsection 6.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the Minister from recovering any sums due to the Unemployment Fund by means of civil proceedings, and all such sums shall be recoverable as debts due to the Crown, and without prejudice to any other remedy may be recovered by the Minister summarily as a civil debt.

On the 22nd April, 1926, the employer was convicted by the Wisbech Justices on charges of failing to pay contributions in respect of two employees for a specified week, and was fined £2 10s. on each summons, and ordered to pay the two contributions, failure to pay which constituted the offences in respect of which he was summoned.

As notices of intention to give evidence of failure to pay other contributions during the year preceding the date when the information was laid had been duly given, and evidence adduced in support of the claim, the Justices ordered the employer to pay, and he did pay, the sum of £5 3s. 1d., being a sum equal to the amount of the contributions unpaid for twelve months preceding the laying of the informations.

The contributions which the employer had failed to pay were, however, more extensive, dating back to the 14th April, 1924. Accordingly proceedings were taken against the employer in the High Court of Justice, claiming from him arrears of contributions other than those with which the Justices had already dealt.

At the hearing of the suit before Mr. Justice Rowlatt, it was contended on behalf of the employer that subsection 3 was clearly intended to afford complete satisfaction of the employer's liability to pay arrears of contributions; that the statute was a penal statute in this respect, and must be strictly construed; and that the Court should incline against a construction imposing a liability to repeated proceedings.

For the Crown it was urged that the words in subsection 3, "the unpaid contributions," referred to the contributions, evidence as to the non-payment of which could be offered before the Court of Summary Jurisdiction; and that the Crown's remedy in respect of other unpaid contributions was not exhausted by invoking the civil jurisdiction of the Justices.

Mr. Justice Rowlatt gave judgment for the employer, holding the view that, if such civil jurisdiction was invoked, then that was the only civil remedy available, and that the Minister of Labour must be content with the fact that he was in such a case limited to twelve months' arrears.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the Attorney General from this decision.

* *Revue du Travail*, 31st May, 1927. Brussels.

† *Maandschrift van het Central Bureau voor de Statistiek*, 30th April, 1927. The Hague.

‡ *Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen*, May, 1927. Berne.

§ *Employment in Selected Industries*, April, 1927. Washington.

|| *The May Employment Situation*, 1927. Ottawa.

¶ Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour Ottawa.

The Master of the Rolls, in delivering the leading judgment, referred to the relevant sections of the Act, and went on to say that the construction put upon subsections (2), (3) and (6) of Section 22, by Mr. Justice Rowlatt, appeared to him (The Master of the Rolls) to overlook the terms of the latter portion of subsection (6), which said, "all such sums shall be recovered as debts due to the Crown; and, without prejudice to any other remedy, may be recovered by the Minister, summarily, as a civil debt." His Lordship continued as follows:—

"Those words appear plainly to indicate that it is not a mere alternative that is offered to the Minister, either to proceed under subsections 2 and 3 or not at all; but it is to say that the right of the Minister is cumulative, and even although he may have proceeded and recovered some contributions under subsection 3 he is still left in possession of his other rights under the Act, and in respect of all such sums as are recoverable and due he may still recover those as debts due to the Crown, and that he may do without prejudice to any other remedies which he may also have. Under those circumstances I am unable to accept the view that Mr. Justice Rowlatt has presented."

The other members of the Court concurred, Lord Justice Scrutton expressing surprise that there should be any doubts as to the construction to be put upon the section. He would have thought, on the plain words of the section, there was no difficulty in recovering the contributions claimed, and no reason whatever, that he could see, why a gentleman who had been breaking the law should be let off from the contributions that he owed.—*Attorney General v. Paine. Court of Appeal, 24th May, 1927.*

Trade Boards Acts, 1909 to 1918.

APPLICATION OF THE ACTS TO A "SPECIFIED TRADE"—MEANING OF THE WORD "TRADE"—FAILURE OF EMPLOYERS ENGAGED IN BUSINESS OF FISHING TO PAY TO THEIR WORKERS, MENDING DRIFT NETS USED IN SUCH FISHING, THE MINIMUM RATE OF WAGES FIXED BY THE DRIFT NETS MENDING TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

This was a case stated by the Justices for the Borough of Lowestoft upon the application of the appellant, an officer appointed under the provisions of the Trade Boards Act, 1909.

The respondents carry on the business of fishing, and own and employ their own boats for that purpose. The vessels bring their catch into the harbour of Lowestoft, where it is sold.

At material times the respondents employed upon premises at Lowestoft some thirty women for the purpose of mending drift nets, the property of the respondents, and used by them in their business as fishermen. The respondents' business did not include the manufacture of nets, or the repair of nets other than those owned and used by them.

On the 11th July, 1919, the Minister of Labour made a Special Order under Section 1 of the Act of 1918, applying the Acts to the trade specified in the schedule of the Order (the rope, twine and net trade); and upon the 27th July, 1925, made a Special Order varying the above-mentioned Special Order by inserting in the detailed description of the trade, the following paragraph:—

4 (a) The mending, refitting and re-conditioning of drift, seine or similar nets, including all processes, whether similar to the foregoing or not, incidental thereto.

On the 28th July, 1925, the Minister made Regulations providing for the constitution of the Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain) for the following branch of work in the rope, twine and net trade:—

The mending of the net mesh of drift, seine or similar nets

This last-mentioned Trade Board fixed, and the Minister of Labour duly confirmed, general minimum time rates and overtime rates for female workers in the trade, to become effective from the 28th June, 1926.

The respondents failed to pay to the female workers who were repairing their nets wages at not less than such minimum rates. Accordingly, the appellant (the officer appointed under the Trade Boards Acts) preferred an information against the respondents, charging them with the under-payment of one of such workers contrary to the provisions of the Acts.

On the part of the appellant it was contended before the Justices that the respondents carried on the trade of mending drift nets, in which trade the said worker was employed, and that such employment was subject to the provisions of the Trade Boards Acts. On the part of the respondents it was contended that they carried on no trade; that before the Minister of Labour can make any order applying the Acts, there must be a trade to which the Acts can be applied; that if the business of fishing and owning fishing boats constituted a trade, then the mending of the nets used by the respondents was no part of that trade; and generally, that the Trade Boards Acts did not apply to the mending of drift nets by workers employed in the circumstances in which the worker was employed.

The Justices dismissed the information, the majority being of the opinion that, as the respondents only repaired their own nets, they were not carrying on a trade to which the Acts had been applied.

Section 6, subsection (1), of the Act of 1909 provides, *inter alia*, as follows:—Where any minimum rate of wages fixed by a Trade Board has become effective, an employer shall, in cases to which the minimum rate is applicable, pay wages to the person employed at not less than the minimum rate. . . . By Section 9 of the Act, it is further provided that any shopkeeper, dealer or trader, who by way of trade makes any arrangement, expressed or implied, with any worker in pursuance of which the worker performs any work for which a minimum rate of wages has been fixed under the Act,

shall be deemed for the purposes of the Act to be the employer of the worker. . . .

Section 1, subsection (2), of the Act of 1918, provides as follows:—The Minister of Labour may make a Special Order applying the principal Act to any specified trade, to which it does not at the time apply, if he is of opinion that no adequate machinery exists for the effective regulation of wages throughout the trade

The Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment, stated the facts, and observed that the real question which emerged in the argument before the Justices, and had been elaborated before the Court, might be stated in the following way: "Does the Act apply only to persons of one of the 'specified' trades employed by an employer whose trade is that trade, or does it apply also to persons of one of the 'specified' trades by whomsoever he is commercially employed?"

His Lordship went on to say that it was necessary to look at the true meaning of the Trade Boards Acts and the Orders and Regulations made under them, in order to ascertain the meaning of the word "trade" in relation to the present case. His Lordship referred to certain words and phrases to be found in the Acts and Regulations indicating the meaning to be attached to the word "trade," and said that the meaning which, as it seemed to him, was to be collected from these, and from the whole scheme and purpose of the Act, was reinforced by the particular language of Section 9 of the Act of 1909 (quoted above). That section showed that, even where the out-worker or the worker who provided some of the requisite materials or tools was concerned, the Act was looking to the nature of the work performed, and if he (the worker) was doing the kind of work to which the minimum rate of wages had been applied, it mattered not that the "shopkeeper, dealer or trader" would not describe his business, or at any rate, would not describe the whole of his business, by words applicable to that particular branch of industry. There must be a commercial employment, and if there was commercial employment, then it did not matter that the particular work which was done by the worker was not exhaustive of the whole business or industry of the employer.

His Lordship continued: "Applying that interpretation to the facts of this case, I think that, although the business of these respondents was truly to be described as the business of fishing and owning fishing boats, nevertheless they were employing, not casually but regularly, not privately but for commercial purposes, a considerable number of women engaged in the work or industry of mending nets. That being so, it seems to me to be immaterial that mending nets was not the whole of the business of the respondents."

"In these circumstances I think that the Justices came to a wrong conclusion, and that the minimum rate applies."

The other members of the Court concurred, and the case was remitted to the Justices with a direction to convict.—*Skinner v. Jack Breach, Ltd. High Court of Justice, Divisional Court, 3rd May, 1927.*

Other Recent Decisions of Interest.

Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-1926.

Communications in writing made by an employer to and at the request of a Court of Referees (acting under the provisions of Section 11 of the principal Act), relating to a person formerly employed by him who is an applicant for benefit, are made upon a privileged occasion. Having regard to the duties of the Court of Referees, such privilege is "qualified." An action for libel brought by such a person against his former employer in respect of these communications will not succeed, unless the plaintiff is able to prove malice on the part of the defendant.—*Collins v. H. Whiteway & Co., Ltd. High Court, 20th May, 1927.*

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. 1381/27. (26/4/27). Section 8 (1) and Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended) of Principal Act—Trade Dispute—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

PROVISO (a)—PIPEMOULDERS SUSPENDED THROUGH SHORTAGE OF WORK—SUBSEQUENTLY STOPPAGE OF WORK DUE TO TRADE DISPUTE OCCURRED AT EMPLOYERS' PREMISES—APPLICANTS REFUSED OFFER OF RE-ENGAGEMENT DURING STOPPAGE, ALLEGING VACANCIES DUE TO TRADE DISPUTE—CONDITIONS IN DISPUTE DID NOT CONCERN APPLICANTS—NOT UNABLE TO OBTAIN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT.

The applicants, two pipemoulders, were suspended from their employment on the 31st December, 1926, through shortage of work,

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1925, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1925 (H.M. Stationery Office: price 7s. 6d. net). Decisions given subsequent to December, 1925, 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.

and made claims for unemployment benefit; but as it appeared that later they became involved in a trade dispute which culminated in a stoppage of work at their employers' premises, their claims for benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

Subsequent to the date of the applicants' suspension, a dispute arose in the shop where they had been employed, regarding the hour of commencing work; and the men ceased work on the 3rd January. On the 5th January the applicants, who were not affected by the proposed change of conditions, were offered re-engagement, but refused on the ground that the situations offered were vacant in consequence of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

Recommended by the Court of Referees, the insured contributors' representative dissenting, that the claims should be disallowed under Section 8 (1).

The applicants' association appealed to the Umpire against the disallowance, contending that, since they were suspended prior to the date of the dispute, their unemployment was not due to the dispute.

Further evidence was obtained from the employers, which is embodied in the decision.

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

"In my opinion, the applicants fail to show that on 5th January they were unable to obtain suitable employment, and their claims to benefit should be disallowed accordingly.

"They were suspended on 31st December, but were sent for to resume work on 5th January, as their employers had work in hand for them to deal with. They declined to start work, alleging that they were offered employment in situations vacant in consequence of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute.

"Certain other employees at the same foundry had stopped work on 3rd January by reason of a dispute as to the hours of starting work. But the applicants were not asked to fill the situations vacant in consequence of this dispute, but were asked to return to their own work, which was not connected with that done by the men in dispute.

"I can see no justification for their refusing the employment offered them, and I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees, except that I think the applicants should be disallowed for failing to satisfy the statutory condition rather than under Section 8 (1)."

Case No. 1476/1927. (6/5/1927). Section 8 (1) of Principal Act and Section 4 (1) of 1924 (No. 2) Act—Trade Dispute.

VEHICLE BUILDERS CEASED WORK BECAUSE EMPLOYER REDUCED WAGES BELOW STANDARD RATE AND REQUIRED THEM TO LEAVE UNION—ONLY VEHICLE BUILDING FIRM IN DISTRICT—EMPLOYER NOT IN FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS AND INSISTED ON MAKING INDIVIDUAL BARGAINS WITH HIS EMPLOYEES—A TRADE DISPUTE.

The applicants, who were respectively two cartwrights, an apprentice cartwright, and a coach painter employed by a vehicle building firm, lost their employment on or about the 3rd March, 1927, and their claims for payment in lieu of unemployment benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

It appeared that one of the cartwrights had been in receipt of the standard rate of wages until the 3rd March, when the employer declared his intention of reducing the rate of wages for cartwrights to 2d. per hour below the standard rate; and of requiring all his employees to resign from their trade union. The applicant refused to accept the new conditions and withdrew his labour. His union maintained that acceptance would have involved him in a breach of the working conditions agreed between employers and employees in the vehicle building trade; and would have necessitated the sacrifice of benevolent and superannuation benefits provided by his union. Also his avenues of employment would have been restricted.

The other employees gave similar evidence of proposals made to them individually.

The employer reported that he did not belong to an association of employers, and intended to arrange conditions of employment with the men individually, and not with their union.

A representative of the applicants' union admitted that the employer's firm was regarded as a non-union shop, since the employer was not a contracting party to the national agreement. He agreed that there were no other cartwrights or vehicle builders employed in the applicants' district.

The nearest firms belonging to the employers' federation were situated in a town 50 miles distant.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicants lost their employment through a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute. They took the view that the employer was situated in a district which was independent, so far as trade conditions were concerned, and, since he was not federated to an employers' association, was entitled to make his own working conditions and fix his own rates of remuneration. The Court were satisfied that the employer had not committed a breach of agreement between employer and employee as defined by Section 4 (1) of the 1924 (No. 2) Act.

The applicants' association appealed against the disallowance to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed persons had made claims for unemployment benefit, the claims would have been disallowed.

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The applicants were in the employment of an employer who was not a member of any association of employers, but the applicants were members of a union of vehicle workers. The employer had been paying the trade union rate to one of the applicants, and this rate he proposed to reduce. He was not paying, and declined to pay, the trade union rate to the other applicants, and he insisted on bargaining with each man individually; whilst the applicants insisted that all the men should be paid at the appropriate rates agreed upon between their union and an employers' association.

"In consequence of this dispute the applicants left their employment, and their leaving resulted in a stoppage of work. The question is whether they lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute.

"The substance of the dispute was whether the employer should make individual bargains with his employees or should employ them only in accordance with the terms as to wages agreed to between the employers' association and the union. This in my opinion was a dispute which was 'connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment' of the applicants. (See Decision 214/26)."

Case No. 1516/27. (10/5/27). Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as Amended)—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

EMPLOYMENT LOST AFTER SERVING ONLY THREE OF FIVE YEARS AS SHIPWRIGHT APPRENTICE—TWENTY MONTHS LATER, WHEN 22 YEARS OF AGE, REFUSED EMPLOYMENT AS IMPROVER WITH FORMER EMPLOYER AT RATE OF WAGES LOWER THAN THAT OF JOURNEYMEN—REGARDED BY UNION AS JOURNEYMAN ON REACHING 21 YEARS OF AGE—LONG PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT—EVIDENCE OF INABILITY TO OBTAIN BETTER PAID WORK THAN THAT OFFERED—NOT UNABLE TO OBTAIN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT.

The applicant, who reached the age of 21 on the 19th November, 1925, had served three years and two months of his apprenticeship as a shipwright when, on the 5th May, 1925, he became unemployed. After a lapse of 20 months, his former employers found themselves in a position to re-employ him, and on the 17th January, 1927, offered him work as an improver at a wage of 23s. 4d. per week to the end of the period corresponding to the fourth year of his apprenticeship, and of 30s. per week in the last year. The applicant, although willing to do so, was not permitted by his trade union to accept the offer, and his claim for unemployment benefit was accordingly disallowed for six weeks from the 17th January on the ground that he was not unable to obtain suitable employment.

The applicant's union stated that upon reaching the age of 21 the applicant became a full member of the union, and maintained that he was then entitled to the standard rate of wages for journeymen shipwrights, irrespective of the fact that he had not served the full period of apprenticeship. They did not recognise the grade of "improver," and the rate of wages offered was lower than the rate paid to journeymen.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant had not refused suitable employment.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. He took the view that, although the rate of wages offered was lower than the normal adult rate, it did not appear to be lower than that the applicant might reasonably have expected to obtain, having regard to all the circumstances.

It was subsequently ascertained that shipwright apprentices in the applicant's district usually commenced at 16 years of age and were paid an average of 10s. 4d. in the first year and an average of 20s. 10d. in the last year of their apprenticeship.

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

"The applicant (owing to circumstances for which he is in no way to blame), although he is 21 years of age, has only served three years and two months instead of five years as an apprentice shipwright, and cannot claim to be qualified as a journeyman. After having been unemployed for 20 months he was offered employment as an apprentice or improver at a rate of wages less than the journeyman's rate, and I can see no reason for thinking that he is capable of earning a higher rate. His long period of unemployment shows that he has no reasonable chance of obtaining better paid work, and in my opinion he fails to show that he was unable to obtain suitable employment."

Case No. 1530/27. (11/5/27). Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as amended)—Genuinely Seeking Work.

MINER NOT REINSTATED ON TERMINATION OF NATIONAL MINING DISPUTE—ALLEGED ALL VACANCIES NOTIFIED TO UNION, WHO SELECTED MEN TO FILL THEM—REFUSED WORK AT ANOTHER PIT, ALLEGING SEAMS TOO LOW.

The applicant, a miner, had lost his employment on the 1st May, 1926, owing to the national mining dispute. As he was not reinstated upon a general resumption of work following a settlement of the dispute in November, he made a claim for unemployment benefit on the 29th November. Subsequently in an interview on the 19th January, 1927, he admitted that he had not applied for work at his former place of employment since December, 1926; and although he had applied at one colliery, under the control of the same employers, on the 13th January, he had not applied elsewhere during the period he had been claiming benefit. His claim for benefit was accordingly disallowed for six weeks as from the 13th January on the ground that he was not genuinely seeking work.

The applicant's association explained that they had an arrangement with the applicant's former employers providing that, when vacancies occurred at the collieries, the association should be asked to select and notify members accordingly. The applicant produced evidence that he had made several applications for loading or labouring work subsequent to the date of disallowance.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were influenced in their decision by the statement of the association regarding the arrangements existing between themselves and the employers.

Subsequent information furnished by the employers indicated that the arrangement referred to by the association was one which related only to the particular pit where the applicant was formerly employed, and not to any of the employers' other pits. It was not likely that any more men would be required at the pit in question for some time, and the arrangement was a measure to obviate regular application by the men. On the 29th January employment at another pit owned by the employers had been offered to all men who had not been absorbed, and the applicant was one of those who refused the offer.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In all the circumstances he was of the opinion that the disallowance should stand. He referred the case to the Umpire, and there was a hearing on the 10th April.

It was ascertained that if the applicant had gone at once to take the work offered on the 29th January, he could have secured it; but he and others refused, at first, owing to the thinness of the seam. Later the places were taken by men from another mine.

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

"The applicant seems to have been looking for work in some directions, but on 29th January or thereabouts there were vacancies at a colliery which he declined to apply for on the ground that he was accustomed to work on a 3 foot 6 inch seam and could not work on a 2 foot seam.

"It may be that he would have found the work unsuitable, but as he had no prospect of other work he should have tried it. He is only 35 years of age and could, I should think, have learned to adapt himself to the altered conditions."

Case No. 1553/1927. (13/5/1927). Section 8 (2) and Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended) of Principal Act—Employment left Voluntarily—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

PROVISO (b)—CASEMENT MAKERS, AFTER ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT AT STANDARD RATE OF WAGES, FOUND COLLEAGUES WERE RECEIVING HIGHER RATE—HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED FOR EMPLOYER AT HIGHER RATE.

The claims for payment in lieu of unemployment benefit made by the applicants, two casement makers, on the 22nd February, 1927, were disallowed for six weeks as from the 21st February, on the ground that on that date they left their employment voluntarily without just cause.

It appeared that for a period of ten months the applicants had been employed at a wage of 1s. 3½d. per hour, and owing to slackness of work had been suspended on the 14th January. Subsequently they were offered re-engagement at a wage of 1s. 2½d. per hour, which they accepted, resuming work on the 14th February. The wage offered was the district standard rate; but the applicants found that their fellow employees on the same class of work were being paid at the rate of 1s. 3½d. per hour, and they accordingly left the employment on the 21st February. They did not consult their trade union before leaving.

The employers reported that the offer of re-engagement was conditional upon the acceptance of the district standard time rate of wages, or alternatively, piecework prices. All casement makers had the same piecework prices.

Recommended by the Court of Referees (by a majority) that the claims should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicants should have consulted their trade union before leaving, and that, had they done so, it was possible that the cause of their dissatisfaction might have been removed. The Insured Contributors' representative took the view that the applicants were justified in leaving, as the conditions were less favourable than those which they had habitually obtained.

The applicants' union appealed against the disallowance to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed persons had made claims for unemployment benefit, the claims would have been disallowed.

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The applicants' grievance appears to be that other men were being paid at a higher rate, but I see no reason for thinking that the rate paid was unduly low or lower than that which the applicants had habitually received in their usual occupation in the district."

REFERENCES TO THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE UNDER SECTION 10 (1) OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1920.

Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Unemployment Insurance (Determination of Questions) Regulations, 1920, the Minister of Labour hereby gives notice of his intention to refer to the High Court for decision the following questions that have arisen in applications made to him for his decision under Section 10 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, namely, whether the employment of a person in—

(a) grading and packing tomatoes; bunching chrysanthemums; and occasionally picking tomatoes and trimming plants;

(b) the cultivation of tomato plants and chrysanthemums; grading, weighing, and packing tomatoes; and packing chrysanthemums;

(c) grading and packing tomatoes, trimming tomato plants, and bunching chrysanthemums;

(d) trimming, grading, and bunching flowers;

(e) trimming, grading, bunching, packing, and occasionally cutting flowers;

(f) organising and superintending work in the packing sheds and occasionally assisting in the actual packing, the produce dealt with consisting of cucumbers, tomatoes, grapes, plants, ferns, and palms;

is or is not employment within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

Under Rules 5 and 18 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for regulating appeals and references to the High Court under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, Section 10, any person who claims to be affected by the decisions to be given in the above-mentioned cases may apply to the Judge for leave to intervene.

The cases have been set down in the High Court, and will be heard in the near future.

In the event of any person desiring to intervene, all the necessary information and documents can be obtained by applying to the Solicitor, Ministry of Labour, 3, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

INSPECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF STAMPING, BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE.—Inland Revenue Stamping Dept. Supts. Association v. Board of Inland Revenue. *Difference.*—Decision 1244 of Court—New salary scales—Point of scale for transfer—Claim for special advances. *Decision.*—All officers who received no immediate increase on assimilation to new scales granted a special advance of salary as from date of operation of Award 1244, equivalent to one-half of an annual increment. Issued 2nd May, 1927. (1293.)

FOREMEN AND ASSISTANT FOREMEN OF LABORATORY—ARMAMENT SUPPLY DEPT. ADMIRALTY.—Staff Side v. Official Side of Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for increase. *Decision.*—Annual scales of pay to be increased to:—

Assistant Foremen of Laboratory	...	£140—7½—180
Foremen	...	£220—10—320

The scales are basic and are subject to the current Civil Service cost-of-living bonus. At stations abroad, house and colonial allowances will continue to be paid as heretofore. Operative from 1st May, 1927. Issued on 13th May, 1927. (1297.)

STOREKEEPERS, CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE.—Civil Service Clerical Association v. Corporation of Trinity House. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for revision. *Decision.*—Basic scales of pay awarded as follows:—

Chief Storekeeper	...	£140—7½—£180 per annum.
Assistant Clerk Storekeeper	...	£135—5—£155 "
Storekeeper	...	£110—5—£130 "

The rates are basic and are subject to Civil Service cost-of-living bonus. The scale of Chief Storekeeper includes allowance of £15, and all houses and allowances to be provided and paid as heretofore. Issued 17th May, 1927. (1298.)

BUILDING TRADES—GLASGOW AND THE W. OF SCOTLAND.—The Natl. Fedn. of Building Trade Operatives v. the Scottish Building Contrs. Assn. *Difference.*—Interpretation of the National Agreement. *Decision.*—That the present rates of pay of labourers in the building industry should not be disturbed. Issued 17th May, 1927. (1299.)

STEAM VESSEL SERVICE (MASTERS, OFFICERS AND ENGINEERS)—CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE.—Workers' Union v. Corporation of Trinity House. *Difference.*—Interpretation of Award 1284—Uniform allowance—Incremental date—Increments on promotion. *Decision.*—For the continuance of the payment of uniform allowance as provided by Decision 1284, but no change in method of computing. Incremental date—provisions of Decision 1284 have been rightly applied by Trinity House. Rules and practices of Civil Service to be operative as regards increments on promotion. Issued 24th May, 1927. (1300.)

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

COKE TRADE: CUMBERLAND.—Workpeople's Side v. Employers' Side of the Board of Conciliation for the Cumberland Coke Trade. *Difference.*—Application for an advance of 1s. per shift on the basis rates of all workers employed at the Coke and Bye-product plants in the district. Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C., appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to act as *Arbitrator* to determine the matter. *Award.*—Claim not established. Dated 11th May, 1927.

STEEL TRADE: LLANELLY.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. The Llanelly Steel Company, Ltd., Llanelly. *Difference.*—Six claims on behalf of the Boiler Firemen employed at the works of the Company. Mr. B. A. Cohen, K.C., appointed under Section 2 (2) (b) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as *Arbitrator* to determine the matter. At the hearing two of the claims were abandoned. *Award.*—Other claims refused. Dated 19th May, 1927.

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

BAKING TRADE: Ayrshire.—Scottish Union of Bakers and Confectioners v. Ayrshire Master Bakers' Association and the Ayrshire Co-operative Wages Board. *Difference.*—As to the terms of the wages and conditions agreement for 1927-28. *Settlement.*—Present agreement extended for a further year subject to certain modifications as regards starting times. Agreed 7th May, 1927.

DYEING TRADE: LANCASHIRE.—National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. Messrs. Byrom Dyeing Co., Bacup. *Difference.*—Threatened strike of women winders owing to alleged breach of wages agreement. *Settlement.*—Agreement reached and strike notices withdrawn. Settled 31st May, 1927.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order P (15), dated 30th May, 1927, confirming the variation of minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers for periods dependent upon the cost-of-living index figure, and specifying the 6th June, 1927, as the date from which such minimum rates of wages should become effective.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.B. (38), dated the 22nd April, 1927, confirming the variation of certain general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers in the Brush and Broom Trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 16th May, 1927, as the effective date.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.S. (18), dated the 20th May, 1927, confirming the variation of certain general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers in the Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 30th May, 1927, as the effective date.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Sack and Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal S.B. (8), dated 24th May, 1927, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male workers. Objection period expires 27th July, 1927.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.T.R.B. (N. 24), dated the 4th May, 1927, to vary minimum rates for certain classes of male and female workers and to cancel minimum rates for male apprentices. Objection period expires 18th May, 1927.

SAFETY IN FACTORIES: PROPOSED ORDER.

THE Home Secretary, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 29 (3) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, issued on the 16th May a draft Order requiring the institution of special safety arrangements in the following classes of factories:—(i) blast furnaces for the smelting of iron ore; (ii) iron and steel rolling mills, including tube works; (iii) engineering works in which more than 500 persons are employed, as follows: forges, engine-building, making of transmission machinery, constructional engineering, hydraulic engineering, electrical engineering (making of dynamos and motors, and cable making), making of agricultural and industrial machinery, making of railway, tramway and motor vehicle plant, ordnance works; (iv) iron foundries in which more than 50 persons are employed; (v) shipbuilding works.

The draft Order requires the employment by the occupier of a competent safety supervisor, responsible directly to the occupier (or, in the case of a company, the managing director), and charged with the various duties in regard to safety set out in the draft. The Order is, however, so framed that every occupier would have the opportunity of substituting, with the approval of the Chief Inspector of Factories, a special safety scheme adapted to the particular circumstances of his works. He would also be able to claim exemption altogether from the Order if he could satisfy the Chief Inspector that other not less effective measures for the prevention of accidents had been adopted.

In a circular addressed to the Employers' Associations concerned that accompanies the draft Order, it is stated that the Home Secretary recognises that safety organisations of this kind are likely to be most effective when they are established on a voluntary basis, and with the full support of the employers and operatives engaged in the industry, and he would therefore much prefer that employers should establish these arrangements for themselves without being put under any statutory obligation. If he were assured that the employers in any of the industries concerned were ready to adopt effective safety schemes on the lines indicated in the Order (or on such other lines as may be approved) and that effective steps would be taken *without delay* to institute such arrangements, he would be quite willing, so far as that industry was concerned, to postpone the issue of the Order in order to give the employers the opportunity of dealing with the matter on a voluntary basis.

WELFARE OF WORKERS.

Proposed Order for Herring Curing, etc., Factories and Workshops in England and Wales (excluding Norfolk and Suffolk).

THE Home Secretary has issued a Notice, dated 10th June, 1927, that, in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by Section 7 of the Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916, of making Orders for securing the welfare of the workers employed in factories or workshops, he proposes to make an Order to apply to all factories and workshops in England and Wales (excluding Norfolk and Suffolk) in which the processes of gutting, salting, and packing of herrings are carried on. The proposed Order follows, with certain modifications, the lines of the Order applying to Scotland.*

Copies of the draft Order and of the notice may be obtained on application to the Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, and any objection to the proposed Order must be sent to the Secretary of State within 30 days after the date of the notice.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

ALIENS.—*Aliens Restriction Acts, 1914 and 1919, Aliens Order, 1920.* (i) *Statistics in regard to alien passengers who entered and left the United Kingdom in 1926.* Home Office. (Cmd. 2865; price 4d.) (ii) *A return of alien passengers, excluding trans-migrants, landed, embarked, and refused leave to land, in the United Kingdom, during the three months ending March 31, 1927.* (Cmd. 2864; price 1d.)

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.—*Third Census of Production, 1924. Preliminary Reports, No. 11. Silk and artificial silk trades, elastic webbing trade, pens, pencils and artists' materials trades, ink, gum and sealing wax trades. No. 12. Type-founding, electro-typing, engraving, process block making and die-sinking trades, billiard table and sports requisites trades, games and toys trades, engine and boiler packing and asbestos trades. No. 13. Brewing and malting trades, aerated waters, cider, vinegar, British wine and cognate trades, wholesale bottling trade. No. 14. Railway companies, blacksmithing trade, small arms trade, and bacon curing and sausage trades.* Board of Trade. (S.O. publications; price 6d. each.)

CO-OPERATION.—*International Labour Directory, Part VI. Co-operative organisations.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1927; price 2s.)

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—(a) *Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1925. Part 3. Industrial and provident societies. Part 4. Trade unions.* (b) *Orders and branches. Statistical summaries showing the operations of friendly societies in the years 1916-1925, and of orders and branches in the years 1910, 1916-1918, 1920, 1922 and 1924.* (S.O. publications; price 12s. 6d., 3s., and 6d., respectively.)

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*Reports of Advisory Committees for Juvenile Employment for 1926.* (i) *Blackpool.* (ii) *Bootle.* (iii) *Southampton.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 9d., 9d., and 6d., respectively.)

LABOUR STATISTICS.—*International Statistical Year-book, 1926. League of Nations, Economic and Financial Section.* (Geneva, 1927; price 7s. 6d.)

Includes population by occupational groups, unemployment, prices and cost of living.

MIGRATION.—*Migration Movements, 1920-1924. Studies and Reports, Series O (Migration), No. 2.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1926; price 2s.)

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND.—*Account showing the nature and amount of the securities held by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt at 31st December, 1926, and 31st March, 1927.* (H.C. 59; price 1d.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—*Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of poor law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in March, 1927, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief.* Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (See page 211.)

SEA FISHERIES.—*Sea Fisheries, Statistical Tables, 1926.* Fishery Board for Scotland. (S.O. publication; price 7s.)

Contains a table of persons employed in Scotland in 1926.

* See the June, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, page 235. An Order for Norfolk and Suffolk was made in 1920.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MAY, 1927.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Holton Heath: Erection of Residence: W. E. Jones & Son, Westbourne, Bournemouth. **Bricks:** The Stroncrete Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bournemouth.—**Pembroke: Limestone Rubble:** T. W. Colley & Sons, Pembroke.—**Portland: Portland Cement:** The British Standard Cement Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Portsmouth: Steam Hopper Barge:** Fleming & Ferguson, Ltd., Paisley.—**H.M. Naval Establishment Abroad: Portland Cement:** The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. **Steelwork:** Brownlie & Murray, Ltd., Glasgow.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Biscuits, Cabin: Spillers Milling and Associated Industries, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Blankets:** Wormalds & Walker, Ltd., Dewsbury.—**Boots, Half:** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; John Horrell & Son, Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds; Tebbutt & Hall Bros., Ltd., Raunds.—**Cable, Electric:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Edison Swan Cables, Ltd., Lydbrook; The General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown.—**Castings, M.C.I.:** Thos. L. Hale, Ltd., Tipton; Clegg & Howgate, Keighley; J. & F. Howard, Ltd., Bedford; H. W. Lindop, Walsall.—**Castings, Steel:** Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Clothing, Oilskin:** E. Macbean & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cocks, etc., Gunmetal:** Barber, Wilsons & Co., Ltd., London, N.; H. Bisseker, Ltd., Birmingham; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; Sperry & Co., Birmingham; Young & Co., Glasgow.—**Crane, Seaplane Hoisting:** Sir William Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cupboards, Hot, Electric:** Benham & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Diethyldiphenylurea:** L. B. Holliday & Co., Ltd., Huddersfield; British Dyestuffs Corp., Ltd., Manchester.—**Felt, Hair:** G. Butterworth & Son, Leeds; Mitchells, Ashworth, Stansfield & Co., Ltd., Waterfoot, near Manchester; J. Newton & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Files and Rasps:** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Thos. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; H. Rossell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. J. Savile & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Sheffield; Sheffield Steel Products, Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Flour:** W. Vernon & Sons, London, E.; Spillers & Bakers, Cardiff.—**Gear, Capstan:** Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Gearing, Spare Main:** Power Plant Co., Ltd., West Drayton.—**Hydroplanes:** Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Installation of E.H.T. Cables:** W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Jerseys, Blue Worsted:** I. & R. Morley, Leicester.—**Lamp Fittings, Aluminium Alloy:** The General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Wm. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Engineering and Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans; James Beresford & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lathe, Turret:** H. W. Ward & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lathes:** Dean, Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley.—**Locomotive, Steam:** Avonside Engine Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Machine, Surfacing, Boring, etc.:** H. W. Kearns & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Methylated Spirit, Diluted:** Methylating Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Motor Reducer Set:** Laurence, Scott & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—**Oil, Mineral Lighting:** The Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Paint, Red Lead:** Blacklock & Macarthur, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Pins, Steel:** L. H. Robinson & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Plant, Bakery, Electric:** Carron Co., Falkirk.—**Pumps, Motor-driven:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Racks, Steel:** Estler Bros., London, E.—**Ropes, Sweeping, Steel Wire:** British Ropes, Ltd., London, W.—**Sailcloth, Canvas:** Francis Webster & Sons, Arbroath.—**Staves and Heads for Barrels and Casks:** W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—**Suet:** British American Products, Ltd., Birkenhead.—**Switch and Sockets:** The General Electric Co., Ltd., Wembley.—**"Tallene" for launching purposes:** Ferguson, Shaw & Sons, Glasgow.—**Tarpaulins:** The N.F. Waterproofing Co., Ltd., London, N.; J. Chambers & Co., Liverpool.—**Ties, Black Silk:** Toms, Steer & Toms, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Towels:** Isherwood Bros. of Radcliffe, Ltd., Radcliffe; Stott & Smith, Ltd., Congleton; Barlow & Jones, Ltd., Bolton.—**Tubes, Glass:** Butterworth Bros., Ltd., Manchester.—**Turn-tables, Wagon:** Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—**Valves, W/T:** Mullard Radio Valve Co., London, S.W.—**Wire Netting:** C. M. Metherell, Plymouth; Procter Bros. (Wireworks), Ltd., Leeds.

WAR OFFICE.

Acetone: Barter Trading Corporation, Ltd., Spondon, Derby.—**Acids:** Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.—**Asbestos Sheeting:** Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Baths, Slipper:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Blankets, Saddle:** Wormald & Walker, Ltd., Dewsbury.—**Boots, Ankle:** Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds; S. Walker, Walgrave, Northants.; Tebbutt & Hall Bros., Ltd., Raunds.—**Boxes, Soldiers', Wood:** Vickers, Ltd., Dartford.—**Brass, Bar:** The King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Bronze Stampings:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, & Co., Ltd., Elswick, Newcastle.—**Canvas:** The Boaze Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee.—**Canvas, W.P. Hood Material:**

Holdsworth & Gibbs, Ltd., Swinton.—**Cloth, D.M., W.P., 56-in.:** J. Hainsworth & Sons, Leeds; G. H. Hirst & Co., Ltd., Batley, Leeds; Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Alverthorpe; J. W. Whitworth, Ltd., Luddenden Foot, Yorks.—**Cooking Apparatus:** Adams & Son, London, S.W.; Richmond Gas Stove & Meter Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Cooking Ranges:** Dobbie, Forbes & Co., Ltd., Larbert, Stirling-shire.—**Copper Ingot:** W. West & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Cotton Waste:** W. C. Jones, Ltd., Manchester; A. Smart & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Cranes, Overhead Travelling Electric:** Royce, Ltd., Manchester.—**Cylinders:** Scott, Sons, & Tucker, Ltd., London, S.E.; J. G. Carrick & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Drill, Khaki:** Moss Bros. (Hebden Bridge), Ltd., Hebden Bridge.—**Duck, Linen:** A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy.—**Fencing, Strained Wire:** Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—**Flannel, Shirting:** Kelsall & Kemp, Ltd., Rochdale.—**R. R. Buck & Sons, Ltd., Carlisle.**—**Flannelette:** Schofield, Preston & Co., Ltd., Nelson.—**Furnace:** G. P. Wincott, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Glycerine Mixture:** Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Grangemouth.—**Harness, Saddlery, etc.:** D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Walsall; Wilmot Bennett, Walsall; Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, London, S.E.—**Holloware (Kettles, Saucepans, etc.):** Beech, Hill & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Iron, Old, Cast:** T. W. Ward, London, E.—**Iron, Pig:** Barrow Haematite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Lathe, 18-in.:** Buck & Hickman, Ltd., Halifax.—**Metal Rod:** King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Metal Sheets, Asbestos Protected:** Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, near Birkenhead.—**Motor Cars:** A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—**Motor Spares:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Ovens, Field, Repair of:** Baker-Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Pins, Tent, Wood:** F. W. Page, Near Henley-on-Thames; D. Vanderstegen, Near Reading.—**Pipes, Drive, etc.:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Repairs to W.D. Vessel:** Earles Shipbuilding & Engg. Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Serge, S.D.:** T. Womersley & Sons, Pudsey; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Som.; J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth; J. Harper & Sons, Calverley, Leeds; R. Gaunt & Sons, Farsley, Leeds; J. W. Whitworth, Ltd., Luddenden Foot, Yorks.; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley, Leeds; T. & H. Harper, Ltd., Apperley Bridge; H. Booth & Sons, Leeds.—**Serge, White, Lining:** J. Berry & Sons, Ltd., Ashburton.—**Shirts, Flannel:** McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh & Co., London, E.C.; George Francis & Kerr, Llanidloes.—**Sleepers:** Wm. Christie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Slotting Machines:** J. Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Milnrow, Near Rochdale.—**Socks, Worsted:** Hill & Co., Wigston; A. Kemp, Leicester.—**Steel, Bars:** Steel, Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Surgical Dressings:** R. Bailey & Sons, Ltd., Stockport; Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield; A. Berton, Ltd., London, E.C.; T. J. Smith & Nephews, Ltd., Hull.—**Surgical Instruments:** S. Maw, Son & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tables, Soldiers' Tops:** Vickers, Ltd., Dartford.—**Timber, Yellow Deal:** King & Scarborough, London, E.—**Travelling Kitchen Bodies:** Platt Bros. & Co., Ltd., Oldham.—**Twine, Packing:** Jameson & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Vehicles, Six-wheeled:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Vehicles, half-tracked, Burford-Kegresse Chassis:** H. G. Burford & Co., London, W.—**Vehicles, half-tracked, Crossley-Kegresse Spares:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—**Vehicles, Multi-wheel:** Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Vests, Woollen:** I. & R. Morley, Leicester; J. Haines & Co., Leicester.—**X-Ray Sets:** Solus Electrical Co., London, W.C.—**Works Services:** Building Works and Services: Edinburgh, etc., Artificers' Work: Scottish General Haulage Co., Edinburgh. Colchester, Artificers' Work: A. E. Flory & Co., Colchester. Norwich, Nelson Barracks, Periodical Services: Messrs. Arundel (Painters), Ltd., Bradford. Lydden Spout, Musketry Camp, Reconstruction: Messrs. G. Lewis & Sons (Dover), Ltd., Dover. Catterick Camp, Provision of Woven Wire Fencing and Gates: Messrs. G. Dougill & Sons, Darlington. Catterick Camp, Foundations for Turbines and Circulating Mains: Messrs. G. Dougill & Sons, Darlington. Blackdown and Deepcut, Periodical Services: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley, Yorks. North Aldershot, Periodical Services: A. A. McDermott, Bradford. Bovington, Sliding Doors to Garage: John Lysaght, Ltd., Bristol. Woolwich, Artillery College Dining Rooms, Install Apparatus and Steam Boilers, etc.: Dilworth & Carr, London, W.C. Woolwich, Cambridge Barracks, Convert Laundry into Bath House: J. B. Edwards & Co., London, W. Lincoln Depot Barracks, Periodical Services: S. Lupton & Sons, Bradford, Yorks.

AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: C. A. Vandervell & Co., London, W.—**Aircraft:** De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Conversion of:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft, Design for metal wings for:** Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—**Aircraft, Experimental Wings for:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft, Modifications to:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of:** Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Repairs to:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester.—**Aircraft, Spares:** Fairey Aviation Co., Hayes, Middlesex; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes, I. of W.; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Woolston, Southampton; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge; Westland

Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircscrews and Cases** : Blackburn Aeroplane and Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Aluminium Spinnings** : Aluminium Plant and Vessel Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Amplifier** : Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Anchorage for Observer's Fighting Harness** : A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester.—**Arms, Swivelling, Mark II.** : Monarch Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Balloons, Kite** : C. G. Spencer & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—**Bombs, Cleaning, Repairing and Filling of** : Nobel Industries, Ltd., Denaby.—**Brushes, Varnish** : J. T. Millwood & Sons, London, S.E.—**Buildings and Works Services** : Battery Charging Panels, (Various Stations) : Harland Engineering Co., Ltd., Manchester. Heating and Hot Water Supply (Croydon) : Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Birmingham. Meteorological Station (Cardington) : Wright Anderson & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne. Motor Generator Sets (Various Stations) : General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Stand-by Generating Sets (Kenley and Suttons Farm) : Aster Engineering Co. (1913), Ltd., Wembley. Underground Cables (Upper Heyford) : Malcolm & Allen, Ltd., London, W.C. W/T Transmitting Station (Mitcham) : Pearce Bros., Bromley.—**Canvas, Khaki, proofed** : Holdsworth & Gibb, Ltd., Manchester.—**Canvas, packing, hessian** : Jute Industries, Ltd., Dundee.—**Delco Ignition Spares** : Delco Remy & Hyatt, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Disinfectant Fluid** : Hull Chemical Works, Co., Hull.—**Engines, Aircraft** : D. Napier & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Air Brake for testing** : Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares and Tools for** : Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Stands and Adapting Rings for** : Monarch Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Engines, Aircraft, Supercharger Blowers** : British Brown Boverie, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Extinguishers, Fire, Refills for** : General Fire Appliance Co., London, E.C.—**Fabric, linen, solid aeroplane** : Woods, Sons & Co., London, E.C.—**Ford Spares** : W. J. Reynolds, London, E.—**Lenses** : Taylor, Taylor & Hobson, Ltd., Leicester.—**Leyland Spares** : Leyland Motors Ltd., Leyland.—**Morris Vehicles** : Morris Commercial Cars Ltd., Soho, Birmingham.—**Mortley Clutches and Spares** : G. E. Mortley Sprague & Co., Ltd., Tunbridge Wells.—**Plywood** : Aeronautical and Panel Plywood Co., Ltd., London, E.; S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight.—**Raidators, Aircraft** : Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Receivers** : H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Receivers, Telephone and Headbands, Metal** : Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., London, W.C.—**Soda, Caustic** : United Alkali Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steel Wire** : John Shaw, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Streamline Wires and Tie Rods** : Bruntons, Musselburgh, N.B.; A. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Terne Plate** : Baldwins, Ltd., Stourport.—**Thermometers, Radiator** : S. Smith & Sons (M.A.), Ltd., London, N.W.—**Transmitting and Receiving Sets** : Marconi W/T Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Tubing, Brass and Copper** : Earle Bourne & Co., Birmingham.—**Varnish Remover** : Cellon (Richmond), Ltd., Richmond, Surrey.—**Wheels, Aircraft** : Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, E.—**White Metal** : Hoyt Metal Co. of Great Britain, Ltd., London, S.W.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic : Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts; International Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, N. or N.W.—**Apparatus, Testing, Protective and Miscellaneous** : Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Bags, Leather** : J. Lyons & Sons, London, E.C.—**Balances, Spring** : Geo. Salter & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Battery Stores** : Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Belts, Safety** : Wm. Jenkinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Blocks, Terminal** : Thos. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Boxes, Battery** : Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Boxes, Packing** : Thames Board Mills, Ltd., Purfleet, Essex.—**Cable, Various** : British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Henleys Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Casing and Cover** : Wm. Duncan Tucker & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—**Castings, Joint Box** : United Steel Cos., Ltd. (T. Butlin & Co. Branch), Wellingborough.—**Clothing, Leather** : G. Glanfield & Son, Ltd., London, E.—**Cord** : The Forth and Clyde Roperie Co., Kirkcaldy.—**Cords for Telephones** : London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., London, E.—**Cycles, Motor** : B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Redditch and Birmingham.—**Ironwork** : Bullers, Ltd., Tipton.—**Kiosks, Concrete** : Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Lugs, Lead** : T. F. Snow, London, S.E.—**Mouthpieces** : North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Mudguards** : Cranford Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Paper** : Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., Chartham, near Canterbury.—**Plugs, Cable, Distribution** : Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Pipe, Mild Steel** : John Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Halesowen or Rutherglen.—**Rags** : S. J. Green & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Reflectors** : Fairylites, Ltd. (Lamps (Birmingham), Ltd.), Birmingham.—**Sleeves, Lead** : Geo. Farmiloe & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Solder** : The Du Bois Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Geo. W. Neale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Tyne Solder Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Tarpaulins** : Woods, Sons & Co., London, E.—**Thread** : Henry Campbell & Co., Ltd., Mossley, Belfast.—**Tools, Instrument** : Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Twine** : H. P. King & Son, Dundee.—**Vans** : Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham; W. H. Perry, Ltd., London, N.—**Vans, Bodies for** : W. H. Perry, Ltd., London, N.—**Vans, Chassis for** : Morris Motors (1926), Ltd., Cowley, Oxon.—**Wire** : W. T. Henleys Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.

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Correction to issue of May, 1927, page 205. Government Contracts (Post Office).—Telephone Exchange Equipment :

"Harrods, Ltd. (Head Office), S.W.1" and "Harrods, Ltd. (Estate Office), S.W.1." For "Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W." read "Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E."

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