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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a slight improvement on the whole. This was the result mainly of the seasonal revival of employment in the building and clothing trades, and of the recent improvement in the textile industries.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 21·5 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 21·7 at 23rd February, 1931, and 13·7 at 24th March, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 23rd March, 1931, was 22·7, and for females 18·4. At 23rd February, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 22·6 and 19·6.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 23rd March, 1931, there were approximately 9,267,200 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 42,300 more than a month before, but 713,800 less than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 23rd March, 1931, there were 1,859,526 persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 29,190 less than a month before, but 723,758 more than a year before. The total on 23rd March, 1931, included 1,358,412 men, 53,243 boys, 403,704 women and 44,167 girls. It was made up approximately of 1,303,400 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 463,650 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 92,470 uninsured persons. The claimants for benefit, numbering 1,694,266, included 229,388 men, 5,813 boys, 44,447 women and 2,964 girls who had been on the Register for less than one month.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 23rd March, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 428,211 men, 13,968 boys, 151,835 women and 10,075 girls who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 604,089 was 9,603 less than a month before, but 196,660 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 23rd March, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 114,062 men, 299 boys, 2,123 women and 19 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 116,503 was 1,253 more than a month before, and 20,901 more than a year before.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—There was a further seasonal improvement in the building trade, public works contracting, brick and tile manufacture, and the clothing industries. The numbers unemployed also decreased in most of the textile

industries, and in pottery, glass bottle, pig-iron and tinplate manufacture. There were increases, however, in the numbers unemployed in coal mining, iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding and ship-repairing, and the leather trades.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported during March resulted in an estimated decrease of over £96,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 820,000 workpeople, and in an increase of nearly £2,000 in those of 30,000 workpeople.

The reductions mainly occurred in the mining, metal, transport, and textile industries. The principal body of workpeople affected in the mining group consisted of coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, for whom there was a reduction in the district percentage addition to basis rates equivalent to $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on current rates. Reductions in the metal and transport groups chiefly concerned railway employees, those in the workshops having a deduction of $4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. applied to their earnings, while the earnings of most other classes were made subject to an all-round deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with a further deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on earnings in excess of 40s. per week. Other workpeople who sustained reductions included coal miners in Warwickshire, electrical cable makers, bobbin and shuttle makers, and hosiery workers in the Midlands.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st April, the average level of retail prices of 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 47 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 50 per cent. a month ago. This fall of 3 points, which compares with a fall of 4 points at the corresponding date in 1930, was largely due to seasonal causes. The articles principally affected by reductions in prices were eggs, milk, butter and meat. For food alone the increase over the level of July, 1914, was 29 per cent., as compared with 34 per cent. a month ago.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to 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 March was 28. In addition, 14 disputes which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in March (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 28,200, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in March was about 175,000 working days.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1930.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January last, a brief summary was published giving preliminary statistics as to the changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during 1930. In the following article revised figures are given in greater detail, together with comparative statistics for previous years.

Changes in rates of wages and hours of labour come to the notice of the Department from a variety of sources, including (a) arbitration or conciliation proceedings under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, or the Conciliation Act, 1896; (b) Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts; (c) returns and reports regularly supplied by many employers, employers' associations, and trade unions; (d) reports from the local officers of the Ministry and local correspondents in the principal industrial centres; (e) reports in the press. On the receipt of a notification as to a change, enquiry forms are sent by the Department to the employers or their associations, and to the trade unions concerned, asking for particulars; and at the end of each month a summary of the information obtained is circulated to employers' associations and trade unions for verification. The particulars thus collected are published each month in this GAZETTE (see, for example, pages 154 to 156 of the present issue), with a summary showing the approximate numbers of workpeople affected and the total amount of increase or decrease in their weekly wages or hours of labour.

For the purpose of these statistics a change in a rate of wages is defined as a change in the rate of remuneration of a particular class of workpeople, apart from any change in the nature of the work performed. This definition excludes (a) changes in average earnings due to changes in the proportions of higher and lower paid workpeople, (b) changes in the rates of pay of individuals due to promotions or to progressive increments within the limits of fixed scales of wages, (c) changes in the terms of employment providing merely for compensation for extra work, and (d) changes in earnings arising out of variations in the amount of work done, in the amount of employment available, or in the system of payment (time-work, piece-work, etc.) in operation. It should also be noted that as the Department has no compulsory powers in regard to the collection of the information, it is dependent on the voluntary co-operation of the employers, employers' associations, and trade unions concerned for the supply of the particulars required. While this voluntary co-operation is very freely accorded, and the statistics, therefore, cover a very wide field, some changes in wages and hours of labour, especially among those affecting unorganised groups of workpeople and those arranged by individual firms, do not come to the notice of the Department, and are consequently not included in the figures. Moreover, the statistics exclude changes in the wages and hours of agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants, and clerks.

RATES OF WAGES.

Rates of wages generally showed little movement in 1930, the great majority of workpeople being unaffected by any changes during the year.

In all the industries and services for which statistics are available* the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as operating in 1930 resulted in an aggregate net decrease of £116,100 in the weekly full-time rates of wages of 1,100,000 workpeople, and in a net increase of £59,500 in those of 768,000 workpeople.

The net result of all the changes reported was, therefore, a decrease of £56,600 in the weekly full-time wages of the workpeople in the industries covered by the statistics. As, however, the rates of wages of the great majority of workpeople remained unchanged throughout the year, the effect of this reduction on the general level of wages was relatively small, the average decrease for all industries combined being equivalent to about one-fourth of one per cent. of the wage-rates in operation at the beginning of the year. When account is taken of all the information in the possession of the Department, it is estimated that the average increase between July, 1914, and the end of 1930, in the weekly full-time rates of wages of those classes of workpeople for whom particulars are available, was between 70 and 74 per cent.†

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN INDUSTRY-GROUPS.

The following Table shows the numbers of workpeople affected by net increases and decreases in rates of wages, and the net amounts of increase or decrease in each of the groups of industries covered. It should be observed that, as the changes in the wages of adult men are usually greater than those affecting women, boys and girls, comparisons of the average amount of change per head in the different groups of industries, to be deduced from the figures, are affected by the varying proportions of men, women and young persons employed in the groups.

* The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.
† This calculation of the increase since 1914 includes rates of wages of agricultural labourers, which are excluded from the Tables given elsewhere in this article, the available particulars being insufficient for their inclusion in the detailed statistics. The percentage increase quoted relates to workpeople of unchanged grade, without any allowance for changes between 1914 and the present time in the proportion of workpeople in different industries and occupations, or for other factors (apart from increases in rates of wages) which may have affected actual earnings.
The increase in hourly rates of wages is greater than the increase in weekly rates, as the number of hours constituting a full working week was reduced in nearly all industries in 1919 and 1920.

Industry-Group.	Approximate Number of separate individuals reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.		Estimated Net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
Coal Mining ...	15,500	750	£ 475	£ 150	+ £ 325
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	7,250	19,000	125	1,425	- 1,300
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	750	2,750	75	400	- 325
Iron and Steel ...	69,000	68,000	3,700	4,150	- 450
Engineering ...	107,000*	750	9,300*	75	+ 9,225*
Shipbuilding ...	66,000	1,500	5,600	750	+ 4,850
Other Metal ...	27,500	40,250	4,600	4,725	- 125
Textile ...	4,750	409,000	250	52,700	- 52,450
Clothing ...	2,750	6,600	425	1,075	- 650
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2,000	19,750	350	2,000	- 1,650
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	1,700	9,500	200	1,075	- 875
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...	17,000	...	2,575	- 2,575
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	16,750	429,500	900	38,100	- 37,200
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...	2,100	2,400	200	150	+ 50
Transport ...	425,000	25,000	29,625	2,775	+ 26,850
Public Administration Services ...	19,500	10,000	3,600	850	+ 2,750
Other ...	450	38,250	75	3,125	- 3,050
Total ...	768,000	1,100,000	59,500	116,100	- 56,600

In addition to the numbers shown in the above Table, about 85,000 workpeople received increases and sustained decreases of equal amounts during the year. Of these about 37,000 were in the building and allied industries group, and 21,000 in the coal mining group.

Among the industries covered by the statistics, the textile and building groups of industries accounted for 76 per cent. of the total number of workpeople who sustained net reductions during the year, and for 78 per cent. of the total amount of these reductions. The other industrial groups principally affected by reductions were the various metal groups, which between them accounted for about 10 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, and for over 8 per cent. of the total amount of decrease. Of the workpeople who received a net increase in wages during the year, 90 per cent. were in the transport and metal groups, accounting for about 89 per cent. of the total amount of all the increases.

The distribution among the industry groups principally affected, of the numbers of workpeople and net amounts of increase or decrease shown for 1930 in the foregoing Table, is illustrated in the diagrams below, in which the industrial groups are represented as follows:—

A.—Transport.

B.—Metal (including iron and steel, engineering, shipbuilding, etc.).

C.—Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.

D.—Textile.

X.—All other industries showing net Increases.

Y.—All other industries showing net Decreases.

NUMBERS OF WORKPEOPLE AFFECTED BY NET					
INCREASES [TOTAL 768,000]			DECREASES [TOTAL 1,100,000]		
A	B	X	C	D	B Y

NET AMOUNTS OF CHANGES IN WEEKLY WAGES					
INCREASES [TOTAL £59,500]			DECREASES [TOTAL £116,100]		
A	B	X	D	C	B Y

There was a considerable number of industries in which rates of wages remained unchanged throughout the year. Such industries included coal mining in most of the principal districts,† the chemical industry, brick making, soap and candle making, the explosives industry, the paint colour and varnish industry, match making, cement manufacture, pottery manufacture, engineering (except railway workshops), light castings manufacture, heating and domestic engineering, wire manufacture, and various other metal industries (brass, cutlery, edge tools, precious metals, tubes, locks and keys etc.). Among the textile industries there was generally no change affecting the cotton, linen, lace and carpet industries. Most of the clothing trades were unaffected, including boot and shoe manufacture. There were also no general changes affecting flour millers, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery makers, tobacco workers, road vehicle builders, printers and bookbinders, envelope and stationery makers, seamen, dock labourers, tramway employees, furniture removers, tanners, carriers, leather goods makers, and workpeople employed in the rubber industry. In the gas, water, and electricity supply services, in which wages are in many districts

* The increase in the engineering group was almost wholly in railway engineering shops.

† The working hours of underground coal miners were changed in many districts in December, as noted on page 132, but no changes were generally made in the rates of wages of the workpeople affected.

regulated by cost-of-living sliding scales, the operation of these scales was suspended in most cases in 1930, and wages generally remained unaltered. Similar remarks apply to the non-trading services of local authorities, in which very few changes in wages were recorded during 1930.

For those industries in which changes in rates occurred during 1930 details of the principal changes are given below:—

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—The wages of workpeople engaged in the manufacture of pig iron and finished iron and steel are to a large extent regulated by sliding-scale agreements which relate wages to the price of the product of manufacture, and the changes which occurred in this group were mainly due to the operation of such agreements. Apart from the operation of these agreements, the most important change which occurred in 1930 was a revision in the basis rates of open hearth steel melters and of the lower-paid men employed at steel melting plants and rolling mills in England and Scotland, which resulted in reductions in wages for some of the higher-paid men, but in increases in the wages of the majority of the other men concerned. A Table is given below indicating the level of wages at the end of 1930 as compared with the corresponding period of 1929 in the case of the principal bodies of workpeople. As will be seen from the notes accompanying the Table, in certain cases no change in wages occurred during 1930, owing to the sliding scale having been suspended; while in other cases the lowest-paid workers were not affected by changes which applied to other men. It should be observed that the percentage additions to standard rates shown in the Table do not indicate the relative level of wages as between one district and another, owing to the fact that there are considerable differences in the standard rates in different districts.

	Percentage additions to Standard Rates at end of		Change in 1930 for Lowest-paid Men.
	1929.	1930.	
Blastfurnaces:			
Cleveland ...	11½	8½	Same as for other men.
Cumberland ...	25½	23½	Do.*
North Lincolnshire ...	24	22½	Do.*
Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire ...	16	16½	Do.
Northamptonshire ...	22	22½	Do.
North Staffordshire ...	48½	42½	No change: 67 per cent. above standard.
South Staffordshire ...	10	10½	Same as for other men.
South Wales and Mon.	49	49½	Do.
West of Scotland ...	9	11	No change: 21 per cent. above standard.
Iron puddling furnaces and rolling mills:			
North-East Coast ...	17 and 14½	22 and 19½	No change: special bonuses as before.
Midlands ...	30 and 35	37½ and 32½	Same as for other men.*
West of Scotland ...	42½	40	Same as for other men.
Steel melting plants and rolling mills: various districts in England and Scotland.	26½	25½	See note †.
Iron and steel works,			
South Wales and Mon.	49	49½	Same as for other men.
Siemens steel works, South-West Wales.	10§	8½§	No change: 50 per cent. above standard.
Steel sheet mills, various districts.	35-45	25-42½	See note †.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Industries.—The workpeople in the engineering group of industries whose wages were increased in 1930 were almost entirely those employed in railway workshops, for whom a deduction of 2½ per cent. from earnings, which had operated since 1928, ceased to have effect in May, 1930. The increases in the shipbuilding group affected principally plain time-workers 21 years of age and over in federated shipyards, many of whom received increases, varying in amount from about 6d. to 5s. per week, following the adoption of national uniform time rates. In the other metal industries the principal body of workpeople whose wages were increased were tinplate makers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, the higher-paid workers receiving a total increase equivalent to about 6 per cent. on their previous rates (as existing at the end of 1929), as compared with an increase of about 8 per cent. for the lower-paid workers. Metal workers whose wages were reduced included electrical cable makers, bobbin makers, workpeople employed in the penmaking etc. trade in the Birmingham district, and chain makers.

Textile Industries.—Among the principal bodies of workpeople in this group whose wages were reduced were woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire, most of whom sustained reductions during the year varying from about 5 to 9·25 per cent. on their previous rates. Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc. industries sustained net decreases amounting to about 4 or 4½ per

cent. on their previous rates in Yorkshire, and to 2s. 4d. and 1s. 4d. per week for men and women respectively in Lancashire and Scotland. Hosiery workers in the Midlands had a bonus reduced by 1d. on each shilling earned. The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople in the jute industry were reduced by 4 per cent. for pieceworkers and by amounts varying from 1s. to 1s. 11d. per week for adult time workers. Other workpeople in this group who sustained reductions included woollen operatives in the West of England, silk workers at Leek, hosiery bleachers, dyers, etc. in the Midlands, and workpeople employed in the textile making-up etc. industry at Manchester.

Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.—There was a reduction in the wages of building trade operatives in most districts in Great Britain, the reductions amounting to ½d. per hour for craftsmen and ¼d. or ½d. per hour for labourers. In the electrical contracting industry in England and Wales there was a net increase of ¼d. per hour in wages during the year.

Transport.—The increases in this group mainly concerned railway traffic workers, for whom the deduction of 2½ per cent. from earnings operative since 1928 ceased to have effect in 1930. Against this increase certain classes of employees (chiefly the lower-rated men) sustained a net decrease of 1s. per week under a cost-of-living sliding scale. Other workpeople in this group whose wages were reduced included coal tipplers at the principal ports, and commercial road transport workers at various towns in Scotland.

Other Industries.—In industries other than those comprised in the above groups, workpeople whose wages were increased in 1930 included coal miners in Warwickshire; while among those whose wages were reduced were iron miners in the Cleveland district and in Cumberland, flint glass makers and cutters, workpeople employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry, paper makers, and brush and broom makers.

MONTHLY CHANGES IN 1930.

The following Table shows the numbers of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as taking effect in each month of 1930, and the amount of the change in their weekly wages. It should be noted that a considerable number of workpeople had their wages changed more than once during the year, and that consequently the same workers will appear in the total number affected in two or more months.

Month.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Rates of Wages were		Estimated Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.	
	Increased.	Decreased.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ...	327,000	17,500	£ 14,700	£ 1,800
February ...	98,000	436,000	9,200	39,500
March ...	49,000	20,500	1,750	1,600
April ...	98,000	345,000	5,400	35,400
May ...	552,000	176,000	43,600	17,600
June ...	45,000	108,000	2,650	14,500
July ...	18,500	266,000	800	19,100
August ...	48,000	58,000	3,750	4,900
September ...	5,000	23,000	300	2,300
October ...	125,000	93,000	5,350	6,100
November ...	50,000	102,000	2,300	4,500
December ...	19,500	29,000	2,600	1,700

METHODS BY WHICH CHANGES IN WAGES WERE ARRANGED.

In the case of those workpeople who received increases at certain dates and sustained reductions at other dates in 1930, the figures in the Table on page 130 relate to the net amount of the change in the year. The gross total of all the increases granted was £92,400, and that of all the decreases was £149,000 per week, the net effect being a decrease, as shown, of £56,600 per week. The following Table shows the aggregate amounts of the total increase and total decrease which were effected by various methods during 1930, together with percentages which show to what extent each method contributed to the total. The figures in italics represent the changes which followed disputes causing stoppage of work.

Method.	Aggregate Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages effected by the Methods shown in the first column.			
	Increases.		Decreases.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Total.	Amount.	Percentage of Total.
Under sliding scales* based on Cost of living ...	£ 16,500	Per cent. 17·9	£ 90,000	60·4
Selling prices, proceeds of industry, etc. ...	13,000	14·1	8,350	5·6
Conciliation (including Conciliation Boards*) ...	4,100	4·4	1,850	1·3
Arbitration ...	550	0·6	(30)	(0·0)
By other methods:—	(10)	(0·0)	(170)	(0·1)
Direct Negotiation ...	57,000	61·7	43,250	29·0
Joint Industrial Councils*	(160)	(0·2)	(27,200)	(18·3)
Trade Boards* ...	400	0·4	200	0·1
	(15)	(0·0)		
	850	0·9	4,700	3·2

* Changes taking effect under cost-of-living sliding scales arranged by Conciliation Boards, Joint Industrial Councils, and Trade Boards are included under "sliding scales."

* Lower-paid men in these districts receive, in addition to the district percentage addition to standard rates, special bonuses, which remained unchanged during 1930.

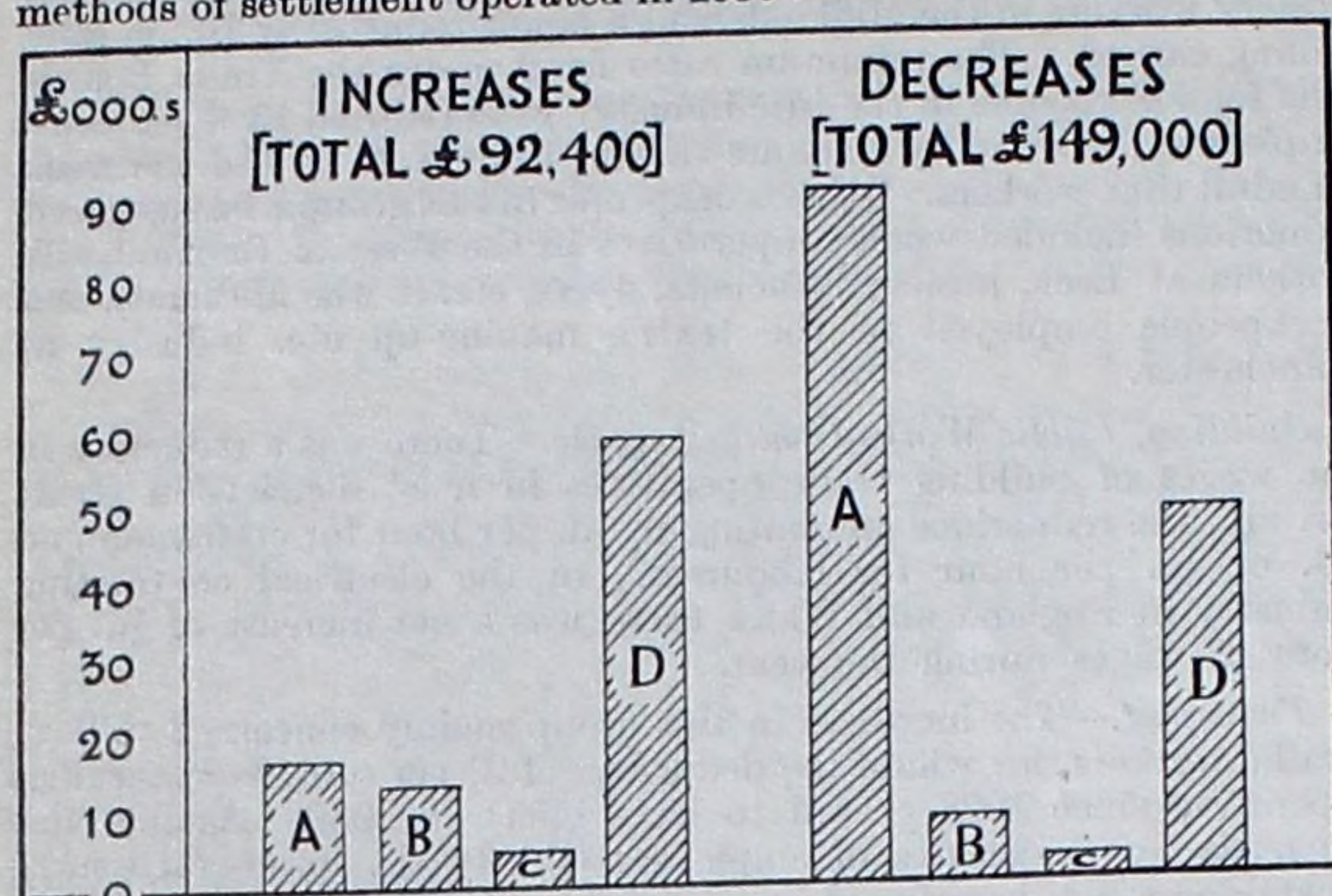
† Wages remained stabilised in these districts during 1930, the operation of the sliding scale by which wages are ordinarily regulated having been suspended.

‡ In addition revisions were made in the basis rates during 1930, which generally resulted in a net increase in wages in the case of the lower-paid workers, but in reductions in the rates of some of the higher-paid men.

§ These percentages apply to the higher-paid men, rated at 52s. per week or over. The wages of the lowest-rated men (up to 30s. per week) remained unchanged. Men on intermediate rates sustained reductions of varying amounts, the percentage additions to standard rates for such men varying from 11·76 to 46·24 at the end of 1929, and from 10·51 to 44·99 at the end of 1930.

|| A minimum rate of 45s. per week was introduced during 1930 for men on basis rates of 31s. 6d. per week or under; at the end of 1929 such men received 45 per cent. on their basis rates.

Following is a graphic representation of the extent to which various methods of settlement operated in 1930 :—



A.—Cost-of-Living Sliding Scales.*

B.—Other Sliding Scales.

C.—Arbitration and Conciliation.*

D.—Other Methods (Direct Negotiation, Joint Industrial Councils, and Trade Boards).*

In the following Table the number of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages, and the net amount of increase or decrease in 1930, in the industries for which statistics are available,† are shown in comparison with similar figures for previous years :—

Year.	Approximate Number of separate individuals† reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages		Estimated Net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
1915 ...	4,305,000	...	£ 867,100	£ ...	+ 867,100
1916 ...	4,848,000	250	885,250	50	+ 885,200
1917 ...	6,362,000	75	2,986,200	5	+ 2,986,195
1918 ...	6,924,000	...	3,434,500	...	+ 3,434,500
1919 ...	6,240,000	100	2,547,200	60	+ 2,547,140
1920 ...	7,867,000	500	4,793,200	180	+ 4,793,020
1921 ...	78,000	7,244,000	13,600	6,074,600	– 6,061,000
1922 ...	73,700	7,633,000	11,450	4,221,500	– 4,210,050
1923 ...	1,202,000	3,079,000	169,000	486,000	– 317,000
1924 ...	3,019,000	481,500	616,000	62,100	+ 553,900
1925 ...	873,000	851,000	80,900	159,000	– 78,100
1926 ...	420,000	740,000	133,000	83,700	+ 49,300
1927 ...	282,000	1,855,000	30,700	388,500	– 357,800
1928 ...	217,000	1,615,000	21,800	163,800	– 142,000
1929 ...	142,000	917,000	12,900	91,700	– 78,800
1930 ...	768,000	1,100,000	59,500	116,100	– 56,600

As indicated above, the figures quoted in the above Table must be regarded in the light of certain qualifications. In the first place, it should be noted that the changes in wage rates reported to the Department are in the main those arranged between organised groups of employers and workpeople, and that many changes among unorganised workers, especially those affecting only employees of single firms, are not reported. Moreover, as already stated, certain large groups of workpeople are definitely excluded from the scope of the statistics. In consequence of these limitations, the figures should not be regarded as affording more than a general indication of the direction of the movement of wages in any year, and a very rough measure of the extent of such movement in comparison with that of other years; and significance should not be attached to small differences in the amount of change between one year and another.

A small amount of change in any year indicates little more than the fact that wages were almost stationary; in 1925, for example, the inclusion of agricultural labourers would have converted the small reduction in wages shown in the Table into a slight increase. Further, the fact that the changes reported relate mainly to organised workers results in the figures being influenced, over a series of years, by fluctuations in the strength of the workers' organisations. This is particularly the case during the period of 16 years under review, in which such fluctuations have been very considerable. The movement towards the negotiation of wage changes on a national basis since the war period has also tended to make the figures more comprehensive, for such changes do not escape notice, whereas, when separate arrangements are made in each locality, it is possible that some of the changes, especially among those affecting only the smaller districts, may not be reported. It should also be observed that, during the war period, the number of female workers in industry was above the normal and the number of male workers considerably below normal; and as the amounts of increases or decreases in the rates of wages of female workers are generally smaller than those agreed upon for males in the same industry, the aggregate amount of the changes in those years was lower than it would have been if the pre-war proportions of male and female employees had been maintained. The relative levels of wages at the end of 1914 and 1930,

* See note to second column on page 131.

† The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants, and clerks.

‡ In addition to the workpeople for whom figures are given in the above Table in each year since 1920 (except 1922) there has been a considerable number whose wages were increased and decreased by equal amounts. The numbers of such workpeople are as follows: 1921, 110,000; 1923, 404,000; 1924, 372,000; 1925, 332,000; 1926, 447,000; 1927, 62,000; 1928, 187,000; 1929, 295,000; 1930, 85,000.

therefore, cannot be accurately ascertained by deducting the aggregate amount of the reduction shown in the years 1921–1930 from the aggregate amount of increase recorded in 1915–1920. The figures, however, illustrate the steep rise in money wages during the earlier of these periods, the marked fall in 1921–1922, and the relative stability in wages in 1923 to 1930.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

The total number of workpeople whose normal hours of labour were changed in 1930 so far as reported to the Department was over 360,000. Of these 349,000 had their hours reduced by an average of about 2½ hours per head per week, and the remainder had their working time increased by an average of slightly under 1 hour per week. The reductions were almost entirely accounted for by the changes which took place in December in the hours of workpeople employed underground in coal mines, as a result of the Coal Mines Act, 1930, the amount of reduction varying in different districts, usually from 1 to 2½ hours per week, with less or more in a few districts.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople whose hours of labour were reported as changed in each of the years 1915 to 1930, in the industries for which statistics are available,* together with the aggregate net amount of the change in weekly hours :—

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Hours of Labour were		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased.	Reduced.	
1915 ...	620	20,500	– 63,000
1916 ...	1,300	22,000	– 100,000
1917 ...	2,400	32,000	– 120,000
1918 ...	1,750	148,000	– 568,000
1919 ...	1,150	6,305,000	– 40,651,000
1920 ...	2,000	570,000	– 2,114,000
1921 ...	31,500	12,900	+ 14,500
1922 ...	16,000	302,700	– 93,000
1923 ...	325,000	9,600	+ 108,750
1924 ...	13,150	16,150	+ 12,500
1925 ...	1,300	3,925	– 11,750
1926 ...	934,200	340	+ 3,985,000
1927 ...	18,700	1,700	+ 59,000
1928 ...	1,400	2,000	– 200
1929 ...	4,050	1,050	+ 8,750
1930 ...	13,175	349,225	– 873,500

RETAIL PRICES OF CLOTHING, 1914–1931.

THE statistics which are published each month in this GAZETTE as to changes in the cost of living of working-class families include figures relating to the retail prices of clothing.

Forms of inquiry, distributed and collected through the post, are completed each month by a large number of representative outfitters, drapers and boot retailers in the principal towns. The descriptions of articles for which the quotations are given vary with different retailers, but before the form is despatched to a retailer the retail prices quoted by him a month earlier are entered on it, and he is asked to quote the current retail prices for the same articles and qualities as before, or for the most nearly corresponding articles and qualities.

The descriptions of goods which are taken into account in the compilation of the statistics are those most generally purchased by the working classes. They comprise suits and overcoats (ready-made and bespoke), woollen and cotton materials, articles of under-clothing and hosiery, and boots. The collection of information as to the prices of materials for clothing in some cases, instead of some of the articles of clothing themselves, is made partly because comparative prices of materials can be obtained over a long period with a greater measure of accuracy, and partly because many families buy materials and either make them up at home or put them out to be made up by dressmakers.

In order to arrive at the general percentage increases in prices, the method adopted is to compute separately the percentage change during the month shown by each quotation, to average these percentages, and thence to calculate the average percentage increase since July, 1914, by linking-up these figures with those obtained for earlier dates. The figures thus obtained are combined into six groups, for which the average percentage increases at 1st April, 1931, as compared with July, 1914, were approximately as under :—

Group.	Percentage Increase.
(1) Men's Suits and Overcoats ...	70 to 75
(2) Woollen Material for Women's Outer Garments ...	125
(3) Woollen Underclothing and Hosiery ...	115
(4) Cotton Material for Women's Outer Garments ...	155
(5) Cotton Underclothing Material and Hosiery ...	105
(6) Boots ...	95

The final percentage, representing the general increase in the retail prices of clothing, is then computed by averaging the figures for these six groups, those for groups (2) and (4) being first modified on account of the cost of making up materials (which inquiries have shown to be less than one-and-a-half times as much as in 1914) and the relatively greater importance of group (1) and the smaller importance of group (4) being recognised by giving a "weight" of 1½ to group (1) and ½ to group (4), compared with 1 to each of the other four groups. The result of this final averaging shows

* The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.

that the average increase in the retail prices of working-class clothing at 1st April, 1931, as compared with July, 1914, was approximately 100 per cent. This increase of 100 per cent. corresponds with an increase of 110 per cent. at the end of the summer of 1930.

Comparison with the level of retail prices of clothing in earlier years is afforded by the figures given below, which represent the average of the percentage increases as compared with July, 1914, at the beginning of each of the twelve months of the respective years.

	Increase per cent.		Increase per cent.
1919 ...	261	1926 ...	121
1920 ...	316	1927 ...	114
1921 ...	203	1928 ...	119
1922 ...	138	1929 ...	118
1923 ...	122½	1930 ...	111
1924 ...	125	April, 1931 ...	100
1925 ...	129		

The percentages given in this article are, necessarily, only of the nature of approximations, since, 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 the variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make exact calculations of the average percentage changes in prices of clothing. Subject, however, to this general qualification, the results of the investigations may be taken to be broadly representative of the general course of prices of the cheaper grades of clothing.

Although the method of calculation is that of combining the percentage changes in the prices quoted by retailers from month to month and not that of averaging the prices quoted (the range of prices being so wide that the utilisation of average prices in this connection would be unsuitable for the purpose), it may be of interest to give the following indication of the predominant ranges of prices on which the percentages are based. The quotations for materials are "per yard," for footwear "per pair," and for other articles "each."

As the object of the statistics is to show the changes in the prices of articles largely used by working-class families before the war, the list of articles is necessarily restricted to a selection of those for which information as to pre-war prices is available.

Article.	Predominant Ranges of Retail Prices of Grades Purchased by Working- Class Families.	
	July, 1914.	1st April, 1931.
Men's Suits and Overcoats:		
Ready-made Suits ...	21s.—30s.	35s.—50s.
" Overcoats ...	21s.—30s.	35s.—50s.
Bespoke Suits ...	30s.—42s.	50s.—75s.
" Overcoats ...	30s.—35s.	50s.—75s.
Woollen Material for Women's		
Outer Garments:		
Costume Cloth ...	1s. 6d.—3s.	2s. 11d.—6s. 11d.
Tweed ...	1s.—2s.	1s. 6d.—3s. 11d.
Serge ...	1s.—2s.	1s. 11d.—3s. 11d.
Frieze ...	1s. 6d.—3s.	2s. 11d.—4s. 11d.
Cashmere ...	1s. 6d.—2s.	2s. 11d.—4s. 11d.
Woollen Underclothing and Ho-		
siery:		
Men's Vests and Pants ...	2s. 6d.—2s. 11d.	4s. 11d.—6s. 11d.
Men's Merino Socks ...	6½d.—1s.	1s.—1s. 6d.
Women's Vests ...	1s.—1s. 6½d.	1s. 11d.—3s.
Women's Woollen Stockings	9½d.—1s. 0½d.	1s. 6d.—2s.
Flannel ...	8½d.—1s. 0½d.	1s. 6d.—2s. 6d.
Cotton Material for Women's		
Outer Garments:		
Print ...	3½d.—4½d.	8½d.—1s. 0½d.
Zephyr ...	3½d.—4½d.	8½d.—1s. 0½d.
Sateen ...	3½d.—4½d.	10½d.—1s. 0½d.
Drill ...	4½d.—6½d.	1s.—1s. 4½d.
Galatea ...	4½d.—6½d.	1s.—1s. 4½d.
Cotton Underclothing Material and		
Hosiery:		
Men's Cotton Socks ...	4½d.—7½d.	6½d.—1s.
Women's Cotton Stockings ...	4½d.—1s. 0½d.	6½d.—1s. 6½d.
Calico, White ...	2½d.—4½d.	6½d.—9½d.
Longcloth ...	3½d.—4½d.	6½d.—9½d.
Shirting ...	3½d.—4½d.	8½d.—1s. 0½d.
Flannelette ...	3½d.—4½d.	6½d.—9½d.
Boots:		
Men's Heavy ...	5s. 11d.—8s. 11d.	12s. 6d.—16s. 11d.
Men's Light ...	6s. 11d.—10s. 6d.	12s. 6d.—16s. 11d.
Women's ...	4s. 11d.—8s. 11d.	8s. 11d.—14s. 11d.
Boys' ...	3s. 11d.—5s. 11d.	6s. 11d.—10s. 11d.
Girls' ...	3s. 6d.—5s. 11d.	6s. 11d.—10s. 11d.

It should be observed that while the figures given include the majority of the quotations, other quotations were also important in particular cases.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX NUMBER. METHOD OF COMPILATION.

A DETAILED account of the scope and method of calculation of the statistics relating to changes in working-class cost of living, which are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour and published in the monthly issues of this GAZETTE (see page 159 of this issue), was given in an article in the February, 1921, issue of the GAZETTE; and a shorter explanation was published in an article in July, 1923. The particulars given in those articles have now been brought up to date and republished in a White Paper entitled "The Cost-of-Living Index Number: Method of Compilation."*

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (3½d. post free).

NEW "ABSTRACT OF LABOUR STATISTICS."

THE Twentieth Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom* has recently been published. Within the limits of 200 pages, this Abstract provides in compact form a comprehensive summary of the official statistics relating to labour matters in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In the Twentieth Abstract, the third issue since the war, the majority of the Tables given in the Nineteenth Abstract are brought up to date, and the figures in those Tables which cover a period of years relate, so far as possible, to the years 1911 to 1929 or 1930, omitting the war years. The figures for the three years before the war provide a means of comparison with the pre-war period. In addition, new Tables have been introduced, notably those (referred to below) giving the estimated numbers of insured persons in employment in the period 1923-1930, the geographical distribution of insured persons with numbers and percentages unemployed, the results of the general inquiries by the Ministry of Labour into earnings in 1928, and the results of the inquiries into wages and hours in the catering trade in 1929. The following paragraphs outline the contents of the Abstract, which, it may be observed, brings together summaries of the statistics relating to labour compiled by other Government Departments, as well as by the Ministry of Labour.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Of the fourteen sections into which the Abstract is divided, the largest is devoted to employment, unemployment, and unemployment insurance. In this section are given occupational and industrial analyses of the population enumerated at the Census of 1921, and some comparisons with earlier census years. Other Tables show the numbers employed in mining and quarrying, the railway service, shipping, and agriculture in 1929 or 1930, in comparison with other years, and variously analysed.

In Tables obtained from the working of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, a series of figures is included showing the estimated numbers aged 16-64 insured in each of 100 industry groups in July of each year from 1927 to 1930, and in eight geographical divisions from 1923 to 1930, with index numbers and proportions per 1,000. The estimated numbers of insured persons aged 16-64 in employment are given month by month from June, 1923, to December, 1930, and the total numbers and the percentages of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed monthly from December, 1920, to December, 1930. Rates of unemployment are also given, industry by industry, for quarterly dates from March, 1928, to September, 1930. The course of employment over a longer period of years is reflected by the percentage rates of unemployment among members of certain trade unions from 1881 to 1926 (after which year this series was discontinued). Tables are also given relating to employment over a period of years at mines, blast furnaces, iron and steel, and tinplate and steel sheet works, as measured by average numbers of days or shifts worked, or by the numbers of furnaces or mills in operation. Statistics are also included dealing with the finance and administration of Unemployment Insurance and with the work of the Employment Exchanges; and a tabular statement of rates of contribution and benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-30, is given.

WAGES AND HOURS.

In this section Tables are given showing the recognised or minimum rates of wages at the end of 1930 for all the principal employments to which time rates of wages apply, distinguishing separately the rates in forty of the principal towns in cases in which they vary as between one town and another. There is also a Table stating the recognised hours of labour in the principal industries.

The movement of rates of wages after the war is indicated by figures, stated at yearly intervals, for each of a large number of industries and occupations, finally combined in an estimate of the increase in rates of wages generally at the end of each year from 1918 to 1930 as compared with July, 1914.

The final results of the general inquiries into earnings in 1928, in which particulars of the earnings and short-time working of four million workpeople were obtained, are presented, together with particulars of normal weekly hours obtained in the 1924 inquiry. Tables of earnings in the coal mining industry for a number of years, and of wages and hours in the catering trade in 1929, are also included.

Other Tables in this section summarise the statistics of changes in wages and hours for each year from 1924 to 1930, according to numbers of workpeople affected, aggregate amounts of changes, and methods by which changes in wages were arranged.

PROFIT-SHARING.

A section on profit-sharing and co-partnership contains Tables illustrating the extent of profit-sharing in each year from 1911 to 1929, and gives a tabular analysis of schemes according to their type, the industries in which they operate, bonuses paid, and, in the case of discontinued schemes, the cause of discontinuance. Some statistics are also given for the years 1923 to 1929 of profit-sharing in co-operative societies.

COST OF LIVING.

The complete series of the current official cost-of-living index numbers is reproduced, for "all items included" and for each of the five main groups into which the figures are divided, viz., food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items, for each date of calculation from August, 1914, to December, 1930. The movement of wholesale prices during 1920-1930, as indicated by the Board of Trade index-numbers, is also shown.

* Cmd. 3831. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. 6d. net (post free 3s. 9d.).

TRADE DISPUTES.

The statistics of strikes and lock-outs show, for each year from 1911 to 1929 (except 1914-1918), the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the number of working days lost by such workpeople, both in the aggregate and for six of the principal industry groups; and classify the disputes according to their magnitudes, causes or objects, results, and methods of settlement. Preliminary figures for 1930, where available, have also been included.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND DISEASES, ETC.

The Tables relating to industrial accidents and diseases and to workmen's compensation collate and present in considerable detail the particulars obtained from various sources covering the period 1911-1929.

TRADE UNIONS, ETC.

In the section devoted to trade unions and other employees' associations are given the number and membership, male and female, of all such organisations for the period 1911-1929, distinguishing a number of industrial or occupational groups. The membership, income, expenditure, and funds of all registered trade unions are summarised for the same period of years, and of 100 principal unions for 1911-28. Other Tables in this section relate to the membership of trade union federations, and (since 1895) of the Trades Union Congress.

OTHER SECTIONS.

Several Tables summarise the number, membership, and finances of the various kinds of co-operative societies, friendly societies, and building societies during the period 1910, 1911, or 1912 to 1928 or 1929.

Other Tables give statistics, covering a series of years relating to—

National Health Insurance;
Old Age Pensions;
Poor Law Relief;
Emigration and Immigration; and
Building Plans Approved.

* * * * *

The Abstract is published by H.M. Stationery Office, and may be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from any of the sale offices whose addresses are given on the cover of this GAZETTE.

POOR RELIEF.

Fourth Quarter of Year 1930.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

A STATEMENT* has been issued by the Ministry of Health showing the number of persons in receipt of poor relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in December, 1930, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief.

The total number of persons† in receipt of poor relief (domiciliary and institutional) in England and Wales at the end of December, 1930, was 976,875, equivalent to 247 per 10,000 of the estimated population. This compares with 925,000 at the end of September, 1930; with 1,066,000 in December, 1929; and with 632,000 in December, 1913.

It is stated in the return that, after the first week of the quarter, there was a continuous increase in the number of persons in receipt of poor relief until 20th December, 1930, the Saturday before Christmas, when the number had reached 983,575. During Christmas week, however, there was a decrease of 6,700.

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 gives figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales in December, 1930, with comparative totals for September, 1930, and December, 1929; the figures represent averages of the numbers in receipt of relief on each Saturday of the respective months:—

Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.†	England and Wales.	
	Numbers.	Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population.
1.(a)—Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...	30,629	8
(b)—Wives and dependent children of above persons... ..	84,348	21
2. Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange, and their dependants ...	28,737	7
3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants...	121,267	31
4. Totals of above three classes:—		
December, 1930... ..	264,981	67
September, 1930	229,028	58
December, 1929	352,478	89
5. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief:—		
December, 1930... ..	496,424	125
September, 1930	477,220	120
December, 1929	492,964	125
6. Totals (all persons in receipt of domiciliary relief)†:—		
December, 1930... ..	761,405	192
September, 1930	706,248	178
December, 1929	845,442	214

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (4½d. post free).

† Excluding persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals, who numbered 12,383 and 10,180, respectively, at the end of December, 1930. Rate-aided patients in mental hospitals (formerly referred to as lunatics in asylums) are also excluded.

‡ Excluding persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only.

SCOTLAND.

Statistics of persons in receipt of outdoor relief compiled on a similar basis to those for England and Wales are also available in respect of Scotland; but they relate only to the numbers in receipt of relief on the 15th of the month, and do not give averages for the month as in the case of England and Wales.

The figures for the fourth quarter of 1930, together with the corresponding totals for the third quarter of 1930 and the fourth quarter of 1929, are given in the following Table:—

Classes of persons in receipt of outdoor relief.*	First month.	Second month.	Third month.
1.(a) Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts	9,468	9,506	10,778
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons	22,531	21,996	25,788
2.(a) Unemployed persons not insured but registered at Employment Exchanges	2,297	2,728	2,891
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons	2,417	2,616	2,848
3.(a) Other unemployed persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation	830	1,022	1,305
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons	969	1,544	2,079
4. Totals of above three classes:—			
Fourth quarter, 1930	38,512	39,412	45,689
Third quarter, 1930	33,799	34,889	34,485
Fourth quarter, 1929	70,039	70,704	71,771
5. All other persons in receipt of outdoor relief and their dependants:—			
Fourth quarter, 1930	112,795	114,811	119,521
Third quarter, 1930	108,428	109,988	111,551
Fourth quarter, 1929	103,516	105,042	106,271
6. Totals (all persons):—			
Fourth quarter, 1930	151,307	154,223	165,210
Third quarter, 1930	142,227	144,877	146,036
Fourth quarter, 1929	173,055	175,746	178,042

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF WORKS.

I.—SCHEMES FOR WINTER OF 1931-2.

A CIRCULAR was issued by the Unemployment Grants Committee on 27th March to local authorities, harbour trusts, water boards, etc., as to the promotion of schemes of work which will qualify for assistance from State funds under Part II. of the Development (Loan Guarantees and Grants) Act, 1929, and provide work for the unemployed during the winter of 1931-32. In this circular it was announced that the Government desire that there shall be no departure from the present policy, viz., that the works proposed shall be fully justified on the grounds of public utility and economic development, in addition to having value as relief works, and shall show substantial acceleration. The announcement is made at this date to allow the authorities ample time in which to consider and prepare their plans. The Government have empowered the Unemployment Grants Committee to take into immediate consideration, from now until 30th June, 1931, schemes which can be actively commenced on or before 31st October, 1931.

The terms and conditions of grant which will be available for approved schemes are set out in full in a leaflet (U.G.C. 29), copies of which, together with forms of application for grant, can be obtained from the Secretary, Unemployment Grants Committee (Sanctuary Buildings, 16, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1).

II.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 1931.

At 27th February last, the date of the most recent count, there were approximately 56,000 men directly employed on schemes of work approved for grant on the recommendation of the Unemployment Grants Committee, or on schemes for which a "necessitous area" grant has been given. Assuming that a similar number were indirectly employed on these schemes, the total number of men for whom employment was provided on that date was approximately 112,000. The corresponding figures on 30th January and on 19th December last were 106,000 and 94,000, respectively.

INDUSTRIAL SURVEYS OF DEPRESSED AREAS.

As announced by the President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons on 17th March, the Government have decided to put in hand, at an early date, industrial surveys in South Wales, in Lancashire, on the North-East Coast of England, and in South-West Scotland.

The Universities in these areas have agreed to undertake these surveys in co-operation with the Government departments concerned. They will also, it is hoped, have the whole-hearted co-operation of the development organisations already formed or likely to be formed in these areas; and it is contemplated that the surveys will be regarded as an integral part of the local efforts now being put forward to attract new industrial development. The surveys will be carried out under the general supervision of the Board of Trade.

The surveys are to be directed towards the production of reports, which will include a survey of the present industrial position of the several areas; the prospects of early expansion and new developments,

* Excluding lunatics, mental defectives, and persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only, and casuals.

having regard particularly to new industrial developments within recent years; and, so far as practicable, an assessment of the prospective employment capacity of the various industries in the areas, as a basis for an estimate of the volume of labour likely to be surplus to the requirements of individual industries within the next few years.

The following provisional definitions of the areas to be covered have been drawn up. The South Wales area is to include the counties of Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Carmarthen, with the industrial fringe of southern Brecknock. The Lancashire area is to include the county of Lancashire, the North Cheshire industrial fringe, including Birkenhead and Stockport, and Glossop and Newmills in Derbyshire. The North-East Coast is to include the counties of Durham and Northumberland and the Cleveland area of Yorkshire. The South-West of Scotland is to include the counties of Lanark, Dumbarton, and Renfrew, and the industrial districts of Ayrshire.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1928-31.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1931 (page 13), a statement was published giving for the period July, 1928, to December, 1930, estimates of the numbers of insured persons in employment in Great Britain. In the following Table the series is continued to March, 1931. The figures in column 6 have been obtained by deducting, from the total estimated numbers insured, the average numbers recorded as unemployed and the numbers directly involved in trade disputes, together with an allowance of 3½ per cent. of the numbers insured in respect of absences from work through sickness and other forms of unrecorded non-employment other than "recognised" holidays.

	Estimated Total Insured, Aged 16-64.	Number Unemployed.	Number not Recorded as Unemployed.	Estimated Number in Employment after Allowance for Sickness, etc. :	
				(A) Including Persons directly involved in Trade Disputes; (B) Excluding such Persons.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	A. (5)	B. (6)
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1928.					
July-Sept. ...	11,694	1,317	10,377	9,968	9,966
Oct.-Dec. ...	11,750	1,351	10,399	9,987	9,985
1929.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	11,786	1,333	10,453	10,040	10,032
Apr.-June ...	11,822	1,138	10,684	10,270	10,265
July-Sept. ...	11,870	1,156	10,714	10,299	10,297
Oct.-Dec. ...	11,923	1,269	10,654	10,236	10,233
1930.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	11,995	1,552	10,443	10,023	10,021
Apr.-June ...	12,115	1,784	10,331	9,907	9,868
July-Sept. ...	12,173	2,056	10,117	9,691	9,689
Oct.-Dec. ...	12,225	2,317	9,908	9,480	9,477
1931.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	12,275	2,595	9,680	9,250	9,207
Jan. ...	12,260	2,581	9,679	9,250	9,128
Feb. ...	12,275	2,617	9,658	9,228	9,225
March ...	12,290	2,587	9,703	9,273	9,267

Index Numbers. Average 1924 = 100.

1928.					
July-Sept. ...	105.6	115.8	104.2	104.4	104.8
Oct.-Dec. ...	106.1	118.8	104.6	104.6	105.0
1929.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	106.5	117.2	105.2	105.2	105.4
Apr.-June ...	106.8	100.1	107.5	107.6	107.9
July-Sept. ...	107.2	101.7	107.8	107.9	108.2
Oct.-Dec. ...	107.7	111.6	107.2	107.2	107.6
1930.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	108.3	136.5	105.1	105.0	105.3
Apr.-June ...	109.4	156.9	104.0	103.8	103.7
July-Sept. ...	109.9	180.8	101.8	101.5	101.8
Oct.-Dec. ...	110.4	203.8	99.7	99.3	99.6
1931.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	110.9	228.2	97.4	96.9	96.8
Jan. ...	110.7	227.0	97.4	96.9	95.9
Feb. ...	110.9	230.2	97.2	96.6	97.0
March ...	111.0	227.5	97.7	97.1	97.4

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SILICOSIS.

AN International Conference on Silicosis was held at Johannesburg in August, 1930, in association with, and with the aid of, the Transvaal Chamber of Mines. The Governing Body of the International Labour Office arranged for the Conference to be held at Johannesburg so that the experts whom it was proposed to invite might have an opportunity of studying the work done by the Miners' Phthisis Medical Bureau on the Rand. This Bureau was instituted under the South African Miners' Phthisis Act of 1916; it is a body of whole-time Government medical officials charged with the duty of conducting or directing medical examinations under the Miners' Phthisis Acts. During the year ended 31st July, 1928,

for example, it conducted nearly 46,500 examinations, of more than 30,000 individuals.

The International Labour Office have now published a Report on this Conference,* containing a record of the proceedings, and the text of papers presented to the Conference by various delegates and others. One of these papers, occupying nearly 100 pages, is a study of silicosis in Great Britain, by Dr. E. L. Middleton, H.M. Medical Inspector of Factories, and one of the representatives of the Conference by Dr. Middleton has also been published by H.M. Stationery Office.†

With a view to bringing the whole subject in this country within the purview of one advisory body, the Medical Research Council appointed last year, at the request of the Home Office, a Committee on Industrial Pulmonary Disease, to advise on the further investigation of silicosis and of other pulmonary conditions associated with the inhalation of dusts arising from industrial processes.

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

FRANCE.

Coal-mining Industry.—The wage reduction in the Loire area (see the last issue of this GAZETTE, page 93) has been followed by reductions in other areas. In the Nord and Pas-de-Calais area the mining companies' proposal of a 10 per cent. reduction in two equal amounts on 23rd March and 1st May, 1931, respectively, evoked a threatened cessation of work. Mediation by the Prime Minister, however, culminated in the acceptance of a reduction of 6 per cent. in two stages of 4 per cent. on 1st April and 2 per cent. on 16th May. This settlement was followed by demands for a revision of the reductions, ranging from 7 to 8 per cent., which had already been effected in the Centre and Loire areas, and discussions are proceeding.

GERMANY.

Textile Industry.—With a view to securing a reduction in wage rates, the employers in the textile industry in the Münster (Westphalia) and Bielefeld, Herford and Gütersloh districts, after a breakdown in conciliation proceedings, gave notice to terminate the employment contracts of some 65,000 workers in the industry on 14th March last. Information regarding further developments is not yet available. In the Lausitz cloth industry, an award providing for a wage reduction of 6 per cent. has been declared binding. Under a binding award for the textile industry in North Bavaria, time rates and piece rates are to be reduced by 4 per cent. and 6 per cent., respectively; while in Southern Bavaria wage reductions of from 6 to 8 per cent. were to be enforced as from 10th March. Time-rate supplements were, however, to remain unchanged. For the Silesian textile industry, an award has been issued providing for a reduction of 6 per cent. in the standard wage rates (*Ecklöhne*), with a corresponding adjustment of all other rates under the existing scale. The guaranteed rates of piece workers are to be fixed at 12 per cent. instead of 15 per cent. over time rates. In the Sorau area, an award has been issued providing for a wage reduction of 6 per cent.

Iron and Steel Industry.—The lock-out in the Bavarian iron and steel industry, affecting some 40,000 workers, which was reported in the last issue of this GAZETTE (page 93), has been terminated by the issue on 18th March of a revised binding award, which, in its general effect, reaffirms the original award providing for a wage reduction of 5½ per cent. The award is to be operative from 18th March until 30th September next. In Upper Silesia, a number of awards have been issued regulating working conditions generally and wages and hours of work in particular. The award regulating hours of work provides for the prolongation of the existing hours agreement without material change until 30th September next, while the wages award provides for a reduction of from 3 to 4 per cent. in time rates; piece rates are to remain unchanged in view of the reduction effected in July of last year (see the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1930, page 287). The wages award is to be operative until 30th September, 1931.

Coal-mining Industry.—The employers in the Ruhr coal-mining industry have announced their intention of terminating the existing covering agreement for both manual and non-manual workers, numbering at present approximately 300,000, in the industry. These agreements, which regulate the general conditions of work other than wages in the industry, will accordingly expire on 31st May and 30th June next, respectively.

NORWAY.

Lockouts in various Industries.—The failure of attempts to reach a settlement regarding the terms of a new collective agreement resulted in a lockout in the paper industry, affecting about 12,500 workers, which has been in progress since 14th March. The principal cause of conflict is the wage question.

In addition, a lockout on a large scale, affecting about 43,500 workers, started on 8th April, following the termination by the employers of the collective agreements expiring on 1st April, 1931, and the failure of subsequent negotiations and conciliation proceedings. The industries principally concerned are the iron, textile, building, sawmill, lithographic, bookbinding and book-printing, boot and shoe, and fur and leather industries. The chief point at

* *Silicosis: Records of the International Conference held at Johannesburg, 13th-27th August, 1930.* International Labour Office: Studies and Reports, Series F. (Industrial Hygiene) No. 13. Published in the United Kingdom for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, Ltd. (14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1); price 16s., post free.

† *Report on the International Conference on Silicosis*, by E. L. Middleton, M.D., H.M. Medical Inspector of Factories. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (5d. post free).

issue, in this dispute also, is the employers' demand for wage reductions, of from 12 to 15 per cent. in time rates and from 15 to 25 per cent. in piece rates. If no agreement was reached by 15th April, another 25,000 workers were to be locked out on that date, giving a total of approximately 82,000 Norwegian workers locked out.

A sympathetic strike of provincial compositors began on 8th April, resulting in an immediate suspension of most of the newspapers outside Oslo.

SWEDEN.

Textile Industry.—A settlement was effected on 20th March of a strike in the textile industry, affecting about 33,000 workers, which had been in progress since 12th January last. The national agreement expired at the end of 1930, and, following the breakdown of negotiations for the conclusion of a new agreement, a partial strike was declared involving 8,000 workers. The employers thereupon announced a general wage reduction of 10 per cent. with effect from 12th January, and this resulted in an extension of the strike to all the undertakings affected. The present settlement is due to the efforts of a Conciliation Commission appointed in February.

According to the employers' statement, the settlement, on the whole, maintains the *status quo*, with the provision, however, that piece-rates, which are settled locally, must not exceed a maximum of 35 per cent. above time-rates. Minimum piece-rates are fixed at 15 per cent. above time-rates. The latter remain unchanged, except at Borås, which is transferred to a higher group in the cost-of-living classification. The resulting local increase in time-rates, however, affects only 1,700 workers out of a total of 33,000. Overtime rates have been increased from 25 to 30 per cent. above ordinary rates for the first two hours, with a special increase from 50 to 75 per cent. above ordinary rates for Sunday work. The new agreement is valid until 31st December, 1931.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF MEASURES IN AUSTRALIA.

(1) **New South Wales.**—Two Acts, the Prevention and Relief of Unemployment (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Unemployment Relief (Tax) Amendment Act, 1930, passed by the legislature of New South Wales and assented to on 22nd December, 1930, amend the Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act, 1930, and the Unemployment Relief (Tax) Act, 1930.*

Unemployment Relief Tax is now payable at the rate of—

(a) sevenpence halfpenny in the pound of the net assessable income of every person resident in Australia, other than a company, whose total income exceeds £100 a year during the income year ending 30th June, 1930;

(b) sevenpence halfpenny in the pound of the net assessable income derived by every company during the income year ending 30th June 1930; and

(c) (i) three pence in the pound of the income from employment of every person, other than a company, who is paid at a rate of not less than thirty shillings a week, during the income year commencing 1st July, 1930, so far as payments made prior to 1st January, 1931, are concerned, and

(ii) one shilling in the pound of the income from employment of every person, other than a company, who is paid at a rate of not less than two pounds a week, so far as payments made after 1st January, 1931, are concerned.

(2) **Queensland.**—Under an Act, assented to on 24th December, 1930, to amend the Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Act of 1930,† the Secretary for Labour and Industry is empowered to authorise payments from the Unemployment Relief Fund for the relief of unemployment and distress among workers generally. The original Act authorised such payments in the case of female workers only.

Under an Act, assented to on 24th December, 1930, to amend the Unemployed Workers Insurance Acts, 1922 to 1927,‡ persons whose earnings during the twelve months preceding the date of application for sustenance allowance exceeded £220 are normally excluded from receipt of the allowance. There was formerly no limit. A further amendment made by the Act is the inclusion under the scheme of indentured apprentices, who were excluded by the original Acts.

By an Order in Council dated 24th July, 1930, the rates of sustenance allowance payable under the Acts were reduced with effect from 1st August, 1930, and are now payable as follows:—

Class of worker.	Range of sustenance allowance.
Individual workers whether male or female, unmarried or widowers or widows ...	From 14s. to 18s. a week.
Married workers—Male worker supporting his wife ...	From 24s. to 32s. a week.
In addition, for each dependent child under 16, wholly supported by a male or female worker ...	From 4s. to 5s. a week.

(3) **Tasmania.**—Under an Act dated 23rd December, 1930, to amend the Unemployed (Assistance to Primary Producers) Relief Act, 1930,§ the amount which the Treasurer is empowered to raise has been increased to £50,000, and the date up to which applications for advances may be made to the Board of Management of the Agricultural Bank has been postponed to 30th November, 1931. Under the original Act, such applications could only be made up to 30th November, 1930.

* See this GAZETTE for September, 1930, page 326.

† See this GAZETTE for October, 1930, page 364.

‡ See this GAZETTE for April, 1928, page 127.

§ See this GAZETTE for October 1930, page 365.

FIRST REPORT OF THE GERMAN ADVISORY COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE Advisory Commission on Unemployment, which, as was reported in this GAZETTE for February last (page 52), was set up by the German Government for the purpose of studying unemployment in all its aspects, issued its first Report on 4th April. This preliminary Report deals with two points:

(1) the reduction of working hours as a means of combating unemployment; and

(2) the imposition of restrictions upon the exercise by the worker of secondary occupations.

(1) **Reduction of Working Hours.**—The Commission recommend that, in all undertakings and departments administered by Federal or other public authorities, "the working of long hours or of overtime shall be forthwith discontinued, in so far as this is in any way possible." The authorities concerned should, when placing contracts, endeavour to fix dates for their completion which will allow of the work being carried out without the necessity for the working of overtime. Furthermore, the conciliation authorities should exert their influence and, if necessary, their statutory powers, towards the fixing of shorter working hours under collective agreements.

The Commission further propose that the Government, after consultation with the parties concerned, should be empowered to reduce the normal working hours in individual branches of industry to a total of 40 hours a week, except in the case of small-scale undertakings normally employing less than ten workers. The working of overtime should be permitted only by official authority, and the overtime supplement payable to the worker over and above the basic wage rate should be withheld and paid over to the Federal Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board.

(2) **Restriction of the Exercise of Secondary Occupations.**—The Commission recommend that all public authorities, and institutions and undertakings carried on primarily by means of public funds, should be required to take steps to ensure that the exercise of paid secondary occupations by their permanent employees should be permitted only in cases where no objection exists from the point of view of the labour market. In so far as persons employed in private undertakings are concerned, it is not considered desirable to attempt any legislative regulation other than that already provided under the existing legislation governing hours of work. The Commission further recommend that the selection by the employer of workers for engagement and dismissal should, other things being equal, be determined primarily by the social circumstances of the workers concerned, and, furthermore, that the Employment Exchange officials should strictly adhere to this principle, as laid down in the Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Act.

With regard to the employment of married women officials by the public authorities, the majority of the Commission recommend that such officials should be induced to retire voluntarily by the provision of compensation proportionate to length of service; while the minority recommend that they should be discharged with compensation if their financial position warrants this course.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE Industrial Arbitration (Eight Hours) Further Amendment Act, 1930, which received assent on 23rd December, 1930, provides that the ordinary working hours in all industries, other than coal-mining, covered by the Industrial Arbitration Act of 1912, as amended by subsequent Acts (which exclude rural industries, e.g., agriculture, sheep-farming, forestry, etc.), may not exceed (i) eight hours in any consecutive twenty-four; or (ii) forty-four hours a week; or (iii) eighty-eight hours in fourteen consecutive days; or (iv) one hundred and thirty-two hours in twenty-one consecutive days; or (v) one hundred and seventy-six hours in twenty-eight consecutive days.

Meal-time or crib-time is to be reckoned as working time in those occupations in which, prior to the commencement of the Act, it was so counted.

In the case of workers employed in shifts in underground or similar occupations, under certain conditions, the working time is limited to six hours.

The working of overtime is permitted, but may be restricted to any extent by the Court of Industrial Arbitration, or an Industrial Board, for the purpose of relieving unemployment. These bodies are empowered to increase working hours in the public interest, or to decrease them in the case of work considered to be prejudicial to health.

As regards the application of the Act to existing awards and agreements, provision is made (i) that such awards and agreements shall be deemed to incorporate the above limitations of working hours; (ii) that working periods specified in such awards or agreements may not be increased as a result of the Act; (iii) that wages may not be reduced by reason only of any reduction of working hours under the Act; (iv) that the rates of wages of workers employed at daily or hourly rates shall be increased, so that a worker shall receive the same amount of wages as he would have received for working full time under the award or agreement; and (v) that certain piece work rates shall be increased by 10 per cent., in industries where the hours are reduced under the Act.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a slight improvement on the whole. This was the result mainly of the seasonal revival of employment in the building and clothing trades, and of the recent improvement in the textile industries.

There was a further seasonal improvement in the building trade, public works contracting, brick and tile manufacture, and the clothing industries. The numbers unemployed also decreased in most of the textile industries, and in pottery, glass bottle, pig iron and tinplate manufacture.

There were, however, increases in the numbers unemployed in coal mining, iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding and ship-repairing, and the leather trades.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,400,000 insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 23rd March, 1931 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 21.5, as compared with 21.7 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 13.7 at 24th March, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed at 23rd March, 1931, was 16.5, as compared with 16.7 at 23rd February, 1931; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 5.0, the same as at 23rd February. For males alone the percentage at 23rd March, 1931, was 22.7, and for females 18.4; at 23rd February, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 22.6 and 19.6.

At 23rd March, 1931, the numbers of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain were 1,859,526 wholly unemployed, 604,089 temporarily stopped, and 116,503 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,580,118. This was 37,540 less than a month before, but 941,319 more than a year before. The total included 1,900,685 men, 67,510 boys, 557,662 women and 54,261 girls.

The 1,859,526 wholly unemployed included approximately 1,303,400 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 463,650 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 92,470 uninsured persons. The wholly unemployed claimants for benefit, numbering 1,694,266, included 229,388 men, 5,813 boys, 44,447 women and 2,964 girls, who had been on the Register for less than one month.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland the total number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges at 23rd March, 1931, was 2,655,379, and at 30th March, 1931, it was 2,655,475.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal-mining industry showed a decline and was bad on the whole. There was a slight improvement in the Durham, Lancashire and Welsh coalfields but in the Midlands and Yorkshire coalfields short-time working increased. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 28th March, 1931, showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with 28th February, 1931, and of 8.8 per cent. as compared with 22nd March, 1930. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th March, 1931, was 4.73, a decrease of 0.23 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th February, 1931, and of 0.31 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 22nd March, 1930.

In the iron-mining industry employment remained bad. In the West Lothian shale mines it was fairly good. In the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area employment was bad; in the Clitheroe area it continued steady; in the Buxton area it was still bad. In the slate quarries in North Wales employment was slack with much short-time working. In the East of Scotland whinstone quarries employment was fair in the dressed stone section, and moderate in the metal and chippings section. At chalk quarries employment was very slack. At tin mines and china clay quarries it was bad.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—In the pig iron industry employment showed some improvement but was still very bad. Of 394 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of March was 81, the same as at the end of February, as compared with 157 at the end of March, 1930.

At iron and steel works employment showed a decline and remained very bad. The percentage of insured persons recorded as unemployed was 45.8 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 44.2 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 26.1 at 24th March, 1930.

In the tinplate industry employment remained bad. In steel sheet manufacture it showed a slight improvement but remained very bad.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In engineering employment remained bad and showed a further decline; in five of the nine divisions about one-third of the insured workpeople were recorded as unemployed. In general, textile, marine and constructional engineering employment was very bad; in the motor vehicle section there was little change and employment remained bad; in electrical and railway engineering it was slack.

In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment remained very bad and showed a further decline. More than half of the insured workpeople were recorded as unemployed, a proportion nearly twice as large as a year ago, when employment was already very bad.

In the other metal trades employment remained slack on the whole. It was moderate in the hollow-ware and nut and bolt trades; slack in the wire manufacturing, sheet metal, tube, brasswork, file, needle and fishing tackle, metallic bedstead, jewellery and plated ware, and chain and anchor trades; and bad in the cutlery and edge tool trades.

Textile Industries.—Employment in all departments of the cotton industry was better at the end of March than at the end of February. There was still, however, much unemployment and short time in all the principal districts. The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed was 36.5 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 41.4 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 27.1 at 24th March, 1930.

In the wool textile industry employment showed an improvement in nearly all the principal districts both in the worsted and in the woollen sections, but it was still very slack. The improvement was largely seasonal. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 27.2 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 30.0 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 21.9 at 24th March, 1930. In the carpet trade employment was slack but better than in February. Here also the improvement was largely seasonal.

Employment in the hosiery industry showed little change and remained bad, on the whole. In the lace trade it showed a further slight improvement but was still slack. In the silk and artificial silk industries it showed an improvement but was still bad, on the whole. In the jute trade employment showed a slight improvement but remained very bad; in the linen trade it again showed a slight improvement but was still bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades, also, employment, on the whole, showed an improvement but was still very bad, with much short-time working.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed further improvement and was moderate on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trades employment was fair to fairly good. In the shirt and collar and corset trades there was some improvement and employment was moderate; in the glove trade it was still slack. In felt hat manufacture employment showed an improvement but was still only moderate.

In the boot and shoe industry employment continued slack on the whole, but showed a slight improvement with some firms. The percentage of insured persons unemployed was 19.2 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 19.6 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 13.7 at 24th March, 1930.

Leather Trades.—Employment showed a decline and was slack in all sections.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades there was a further improvement, but employment, on the whole, was still very slack. During the early part of the month outside operations were hampered by adverse weather conditions. As regards individual occupations, employment was better with each class, the improvement being most marked in the case of painters; it was generally slack with bricklayers and masons, very slack with plumbers, painters and tradesmen's labourers, and bad, in most districts, with carpenters, slaters and plasterers. In brick manufacture employment showed a slight improvement but remained slack, on the whole.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with mill-sawyers showed a slight improvement but was still slack; and it also continued slack with coachbuilders.

Paper Manufacture.—In the paper-making industry employment continued moderate on the whole; in the hand-made section employment was generally slack. With letterpress printers employment showed some improvement and continued moderate. It also showed some improvement, on the whole, with electrotypers and stereotypers, who were fairly well employed in most districts except London, where slackness was reported. With lithographic printers employment was generally bad or slack. With lithographic artists it declined and was slack; and with bookbinders it continued slack.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry employment in North Staffordshire showed an improvement, and less short time was worked, but it was still bad, on the whole. At Bristol, also, employment showed a slight improvement, but was very slack generally. At Worcester short-time working continued. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment remained bad.

In the glass trades employment showed a slight improvement but still remained bad in the bottle-making section and slack in other sections.

Fishing.—With fishermen employment showed little change and continued bad, on the whole.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment among dock labourers continued very slack. With seamen, also, it remained very slack, on the whole.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during March are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly

summarised (a) for certain mining and metal industries and (b) for various other industries:—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Workpeople included in the Returns for March, 1931.	March, 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		March, 1931.		Month before.	Year before.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.		Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	872,742	4.73		- 0.23	- 0.31
Iron ...	6,764	5.05		- 0.05	- 0.58
Shale ...	2,512	5.93		+ 0.04	- 0.07
		Furnaces in Blast.		Number.	Number.
Pig Iron ...	...	81		...	- 76
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	...	Mills working. 306		+ 4	- 194
Iron and Steel ...	49,841	Shifts Worked (one week). 254,300		Per cent. - 1.1	Per cent. - 30.3

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Textiles:—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton ...	64,550	+ 5.4	- 10.5	104,105	+ 10.8	- 7.4
Woollen ...	50,502	+ 0.1	- 10.0	95,809	+ 4.1	- 13.7*
Worsted ...	71,380	+ 1.7	- 5.7	124,209	+ 5.2	- 10.6*
Carpet ...	9,568	- 0.6	- 7.6	16,411	+ 13.0	- 13.1
Boot and Shoe ...	60,776	+ 0.4	- 3.6	133,341	+ 3.2	- 7.5
Pottery ...	10,981	+ 4.2	- 5.3	19,286	+ 7.2	- 9.6
Brick ...	9,317	+ 4.3	- 8.4	24,336	+ 7.6	- 10.2

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 23rd March, 1931, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts:—

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured, aged 16-64 inclusive, at July, 1930. (Totals).	Percentage Unemployed at 23rd March, 1931.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,255,620	13.7	8.5	12.0	- 0.4	+ 4.6
South-Eastern ...	929,770	13.2	8.7	12.1	- 0.8	+ 4.4
South-Western ...	864,400	15.5	10.5	14.4	- 0.3	+ 4.8
Midlands ...	1,847,230	21.2	20.0	20.8	+ 1.0	+ 8.2
North-Eastern ...	2,020,760	29.9	20.2	27.8	+ 1.1	+ 11.1
North-Western ...	2,181,890	26.8	28.7	27.4	- 2.1	+ 7.9
Scotland ...	1,307,810	28.3	21.6	26.4	...	+ 9.4
Wales ...	592,520	33.0	18.3	31.5	- 0.7	+ 7.6
Northern Ireland	266,000	30.6	28.3	29.7	- 0.3	+ 9.3
Special Schemes	139,700	4.0	1.0	3.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Total ...	12,405,700	22.7	18.4	21.5	- 0.2	+ 7.8

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from March, 1930, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople.						Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.	
Date.	Males.	Females.	Males and Females.		Total.	Date.	Number.
			Wholly Unemployed and Casuals.	Temporarily stopped.			
1930.						1930.	
24 March ...	14.2	12.4	10.4	3.3	13.7	31 Mar.	1,731,000
28 April ...	14.6	13.3	10.6	3.6	14.2	28 Apr.	1,752,000
26 May ...	15.2	14.4	10.8	4.2	15.0	26 May	1,823,000
23 June ...	15.6	14.8	10.8	4.6	15.4	30 June	1,947,000
21 July ...	17.0	15.8	11.3	5.4	16.7	28 July	2,072,000
25 August ...	17.3	16.5	12.1	5.0	17.1	25 Aug.	2,106,000
22 September ...	18.0	16.8	12.7	4.9	17.6	29 Sept.	2,230,000
27 October ...	19.4	16.8	13.9	4.8	18.7	27 Oct.	2,308,000
24 November ...	19.8	17.2	14.8	4.3	19.1	24 Nov.	2,359,000
22 December 1930.	20.7	18.8	14.9	5.3	20.2	29 Dec.	2,725,000
26 January ...	22.1	19.9	16.5	5.0	21.5	1931.	
23 February ...	22.6	19.6	16.7	5.0	21.7	26 Jan.	2,671,000
23 March ...	22.7	18.4	16.5	5.0	21.5	23 Feb.	2,694,000
						30 Mar.	2,655,000

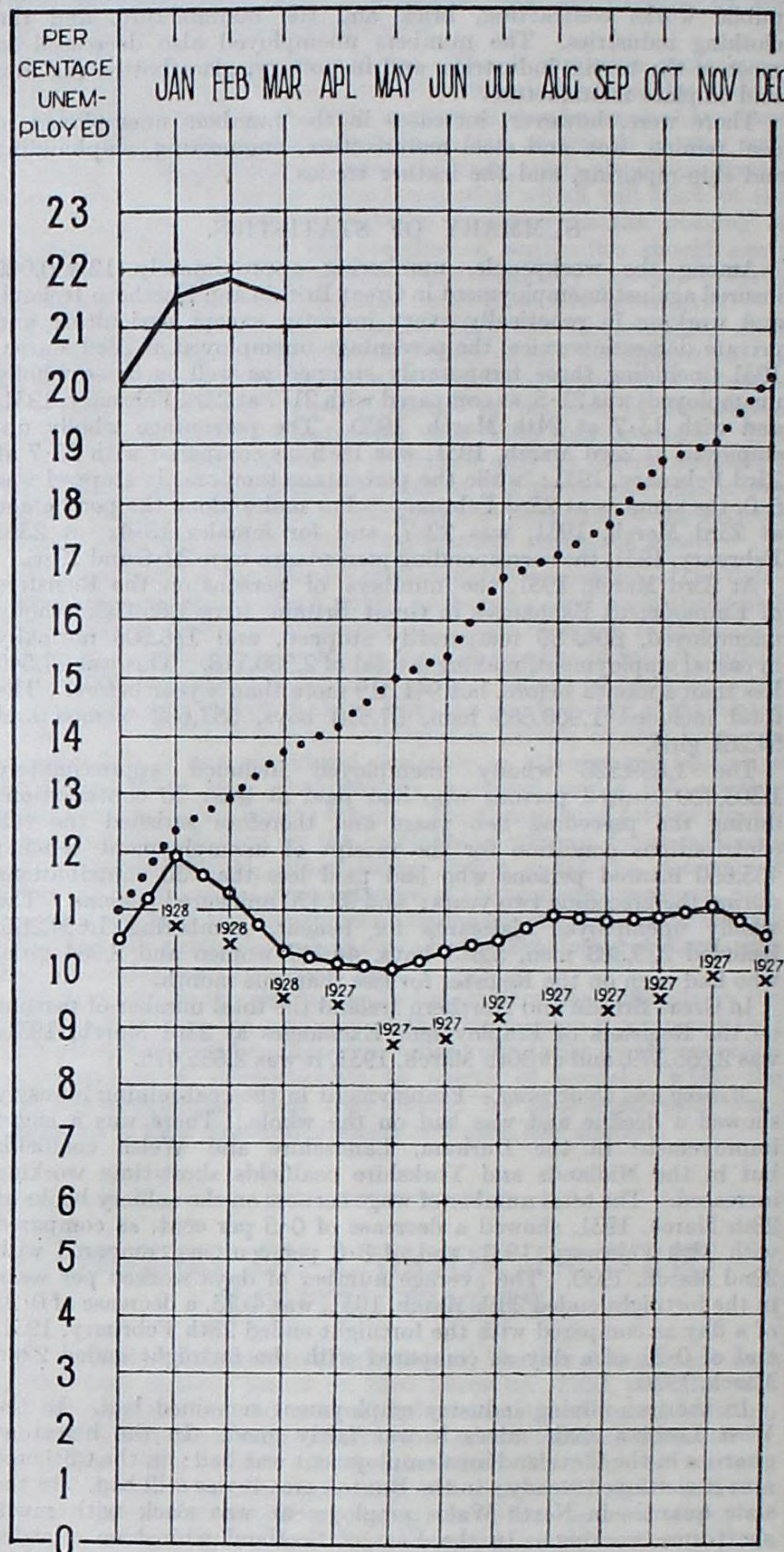
* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:—

Plain Curve : : : : : = 1931.
Dotted Curve : : : : : = 1930.
Chain Curve : : : : : = { Mean for 1923-25 and 1927-29.

× The crosses indicate the minimum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1923-25 and 1927-30. The maximum percentages in February to December of those years occurred in 1930. In January the maximum percentage of 13.3 occurred in 1923.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING MARCH, 1931.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Num-ber.	Per-centage of number Insured at July, 1930.
London ...	1,071	5,134	1,886	4,814	12,905	0.57
South-Eastern ...	1,113	2,435	800	1,710	6,058	0.65
South-Western ...	789	2,086	607	1,486	4,968	0.57
Midlands ...	1,177	4,915	371	2,286	8,749	0.47
North-Eastern ...	1,028	4,819	830	3,102	9,779	0.48
North-Western ...	868	4,194	759	3,868	9,689	0.44
Scotland ...	853	2,960	514	2,291	6,618	0.51
Wales... ..	491	1,622	329	552	2,994	0.51
GREAT BRITAIN ...	7,390	28,165	6,096	20,109	61,760	0.51

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

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. In the comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates the figures 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 March showed a decline, and was bad on the whole. There was a slight improvement in the Durham, Lancashire and Welsh coalfields, but in the Midlands and Yorkshire coalfields increased short-time working was reported.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 27·4 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 22·5 at 23rd February, 1931, and 14·5 at 24th March, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed increased by 0·5 from 16·0 to 16·5, and the percentage temporarily stopped by 4·4 from 6·5 to 10·9.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 28th March, 1931, showed a decrease of 0·5 per cent. as compared with 28th February, 1931, and of 8·8 per cent. as compared with 22nd March, 1930.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th March, 1931, was 4·73, a decrease of 0·23 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th February, 1931, and of 0·31 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 22nd March, 1930.

The following Table shows, for the principal coalmining 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 March, 1931, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per week* by the Mines.			
	28th March, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 28th March, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Percent	Percent	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	45,156	-0·5	-8·5	5·52	+0·15	+0·29
Durham ...	118,934	-1·0	-16·4	5·20	+0·32	-0·05
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	9,277	-1·0	-7·0	5·36	+0·80	-0·13
South Yorkshire ...	111,753	-2·6	-5·4	3·72	-0·77	-1·08
West Yorkshire ...	50,312	-1·6	-5·4	3·35	-1·30	-1·11
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	72,282	-0·2	-5·0	4·86	+0·16	+0·01
Derbyshire ...	53,652	-1·8	-4·3	3·28	-1·67	-1·13
Notts. and Leicester ...	62,618	+0·3	+0·2	3·57	-0·95	-0·68
Warwick ...	17,181	+0·3	+0·1	5·32	-0·04	+0·03
North Staffordshire ...	24,220	-0·1	-15·8	5·26	+0·73	+0·35
South Staffs., Worcs. and Salop ...	30,053	+0·8	-2·9	4·60	-0·43	-0·35
Glos. and Somerset ...	9,566	+0·1	-8·5	5·10	-0·41	-0·13
Kent ...	5,448	+2·3	+14·8	5·54	...	+0·04
North Wales ...	14,333	+0·8	-4·0	5·77	+0·21	+0·07
South Wales and Mon.	157,381	+1·2	-12·8	5·53	+0·04	+0·18
England and Wales	782,166	-0·5	-8·5	4·66	-0·28	-0·33
SCOTLAND:						
Mid. & East Lothians	12,931	-0·6	-6·4	5·41	+0·24	+0·07
Fife and Clackmannan	20,954	-1·0	-11·9	5·39	+0·46	+0·52
Rest of Scotland ...	56,691	+0·2	-11·9	5·33	+0·11	-0·41
Scotland ...	90,576	-0·2	-11·2	5·36	+0·22	-0·13
GREAT BRITAIN	872,742	-0·5	-8·8	4·73	-0·23	-0·31

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 28th March, 1931, was 1·01 days per week, of which 0·98 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 28th February, 1931, were 0·79 of a day per week, of which 0·73 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties; the corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 22nd March, 1930, were 0·74 of a day per week, and 0·72 of a day per week, respectively. The average non-winding time for the March and February, 1931, periods, was about one-quarter of a day per week, as compared with about one-fifth of a day per week during the March, 1930, period.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 23rd March, 1931, and the increases or decreases as compared with 23rd February, 1931, and 24th March, 1930, are shown in the following Table:—

Area.	Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 23rd March, 1931.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in Total percentages as compared with a	
	Numbers.		Percentages.			Month before.	Year before.
	Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).	Temporarily stopped.	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.	Total.		
Great Britain ...	176,091	117,067	16·5	10·9	27·4	+ 4·9	+ 12·9
England and Wales ...	151,086	114,333	15·9	12·1	28·0	+ 5·6	+ 13·4
Scotland ...	25,005	2,734	20·6	2·2	22·8	- 0·3	+ 9·1
Principal Districts in England and Wales:—							
Northumberland ...	7,882	268	15·2	0·5	15·7	- 0·9	+ 3·0
Durham ...	34,015	3,391	22·1	2·2	24·3	- 1·2	+ 13·2
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	2,322	464	19·6	4·0	23·6	- 9·1	+ 4·6
Yorkshire ...	19,352	58,205	10·8	32·6	43·4	+20·4	+ 32·7
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	14,679	3,457	16·1	3·9	20·0	- 3·0	+ 3·9
Derbyshire ...	4,686	13,292	7·4	21·2	28·6	+19·1	+ 17·9
Notts. and Leicestershire	3,780	16,622	5·7	25·0	30·7	+16·5	+ 20·6
Warwickshire	730	51	6·0	0·4	6·4	+ 0·2	+ 0·5
Staffs., Worcester and Salop ...	9,033	3,974	12·8	5·6	18·4	+ 2·0	+ 7·5
Glos. and Somerset ...	1,682	1,097	14·2	9·2	23·4	+ 8·8	+ 7·8
Kent ...	266	14	5·0	0·3	5·3	- 0·7	+ 2·1
Wales and Monmouth ...	51,106	13,487	22·2	5·9	28·1	- 1·1	+ 4·8

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 28th March, 1931, was reported to the Mines Department as 18,232,200 tons, as compared with 19,213,600 tons in the four weeks ended 28th February, 1931, and 21,599,100 tons in the four weeks ended 22nd March, 1930.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,115,600 tons in March, 1931, as compared with 5,017,500 tons in February, 1931, and with 6,341,000 tons in March, 1930.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT remained bad during March. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry was 31·3 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 30·8 at 23rd February, 1931, and 10·2 at 24th March, 1930.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week* by the Mines.			
	Fortnight ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,982	+ 0·4	- 29·6	4·75	+ 0·16	- 0·54
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,450	+ 7·0	- 21·5	5·40	- 0·55	- 0·60
Other Districts ...	1,332	- 3·2	- 14·0	5·10	+ 0·31	- 0·72
ALL DISTRICTS	6,764	+ 1·9	- 24·1	5·05	- 0·05	- 0·58

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 28th March, 1931, by firms making returns was 2,512, showing a decrease of 0·9 per cent. as compared with February, 1931, but an increase of 0·1 per cent. as compared with March, 1930. The average number of days worked per week* in the period, by the mines making returns was 5·93 in March, 1931, as compared with 5·89 in February, 1931, and 6·00 in March, 1930.

* 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.

* See footnote * in previous column.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed some improvement during March, but was still very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 34.9 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 37.3 at 23rd February, 1931, and 13.8 at 24th March, 1930.

According to information received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 81 furnaces were in operation at the end of March, 1931, the same number as at the end of February, as compared with 157 at the end of March, 1930; while in the case of 68 firms employing 11,652 workpeople at the end of March, 1931, the returns showed a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with February, 1931, and a decrease of 40.5 per cent. compared with March, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of March, 1931, February, 1931, and March, 1930:—

Districts.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Mch., 1931.	Feb., 1931.	Mch., 1930.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	93	22	23	40	- 1	-18
Cumberland and W. Lancs. ...	43	8	8	12	...	- 4
Parts of Lancs. and Yorks. (including Sheffield) and North Wales ...	26	5	5	11	...	- 6
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants ...	53	21	22	29	- 1	- 8
Lincolnshire ...	25	8	7	16	+ 1	- 8
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...	44	8	7	13	+ 1	- 5
South Wales and Monmouthshire ...	21	2	2	7	...	- 5
England and Wales	305	74	74	128	...	-54
SCOTLAND ...	89	7	7	29	...	-22
GREAT BRITAIN ...	394	81	81	157	...	-76

The production of pig iron in March amounted to 357,100 tons compared with 318,200 tons in February, and 665,800 tons in March, 1930.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

IN the tinplate industry employment remained bad. In the week ended 28th March, 1931, 254 tinplate mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 260 in the week ended 28th February, 1931, and with 383 in the week ended 22nd March, 1930.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 48.6 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 51.9 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 37.7 at 24th March, 1930.

In steel sheet manufacture employment showed a slight improvement, but remained very bad. In the week ended 28th March, 1931, 52 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 42 in the week ended 28th February, 1931, and with 117 in the week ended 22nd March, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at works covered by the returns:—

Works.	Number of Works Open.			Number of Mills in Operation.		
	Week ended 28th March, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 28th March, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	48	- 6	- 16	254	- 6	-129
Steel Sheet	5	+ 1	- 7	52	+ 10	- 65
TOTAL ...	53	- 5	- 23	306	+ 4	-194

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in March, 1931, amounted to 48,547 tons, or 972 tons more than in February, 1931, but 50,934 tons less than in March, 1930.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in March showed a decline, and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 45.8 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 44.2 at 23rd February, 1931, and 26.1 at 24th March, 1930.

At certain firms, employing 49,841 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 28th March, 1931, 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 1.1 per cent. as compared with the week ended 21st February, 1931, and by 30.3 per cent. as

compared with March, 1930. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.1 in the week ended 28th March, 1931, as compared with 5.1 in February, 1931, and 5.4 in March, 1930.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns.			Aggregate number of Shifts.		
	Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	4,878	- 5.1	- 34.0	27,869	- 5.4	- 34.4
Puddling Forges ...	777	-17.0	- 50.2	2,971	- 0.9	- 57.4
Rolling Mills ...	17,947	- 2.2	- 25.2	80,588	- 0.3	- 33.2
Forging & Pressing	1,796	- 3.0	- 32.3	9,347	+ 4.4	- 28.7
Founding ...	6,546	- 0.8	- 18.6	35,677	+ 0.2	- 21.7
Other Departments	7,192	+ 2.5	- 20.3	39,369	- 0.3	- 21.6
Mechanics, Labourers ...	10,705	- 2.3	- 28.1	58,479	- 2.2	- 32.1
TOTAL ...	49,841	- 2.0	- 26.2	254,300	- 1.1	- 30.3
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ...	10,068	- 2.9	- 29.2	53,260	- 1.2	- 31.7
Sheffield & Rotherham ...	14,888	- 6.2	- 17.8	77,078	- 6.1	- 20.8
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	400	+19.4	...	1,754	+ 5.9	- 11.9
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...	5,161	+10.2	-10.1	26,491	+14.2	- 7.0
Staffordshire ...	4,535	+ 9.6	-11.0	23,996	+10.7	- 14.4
Other Midland Counties ...	2,714	+ 1.5	-17.5	14,437	- 0.8	- 19.4
Wales and Monmouth ...	4,841	- 3.0	-44.0	24,917	+ 0.6	- 46.7
England and Wales ...	42,607	- 1.1	-23.2	221,933	...	- 25.6
Scotland ...	7,234	- 7.1	-40.0	32,367	- 8.1	- 51.4
GREAT BRITAIN	49,841	- 2.0	-26.2	254,300	- 1.1	- 30.3

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 500,100 tons in March, 1931, as compared with 486,400 tons in February, 1931, and 826,100 tons in March, 1930.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during March, and showed a decline for the fifteenth month in succession. More than half of the insured workpeople were recorded as unemployed, a proportion nearly twice as large as a year ago, when employment was already very bad. Only the South-Eastern and South-Western divisions showed less than 30 per cent. unemployed, while in the North-Eastern division and in Wales the percentages were 62 and 66 respectively.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 23rd March, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with 23rd February, 1931, and 24th March, 1930:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd March, 1931.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 23rd March, 1931.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London ...	3,325	- 79	+ 968	34.6	- 0.8	+12.7
South-Eastern ...	1,216	+ 85	+ 550	16.2	+ 1.1	+ 7.0
South-Western ...	5,134	+ 1,200	+ 2,055	24.2	+ 5.7	+ 9.8
Midlands ...	105	- 24	+ 24	31.8	- 7.3	+ 4.8
North-Eastern ...	38,019	+ 1,943	+ 19,076	62.3	+ 3.2	+30.9
North-Western ...	15,382	+ 687	+ 6,772	53.4	+ 2.4	+23.6
Scotland ...	33,586	+ 2,150	+ 18,830	59.6	+ 3.9	+33.2
Wales ...	4,877	- 125	+ 765	66.1	- 1.7	+13.4
Northern Ireland	6,138	+ 529	+ 3,435	49.5	+ 4.3	+27.0
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	107,782	+ 6,366	+ 52,475	52.6	+ 3.1	+25.6

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH, 1931.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1931, amounted to 693,814 tons, as compared with 908,902 tons at the end of December, 1930, and 1,614,993 tons at the end of March, 1930. There was thus a decrease of 215,088 tons in the work in hand as compared with the figures for last December, and a decrease of 921,179 tons as compared with the figures at the end of March, 1930. This decrease is the largest ever recorded during any period of twelve months, with the exception of the abnormal decline in the year 1922, following upon the completion of the large shipbuilding programme due to the war.

The tonnage commenced during the quarter amounted only to 32,685 tons, showing a decrease of nearly 100,000 tons as compared with the previous quarter.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the number of men employed. No account is taken of time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of "shifts" shown were actually worked by all the men employed. Works closed are omitted in computing the average number of shifts.

The tonnage launched during the quarter under review amounted to 145,519 tons, as compared with 296,843 tons in the previous three months, showing a decrease of 151,324 tons.

The total horse-power of marine engines under construction or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1931, amounted to 654,919 h.p., as compared with 797,143 h.p. in the previous quarter.

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

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during March remained bad and showed a further decline, this being the sixteenth month in succession in which a decline has been shown; in five of the nine divisions about one-third of the insured workpeople were recorded as unemployed. In general, textile, marine, and constructional engineering employment was very bad. In the motor vehicle section there was little change compared with the previous month, employment remaining bad. In electrical and railway engineering employment was slack.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 23rd March, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Division.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd March, 1931.						Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with a	
	General Engineering; Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	8,890	1,472	251	518	4,642	15,773	+ 63	+ 8,347
South-Eastern ...	7,069	1,239	329	206	3,024	11,867	+ 707	+ 7,055
South-Western ...	4,521	393	371	220	3,350	8,855	+ 121	+ 4,728
Midlands ...	20,028	4,082	241	1,810	25,169	51,330	+ 2,346	+ 27,475
North-Eastern ...	38,690	1,365	10,602	2,172	2,216	55,045	+ 416	+ 27,303
North-Western ...	48,947	4,360	219	845	3,621	57,992	— 436	+ 25,524
Scotland ...	25,290	575	8,896	2,050	2,042	38,853	+ 2,002	+ 22,112
Wales ...	1,947	98	30	234	585	2,894	+ 74	+ 1,090
Northern Ireland	2,444	112	2,365	26	392	5,339	+ 1,034	+ 3,441
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTH-EASTERN IRELAND	157,826	13,696	23,304	8,081	45,041	247,948	+ 6,327	+ 127,075
Percentages Unemployed at 23rd March, 1931.								
London ...	10.3	10.2	31.4	14.8	11.4	10.8	+ 0.8	+ 5.5
South-Eastern ...	14.7	15.0	13.3	34.3	10.6	13.5	+ 0.8	+ 7.9
South-Western ...	12.6	11.0	5.8	37.9	11.9	11.8	+ 0.1	+ 6.1
Midlands ...	22.2	14.1	15.6	26.3	25.5	22.7	+ 1.0	+ 12.0
North-Eastern ...	33.4	15.7	48.1	30.5	16.0	32.8	+ 0.2	+ 15.3
North-Western ...	38.2	19.7	32.2	28.4	16.7	33.0	— 0.3	+ 14.4
Scotland ...	33.4	18.7	45.2	36.7	18.6	33.8	+ 1.7	+ 19.2
Wales ...	35.0	24.5	21.4	33.4	27.1	32.3	+ 0.8	+ 12.5
Northern Ireland	35.2	28.0	37.4	65.0	18.1	33.6	+ 6.5	+ 21.0
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTH-EASTERN IRELAND	26.6	15.2	38.8	28.9	18.2	24.4	+ 0.6	+ 12.4
<i>Ditto, Feb., 1931</i>	<i>26.0</i>	<i>14.6</i>	<i>36.1</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>18.2</i>	<i>23.8</i>	—	—
<i>Ditto, Mar., 1930</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>12.0</i>	—	—

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad, especially in marine engineering, which showed a further decline. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire there was some seasonal improvement in agricultural engineering, but employment on the whole remained bad. In Lancashire and Cheshire there was a slight improvement on the whole, but employment remained bad or very bad; at textile engineering centres much short time was still worked.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment showed a general decline; it was bad in the motor vehicle and general sections, and slack in the electrical section. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment showed little change and remained very slack.

In London and the Southern Counties employment remained quiet; there was an improvement in the motor vehicle section in the South-Western Division, but a decline in the South-Eastern Division.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland employment remained very bad, and showed a further and general decline.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in all sections of the industry was better at the end of March than at the end of February. There was still, however, much unemployment and short time in all the principal districts, and employment was below the level of a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 36.5 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 41.4 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 27.1 at 24th March, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne employment showed an improvement both in the American and in the Egyptian spinning sections, but remained very bad; there was also some improvement with weavers. At Stockport, Stalybridge and Hyde employment was slightly better than a month earlier, but remained bad; at Glossop it was described as moderately good, with more whole-time employment. At Oldham employment showed a further slight improvement towards the end of the month, but remained very bad both with spinners and with

weavers; much short time was worked, and it was reported that a large percentage of the operatives were still drawing unemployment benefit, while many had exhausted their trade union benefits. At Middleton employment in the Egyptian section was fairly good, but short-time working continued in the American section. At Shaw there was some improvement with spinners in the Egyptian section and with fustian weavers. At Bolton there was an improvement in the spinning department, though employment remained bad; in the week ended the 14th March about 40 per cent. of the operative cotton spinners were working less than half time, as compared with 50 per cent. three weeks earlier; a slight improvement was also reported in the weaving department. At Leigh employment was still bad, but showed a slight improvement. At Rochdale also there was an improvement; at Bury employment remained bad.

At Preston the mills generally were working more steadily, but there was still much under-employment. At Blackburn the rate of unemployment remained very high, but there was some improvement, six mills which had long been closed having re-started; in the week ending 14th March, however, 67 mills (out of 129) were still closed. At Darwen employment was extremely bad; in the 24 mills which were running (as compared with 65 a few years ago), only about 12,000 out of a total of 37,000 looms were at work. At Great Harwood there was an improvement; three mills re-started in March after a stoppage of ten months. At Accrington employment showed an improvement in the spinning section, and seven additional weaving sheds had re-opened since the termination of the dispute, three of which had been closed for more than six months. At Burnley there was also a further slight improvement, although many mills were still playing off a proportion of their regular workers; employment among weavers was stated to be equivalent to about 60 or 65 per cent. of full employment. At Padiham employment was described as fair, and as slightly better than in the previous month. At Nelson there was a slight improvement, but many mills were running only about half their looms, whilst in others the weavers were employed on two or three looms only. At Colne some improvement was reported. In the Rossendale Valley there was a slight improvement, but employment was still described as very bad.

In Yorkshire employment remained very bad on the whole; a very large number of workpeople were totally unemployed, and short-time working was still general at the principal centres; a marked improvement, however, was reported in the Skipton area.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Preparing ...	9,652	+ 8.0	— 10.5	£ 14,637	+ 15.7	— 9.0
Spinning ...	18,427	+ 8.9	— 11.1	27,085	+ 18.3	— 9.3
Weaving ...	25,372	+ 3.1	— 8.7	39,485	+ 8.0	— 4.7
Other ...	6,752	+ 1.7	— 11.6	15,009	+ 4.1	— 8.5
Not Specified ...	4,347	+ 5.0	— 15.7	7,889	+ 6.1	— 9.0
TOTAL ...	64,550	+ 5.4	— 10.5	104,105	+ 10.8	— 7.4
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton ...	4,109	+ 22.3	— 18.5	5,863	+ 38.4	— 22.1
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	6,517	+ 9.2	— 13.7	10,246	+ 11.2	— 7.7
Oldham ...	8,725	+ 6.8	— 12.0	14,315	+ 14.4	— 14.0
Bolton and Leigh ...	12,264	+ 4.3	— 3.4	19,372	+ 10.4	+ 7.4
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	5,060	+ 3.0	— 29.0	7,953	+ 7.0	— 32.3
Manchester ...	4,136	+ 6.8	— 5.5	6,493	+ 15.2	— 5.7
Preston and Chorley ...	5,850	— 2.9	+ 3.9	9,561	+ 1.7	+ 10.9
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	4,434	+ 0.9	— 11.0	7,472	+ 6.3	— 9.3
Burnley and Padiham ...	3,331	+ 7.3	— 12.5	6,772	+ 14.4	+ 7.5
Colne and Nelson ...	2,926	+ 2.8	— 16.3	6,116	+ 3.8	— 12.7
Other Lancashire Towns	1,840	+ 13.0	+ 8.2	2,386	+ 16.9	+ 16.8
Yorkshire Towns ...	2,469	— 1.2	— 10.5	3,285	+ 4.1	— 20.4
Other Districts ...	2,889	+ 6.2	— 3.9	4,271	+ 7.8	+ 2.5
TOTAL ...	64,550	+ 5.4	— 10.5	104,105	+ 10.8	— 7.4

Returns from firms employing 62,700 operatives in the week ended 28th March showed that about 22 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of 13½ hours each, on an 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 March, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd March, 1931.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blow- ing Room ...	2,301	13,901	16,202	1,976	8,148	10,124	26,326
Spinning ...	13,627	11,289	24,916	10,059	6,975	17,034	41,950
Beaming, Wind- ing and Warp- ing ...	2,739	12,861	15,600	1,914	10,569	12,483	28,083
Weaving ...	12,568	42,898	55,466	3,260	9,575	12,835	68,301
Other Processes	1,872	525	2,397	482	424	906	3,303
Total ...	33,107	81,474	114,581	17,691	35,691	53,382	167,963

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd February, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	- 467	- 144	- 611	- 1,318	- 2,500	- 3,818	- 4,429
Spinning ...	+ 621	- 324	+ 297	- 4,429	- 1,285	- 5,714	- 5,417
Beaming, Winding and Warping ...	- 106	- 424	- 530	- 547	- 1,223	- 1,770	- 2,300
Weaving ...	- 296	- 1,856	- 2,152	- 2,035	- 4,731	- 6,766	- 8,918
Other Processes ...	+ 10	- 5	+ 5	- 196	- 156	- 352	- 347
Total ...	- 238	- 2,753	- 2,991	- 8,525	- 9,895	- 18,420	- 21,411

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 99,053,700 lbs. in March, 1931, compared with 71,868,900 lbs. in February, 1931, and with 89,158,000 lbs. in March, 1930.

The exports of cotton yarn were 10,805,900 lbs. in March, 1931, compared with 9,261,200 lbs. in February, 1931, and with 12,724,200 lbs. in March, 1930.

The exports of cotton piece goods in March, 1931, were 136,444,400 square yards, compared with 146,336,100 square yards in the previous month, and 281,343,800 square yards in March, 1930.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed an improvement in nearly all the principal districts, both in the worsted and in the woollen sections; but it was still very slack. The improvement was largely seasonal.

In the carpet trade employment was slack, but better than in February. Here also the improvement was largely seasonal.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 27.2 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 30.0 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 21.9 at 24th March, 1930.

Worsted Section.—Employment showed an improvement in all the principal districts, but was still bad, and worse than a year ago.

At Bradford and at Huddersfield there was a slight increase in activity towards the end of the month, partly attributed to holiday orders. At Keighley there was a further improvement, especially in the spinning section. At Halifax also there was a slight improvement, and spinners of fine botany and merino yarns were generally well employed. In the worsted section as a whole, returns from employers for the week ended 28th March showed that about 32 per cent. of the operatives worked short time,* losing about 12½ hours each on an average; about 6 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of over 6½ hours each.

With wool sorters employment was described as moderate, and as better than in February; in addition to the numbers unemployed, about 10 per cent. of those at work were on short time. In the combing department machinery in the merino section continued to be well employed, and there was a slight improvement as compared with February; there was also a slight improvement in the carding crossbred section, but none in the preparing section; except in the merino section, employment continued bad. About 22 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns in the sorting, combing, and preparing departments lost, on an average, about 16 hours each in short time in the week ended 28th March; while 7 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of more than 9 hours each.

In the worsted spinning department employment was still very slack, but better than in February. About 31 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 28th March, losing, on an average, nearly 12 hours each; about 6 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each.

In the worsted weaving department employment continued slack, but showed some improvement as compared with February. About 37 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 28th March, losing, on an average about 13 hours* each; about 8 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of 6 hours each.

Woollen Section.—Employment again showed some improvement in all the principal departments, but was still very slack. Employers' returns for the week ended 28th March showed that about 42 per cent. of the workers in the spinning department, and about 46 per cent. of those in the weaving department, were on short time,* losing, on an average, about 11 hours each in both departments. In the woollen section as a whole, about 41 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 11 hours each in short time,* in the week ended 28th March. There was little overtime except in the spinning department, in which 8 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of nearly 9 hours each.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district employment showed little change, apart from increased activity in a few firms towards the end of the month on orders to be completed before the Easter holidays. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) employment showed, on the whole, some improvement; but very few mills were running full time, and manufacturers of heavy cloths, velours, blankets, rugs, etc., stated that, if anything, employment was

slightly worse than in February. Employment in the rag and shoddy trade was described as poor, but showed a slight improvement.

In the Stockport district employment with woollen workers showed a slight improvement. At Rochdale there was little change with flannel workers; there was still some short time working, and a good deal of machinery was still idle. In the West of England the improvement reported last month at Trowbridge was maintained, but at Westbury there was a further depression, and employment in the West of England generally was rather slack. In Wales employment remained slack, except for a seasonal improvement in Cardiganshire, where employment was described as brisk.

In Scotland employment in the tweed trade showed a slight improvement; but the improvement was very unequal, and most firms still had much machinery idle or only partially employed. Unemployment continued at Dumfries and at Kilmarnock; but there was some improvement at Alloa and at Galashiels, although the seasonal activity at the latter place was stated to be far below the average for the time of year.

Carpet Section.—Employment was slack, but better than a month earlier. At Kidderminster there was a slight seasonal improvement, but employment was still bad. In Yorkshire employment on the whole improved, and was described as fair; though at Halifax employment remained very slack. In Scotland employment was slack at most of the principal centres, but showed a slight improvement.

In the carpet industry as a whole, about 48 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 28th March, losing about 10 hours each on an average; practically no overtime was reported.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th March, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 28th March, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
Departments :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	8,729	+ 4.5	89.1	20,521	+ 3.7	78.7
Spinning ...	34,346	+ 0.8	82.4	49,392	+ 5.5	75.5
Weaving ...	17,554	+ 1.8	85.6	31,165	+ 5.3	74.6
Other Depts. ...	9,324	+ 2.1	93.3	20,737	+ 6.8	78.0
Not specified ...	1,427	- 0.4	99.6	2,394	- 0.5	71.4
Total—Worsted	71,380	+ 1.7	85.5	124,209	+ 5.2	76.4
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting ...	909	+ 1.2	74.4	1,895	+ 3.2	73.4
Spinning ...	11,582	+ 1.0	82.3	22,865	+ 5.0	83.1
Weaving ...	20,722	+ 1.0	88.0	34,993	+ 4.0	85.1
Other Depts. ...	15,122	- 1.4	86.0	31,824	+ 3.0	83.5
Not specified ...	2,167	- 3.0	78.0	4,232	+ 8.3	81.9
Total—Woollen	50,502	+ 0.1	85.4	95,809	+ 4.1	83.5
CARPET SECTION ...	9,568	- 0.6	100.2	16,411	+ 13.0	92.1
Total—Wool Textile Industry	131,450	+ 0.9	86.2	236,429	+ 5.3	80.2
Districts† :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	29,387	+ 2.2	81.4	54,516	+ 2.7	71.9
Huddersfield ...	8,437	+ 2.0	97.3	14,708	+ 7.5	78.3
Halifax ...	8,615	- 0.6	82.4	13,834	+ 3.5	73.5
Leeds ...	7,842	+ 1.6	90.8	13,076	+ 7.6	84.3
Keighley ...	7,143	+ 3.0	87.4	12,166	+ 7.7	86.3
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,361	+ 1.2	96.5	4,871	+ 6.3	92.5
Total, West Riding	64,785	+ 1.8	85.5	113,171	+ 4.6	76.0
West of England and Midlands ...	4,409	+ 1.0	81.9	7,741	+ 13.5	74.5
Lancashire ...	314	+ 3.3	107.7	610	+ 16.4	106.6
Scotland ...	1,872	- 0.8	89.7	2,687	+ 6.5	104.4
Total—Worsted	71,380	+ 1.7	85.5	124,209	+ 5.2	76.4
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Huddersfield ...	11,633	+ 0.5	83.7	25,097	- 0.2	79.7
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	9,631	+ 3.3	83.1	17,890	+ 14.0	86.1
Leeds ...	6,115	- 2.9	87.6	12,097	- 3.7	86.7
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,008	+ 3.4	81.1	4,081	+ 6.4	70.0
Bradford ...	1,276	+ 1.0	99.1	2,464	+ 12.7	83.3
Total, West Riding	30,663	+ 0.8	85.7	61,629	+ 3.7	84.7
Lancashire ...	4,666	- 1.6	87.9	8,940	+ 1.3	88.7
West of England and Midlands ...	3,612	- 1.4	88.9	6,379	+ 4.8	95.1
Scotland ...	11,479	- 0.4	83.0	18,745	+ 6.8	75.1
Wales ...	82	- 21.2	64.1†	116	- 22.1	65.3†
Total—Woollen	50,502	+ 0.1	85.4	95,809	+ 4.1	83.5
CARPET SECTION ...	9,568	- 0.6	100.2	16,411	+ 13.0	92.1
Total—Wool Textile Industry	131,450	+ 0.9	86.2	236,429	+ 5.3	80.2

* Comparison with 1926 is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

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

‡ Revised figure.

* The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps," and tending one instead of two looms.

The following Tables show, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 28th March, 1931, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 21st February, 1931:—

Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (... signifies "no change"; — without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")						
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).	
WORSTED SECTION:						
Bradford ...	+ 4.8	+ 2.3	+ 0.3	+ 2.0	+ 2.2	
Huddersfield ...	...	+ 0.3	+ 3.2	+ 2.2	+ 2.0	
Halifax ...	+ 1.7	— 0.7	+ 2.1	+ 0.6	— 0.6	
Leeds ...	—	— 0.9	+ 4.3	+ 4.4	+ 1.6	
Keighley ...	+ 7.3	+ 0.9	+ 5.8	+ 5.4	+ 3.0	
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	—	— 0.5	—	+ 7.4	+ 1.2	
Total, West Riding	+ 4.6	+ 0.8	+ 2.0	+ 3.0	+ 1.8	
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 4.2	+ 3.4	— 1.0	— 0.8	+ 1.0	
Lancashire ...	—	+ 2.6	—	—	+ 3.3	
Scotland ...	+ 2.3	— 1.4	—	— 1.9	— 0.8	
TOTAL ...	+ 4.5	+ 0.8	+ 1.8	+ 2.1	+ 1.7	

Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in numbers employed as compared with previous month.				
	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WOOLLEN SECTION:				
Huddersfield ...	+ 3.0	— 0.4	— 0.3	+ 0.5
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 4.4	+ 5.8	+ 0.2	+ 3.3
Leeds ...	— 4.9	— 3.2	— 0.8	— 2.9
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	+ 2.8	+ 5.4	+ 0.6	+ 3.4
Bradford ...	+ 5.5	— 1.7	— 0.2	+ 1.0
Total, West Riding ...	+ 1.9	+ 1.0	— 0.1	+ 0.8
Lancashire ...	— 0.9	+ 1.1	— 6.8	— 1.6
West of England and Midlands ...	— 2.6	+ 0.1	— 2.2	— 1.4
Scotland ...	+ 0.9	+ 1.7	— 2.1	— 0.4
Wales ...	— 27.3	— 29.8	— 3.6	— 21.2
TOTAL ...	+ 1.0	+ 1.0	— 1.4	+ 0.1

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 March, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd March, 1931.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	275	5	280	126	4	130	410
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	826	1,011	1,837	619	485	1,104	2,941
Wool Combing ...	487	761	1,248	553	506	1,059	2,307
Wool Carding ...	834	270	1,104	728	133	861	1,965
Woollen Spinning ...	648	367	1,015	494	314	808	1,823
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	1,010	5,181	6,191	530	3,218	3,748	9,939
Wool Winding and Warping ...	175	70	245	400	129	529	774
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	248	1,006	1,254	238	972	1,210	2,464
Woollen Weaving ...	303	2,537	2,840	510	2,914	3,424	6,264
Worsted Weaving ...	379	1,574	1,953	188	3,812	4,000	5,953
Other Processes ...	1,546	266	1,812	1,566	321	1,887	3,699
Total ...	6,731	13,048	19,779	5,952	12,808	18,760	38,539

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd February, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	— 98	— 2	— 100	— 229	...	— 229	— 329
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	+ 3	— 7	— 4	— 190	— 55	— 245	— 249
Wool Combing ...	— 3	— 24	— 27	— 351	— 100	— 451	— 478
Wool Carding ...	+ 15	— 13	+ 2	— 206	— 24	— 230	— 228
Woollen Spinning ...	+ 2	— 32	— 30	— 9	— 72	— 81	— 111
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	— 1	+ 24	+ 23	+ 10	— 1,014	— 1,004	— 981
Wool Winding and Warping ...	— 15	+ 3	— 12	— 69	+ 19	— 50	— 62
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	+ 22	+ 14	+ 36	— 115	— 320	— 435	— 399
Woollen Weaving ...	— 26	— 149	— 175	— 54	— 403	— 457	— 632
Worsted Weaving ...	— 13	— 2	— 15	— 82	— 804	— 886	— 901
Other Processes ...	— 24	+ 2	— 22	— 155	— 113	— 268	— 290
Total ...	— 138	— 186	— 324	— 1,450	— 2,886	— 4,336	— 4,660

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 86,060,400 lbs. in March, 1931, compared with 57,920,200 lbs. in the previous month, and 83,580,000 lbs. in March, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 2,175,100 lbs., compared with 1,914,100 lbs. in February, 1931, and with 2,970,100 lbs. in March, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in March, 1931, were 7,827,200 square yards, compared with 8,588,500 square yards in the previous month, and with 9,843,300 square yards in March, 1930.

The exports of blankets were 35,494 pairs, 41,300 pairs and 51,945 pairs in March, 1931, February, 1931, and March, 1930, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued slack on the whole, but showed a slight improvement with some firms; towards the close of the month a number of firms were comparatively busy on orders to be completed before the Easter holidays. Employment was generally worse than in March, 1930.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 19.2 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 19.6 at 23rd February, 1931, and with 13.7 at 24th March, 1930.

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

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc (+) or Dec. (−) on a		Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	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	1,548	+ 2.8	− 9.4	3,609	+ 6.3	− 9.7
Leicester	10,345	+ 1.1	− 0.5	25,033	+ 2.1	− 4.9
Leicester Country District	3,787	− 0.8	+ 6.6	8,481	+ 2.0	− 3.9
Northampton... ..	8,573	− 0.9	− 7.6	19,672	+ 3.3	− 10.0
Higham, Rushden and District	4,951	+ 0.0	− 3.7	10,686	− 1.1	− 5.0
Kettering and District	5,532	+ 0.8	+ 0.6	13,638	+ 3.5	+ 2.7
Rest of Northants	1,511	+ 4.5	− 10.6	3,092	− 0.1	− 5.2
Stafford and District	2,500	+ 0.4	− 0.8	5,235	+ 15.3	− 3.8
Norwich and District	5,947	+ 4.0	− 6.6	12,249	+ 9.7	− 10.6
Bristol, Kingswood and District	2,002	+ 1.8	+ 1.8	3,269	− 1.3	− 11.6
Leeds and District	1,637	− 3.4	− 4.8	3,269	+ 0.4	− 18.8
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	5,521	+ 0.8	− 0.5	10,592	+ 4.2	− 8.9
Birmingham and District	1,125	− 3.2	− 8.3	1,986	− 5.9	− 21.0
Other parts of England and Wales	3,794	− 1.3	− 4.8	8,186	+ 3.8	− 8.9
England and Wales	58,773	+ 0.6	− 3.0	128,997	+ 3.4	− 7.1
Scotland	2,003	− 2.9	− 17.3	4,344	− 0.8	− 18.7
Great Britain... ..	60,776	+ 0.4	− 3.6	133,341	+ 3.2	− 7.5

Returns received from firms employing nearly 60,000 workpeople in the week ended 28th March indicated that about two-fifths of these operatives were on short time in that week, losing about 10½ hours each on the average; on the other hand, one-tenth were on overtime to the extent of about 4½ hours each on the average.

Employment in London continued quiet, especially with some of the smaller firms, but showed a further slight improvement; it was however, still below the level of last year. At Leicester there was a further slight improvement towards the end of the month, and employment was fair with some firms: the position varied much from one firm to another; in the week ended 28th March, about 37 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing about 12½ hours each on the average. In the Leicester country district, employment remained quiet; although some firms were comparatively busy, and a little overtime was worked before the holiday stoppage. At Northampton, Higham and Rushden, and Wellingborough, there was little change, and employment remained slack or moderate; better time was worked by some firms, especially just before the holiday stoppage, but the position was below the normal level for the time of year. At Northampton about 65 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 28th March were on short time, losing about 8 hours each on the average; and nearly half the operatives in the Higham and Rushden district were on short time in that week. At Kettering employment continued fairly good with a number of firms, some overtime being worked on orders to be completed before Easter; at other establishments short-time working continued, but the general position compared favourably with that in other centres and with March, 1930. Employment at Wollaston was bad, and showed a decline. At Stafford there was a further improvement, less short time being worked; employment was moderate, but not quite so good as a year ago. At Norwich also there was some improvement, the number of operatives working overtime in the week ended 28th March being slightly greater than the number working short time; but a large number of operatives at this centre are wholly unemployed.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment remained slack, except in the light shoe trade; nearly two-thirds of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were working short time in the week ended 28th March, losing about 15½ hours each on the average. At Leeds employment remained bad generally, with much short-time working; though some firms making sports shoes were fairly well employed. In the slipper trade in Lancashire employment showed some improvement with the approach of the holidays; it was again reported as good at Preston and as fairly good at Bury, though there was a slight decline at the latter centre; it was moderate, but improving, at Bacup, and bad at Rawtenstall, with much short-time working.

In Scotland employment was slack or bad with most firms in the principal centres.

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 March, 1931:—

March, 1931:—							
Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 23rd March, 1931.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manu- facture :							
Preparing Depart- ment ...	180	72	252	101	54	155	407
Rough Stuff De- partment ...	495	49	544	307	28	335	879
Clicking Department	1,007	24	1,031	1,397	9	1,406	2,437
Closing Department	49	1,652	1,701	7	1,348	1,355	3,056
Making Department	2,374	89	2,463	2,075	57	2,132	4,595
Finishing Depart- ment ...	1,769	738	2,507	1,217	224	1,441	3,948
Slipper Making ...	412	245	657	837	601	1,438	2,095
Clog Making...	18	4	22	1	1	2	24
Repairing and Hand- sewn Work ...	793	17	810	60	4	64	874
TOTAL ...	7,097	2,890	9,987	6,002	2,326	8,328	18,315

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23th February, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department ...	- 25	- 6	- 31	+ 4	- 9	- 5	- 36
Rough Stuff Department ...	- 18	+ 2	- 16	+ 24	+ 7	+ 31	+ 15
Clothing Department ...	+ 5	- 9	- 4	+ 42	- 44	- 2	- 6
Closing Department ...	+ 9	- 174	- 165	- 6	+ 261	+ 255	+ 90
Making Department ...	- 179	- 11	- 190	+ 201	+ 24	+ 225	+ 35
Finishing Department ...	- 60	- 136	- 196	+ 200	- 5	+ 195	- 1
Slipper Making ...	- 7	+ 39	+ 32	- 208	- 428	- 636	- 604
Clog Making ...	+ 6	+ 2	+ 8	...	- 1	- 1	+ 7
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	+ 34	+ 10	+ 44	...	+ 1	+ 1	+ 45
TOTAL ...	- 235	- 283	- 518	+ 257	- 194	+ 63	- 455

The exports of boots and shoes in March, 1931, amounted to 92,275 dozen pairs, or 23,562 dozen pairs more than in February, 1931, but 30,226 dozen pairs less than in March, 1930.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a slight improvement, but remained slack on the whole. In the Peterborough district, however, it continued fairly good.

The percentage of insured persons unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 19.4 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 20.5 at 23rd February, 1931, and 13.6 at 24th March, 1930.

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 Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1,578	+ 3.8	- 15.5	3,940	+ 8.8	- 10.8
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	6,174	+ 5.8	- 7.9	16,962	+ 8.5	- 11.4
South and South-West Counties and Wales ...	1,387	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	3,022	+ 4.9	+ 1.2
Scotland ...	178	- 11.0	- 19.1	412	- 14.3	- 25.0
TOTAL ...	9,317	+ 4.3	- 8.4	24,336	+ 7.6	- 10.2

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,674 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, about 7½ per cent. were working on an average nearly 18 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th March, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

THERE was a further improvement in employment during March, but it was very slack on the whole. Employment was reported as fair or fairly good, however, at a few centres, including Hull, Coventry and Southend-on-Sea. During the early part of the month adverse weather conditions curtailed outside operations, with consequent short-time working. As compared with March, 1930, employment was much worse in each administrative division.

As regards individual occupations employment was better with each class of operative, the improvement being most marked in the case of painters; it was generally slack with bricklayers and masons, very slack with plumbers, painters and tradesmen's labourers, and bad, in most districts, with carpenters, slaters and plasterers. As compared with March, 1930, it was somewhat worse with plasterers and showed a considerable decline with all the other classes.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 23rd March, 1931, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with March, 1930:—

OCCUPATIONS.	Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople* at July, 1930.	Total Numbers Unemployed at 23rd Mar., 1931.	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 ...	125,700	27,758	1,348	22.1	- 0.9	+ 9.6
Bricklayers ...	73,790	12,971	930	17.6	- 2.4	+ 5.8
Masons ...	21,180	3,711	437	17.5	- 2.8	+ 6.4
Slaters ...	6,020	1,539	166	25.6	- 1.3	+ 7.5
Plasterers ...	24,260	5,396	402	22.2	- 3.8	+ 3.0
Painters ...	105,660	25,719	760	24.3	- 14.3	+ 10.5
Plumbers ...	32,850	6,539	396	19.9	- 1.6	+ 5.3
Labourers to above ...	240,660	54,350	2,108	22.6	- 1.2	+ 5.2
All other occupations ...	202,150	49,046	2,288	24.3	- 1.0	+ 4.3
Total ...	832,270	187,029	8,835	22.5	- 3.0	+ 6.5
DIVISIONS.						
London ...	177,960	35,149	95	19.8	- 3.1	+ 8.3
South-Eastern ...	134,170	18,786	135	14.0	- 3.3	+ 6.1
South-Western ...	102,830	16,909	319	16.4	- 2.5	+ 6.3
Midlands ...	101,130	21,893	1,955	21.6	- 2.4	+ 5.0
North-Eastern ...	95,710	28,295	2,555	29.6	- 4.0	+ 4.7
North-Western ...	103,210	30,088	1,968	29.2	- 3.6	+ 6.1
Scotland ...	75,250	20,418	1,316	27.1	- 3.0	+ 7.6
Wales ...	25,640	10,393	477	40.5	- 3.7	+ 10.1
Northern Ireland ...	16,370	5,098	15	31.1	+ 3.5	+ 5.3
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	832,270	187,029	8,835	22.5	- 3.0	+ 6.5

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 140 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area) with a total population of 15,871,000, show that in March, 1931, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,272,300, as compared with £5,885,700 in February, 1931, and £5,658,800 in March, 1930. Of the total for March, 1931, dwelling houses accounted for £3,400,300; factories and workshops for £311,400; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £421,700; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,138,900. For figures for the quarter ended March, 1931, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1930, see page 161.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire, although bad on the whole, showed an improvement, and less short-time working was reported. At Bristol also employment showed a slight improvement, but was very slack generally; at Worcester short-time working continued. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment remained bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 30.8 at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 34.0 at 23rd February, 1931, and 20.0 at 24th March, 1930.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 28th Mar., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
China Manufacture ...	2,102	+ 11.9	+ 5.9	4,044	+ 7.6	+ 7.6
Earthenware Manufacture ...	7,182	+ 2.4	- 7.9	12,350	+ 6.7	- 13.4
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,697	+ 2.8	- 6.2	2,892	+ 9.3	- 12.9
TOTAL ...	10,981	+ 4.2	- 5.3	19,286	+ 7.2	- 9.6
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire ...	8,626	+ 5.9	- 4.4	14,266	+ 8.9	- 6.8
Other Districts ...	2,355	- 1.7	- 8.4	5,020	+ 2.8	- 16.8
TOTAL ...	10,981	+ 4.2	- 5.3	19,286	+ 7.2	- 9.6

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 10,442 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 4,128, or 39½ per cent., were working on an average about 16½ hours less than full time in the week ended 28th March, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued moderate on the whole in the paper-making industry. A slight improvement on the previous month was reported in a few districts; but short time was again reported in a number of districts, and there was a decline in the wall-paper section at Darwen, in which short time was worked, while employment was slack in the hand-made section generally.

In the letterpress printing trade employment on the whole was moderate, and rather better than in February, an improvement being reported in London and in several provincial centres, including Newcastle, Sheffield, Liverpool, Leicester, Nottingham, and Bristol; at Leeds, Birmingham and Glasgow, where employment was reported as slack or bad, there was a decline on the previous month. Employment also showed some improvement on the whole with electrotypers and stereotypers, who were fairly well employed in most districts outside London, where it was reported to be slack.

With lithographic printers employment was generally described as bad or slack, and showed a decline on the previous month at several large centres, including Manchester, Leeds, and Glasgow. Employment also declined with lithographic artists, with whom employment was reported as slack in London, while ranging from moderate to slack in the large provincial centres.

Employment continued slack, on the whole, in the bookbinding trade.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industries was 13.5 at 23rd March, 1931, compared with 14.4 at 23rd February, 1931, and 7.1 at 24th March, 1930. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 10.1 at 23rd March, 1931, compared with the same percentage at 23rd February, 1931, and 6.0 at 24th March, 1930. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 12.0 at 23rd March, 1931, compared with 12.1 at 23rd February, 1931, and 7.4 at 24th March, 1930.

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

	No. of Members of Unions at end of March, 1931.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) on a	
		Mar., 1931.	Feb., 1931.	Mar., 1930.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing:						
London ...	38,877	5.0	6.0	3.0	- 1.0	+ 2.0
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	17,057	6.6	6.9	4.3	- 0.3	+ 2.3
Scotland ...	10,827	4.2	3.7	2.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.5
Other Districts ...	6,369	7.5	6.9	3.2	+ 0.6	+ 4.3
	11,094	4.2	5.6	1.9	- 1.4	+ 2.3
Total ...	84,224	5.3	5.9	3.1	- 0.6	+ 2.2
Lithographic Printing	11,538	7.4	7.3	3.4	+ 0.1	+ 4.0
Bookbinding ...	19,085	8.3	8.2	4.1	+ 0.1	+ 4.2

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued very slack. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 41.9 per cent. were unemployed at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 41.6 per cent. at 23rd February, 1931, and 36.1 per cent. at 24th March, 1930.

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

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 March, 1931	3,635	1,925	5,560	7,846	13,406
14th " "	4,209	1,750	5,959	7,776	13,735
21st " "	4,170	1,909	6,079	8,046	14,125
28th " "	4,053	1,984	6,037	8,033	14,070
Average for 4 weeks ended 28th March, 1931	4,017	1,892	5,909	7,925	13,834
Average for Feb., 1931	3,681	1,737	5,418	8,026	13,444
Average for March, 1930	4,154	1,949	6,103	7,903	14,006

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during March was 705, compared with 807 in February, 1931, and with 782 in March, 1930.

East Coast.—Employment was moderate at the North-East Coast ports, and there was a small improvement at the Hartlepoons and at Middlesbrough. At Grimsby and Goole employment was adversely affected by a reduction in the amount of coal to be handled. It remained slack at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn, and was also slack at Ipswich.

Liverpool.—Employment remained very slack. 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 March, 1931, was 11,242, compared with 11,190 in February, 1931, and with 13,520 in March, 1930. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £24,269 in the four weeks ended 27th March, 1931, compared with £24,353 in February, 1931, and with £33,445 in March, 1930.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment remained slack at the South Wales ports, on the whole, though it was fair with general cargoes and iron ore imports. At Avonmouth slackness was more marked than in the previous month. Employment at Southampton was slack. At Weymouth it was fair, and at Plymouth and other South-Western ports it remained slack, except at Falmouth, where work was fairly plentiful.

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

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during March remained very slack on the whole, and the supply of seamen was considerably above requirements at most ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 23rd March, 1931, was 34.4, compared with 34.1 at 23rd February, 1931, and 23.1 at 24th March, 1930.

The demand for men on the Thames was slack until the last week, when a slight improvement was noted. On the Tyne it was slack generally, with a downward tendency towards the end of the month; on the Tees it was extremely dull, but at the Hartlepoons there were signs of improvement in the later stages; on the Wear the demand declined, and at the end of March was poor. At Hull it was moderate until the last week, when less activity was shown. At Southampton the demand, although slack, showed an upward tendency. At Bristol it was very slack in the first half of the month, but showed some improvement later; at Avonmouth it declined in the first part of the month, but recovered somewhat, and at the end of the month was fair. At Newport it was slack throughout the month; at Cardiff it was fair up to the middle of the month, but was slacker subsequently, with some recovery in the last week; at Swansea a moderate to fair demand was maintained throughout. On the Mersey the demand fluctuated, and at the end of the month was extremely dull; at Manchester it was moderate generally. On the Clyde the demand was slack, with a slightly better tendency in the latter part of March; at Leith it improved gradually, but at the end of the month was still only dull. At Belfast it was slack, except during the third week, when increased activity was shown.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the undermentioned ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during March:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	March, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Three Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	March, 1931.	March, 1930.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Liverpool† ...	7,453	+ 367	- 2,956	23,914	32,255
Manchester ...	669	+ 268	+ 119	1,748	1,901
London ...	7,063	+ 118	- 714	22,610	26,285
Southampton... ‡	8,047	+ 2,925	- 797	20,002	21,160
Tyne Ports... §	1,926	+ 304	+ 174	5,521	6,394
Sunderland ...	264	- 2	+ 91	651	631
Middlesbrough ...	170	+ 29	- 199	491	1,301
Hull ...	767	- 171	- 183	2,506	2,875
Bristol† ...	885	- 131	+ 80	2,613	2,488
Newport, Mon. ...	322	- 326	- 105	1,354	1,922
Cardiff§ ...	1,869	- 134	- 31	5,025	6,741
Swansea ...	554	+ 68	+ 1	1,528	1,800
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ...	149	- 35	- 30	647	647
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	217	- 221	- 52	956	1,073
Glasgow ...	2,209	+ 206	- 332	6,736	7,969
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast ...	148	+ 37	- 314	374	816
TOTAL for above Ports	32,712	+ 3,302	- 5,248	96,676	116,258

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

† Including Birkenhead and Garston.

‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

§ Including Barry and Penarth.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 23rd March, 1931, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, 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 and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, 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.

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.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 150 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file.

A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 150.

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 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.

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. (The employers of such persons, however, are required to pay contributions at the employer's rates.) The estimates of the numbers of insured persons in each industry prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books, therefore, no longer include persons aged 65 and over. Such persons do not now appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 23rd MARCH, 1931.

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	5,285	106	5,391	191	11	202	5,476	117	5,593	5,405	116	5,521
Mining :—												
Coal Mining	175,067	1,074	176,141	116,936	132	117,068	292,003	1,206	293,209	291,952	1,206	293,158
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc.	3,796	1	3,797	833	—	833	4,629	1	4,630	4,587	1	4,588
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	3,244	19	3,263	121	1	122	3,365	20	3,385	3,365	20	3,385
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	5,490	11	5,501	1,521	1	1,522	7,011	12	7,023	6,469	11	6,480
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	1,288	3	1,291	2,269	1	2,270	3,557	4	3,561	3,557	4	3,561
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	1,926	268	2,194	612	18	630	2,538	286	2,824	2,417	286	2,703
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	2,324	34	2,358	825	26	851	3,149	60	3,209	3,073	60	3,133
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	2,820	46	2,866	633	24	657	3,453	70	3,523	3,453	70	3,523
Artificial Stone and Concrete ...	3,276	156	3,432	562	33	595	3,838	189	4,027	3,802	189	3,991
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting ...	2,689	143	2,832	696	6	702	3,385	149	3,534	3,353	149	3,502
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	10,800	1,772	12,572	3,464	389	3,853	14,264	2,161	16,425	14,055	2,161	16,216
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	4,731	6,864	11,595	5,394	7,179	12,573	10,125	14,043	24,168	10,112	14,042	24,154
Glass Trades :—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass)	3,147	976	4,123	1,541	415	1,956	4,688	1,391	6,079	4,676	1,391	6,067
Glass Bottles	3,029	330	3,359	967	43	1,010	3,996	373	4,369	3,995	373	4,368
Chemicals, etc. :—												
Chemicals	14,254	1,979	16,233	1,598	256	1,854	15,852	2,235	18,087	15,768	2,231	17,999
Explosives	1,403	853	2,256	290	116	406	1,693	969	2,662	1,693	969	2,662
Paint, Varnish, Red and White Leads	1,363	422	1,785	166	31	197	1,529	453	1,982	1,525	453	1,978
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc.	5,186	2,032	7,218	1,085	409	1,494	6,271	2,441	8,712	6,221	2,408	8,629
Metal Manufacture :—												
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces)	6,424	49	6,473	1,168	2	1,170	7,592	51	7,643	7,586	51	7,637
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling and Forging	39,206	466	39,672	42,917	157	43,074	82,123	623	82,746	82,096	623	82,719
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	6,882	574	7,456	3,326	92	3,418	10,208	666	10,874	10,070	666	10,736
Tin Plates	4,209	434	4,643	9,769	954	10,723	13,978	1,388	15,366	13,978	1,388	15,366
Iron and Steel Tubes	5,643	261	5,904	6,878	100	6,978	12,521	361	12,882	12,518	361	12,879
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes ...	2,727	660	3,387	3,300	262	3,562	6,027	922	6,949	6,026	922	6,948
Engineering, etc. :—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	100,903	5,098	106,001	48,718	3,107	51,825	149,621	8,205	157,826	147,188	8,194	155,382
Electrical Engineering	8,175	2,248	10,423	2,728	545	3,273	10,903	2,793	13,696	10,793	2,791	13,584
Marine Engineering, etc.	18,599	90	18,689	4,568	47	4,615	23,167	137	23,304	20,802	137	20,939
Constructional Engineering	5,876	152	6,028	2,039	14	2,053	7,915	166	8,081	7,889	166	8,055
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—												
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc.	29,918	2,834	32,752	11,722	567	12,289	41,640	3,401	45,041	41,255	3,394	44,649
Railway Carriages, Wagons and Tramcars	2,518	308	2,826	383	53	436	2,901	361	3,262	2,830	360	3,190
Tramcars	8,859	98	8,957	3,490	90	3,580	12,349	188	12,537	12,335	188	12,523

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 ...	100,460	462	100,922	6,768	92	6,860	107,228	554	107,782	101,122	522	101,644
Metal Trades :—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ...	14,333	1,514	15,847	7,830	479	8,309	22,163	1,993	24,156	22,027	1,993	24,020
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	2,565	74	2,639	262	2	264	2,827	76	2,903	2,771	76	2,847
Electrical Cables, Wire and Lamps ...	7,184	5,413	12,597	1,802	1,315	3,117	8,986	6,728	15,714	8,944	6,728	15,672
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files ...	4,987	2,485	7,472	4,700	1,032	5,732	9,687	3,517	13,204	9,682	3,517	13,199
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	2,374	2,736	5,110	1,669	1,003	2,672	4,043	3,739	7,782	4,043	3,739	7,782
Brass and Allied Metal Wares ...	2,694	2,078	4,772	1,202	573	1,775	3,896	2,651	6,547	3,873	2,651	6,524
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus ...	1,129	56	1,185	408	10	418	1,537	66	1,603	1,534	66	1,600
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	2,843	3,147	5,990	1,668	1,406	3,074	4,511	4,553	9,064	4,497	4,551	9,048
Metal Industries not separately specified ...	17,607	13,869	31,476	9,340	4,371	13,711	26,947	18,240	45,187	26,750	18,230	44,980
Textile Trades :—												
Cotton ...	42,493	96,757	139,250	23,578	43,375	66,953	66,071	140,132	206,203	66,060	140,093	206,153
Woolen and Worsted ...	11,603	20,595	32,198	12,427	20,707	33,134	24,030	41,302	65,332	23,877	41,196	65,073
Silk Manufacture and Artificial Silk Weaving ...	2,739	4,929	7,668	2,545	4,871	7,416	5,284	9,800	15,084	5,278	9,797	15,075
Artificial Silk Yarn ...	3,572	2,887	6,459	1,313	1,367	2,680	4,885	4,254	9,139	4,803	4,225	9,028
Linen ...	6,663	14,236	20,899	2,051	5,109	7,160	8,714	19,345	28,059	1,363	4,297	5,660
Jute ...	3,479	9,416	12,895	2,525	6,090	8,615	6,004	15,505	21,510	6,002	15,500	21,502
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc. ...	1,030	2,436	3,466	501	1,068	1,569	1,531	3,504	5,035	1,320	2,947	4,267
Hosiery ...	1,616	8,782	10,398	2,613	10,850	13,463	4,229	19,632	23,861	4,202	19,480	23,682
Lace ...	520	1,046	1,566	645	809	1,454	1,165	1,855	3,020	1,165	1,847	3,012
Carpets ...	735	1,564	2,299	1,934	2,301	4,235	2,669	3,865	6,534	2,666	3,865	6,531
Textiles not separately specified ...	1,543	5,114	6,657	824	2,715	3,539	2,367	7,829	10,196	2,214	6,785	8,999
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	11,951	6,917	8,868	18,948	6,001	24,949	30,899	12,918	43,817	29,665	10,917	40,582
Leather and Leather Goods :—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	4,267	1,431	5,698	1,913	492	2,405	6,180	1,923	8,103	6,175	1,923	8,098
Leather Goods ...	1,930	2,152	4,082	570	761	1,331	2,500	2,913	5,413	2,479	2,904	5,383
Clothing Trades :—												
Tailoring ...	8,815	9,790	18,605	1,385	5,108	6,493	10,200	14,898	25,098	9,634	14,502	24,136
Dress Making and Millinery ...	1,139	4,891	6,030	55	1,299	1,354	1,194	6,190	7,384	1,158	5,641	6,799
Hats and Caps (including Straw Plait)	1,660	1,441	3,101	837	911	1,748	2,497	2,352	4,849	2,491	2,346	4,837
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc.	811	7,666	8,477	93	2,735	2,828	904	10,401	11,305	683	4,724	5,407
Dress Industries not separately specified ...	1,198	1,367	2,565	704	680	1,384	1,902	2,047	3,949	1,899	2,044	3,943
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs ...	9,942	4,393	14,335	8,161	3,648	11,809	18,103	8,041	26,144	17,794	8,020	25,814
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—												
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc. ...	11,886	6,899	18,785	617	470	1,087	12,503	7,369	19,872	11,830	7,236	19,066
Grain Milling ...	2,504	309	2,813	274	36	310	2,778	345	3,123	2,662	337	2,999
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	3,221	6,094	9,315	480	2,967	3,447	3,701	9,061	12,762	3,670	9,049	12,719
Food Industries not separately specified ...	8,464	11,698	20,162	850	1,162	2,012	9,314	12,860	22,174	9,120	12,759	21,879
Drink Industries ...	8,479	4,599	13,078	652	513	1,165	9,131	5,112	14,243	8,610	5,076	13,686
Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes and Snuff	1,089	3,322	4,411	160	705	865	1,249	4,027	5,276	1,188	3,873	5,061
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—												
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	9,627	239	9,866	1,094	56	1,150	10,721	295	11,016	10,465	295	10,760
Wood Boxes and Packing Cases ...	2,409	343	2,752	734	81	815	3,143	424	3,567	3,089	424	3,513
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	17,088	2,760	19,848	2,382	601	2,983	19,470	3,361	22,831	19,194	3,349	22,543
Woodworking not separately specified ...	2,881	761	3,642	888	282	1,170	3,769	1,043	4,812	3,639	1,024	4,663
Printing and Paper Trades :—												
Paper and Paper Board ...	3,100	1,434	4,534	2,131	919	3,050	5,231	2,353	7,584	5,201	2,335	7,536
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	1,678	4,009	5,687	275	1,040	1,315	1,953	5,049	7,002	1,900	4,791	6,691
Wall Paper Making ...	412	336	748	279	151	430	691	487	1,178	690	487	1,177
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ...	292	376	668	55	69	124	347	445	792	345	445	790
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	15,195	9,809	25,004	1,031	1,511	2,542	16,226	11,320	27,546	16,003	11,021	27,024
Building and Public Works Contracting :—												
Building ...	177,738	456	178,194	8,802	33	8,835	186,540	489	187,029	181,449	482	181,931
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	58,095	50	58,145	1,910	4	1,914	60,005	54	60,059	57,548	52	57,600
Other Manufacturing Industries :—												
Rubber ...	6,229	4,782	11,011	2,123	1,195	3,318	8,352	5,977	14,329	8,333	5,975	14,308
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc. ...	1,390	306	1,696	1,472	227	1,699	2,862	533	3,395	2,862	533	3,395
Brushes and Brooms ...	1,105	581	1,686	410	338	748	1,515	919	2,434	1,475	917	2,393
Scientific and Photographic Instruments and Apparatus ...	1,377	694	2,071	286	182	468	1,663	876	2,539	1,661	873	2,534
Musical Instruments ...	4,051	886	4,937	619	126	745	4,670	1,012	5,682	4,659	1,012	5,671
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites	812	953	1,765	255	235	490	1,067	1,188	2,255	1,066	1,188	2,254
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...	14,006	282	14,288	642	11	653	14,648	293	14,941	14,395	293	14,688
Transport and Communication :—												
Railway Service ...	15,587	598	16,185	1,055	18	1,073	16,642	616	17,258	16,465	613	17,078
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	7,952	733	8,685	407	19	426	8,359	752	9,111	8,020	748	8,768
Road Transport not separately specified ...	35,065	664	35,729	1,898	15	1,913	36,963	679	37,642	35,969	676	36,645
Shipping Service ...	48,157	908	49,065	433	73	506	48,590	981	49,571	47,610	971	48,581
Dock, Harbour, River and Canal Service ...	69,528	254	69,782	1,250	66	1,316	70,778	320	71,098	69,490	320	69,810
Transport, Communication and Storage not separately specified	2,913	215	3,128	120	41	161	3,033	256	3,289	2,993	256	3,249
Distributive Trades ...	136,190	67,226	203,416	6,452	4,586	11,038	142,642	71,812	214,454	136,702	70,308	207,010
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...	9,728	2,151	11,879	153	36	189	9,881	2,187	12,068	9,672	2,155	11,827
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—												
National Government ...	9,957	1,273	11,230	351	68	419	10,308	1,341	11,649	9,961	1,287	11,248
Local Government ...	42,117	1,151	43,268	1,934	60	1,994	44,051	1,211	45,262	42,176	1,194	43,370
Professional Services ...	4,996	1,934	6,930	258	60	318	5,254	1,994	7,248	5,136	1,950	7,086
Entertainments and Sports ...	12,402	5,683	18,085	306	215	521	12,708	5,898	18,606	12,236	5,829	18,065
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	24,986	42,303	67,289	372	1,079	1,451	25,358	43,382	68,740	24,735	42,722	67,457
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning Industries and Services not separately specified ...	2,983	9,156	12,139	113	1,499	1,612	3,096	10,655	13,751	2,996	10,326	13,322
TOTAL ...	1,582,684	470,142	2,052,826	445,046	167,775	612,821	2,027,730	637,917	2,665,647*	1,978,400	608,284	2,586,684

* Including 119,700 Casuals (Males, 117,537; Females, 2,163).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.																	GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PER- CENTAGES AT 3RD MAR., 1931.
INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1930.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MARCH, 1931.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PER- CENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH				
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.							
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.				Males.		Fe- males.	Total.	23RD FEB., 1931.	24TH MAR., 1930.	25TH MAR., 1929.
Fishing	27,110	880	27,990	19.5	12.0	19.3	0.7	1.3	0.7	20.2	13.3	20.0	...	+ 4.2	+ 6.2	19.9	
Mining :—	1,063,350	6,130	1,069,480	16.5	17.5	16.5	11.0	2.2	10.9	27.5	19.7	27.4	+ 4.9	+12.9	+14.2	27.4	
Coal Mining	14,770	20	14,790	25.7	5.0	25.7	5.6	—	5.6	31.3	5.0	31.3	+ 0.5	+21.1	+21.7	31.2	
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc.	5,310	40	5,350	61.1	47.5	61.0	2.3	2.5	2.3	63.4	50.0	63.3	- 2.9	+37.3	+45.2	63.4	
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	42,980	480	43,460	12.8	2.3	12.7	3.5	0.2	3.5	16.3	2.5	16.2	- 3.1	+ 2.6	+ 4.5	15.5	
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	10,480	10	10,490	12.3	30.0	12.3	21.6	10.0	21.6	33.9	40.0	33.9	+ 0.4	+23.5	+25.9	34.0	
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	15,350	1,600	16,950	12.5	16.8	12.9	4.0	1.1	3.8	16.5	17.9	16.7	- 1.6	+ 4.2	+ 6.6	16.3	
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	16,490	200	16,690	14.1	17.0	14.1	5.0	13.0	5.1	19.1	30.0	19.2	- 1.2	+11.6	+12.8	19.0	
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits ...																	
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :—	11,720	100	11,820	24.1	46.0	24.2	5.4	24.0	5.6	29.5	70.0	29.8	+ 2.1	+16.7	+15.1	29.8	
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	16,280	1,420	17,700	20.1	11.0	19.4	3.5	2.3	3.4	23.6	13.3	22.8	- 0.1	+ 4.2	+ 7.4	22.7	
Artificial Stone and Concrete ...	18,230	860	19,090	14.8	16.6	14.8	3.8	0.7	3.7	18.6	17.3	18.5	+ 1.0	+ 6.1	+ 9.2	18.7	
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting ...																	
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	77,250	7,430	84,680	14.0	23.9	14.8	4.5	5.2	4.6	18.5	29.1	19.4	- 1.1	+ 5.8	+ 6.0	19.4	
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	35,750	42,830	78,580	13.2	16.0	14.8	15.1	16.8	16.0	28.3	32.8	30.8	- 3.2	+10.8	+17.1	30.8	
Glass Trades :—	22,390	6,220	28,610	14.1	15.7	14.4	6.8	6.7	6.8	20.9	22.4	21.2	- 0.4	+ 8.9	+11.6	21.3	
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scien- tific Glass)	14,990	2,240	17,230	20.2	14.7	19.5	6.5	2.0	5.9	26.7	16.7	25.4	- 3.3	+ 5.0	+ 9.3	25.4	
Glass Bottles																	
Chemicals, etc. :—	79,610	24,000	103,610	17.9	8.2	15.7	2.0	1.1	1.8	19.9	9.3	17.5	- 0.4	+ 8.2	+11.4	17.5	
Chemicals	13,060	5,700	18,760	10.7	15.0	12.0	2.3	2.0	2.2	13.0	17.0	14.2	...	+ 6.3	+10.5	14.2	
Explosives	14,340	4,810	19,150	9.5	8.8	9.3	1.2	0.6	1.0	10.7	9.4	10.3	- 0.5	+ 4.3	+ 5.6	10.3	
Paint, Varnish, Red and White Leads	55,290	21,100	76,390	9.4	9.6	9.4	1.9	2.0	2.0	11.3	11.6	11.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.4	+ 5.6	11.3	
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc....																	
Metal Manufacture :—	21,720	180	21,900	29.6	27.2	29.6	5.4	1.1	5.3	35.0	28.3	34.9	- 2.4	+21.1	+22.4	34.9	
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces)																	
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling and Forging	176,420	4,380	180,800	22.2	10.6	21.9	24.4	3.6	23.9	46.6	14.2	45.8	+ 1.6	+19.7	+28.2	45.8	
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	36,170	3,440	39,610	19.0	16.7	18.8	9.2	2.7	8.7	28.2	19.4	27.5	+ 1.2	+14.8	+18.0	27.4	
Tin Plates	27,900	3,720	31,620	15.1	11.7	14.7	35.0	25.6	33.9	50.1	37.3	48.6	- 3.3	+10.9	+24.9	48.6	
Iron and Steel Tubes	28,160	1,520	29,680	20.0	17.2	19.9	24.5	6.6	23.5	44.5	23.8	43.4	+ 3.1	+24.4	+34.7	43.4	
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes ...	18,870	4,160	23,030	14.5	15.9	14.7	17.4	6.3	15.5	31.9	22.2	30.2	+ 0.1	+12.0	+19.3	30.2	
Engineering, etc. :—	542,540	49,710	592,250	18.6	10.3	17.9	9.0	6.2	8.7	27.6	16.5	26.6	+ 0.6	+12.8	+17.5	26.5	
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	69,680	20,180	89,860	11.7	11.1	11.6	3.9	2.7	3.6	15.6	13.8	15.2	+ 0.6	+ 9.2	+10.5	15.2	
Electrical Engineering	59,050	1,020	60,070	31.5	8.8	31.1	7.7	4.6	7.7	39.2	13.4	38.8	+ 2.7	+27.0	+27.5	38.9	
Marine Engineering, etc.	26,860	1,110	27,970	21.9	13.7	21.6	7.6	1.3	7.3	29.5	15.0	28.9	+ 0.7	+15.4	+16.8	28.8	
Constructional Engineering																	
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—	221,620	25,520	247,140	13.5	11.1	13.3	5.3	2.2	4.9	18.8	13.3	18.2	...	+ 8.4	+12.7	18.2	
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc.	16,630	2,460	19,090	15.1	12.5	14.8	2.3	2.2	2.3	17.4	14.7	17.1	- 1.5	+ 5.9	+ 9.3	16.9	
Railway Carriages, Wagons and Tramcars	52,520	1,570	54,090	16.9	6.2	16.6	6.6	5.8	6.6	23.5	12.0	23.2	- 0.2	+14.0	+13.1	23.2	
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	201,530	3,190	204,720	49.8	14.5	49.3	3.4	2.9	3.3	53.2	17.4	52.6	+ 3.1	+25.6	+28.0	52.9	
Metal Trades :—	81,730	8,710	90,440	17.5	17.4	17.5	9.6	5.5	9.2	27.1	22.9	26.7	+ 0.8	+12.0	+15.9	26.6	
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	17,150	1,360	18,510	15.0	5.4	14.3	1.5	0.2	1.4	16.5	5.6	15.7	+ 1.3	+ 6.5	+ 7.7	15.6	
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	62,090	40,530	102,620	11.6	13.4	12.3	2.9	3.2	3.0	14.5	16.6	15.3	+ 1.1	+ 7.8	+ 9.3	15.3	
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files ...	24,180	11,010	35,190	20.6	22.6	21.2	19.5	9.3	16.3	40.1	31.9	37.5	+ 0.2	+15.0	+23.9	37.5	
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	14,080	12,210	26,290	16.9	22.4	19.4	11.8	8.2	10.2	28.7	30.6	29.6	+ 1.1	+15.2	+19.7	29.6	
Brass and Allied Metal Wares	17,550	10,910	28,460	15.4	19.0	16.8	6.8	5.3	6.2	22.2	24.3	23.0	- 0.5	+11.1	+14.8	23.0	
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	8,580	660	9,240	13.2	8.5	12.8	4.7	1.5	4.5	17.9	10.0	17.3	+ 1.1	+ 9.2			

INDUSTRY,	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1930.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MARCH, 1931.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 23RD MAR., 1931.
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	23RD FEB., 1931.	24TH MAR., 1930.	25TH MAR., 1929.	
Sawmilling, etc. (cont.)																
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	102,360	22,740	125,100	16.7	12.1	15.9	2.3	2.7	2.4	19.0	14.8	18.3	- 1.5	+ 8.4	+ 11.2	18.2
Woodworking not separately specified	18,090	5,510	23,600	15.9	13.8	15.4	4.9	5.1	5.0	20.8	18.9	20.4	+ 0.2	+ 7.6	+ 11.5	20.1
Printing and Paper Trades :—																
Paper and Paper Board ...	40,630	15,430	56,060	7.6	9.3	8.1	5.3	5.9	5.4	12.9	15.2	13.5	- 0.9	+ 6.4	+ 9.5	13.6
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	19,660	38,680	58,340	8.5	10.4	9.7	1.4	2.7	2.3	9.9	13.1	12.0	- 0.1	+ 4.6	+ 7.1	11.7
Wall Paper Making ...	4,450	1,850	6,300	9.3	18.2	11.9	6.2	8.1	6.8	15.5	26.3	18.7	- 0.4	+ 12.2	+ 13.1	18.7
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ...	2,680	3,550	6,230	10.9	10.6	10.7	2.0	1.9	2.0	12.9	12.5	12.7	+ 1.0	+ 7.1	+ 7.4	12.7
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	175,130	97,260	272,390	8.7	10.1	9.2	0.6	1.5	0.9	9.3	11.6	10.1	...	+ 4.1	+ 5.7	10.1
Building and Public Works Contracting :—																
Building ...	822,770	9,500	832,270	21.6	4.8	21.4	1.1	0.3	1.1	22.7	5.1	22.5	- 3.0	+ 6.5	+ 9.7	22.3
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	185,090	1,240	186,330	31.4	4.0	31.2	1.0	0.4	1.0	32.4	4.4	32.2	- 1.3	+ 4.5	+ 9.1	32.0
Other Manufacturing Industries :—																
Rubber ...	39,850	27,620	67,470	15.6	17.3	16.3	5.4	4.3	4.9	21.0	21.6	21.2	+ 0.3	+ 8.4	+ 13.7	21.3
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc. ...	11,780	2,050	13,830	11.8	14.9	12.2	12.5	11.1	12.3	24.3	26.0	24.5	- 12.0	+ 15.8	+ 19.9	24.6
Brushes and Brooms ...	6,320	4,770	11,090	17.5	12.2	15.2	6.5	7.1	6.7	24.0	19.3	21.9	- 7.0	+ 8.0	+ 12.2	21.8
Scientific and Photographic Instruments and Apparatus ...	16,960	8,940	25,900	8.1	7.8	8.0	1.7	2.0	1.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	+ 0.7	+ 5.5	+ 6.1	9.8
Musical Instruments ...	19,990	6,290	26,280	20.3	14.1	18.8	3.1	2.0	2.8	23.4	16.1	21.6	+ 1.3	+ 9.1	+ 12.5	21.6
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites	7,130	6,760	13,890	11.4	14.1	12.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	15.0	17.6	16.2	- 0.3	+ 8.1	+ 10.0	16.2
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...	159,800	6,050	165,850	8.8	4.7	8.6	0.4	0.1	0.4	9.2	4.8	9.0	- 0.1	+ 1.7	+ 3.1	9.0
Transport and Communication :—																
Railway Service ...	130,710	7,120	137,830	11.9	8.4	11.7	0.8	0.3	0.8	12.7	8.7	12.5	- 0.4	+ 5.2	+ 6.2	12.4
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	156,370	6,710	163,080	5.1	10.9	5.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	5.3	11.2	5.6	- 0.2	+ 1.4	+ 2.1	5.5
Road Transport not separately specified ...	180,610	8,200	188,810	19.4	8.1	18.9	1.1	0.2	1.0	20.5	8.3	19.9	- 0.8	+ 4.4	+ 7.4	19.8
Shipping Service ...	137,470	6,770	144,240	35.0	13.4	34.0	0.3	1.1	0.4	35.3	14.5	34.4	+ 0.3	+ 11.3	+ 15.0	34.5
Dock, Harbour, River and Canal Service ...	167,450	2,340	169,790	41.5	10.9	41.1	0.8	2.8	0.8	42.3	13.7	41.9	+ 0.3	+ 5.8	+ 10.2	42.0
Transport, Communication and Storage not separately specified ...	14,870	2,410	17,280	19.6	8.9	18.1	0.8	1.7	0.9	20.4	10.6	19.0	- 1.3	+ 4.6	+ 6.0	19.1
Distributive Trades ...	1,063,620	700,770	1,764,390	12.8	9.6	11.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	13.4	10.2	12.2	- 0.2	+ 3.4	+ 5.8	12.0
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...	158,070	74,840	232,910	6.2	2.9	5.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	6.3	2.9	5.2	...	+ 1.7	+ 2.4	5.2
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—																
National Government ...	91,620	20,480	112,100	10.9	6.2	10.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	11.2	6.5	10.4	- 0.4	+ 1.9	+ 3.7	10.3
Local Government ...	287,590	20,800	308,390	14.6	5.5	14.0	0.7	0.3	0.7	15.3	5.8	14.7	- 0.1	+ 2.2	+ 4.8	14.3
Professional Services ...	72,650	54,350	127,000	6.9	3.6	5.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	7.2	3.7	5.7	- 0.1	+ 1.9	+ 2.6	5.7
Entertainments and Sports ...	51,130	26,920	78,050	24.3	21.1	23.2	0.6	0.8	0.6	24.9	21.9	23.8	- 0.7	+ 8.3	+ 12.7	23.6
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	126,520	224,350	350,870	19.7	18.9	19.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	20.0	19.3	19.6	- 0.6	+ 5.7	+ 10.2	19.5
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning Industries and Services not separately specified ...	28,570	111,920	140,490	10.4	8.2	8.6	0.4	1.3	1.2	10.8	9.5	9.8	- 0.5	+ 3.2	+ 5.8	9.6
TOTAL ...	8,931,530	3,474,170	12,405,700	17.7	13.5	16.5	5.0	4.9	5.0	22.7	18.4	21.5	- 0.2	+ 7.8	+ 11.5	21.3

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 23rd March, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups :—

Industry Group.	Males.				Females.			
	Number Wholly Unemployed.	Percentage of Total.	Number Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage of Total.	Number Wholly Unemployed.	Percentage of Total.	Number Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage of Total.
Fishing ...	5,285	0.3	191	0.0	106	0.0	11	0.0
Mining ...	193,135	12.2	123,117	27.7	1,410	0.3	179	0.1
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products	8,785	0.6	1,891	0.4	345	0.1	63	0.0
Brick, Tile, etc....	10,800	0.7	3,464	0.8	1,772	0.4	389	0.2
Pottery ...	4,731	0.3	5,394	1.2	6,864	1.5	7,179	4.3
Glass Trades ...	6,176	0.4	2,508	0.6	1,306	0.3	458	0.3
Chemicals, etc. ...	22,206	1.4	3,139	0.7	5,286	1.1	812	0.5
Metal Manufacture	65,091	4.1	67,358	15.1	2,444	0.5	1,567	0.9
Engineering, etc.	133,553	8.4	58,053	13.1	7,588	1.6	3,713	2.2
Vehicles ...	41,295	2.6	15,595	3.5	3,240	0.7	710	0.4
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	100,460	6.4	6,768	1.5	462	0.1	92	0.1
Metal Trades ...	55,716	3.5	28,881	6.5	31,372	6.7	10,191	6.1
Textile Trades ...	87,944	5.6	69,904	15.7	174,679	37.1	105,263	62.8
Leather ...	6,197	0.4	2,483	0.6	3,583	0.8	1,253	0.8
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs	9,942	0.6	8,161	1.8	4,393	0.9	3,648	2.2
Clothing Trades...	13,623	0.9	3,074	0.7	25,155	5.3	10,733	6.4
Food, Drink and Tobacco	35,643	2.3	3,033	0.7	32,921	7.0	5,853	3.5
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork ...	32,005	2.0	5,098	1.1	4,103	0.9	1,020	0.6
Printing and Paper Building and Public Works Contracting ...	20,677	1.3	3,771	0.8	15,964	3.4	3,690	2.2
Other Manufacturing Industries...	235,833	14.9	10,712	2.4	506	0.1	37	0.0
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries...	14,964	0.9	5,165	1.2	8,202	1.7	2,303	1.4
Transport and Communication	179,202	11.3	5,163	1.2	3,372	0.7	232	0.1
Distributive Trades	136,190	8.6	6,452	1.5	67,226	14.3	4,586	2.7
Commerce, Banking, etc. ...	9,728	0.6	153	0.0	2,151	0.5	36	0.0
Miscellaneous ...	139,497	8.8	4,876	1.1	65,410	13.9	3,746	2.2
Total ...	1,582,684	100.0	445,046	100.0	470,142	100.0	167,775	100.0

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS 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 March, 1931, differed from the figures for 23th February, 1931, to the extent of 1,000 or more :—

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 23rd March, 1931, as compared with 23th February, 1931.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cotton ...	- 11,607	- 15,871	- 27,478
Building ...	- 25,242	+ 10	- 25,232
Tailoring ...	- 2,541	- 6,217	- 8,758
Woollen and Worsted ...	- 2,232	- 4,520	- 6,752
Distributive Trades	- 450	- 3,612	- 4,062
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	- 2,030	- 756	- 2,786
Dress Making and Millinery ...	- 236	- 2,502	- 2,738
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	- 782	- 1,743	- 2,525
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	- 2,286	+ 4	- 2,282
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services ...	- 67	- 1,911	- 1,978
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc. ...	- 1,648	- 254	- 1,902
Linen ...	- 16	- 1,644	- 1,660
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc. ...	- 1,647	- 11	- 1,658
Silk Manufacture and Artificial Silk Weaving ...	- 295	- 1,338	- 1,633
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc.	+ 45	- 1,491	- 1,446
Road Transport not separately specified ...	- 1,389	- 15	- 1,404
Stone Quarrying and Mining	- 1,376	- 7	- 1,383
Carpets ...	- 145	- 1,155	- 1,300
Tin Plates ...	- 812	- 226	- 1,038
Electrical Cables, Wire and Lamps	+ 772	+ 415	+ 1,187
Marine Engineering, etc. ...	+ 1,629	+ 9	+ 1,638
Metal Industries not separately specified ...	+ 1,566	+ 701	+ 2,267
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling and Forging ...	+ 2,851	+ 40	+ 2,891
General Engineering; Engineer's Iron and Steel Founding	+ 2,775	+ 1,079	+ 3,854
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing...	+ 6,294	+ 72	+ 6,366
Coal Mining ...	+ 53,050	- 194	+ 52,856
Net Variation for above Industries	+ 14,181	- 41,137	- 26,956
Total Net Variation for all Insured Industries ...	+ 10,732	- 42,507	- 31,775

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 146 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 23rd March, 1931, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 2 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 1 and 5, 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 ...	3,876	25	429	7	4,337
2. Claims admitted or under consideration	1,830,047	34,197	518,596	20,188	2,403,028
3. Insured non-claimants and claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration	48,949	9,646	17,945	8,081	84,621
4. Uninsured persons on Register ...	21,689	23,667	21,121	25,992	92,469
5. Two months' file ...	47,370	4,290	38,508	4,530	94,698
Persons on Register (lines 2—4) ...	1,900,685	67,510	557,662	54,261	2,580,118
Books Lodged (lines 1—3 and 5) ...	1,930,242	48,158	575,478	32,806	2,586,684

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES,* AND VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

Numbers on Registers, 23rd February, 1931, to 30th March, 1931.

Date.	Great Britain.					Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
23rd February, 1931	1,893,817	70,958	591,623	61,260	2,617,658	2,693,811
2nd March, 1931 ...	1,922,822	70,377	581,656	59,719	2,634,574	2,710,087
9th " " ...	1,981,344	70,690	581,255	58,448	2,691,737	2,769,002
16th " " ...	1,944,212	68,128	570,843	56,450	2,639,633	2,715,349
23rd " " ...	1,900,685	67,510	557,662	54,261	2,580,118	2,655,379
30th " " ...	1,911,949	66,460	549,683	52,938	2,581,030	2,655,475
Average (5 weeks)...	1,932,202	68,633	568,220	56,363	2,625,418	2,701,058

Analysis of figures for 30th March, 1931.

—	30th March, 1931.				23rd Feb., 1931.
	Persons normally in Regular Employment.		Persons normally in Casual Employment.	Total.	Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.			

Great Britain.

Men ...	1,348,759	450,852	112,338	1,911,949	1,893,817
Boys ...	52,101	14,065	294	66,460	70,958
Women ...	398,680	149,029	1,974	549,683	591,623
Girls ...	43,165	9,754	19	52,938	61,260
Total ...	1,842,705	623,700	114,625	2,581,030	2,617,658

Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Men ...	1,389,476	453,438	115,421	1,958,335	1,938,850
Boys ...	53,201	14,151	294	67,646	72,246
Women ...	419,107	154,453	2,005	575,565	620,188
Girls ...	43,971	9,939	19	53,929	62,527
Total ...	1,905,755	631,981	117,739	2,655,475	2,693,811

Vacancies notified and filled.

(Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)

Week ended	Applications from Employers during Week.	Vacancies Filled.†
23rd February, 1931	41,028	36,738
2nd March, 1931	43,153	39,975
9th " "	42,470	38,720
16th " "	45,640	40,807
23rd " "	49,152	42,939
30th " "	46,481	42,272
Average (5 weeks) ...	45,379	40,943

Of the 204,713 vacancies filled, 127,758 were for men, 47,986 for women, and 28,969 for juveniles.

* 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.

† "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 in relief work in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 2nd March, 1931, the average number of such placings of men and women was 7,610 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers during the five weeks ended 30th March, 1931, was 500 per week.

PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 30th March, 1931. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Area.	Number of Persons on Register at 30th March, 1931.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 23rd Feb., 1931.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	192,106	53,317	10,001	255,424	− 13,350
South-Eastern Division ...	87,901	14,927	5,852	108,680	− 13,718
Brighton ...	3,149	789	254	4,192	− 1,024
Chatham ...	3,974	580	428	4,982	+ 77
Ipswich ...	3,491	359	249	4,099	− 399
Norwich ...	4,760	1,359	225	6,344	− 583
Rest of Division ...	72,527	11,840	4,696	89,063	− 11,789
South-Western Division ...	97,684	18,343	5,906	121,933	− 7,039
Bristol ...	18,945	4,874	1,238	25,057	+ 82
Plymouth ...	6,567	1,311	330	8,208	− 81
Portsmouth ...	6,680	898	755	8,333	− 1,016
Reading ...	1,830	581	302	2,713	− 2
Southampton ...	9,146	938	454	10,538	+ 1,042
Swindon ...	1,653	461	193	2,307	+ 490
Rest of Division ...	52,863	9,280	2,634	64,777	− 7,554
Midlands Division ...	277,542	97,692	16,038	391,272	+ 29,433
Birmingham ...	42,739	20,595	2,401	65,735	− 388
Coventry ...	9,982	2,628	347	12,957	− 27
Cradley Heath ...	6,482	1,776	327	8,585	− 464
Derby ...	7,522	1,866	583	9,971	− 819
Leicester ...	8,580	5,902	259	14,741	− 1,238
Northampton ...	3,451	1,534	189	5,174	− 924
Nottingham ...	14,954	4,982	730	20,666	+ 1,261
Smethwick ...	5,130	2,629	303	8,062	+ 1,099
Stoke-on-Trent ...	17,442	12,548	1,052	31,042	+ 3,777
Walsall ...	7,371	2,678	690	10,739	+ 199
West Bromwich ...	4,403	1,241	268	5,912	− 5
Wolverhampton ...	9,753	2,724	698	13,175	− 273
Rest of Division ...	139,733	36,589	8,191	184,513	+ 34,789
North-Eastern Division ...	453,593	79,864	26,127	559,584	+ 12,549
Barnsley ...	13,719	1,100	408	15,227	+ 5,021
Bradford ...	17,714	9,631	989	28,334	− 3,448
Darlington ...	4,297	363	388	5,048	− 30
Dewsbury ...	3,024	1,926	397	5,347	− 547
Doncaster ...	15,807	750	1,209	17,766	+ 7,435
Gateshead ...	9,722	1,868	918	12,508	− 125
Grimsby ...	4,403	549	369	5,321	− 288
Halifax ...	5,814	3,468	170	9,452	− 702
Hartlepool ...	10,495	719	621	11,835	− 144
Huddersfield ...	6,121	3,823	575	10,519	− 1,651
Hull ...	16,003	2,069	640	18,712	− 1,182
Leeds ...	25,285	7,840	811	33,936	− 3,675
Lincoln ...	4,329	422	328	5,079	− 590
Middlesbrough ...	17,060	1,021	753	18,834	− 891
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	19,704	3,986	1,446	25,136	+ 412
Rotherham ...	9,196	670	668	10,534	− 405
Sheffield ...	45,143	8,608	2,546	56,297	+ 1,590
South Shields ...	11,693	613	818	13,124	− 154
Stockton-on-Tees ...	10,045	580	590	11,215	+ 14
Sunderland ...	20,013	2,043	1,187	23,243	− 257
Wakefield ...	5,465	1,089	295	6,849	+ 969
York ...	3,641	1,019	473	5,133	− 391
Rest of Division ...	174,900	25,707	9,528	210,135	+ 11,588
North-Western Division ...	381,238	202,376	28,134	611,748	− 33,448
Accrington ...	6,893	5,038	538	12,469	− 1,339
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	6,619	5,073	761	12,453	− 229
Barrow ...	3,996	512	341	4,849	− 281
Birkenhead ...	9,698	1,342	957	11,997	− 86
Blackburn ...	10,520	14,745	1,016	26,281	− 2,460
Blackpool ...	3,784	2,373	227	6,384	− 1,015
Bolton ...	13,180	7,366	730	21,276	− 4,465
Burnley ...	7,042	8,384	351	15,777	− 1,152
Bury ...	4,104	3,764	287	8,155	− 1,241
Chorley ...	4,000	2,876	273	7,149	− 225
Liverpool ...	74,507	15,284	5,457	95,248	− 980
Manchester ...	42,980	20,262	2,763	66,005	− 1,480
Nelson ...	3,215	3,605	255	7,075	− 67
Oldham ...	22,091	13,675	1,211	36,977	− 152
Preston ...	7,284	6,617	360	14,261	− 2,431
Rochdale ...	9,733	8,382	736	18,851	+ 2,755
St. Helens ...	7,334	1,181	395	8,910	+ 613
Salford ...	16,982	7,857	1,100	25,939	− 1,654
Stockport ...	6,092	5,260	396	11,748	− 1,413
Warrington ...	4,953	1,340	720	7,013	− 998
Wigan ...	9,727	3,631	569	13,927	+ 1,137
Rest of Division ...	106,504	63,809	8,691	179,004	− 16,285
Scotland Division ...	252,785	73,260	18,793	344,838	− 4,783
Aberdeen ...	6,237	2,034	430	8,701	− 20
Clydebank ...	7,407	1,623	685	9,715	+ 1,448
Dundee ...	12,637	13,796	1,290	27,723	− 1,129
Edinburgh ...	17,010	4,241	881	22,132	− 1,437
Glasgow ...	88,188	21,081	6,502	115,771	+ 1,150
Greenock ...	11,713	1,938	1,049	14,700	+ 634
Motherwell ...	6,959	511	455	7,925	+ 638
Paisley ...	5,208	1,327	435	6,970	− 153
Rest of Division ...	97,426	26,709	7,066	131,201	− 5,914
Wales Division ...	169,100	9,904	8,547	187,551	− 6,272
Cardiff ...	14,240	2,040	838	17,118	− 1,241
Llanelli ...	7,119	437	339	7,895	+ 1,215
Newport ...	9,447	546	546	10,539	+ 64
Swansea ...	10,166	761	990	11,917	+ 433
Rest of Division ...	128,128	6,120	5,834	140,082	− 6,743
Northern Ireland ...	46,386	25,882	2,177	74,445	− 1,708
Belfast ...	27,805	15,746	1,339	44,890	− 179
Londonderry ...	2,487	992	75	3,554	− 205
Lurgan ...	1,184	1,845	93	3,122	+ 226
Lisburn ...	1,281	916	83	2,280	− 122
Newry ...	1,404	218	28	1,650	− 129
Rest of Northern Ireland ...	12,225	6,165	559	18,949	− 1,299
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	1,958,335	575,565	121,575	2,655,475	− 38,336

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 700 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 23RD MARCH, 1931.

Division.	Boys.			Girls.		
	Insured 16 and under 18.	Uninsured 14 and under 18.	Total.	Insured 16 and under 18.	Uninsured 14 and under 18.	Total.
London ...	3,707	2,130	5,837	2,221	2,041	4,262
South-Eastern ...	1,935	1,268	3,203	1,533	1,548	3,081
South-Western ...	1,768	1,412	3,180	1,382	1,556	2,938
Midlands ...	6,274	2,091	8,365	4,878	2,543	7,421
North-Eastern ...	10,988	4,826	15,814	4,807	6,622	11,429
North-Western ...	8,909	6,070	14,979	7,691	5,775	13,466
Scotland ...	6,764	3,587	10,351	4,849	3,572	8,421
Wales ...	3,498	2,283	5,781	908	2,335	3,243
Great Britain ...	43,843	23,667	67,510	28,269	25,992	54,261

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 2ND MARCH, 1931.

Division.	Number of Vacancies Filled.			Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving School.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
South-Eastern ...	4,799	4,340	9,139	736	730	1,466
South-Western ...	864	728	1,592	203	199	402
Midlands ...	1,308	1,198	2,506	438	451	889
North-Eastern ...	1,569	1,588	3,157	438	491	929
North-Western ...	1,785	1,849	3,634	581	501	1,082
Scotland ...	772	868	1,640	221	299	520
Wales ...	356	352	708	102	153	255
Great Britain ...	11,453	10,923	22,376	2,719	2,824	5,543

PERCENTAGE RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT* AMONG INSURED JUVENILES AGED 16 AND 17.

Division.	Estimated number insured at July, 1930.		Percentage Unemployed at 23rd March, 1931.					
			Boys.			Girls.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Wholly unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.	Total.	Wholly unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.	Total.
London ...	116,770	105,050	4.0	0.0	4.0	3.0	0.1	3.1
South-Eastern ...	47,710	32,560	4.4	0.3	4.7	4.9	0.9	5.8
South-Western ...	44,940	29,960	4.1	0.5	4.6	4.8	1.1	5.9
Midlands ...	91,380	76,550	3.5	3.8	7.3	3.4	3.6	7.0
North-Eastern ...	102,190	60,770	6.8	4.6	11.4	6.2	2.9	9.1
North-Western ...	90,280	80,510	7.9	2.8	10.7	6.7	3.7	10.4
Scotland ...	64,260	51,450	9.3	2.2	11.5	7.4	3.3	10.7
Wales ...	32,470	9,150	7.2	4.3	11.5	10.1	2.4	12.5
Special Schemes ...	5,000	3,000	0.5	—	0.5	0.2	—	0.2
Great Britain ...	595,000	449,000	5.7	2.4	8.1	5.0	2.3	7.3

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION DURING WEEK ENDED 25TH MARCH, 1931.

Division.	Average Daily Attendances.								Total No. of Separate Individuals who have attended since 1st April, 1930.		
	Junior Instruction Centres and Classes.						Existing Educational Institutions (Claimants).				
	Claimants.		Non-Claimants.		Total.						
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.			Boys.	Girls.	J.I. Centres and Classes.	Existing Educational Institutions.
London ...	684	247	8	2	692	249	...	...	9,226	...
S. Eastern ...	457	252	13	7	470	259	100	76	2,230	746	
S. Western ...	382	187	26	34	408	221	53	52	3,724	589	
Midlands ...	1,344	710	42	26	1,386	736	263	257	10,355	3,384	
N. Eastern ...	3,486	688	693	60	4,179	748	169	140	23,383	946	
N. Western ...	3,268	2,112	234	201	3,502	2,313	17	14	30,102	55	
Scotland ...	2,577	1,262	359	169	2,936	1,431	10	3	19,335	685	
Wales ...	1,322	75	967	185	2,289	260	10	48	13,279	160	
Gt. Britain ...	13,520	5,533	2,342	684	15,862	6,217	622	590	111,634	6,565	

There were 74 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 28 for girls, and 30 mixed centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition, there were 14 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 9 for girls, and 3 mixed classes. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was: for boys, 35; for girls, 36; mixed, 71. The attendances at these Institutions are mainly in the evening.

* Based on the numbers of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of insured juveniles on the Register.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

10TH FEBRUARY TO 9TH MARCH, 1931.

THE following Table gives for the period from 10th February, 1931, to 9th March, 1931, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

A.—Number of Claims.

—	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.
Fresh and renewal claims made ...	781,226	218,196	42,400	1,041,822
Average number of claims current	1,859,494	554,577	57,177	2,471,248

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Ground on which referred.	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Disallowed.	Total.
First Statutory Condition (applies to juveniles only) ...	23	549	572
Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years and less than 30 contributions paid at any time (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act 1927) ...	53	273	326
Men ...	39	108	147
Women ...	14	165	179
Total ...	92	381	473
Not normally insurable and will not normally seek to obtain livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	3,324	6,534	9,858
Men ...	2,922	6,521	9,443
Women ...	402	1013	1,415
Total ...	6,246	13,055	19,301
Employment left voluntarily without just cause ...	1,883	2,795	4,678
Men ...	1,386	2,646	4,032
Women ...	248	687	935
Total ...	3,517	6,128	9,645
Employment lost through misconduct ...	1,708	2,539	4,247
Men ...	771	910	1,681
Women ...	238	622	860
Total ...	2,717	4,071	6,788
Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions... ...	422	1,030	1,452
Men ...	754	3,122	3,876
Women ...	55	382	437
Total ...	1,231	4,534	5,765
Not unemployed ...	671	2,408	3,079
Men ...	104	672	776
Women ...	10	150	160
Total ...	785	3,230	4,015
Not capable of work, or not available for work ...	233	440	673
Men ...	488	1,546	2,034
Women ...	16	46	62
Total ...	737	2,032	2,769
Other grounds ...	482	2,286	2,768
Men ...	103	559	662
Women ...	80	512	592
Total ...	665	3,357	4,022
Total ...	8,776	18,305	27,081
Men ...	6,567	16,084	22,651
Women ...	670	2,948	3,618
Grand Total ...	16,013	37,337	53,350

C.—Trade Dispute* Cases.

—	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Disallowed.	Total.
Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers ...	734	2,213	2,947
Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees ...	284	986	1,270
Men ...	75	445	520
Women ...	10	47	57
Total Appeals ...	369	1,478	1,847

* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

D.—Decisions by Umpire.*

		Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Dis-allowed.	Total.
Appeals by Insurance Officers	Men ...	172	339	511
	Women ...	106	169	275
	Juveniles ...	3	7	10
	Total ...	281	515	796
Appeals by Associations	Men ...	116	227	343
	Women ...	35	50	85
	Juveniles ...	2	2	4
	Total ...	153	279	432
Appeals by Claimants	Men ...	128	475	603
	Women ...	44	197	241
	Juveniles ...	8	11	19
	Total ...	180	683	863
Total ...	Men ...	416	1,041	1,457
	Women ...	185	416	601
	Juveniles ...	13	20	33
	Grand Total ...	614	1,477	2,091

CUMULATIVE FIGURES, 13TH MARCH, 1930, TO 9TH MARCH, 1931.

	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Dis-allowed.	Total.
<i>Decisions of Courts of Referees.</i>			
First Statutory Condition (applies to juveniles only) ...	165	7,012	7,177
Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years and less than 30 contributions paid at any time (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act, 1927) ...	1,248	10,914	12,162
Not normally insurable and will not normally seek to obtain livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	83,954	194,954	278,908
Employment left voluntarily without just cause ...	49,957	82,744	132,701
Employment lost through misconduct ...	34,785	49,612	84,397
Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions ...	14,831	46,942	61,773
Not unemployed ...	9,246	33,107	42,353
Not capable of work, or not available for work ...	8,299	16,963	25,262
Other grounds ...	7,905	27,007	34,912
Total ...	210,390	469,255	679,645
<i>Trade Dispute* Cases.</i>			
Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers ...	5,160	25,601	30,761
Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees...	1,283	4,127	5,410
<i>Decisions by Umpire.*</i>			
Appeals by Insurance Officers ...	2,622	5,645	8,267
Appeals by Associations ...	1,103	2,432	3,535
Appeals by Claimants ...	1,770	6,318	8,088
Total ...	5,495	14,395	19,890

WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT CLAIMANTS.

ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER.

THE following Tables give an analysis of the claimants for unemployment benefit who were out of a situation and were on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 23rd March, 1931, according to the length of time they had been on the Register since they last became unemployed. While the figures give an indication of the number classified as wholly unemployed who have had recent employment, they do not purport to show the extent to which these individuals have experienced unemployment over an extended period.

	Number who had been on the Register						Total.
	Not more than 1 week.	1 week and not more than 2 weeks.	2 weeks and not more than 3 weeks.	3 weeks and not more than 4 weeks.	Total, 4 weeks or less.	More than 4 weeks.	
Men: 21-64 ...	61,504	53,327	50,378	43,684	208,893	978,785	1,187,678
Young men: 18-20 ...	5,983	5,172	4,940	4,400	20,495	86,683	107,178
Boys: 16-17 ...	1,866	1,504	1,293	1,150	5,813	14,379	20,192
Women: 21-64 ...	9,320	8,748	8,519	8,181	34,768	280,820	315,588
Young women: 18-20 ...	2,739	2,491	2,374	2,075	9,679	43,696	53,375
Girls: 16-17 ...	970	786	614	594	2,964	7,291	10,255
Total ...	82,382	72,028	68,118	60,084	282,612	1,411,654	1,694,266
Percentages.							
Men: 21-64 ...	5.2	4.5	4.2	3.7	17.6	82.4	100.0
Young men: 18-20 ...	5.6	4.8	4.6	4.1	19.1	80.9	100.0
Boys: 16-17 ...	9.2	7.5	6.4	5.7	28.8	71.2	100.0
Women: 21-64 ...	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	11.0	89.0	100.0
Young women: 18-20 ...	5.1	4.7	4.4	3.9	18.1	81.9	100.0
Girls: 16-17 ...	9.4	7.7	6.0	5.8	28.9	71.1	100.0
Total ...	4.9	4.3	4.0	3.5	16.7	83.3	100.0

* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER FIRST STATUTORY CONDITION.

THE following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 23rd March, 1931, relative to their position with regard to the First Statutory Condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit, in all cases in which the position under that condition had been determined. This condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where this condition is not satisfied, adults, but not boys and girls, may receive benefit conditionally upon the fulfilment of the special "transitional" conditions set out in Section 14 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, as amended by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930.

Position with regard to First Statutory Condition.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
Wholly unemployed:					
Condition satisfied...	954,840	18,897	282,917	9,585	1,266,239
Not satisfied ...	305,203	...	74,486	...	379,689
Total ...	1,260,043	18,897	357,403	9,585	1,645,928
Temporarily stopped:					
Condition satisfied...	398,385	12,736	142,902	9,299	563,322
Not satisfied ...	9,707	...	3,781	...	13,488
Total ...	408,092	12,736	146,683	9,299	576,810
Casual claimants:					
Condition satisfied...	105,353	290	1,903	18	107,564
Not satisfied ...	7,300	...	198	...	7,498
Total ...	112,653	290	2,101	18	115,062
Insured non-claimants:					
Condition satisfied...	41,441	9,392	13,469	7,857	72,159
Not satisfied ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	41,441	9,392	13,469	7,857	72,159
Total:					
Condition satisfied	1,458,578	31,923	427,722	18,902	1,937,125
Not satisfied ...	363,651	9,392	91,934	7,857	472,834
Total ...	1,822,229	41,315	519,656	26,759	2,409,959

Percentages.

Wholly unemployed:					
Condition satisfied...	75.8	100.0	79.2	100.0	77.0
Not satisfied ...	24.2	...	20.8	...	23.0
Temporarily stopped:					
Condition satisfied...	97.6	100.0	97.4	100.0	97.7
Not satisfied ...	2.4	...	2.6	...	2.3
Casual claimants:					
Condition satisfied...	93.5	100.0	90.6	100.0	93.5
Not satisfied ...	6.5	...	9.4	...	6.5
Insured non-claimants:					
Condition satisfied...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not satisfied ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total:					
Condition satisfied	80.1	77.3	82.3	70.6	80.4
Not satisfied ...	19.9	22.7	17.7	29.4	19.6

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows approximately the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund:—

	Four weeks ended 28th March, 1931.	Four weeks ended 28th February, 1931.	Five weeks ended 29th March, 1930.
Contributions received from:—	£	£	£
Employers ...	1,165,000	1,200,000	1,605,000
Employed Persons ...	985,000	1,010,000	1,370,000
Exchequer (including additional Exchequer contribution in respect of Transitional Benefit (U.I. Act, 1930)) ...	2,975,000	3,040,000	2,445,000
Total ...	5,125,000	5,250,000	5,420,000
Unemployment Benefit ...	8,925,000	8,860,000	5,755,000
Cost of Administration ...	480,000	505,000	565,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances ...	255,000	245,000	180,000
Other Items ...	80,000	35,000	45,000
Total ...	9,740,000	9,645,000	6,545,000
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	73,620,000	69,260,000	38,030,000
Other Liabilities (net), including accrued interest and deposits ...	1,485,000	1,230,000	950,000

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 25 of 1931 for the period ended 31st March, 1930.)

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 statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 137–138 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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).]

GERMANY.*

Employment on the whole showed no improvement during February.

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as available for and seeking work at the end of February, 1931, was 5,045,489, as compared with 4,956,464 at the end of January, 1931, and with 3,407,696 at the end of February, 1930. On 31st March, 1931, the total was 4,829,424 (provisional figure).

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as unemployed was 4,971,843 at the end of February, 1931, 4,886,625 at the end of January, 1931, and 3,366,000 at the end of February, 1930. On 31st March, 1931, the provisional total was 4,756,000.

On the last day of February, 1931, 2,589,314 persons were in receipt of standard unemployment benefit and 907,665 in receipt of emergency benefit, giving a total of 3,496,979, as compared with 3,364,770 at the end of January, 1931, and with 2,655,723 at the end of February, 1930. The number in receipt of standard and emergency benefit on 31st March, 1931, was 3,238,913 (provisional figure).

Among 4,418,700 members of trade unions for which statistics are available, 34.5 per cent. were unemployed on 28th February, as against 34.2 per cent. on 31st January, and 23.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1930. In addition, 19.5 per cent. were working short time, as compared with 19.2 per cent. at the end of January and 13.0 per cent. at the end of February, 1930. The following Table gives particulars for various groups of trade unions included:—

Groups of Trade Unions.	Membership reported on at end of Feb. 1931.	Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month.			
		Wholly Unemployed.		On Short Time.	
		Feb. 1931.	Jan. 1931.	Feb. 1931.	Jan. 1931.
Mining	133,000	12.6	11.6	30.9	31.4
Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc.:—					
Workers subject to seasonal influences ...	144,600	64.8	65.5	6.8	6.7
Other workers ...	93,200	36.4	35.8	22.5	21.6
Engineering and metal ...	1,016,000	28.1	28.2	27.1	26.8
Chemical	116,100	22.4	21.8	20.6	21.2
Textile	345,500	21.6	21.7	42.6	45.5
Paper	118,200	21.7	21.5	29.8	27.7
Leather	58,700	35.1	35.1	25.5	26.4
Wood	302,700	49.5	48.7	13.8	14.7
Food, tobacco, etc. ...	297,500	27.6	30.2	20.8	18.7
Clothing, boots and shoes	154,800	33.3	35.5	34.1	38.9
Building	661,000	77.3	74.8	1.0	1.2
Printing	154,300	21.9	22.3	6.9	7.1
Hairdressing	4,000	17.0	15.7	19.0	16.0
Miscellaneous	819,100	14.6	14.1	14.8	11.5
All Unions making Returns	4,418,700	34.5	34.2	19.5	19.2

FRANCE.†

Unemployment showed a further increase during March. The total number of persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges on 28th March, 1931, was 70,822 (54,521 men and 16,301 women). At the end of February the corresponding total was 59,500 and at the end of March, 1930, 12,419.

At the beginning of March, the number of persons employed in mining, industrial, transport and commercial undertakings covered by the special monthly official investigation‡ showed a decline of 5.4 per cent. as compared with March, 1930. The percentage of workpeople on short time (i.e., working less than 48 hours per week) was 31.84 at the beginning of March, 1931, as compared with 2.15 at the same date in 1930.

SWITZERLAND.§

Unemployment during February showed a slight decrease, due to seasonal causes.

At the end of February, 1931, 26,886 applications for employment (20.5 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 27,316 at the end of January, and 13,462 at the end of February, 1930. Offers of situations at the dates mentioned above numbered 2,877, 2,131 and 3,920, respectively.

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th March, 1931, and Reichsarbeitsmarkt-Anzeiger, 9th April, 1931. Berlin.

† Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 3rd April, 1931. Paris.

‡ See the March issue of this GAZETTE (p. 111).

§ La Vie Economique, March, 1931. Berne.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment increased during January. Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare from 170 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 695,795, show that 11.1 per cent. of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month. In the preceding month the percentage was 9.2, and in January, 1930, 3.5. In addition, 16.2 per cent. of the membership were employed intermittently during the month. In January, 1931, 14.6 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days were lost through unemployment; in the preceding month the percentage was 11.2 and in January, 1930, 3.9.

ITALY.†

Unemployment increased during February. According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 765,325 workpeople were recorded as unemployed at the end of February, 1931, as compared with 722,612 at the end of January and 456,628 at the end of February, 1930. The total for February, 1931, includes 222,689 engaged in agriculture and fishing, 90,300 in the textile industry, and 231,554 in the building, road construction, etc., industries. In addition, 27,110 persons were partially unemployed at that date as compared with 27,924 at the end of the preceding month, and 26,674 at the end of February, 1930.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

During February unemployment in Denmark showed an increase; in Norway there was little change, and in Sweden a decrease.

Denmark.‡—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 287,151 workpeople, 25.6 per cent. were unemployed at the end of February, 1931, as against 24.2 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 21.0 per cent. at the end of February, 1930.

Norway.§—Out of 21,519 members of trade unions making returns, 20.6 per cent. were unemployed at the end of February, 1931, compared with 20.4 per cent. at the end of January, and 15.0 per cent. at the end of February, 1930.

Sweden.||—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 28th February, 1931, was 18.3, as compared with 19.8 on 31st January, and 13.2 on 28th February, 1930.

UNITED STATES.

According to returns received by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, covering 42,383 establishments in 15 branches of industry and trade, these establishments employed 4,575,140 workpeople in February, 1931, showing practically no change as compared with the total for January. During the same period, the aggregate earnings showed an increase of 4.7 per cent.

If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries alone in 1926 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for February, 1931, was 74.1 as compared with 73.1 in January and 90.3 in February, 1930.¶

Among members of trade unions, in 24 cities, affiliated to the American Federation of Labour, 26.0 per cent. were reported to be unemployed in March, 1931.**

CANADA.

Employment showed a decline at the beginning of March, largely owing to seasonal curtailment in the outdoor industries.

Returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 7,452 firms with an aggregate of 901,585 workpeople on their pay-rolls on 1st March, 1931, as compared with 906,813 on 1st February, a decrease of 0.6 per cent. If the average employment of the reporting firms in the year 1926 be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st March is 100.2 as compared with 100.7 at the beginning of the preceding month, and 110.2 on 1st March, 1930.†† At the end of February, 1931, 15.6 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 16.0 per cent. at the end of January and 11.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1930.‡‡

AUSTRALIA.§§

Unemployment increased during the last quarter of 1930. The proportion of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed in this period was 23.4 per cent., as compared with 20.5 per cent. in the preceding quarter and 13.1 per cent. in the last quarter of 1929. These figures relate to persons out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter; they include a small percentage of persons out of work owing to sickness.

* Revue du Travail, 28th February, 1931. Brussels.

† Bollettino Mensile di Statistica, March, 1931. Rome.

‡ Statistiske Efterretninger, 21st March, 1931. Copenhagen.

§ Information supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Oslo.

¶ Information supplied by the Department of Social Affairs, Stockholm.

‡ Trend of Employment and Labour Turnover, March, 1931. Washington.

** American Federationist, April, 1931.

†† The March Employment Situation, 1930. Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

‡‡ Information supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

§§ Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics, December, 1930. Canberra.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN MARCH.

Rates of Wages.

IN the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate decrease of about £96,400 in the weekly full-time wages of 820,000 workpeople and in an increase of nearly £2,000 in those of 30,000 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	23,500	177,000	£ 900	£ 24,400
Metal ... ..	...	133,000	...	18,150
Textile ... ..	...	90,000	...	9,450
Transport	5,000	396,000	900	39,700
Other	1,500	24,000	175	4,700
Total	30,000	820,000	1,975	96,400

The workpeople in the mining and quarrying group who were affected by decreases in wages mainly consisted of coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, for whom the district percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by an amount equivalent to 6½ per cent. on current rates. There was also a reduction in the wages of coal miners in Warwickshire, equivalent to about 2 per cent. on current rates. The increases in this group chiefly concerned coal miners in the Cannock Chase district, whose wages were increased by nearly 1½ per cent. on current rates.

The principal body of workpeople in the metal group whose wages were reduced consisted of those employed in railway workshops, to whom an all-round deduction of 4½ per cent. on total earnings was applied. There were reductions of 1s. 11½d. or 2s. per week in the wages of men and of 1s. per week in those of women employed in the electrical cable-making industry; and other workpeople in this group whose wages were reduced included bobbin and shuttle makers in England and Wales, and blastfurnace workers in Cumberland.

Among textile workers whose wages were reduced, hosiery workers in the Midlands had a cost-of-living bonus reduced by 1d. on each shilling earned; workpeople employed in the linen weaving industry in most districts in Northern Ireland sustained reductions amounting usually to about 10 per cent. on current rates; and workpeople in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece-goods trade in Great Britain were affected by reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, the reductions amounting to ½d. and ¼d. per hour in the case of men and women respectively.

Railway servants constituted the great majority of workpeople in the transport group whose wages were changed. Subject to certain conditions a deduction of 2½ per cent. was applied to total earnings and a further 2½ per cent. deduction to earnings in excess of 40s. per week; an increase of 1s. per day was made in the standard rates of adult engine cleaners and also in those of certain engine drivers.

In the other industrial groups, workpeople affected by reductions included shoe and slipper makers in the Rossendale district, pianoforte makers in London, and workpeople employed in the waterproof garment, fellmongering, and roller leather industries. There were increases in the Trade Board minimum rates for adult workers employed in the tobacco trade in Northern Ireland.

Of the estimated total decrease of £96,400 per week, about £56,000 took effect under arrangements made by conciliation boards or other joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; £24,400 was the result of arbitration or mediation; nearly £8,700 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales; while the remaining sum was chiefly the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or of independent action by the employers. Changes preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for less than £200 of the total.

Of the estimated total increase of £1,975 per week, about £700 took effect under sliding-scale arrangements (based on proceeds of the industry, etc.); £200 was due to arbitration; and the remaining sum was the result of arrangements made by a conciliation board or Trade Board.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY—MARCH, 1931.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by Net		Estimated Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Coal Mining	23,500	179,000	£ 900	£ 25,250
Other Mining and Quarrying ... ..	...	8,500	...	350
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ... ..	...	2,500	...	275
Iron and Steel	62,500	48,500	1,900	3,230
Engineering ... ..	...	111,000†	...	16,600†
Other Metal ... ..	...	73,000	...	5,500
Textile ... ..	...	215,000	...	15,950
Clothing	250	6,250	75	700
Food, Drink and Tobacco	1,250	1,500	90	135
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	250	12,750	25	3,350
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.	1,150	419,000	100	36,650
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	100	25,000	15	2,450
Transport	5,400	412,000	1,000	41,250
Public Administration Services ... ..	...	6,000	...	410
Other	100	26,000	20	3,200
Total	94,500	1,546,000	4,125	155,300

In the corresponding three months of 1930, there were net increases of £24,600 in the weekly wages of 446,000 workpeople, and net decreases of over £42,000 in those of 467,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The principal change reported was an increase in the summer hours for which minimum rates are fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, for farm workers in Worcestershire.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1931.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Coal Mining	Cannock Chase ...	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 2·02 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, making wages 44·02 per cent. above basis rates.†
	Warwickshire ...	1 Mar.		<i>Decrease of 3 per cent. on the standard basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 40 per cent. above basis rates at the majority of the collieries.§</i>
	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	1 Mar.		<i>Decrease of 8 per cent. on the standard basis rates of 1915, leaving wages 20 per cent. above basis rates, subject to subsistence allowances being paid where necessary so as to make the total remuneration of adult day-wage workers, and of youths 16 to 21 years of age who are the sole support of a family, up to amounts varying according to family responsibilities from 7s. to 7s. 6d. per shift; youths 14 to 16 years of age who are the sole support of a family to receive allowances to make their wages up to 6s. per shift; other youths to receive a flat allowance of 4d. per shift (as previously).||</i>
Glass-Bottle Making.	St. Helens	2 Mar.	Glass-bottle makers, blowers, etc.	<i>Decrease of 5 per cent. on total earnings.</i>
Glass Working	Glasgow, Edinburgh and Perth.	9 Mar.	Glass bevellers, silverers and cutters	<i>Minimum rate adopted of 1s. 4d. per hour, the maximum to be 1s. 9d. per hour.¶</i>
Chemical, etc., Manufacture.	Bristol (certain firms)	1st week in Mar.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of glue and chemical manures.	<i>Decrease, under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangement, of 1s. 3d. per week for men and of proportionate amounts for women and youths. Minimum rate after change for men, 41s.</i>

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

† The reductions under Engineering applied mainly to men employed in railway workshops.

‡ In the case of adult able-bodied daywagmen whose gross wages are less than 8s. 9d. per shift, a subsistence allowance is granted (under an arrangement made in March, 1925) to bring wages up to that amount, subject to the allowance not exceeding 6d. per shift.

§ Provision was made for this reduction in the agreement embodying reductions in working hours which took effect in January last. At certain collieries a lower percentage on basis rates is paid (viz., 34 to 36). The subsistence wage for adult able-bodied surface and underground workers at the majority of the collieries remained unchanged at 7s. 1d. and 8s. 3d. per day respectively.

|| The above conditions are embodied in a decision issued by the Independent Chairman of the local Conciliation Board. The subsistence allowance for adult day-wage workers is to give unmarried men with no family responsibilities a total wage of 7s. per shift, and the higher limit of 7s. 6d. applies to married men with children at home none of whom are working at or in a mine, and to unmarried men with family responsibilities, in respect of not less than 3 persons, an intermediate rate of 7s. 3d. applying to other married men. A subsistence allowance was previously payable to adult day-wage workers whose total wages were below 7s. 10 d. per shift so as to bring them up to that amount. It is provided in the Chairman's decision that the subsistence allowance shall be paid in respect of each separate shift worked up to a maximum number of 6 shifts (including bonus shifts) per week, excluding overtime and week-end work from the calculation.

¶ A standard rate of 1s. 5d. per hour was previously in operation.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Pig Iron Manufacture.	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in March.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.	Decrease under selling-price sliding-scale, of 2½ per cent. on basis rates, tonnage rates, and output bonus earnings, leaving a percentage of 18½ payable on such rates and earnings, subject to the previous additions, varying from 10d. to 1d. per shift for men in receipt of base rates of 4s. 10d. to 5s. 7d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 4s. 10d. per shift, plus 18½ per cent., plus 10d. per shift.
Railway Workshops.	Great Britain	1st full pay after 28 Mar.	Workpeople employed in railway workshops.	Deduction of 4½ per cent. from gross earnings, subject to such deduction not reducing the earnings of adult male workers below 40s. per week.*
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. Great Britain, other than the above counties.	Pay preceding 3rd pay day in March.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.).	Decrease† of 1s. 11½d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 5½d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 6d. per week for youths 14, 16 and 17 years, of 5½d. per week for youths 15 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls: pieceworkers' wages to be correspondingly reduced. Rates after change: men 21 and over, 50s. 11d. to 56s. 9½d.; youths 18 to 20, 35s. 3d. to 43s. 1d.; boys 14 to 17, 13s. 8½d. to 23s. 6d.; women 18 and over, 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.†; girls 14 to 17, 13s. to 17s. 6d.† Decrease† of 2s. per week for men 21 and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 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 and over, 45s. 6d. to 51s. 6d.; youths 18 to 20, 33s. to 39s. 6d.; boys 14 to 17, 13s. to 22s.; women 18 and over, 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.†; girls 14 to 17, 13s. to 17s. 6d.†
Bobbin and Shuttle Manufacture.	England and Wales Lancashire (except Garston and Blackburn). Lancashire ... Yorkshire ...	Pay preceding 1st pay day in April.	Workpeople employed in the bobbin-making industry; also shuttle-makers employed by certain firms at Garston and Blackburn. Journymen shuttlemakers ... Apprentices to shuttlemakers ... Journymen shuttlemakers ...	Decrease† of 1s. per week for men 21 years of age and over, and of 6d. per week for women 18 years of age and over. Rates after change: higher-skilled men, 58s. 6d. per week; lesser-skilled men, 49s.; labourers, 39s.; women, 23s. Decrease† of 5 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 30 per cent. above base. Minimum daywork rate after change, 1s. per hour, plus 30 per cent. (1s. 3-6d. per hour). Decrease† of 5 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above such rates. Rates after change, 9s. per week at 14 years of age, increasing by annual increments to 21s. at 20 years, plus, in each case, 12½ per cent. Decrease† of 5 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 33 per cent. above base. Minimum daywork rate after change, 11d. per hour, plus 33 per cent. (1s. 2-63d. per hour).
Linen Manufacture.	Belfast and other districts in Northern Ireland (except Lurgan). Dunfermline ...	2 Mar. Mar.	Timeworkers ... Pieceworkers ... Workpeople employed in the linen industry.	Decreases of (a) 4s. per week for card-cutters and dressers, (b) 3s. per week for mounters, assistant mounters, cloth passers, winding masters, enginemen and firemen, and (c) of 10 per cent. on current rates for all other workers. Minimum rates after change: card-cutters and power loom yarn dressers, 54s.; mounters, 47s.; assistant mounters, 37s.; cloth passers (Belfast district), 41s.; winding masters (Belfast district), 44s. Decrease of 7 per cent. on standard scale (equivalent to 9-7 per cent. on current rates) except for dressers who are to have 10 per cent. off set pay and 10 per cent. off piece rates for setts up to 1,200, 5 per cent. off for setts over 1,200.† Decreases for the majority of workers, varying usually from about 2s. to 6s. per week, following a decision by the employers to apply the appropriate Trade Board minimum rates in lieu of rates in excess of such minima previously paid.
Silk Manufacture.	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 7 Mar.	Designers ... Card cutters ...	Decrease of 1s. per week for those earning 74s. to 77s. 6d. per week inclusive and of 2s. per week for those earning 78s. 6d. per week and over. Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week, subject to a minimum rate of 54s. per week.
Hosiery Manufacture.	Various districts in the Midland Counties.†	Pay day in week ending 4 April.†	All classes of workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery (except dyers, trimmers, etc.). Male workers ... Female workers ...	Bonus of 6d. in the shilling on earnings reduced† to 5d. in the shilling. Decreases in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of ½d. per hour for those under 18 and ½d. per hour for those 18 and over. Minimum rates after change: 3d. per hour at 14, increasing each year to 7½d. at 18, and to 11½d. at 21 and over. (See Notice of Order on page 124 of March GAZETTE.) Decrease in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of ½d. per hour (except for those under 15 years, for whom there was no change), and in the piecework basis time rate of ½d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.). Minimum time rates: 2½d. per hour at 14, increasing each year to 6½d. at 18 and over. (See Notice of Order on page 124 of March GAZETTE.)
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece-goods Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	9 Mar.	Male workers ... Female workers ...	Increase in the general minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1½d. per hour for those 20 and under 22 years of age (the time rates for other workers and the piecework basis time rates for all workers remaining unchanged), leaving minimum time rates as follows:—2½d. per hour at under 15, increasing each year to 5½d. at 18, to 10½d. at 21 and to 11½d. at 22 and over (excluding special classes).** (See Notice of Order on page 164). Decrease† of 3½ per cent. on basis wages of 1920, leaving wages 26½ per cent. below basis wages.
Wholesale Mantle and Costume Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	30 Mar.	Male workers ...	Increase in the general minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1½d. per hour for those 20 and under 22 years of age (the time rates for other workers and the piecework basis time rates for all workers remaining unchanged), leaving minimum time rates as follows:—2½d. per hour at under 15, increasing each year to 5½d. at 18, to 10½d. at 21 and to 11½d. at 22 and over (excluding special classes).** (See Notice of Order on page 164).
Shoe and Slipper Manufacture.	Rossendale District (including Bacup, Stacksteads, Rawtenstall and Waterfoot).	1st pay day in April.†	Shoe and slipper operatives ...	Decrease† of 3½ per cent. on basis wages of 1920, leaving wages 26½ per cent. below basis wages.
Baking and Confectionery	Newport (Mon.) ... Swansea ... Galashiels ...	28 Mar. 28 Mar. 1st pay day in Mar.	Bakers and confectioners ... Bakers and confectioners ... Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease† of 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 55s. Decrease† of 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 55s. Decrease† of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 67s.

* The above deduction was agreed to at a meeting of the National Railway Shopmen's Council (covering the four Main Line Companies and the Metropolitan Railway), and is to remain operative from the date shown up to the first full pay after 26th March, 1932, and to continue thereafter until altered by a decision of the Council. The deduction did not, however, apply to workpeople employed by the Great Central Section of the London and North Eastern Railway, nor to those employed by the Cheshire Lines Committee, to neither of which bodies have the standardised rates set up by the Industrial Court Award of 8th July, 1922, been applied.

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

‡ Excluding any service bonus that may be due.

§ It was also agreed that the scale reductions of 5, 17½ and 28 per cent. for weavers on looms with warp stop motions in the case of 2, 3 or 4 looms respectively should be altered to 2½, 15 and 25 per cent.

|| Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley and Coventry districts.

** In respect of the preceding pay period.
** The Trade Board Order in which the above rates were embodied also made revisions in the definitions of measure cutters, cutters (other than measure cutters, knife cutters and knifemen) and trimmers, and warehousemen to whom the Trade Board rates apply.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Tobacco	Northern Ireland ...	5 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the tobacco trade.	Increase in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, of 2s. per week for male workers 18 years of age and over, and of 1s. 3d. per week for female workers 18 and over, the rates for those under 18 remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates for male and female workers respectively as follows: 14s. 6d. and 11s. 6d. at under 15, increasing each year to 34s. 6d. and 26s. 3d. at 18, and to 51s. 6d. and 32s. 9d. at 21 and over. (See Notice of Order on page 124 of March GAZETTE).
Mill-Sawing	Leicester ...	Week ending 14 Mar. 28 Mar.	Labourers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1d.).
	Glasgow and District	1st full pay in Mar.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers. Labourers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.). Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Minimum rate after change: 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Furniture Manufacture.	Hull ...	13 Mar.	Cabinet makers, chairmakers, upholsterers, french polishers, skilled carpet planners and lino. layers (wholesale and retail trade).	Decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: lino layers, 1s. 6d.; other classes, 1s. 7d.
Pianoforte Manufacture.	London ...	2 Mar.	Workpeople 20 years and over ...	Decreases in minimum rates of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for skilled men, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for skilled women and 1d. per hour for labourers. Minimum rates after change: skilled men, 1s. 7d.; skilled women, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.*
Building	Inverness ...	6 Mar.	Masons, joiners, slaters, plumbers and plasterers.	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.).
Railway Service.	Great Britain ...	1st full pay after 28 Mar.	Conciliation grades and staff employed under conciliation conditions at docks, etc.	Deduction of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from all earnings and a further deduction of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from earnings in excess of 40s. per week, subject to such deductions not reducing the earnings of adult male workers whose base rates are under 41s. per week below these base rates, and also to the total deduction not exceeding 6s. per week.†
	Northern Ireland ...	1 Mar.	Clerical, supervisory and other salaried staff, and staff paid on a salary equivalent basis. All salaried and wages staff (excluding shopmen) employed by the Belfast and County Down Railway Company.	Deduction of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from all earnings and a further deduction of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from earnings in excess of £100 per year, subject to the total deduction not exceeding £15 per year.† Deduction of 10 per cent. to be made from standard salaries and wages in lieu of a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. deduction imposed since October, 1930.
Water Transport.	London and East Anglian Ports.	23 Mar.	Crews of sailing barges ...	Reduction of 5 per cent. (in calculating all coastwise freights) to be made off all rates contained in the Blue Book dated 1st August, 1925, making, with the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. reduction which became operative 1st July, 1929, a total reduction of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and the number of "lay days" to be reduced from seven to six weather working days for all barges.
Fellmongering	England and Wales	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the fellmongering trade.	Decrease for timeworkers of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for skilled and semi-skilled men (the rate for unskilled men remaining unchanged), and for pieceworkers of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per dozen skins for pulling, leaving minimum time rates as follows: skilled men, 1s. 2d.; semi-skilled, 1s.; unskilled, 11d.
Roller Leather Manufacture.	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.	1st pay day in Mar.	Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture.	Cost-of-living wage reduced† from 55 per cent. to 50 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: men—skilled, 9d.; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; women—5d., plus, in each case, 50 per cent.
Saddle, Harness, etc. Manufacture.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	1st pay day in Mar.	Saddlers, harness makers, and horse collar makers employed in the retail trade.	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: saddlers and harness makers, 1s. 4d.; horse collar makers, 1s. 5d.
Cricket Ball Manufacture.	Tonbridge District	Feb.—Mar.‡	Cricket ball makers...	Decreases usually of 10 per cent. on list prices.§
Skip and Basket Making.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	2 Mar.	Skip and basket makers ...	Decrease† of 1 per cent. on Lancashire price list, leaving wages 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 69 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Waterproof Garment Manufacture.	Manchester, Salford and Warrington.	20 Feb.	Machinists ...	Bonus of 20 per cent. previously paid on 1924 price list withdrawn for all classes of garments, and in addition basis rates for machine-made garments given to machinist first, reduced, where extras for making are less than 1s., from 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. respectively.
			Makers ...	Bonus of 20 per cent. previously paid on 1924 price list withdrawn for garments given to machinist first, where extras for making are less than 1s., and reduced to 10 per cent for garments, where extras are over 1s.
Retail Co-operative Societies.	London District ...	1st pay day in Mar.	Finishers ...	Bonus of 40 per cent. previously paid on 1924 price list consolidated into current piece rates.
			Pharmacy managers, shop assistants and warehouse workers employed by co-operative societies.	Scales of minimum weekly rates adopted, which include the following:—managers, £5 10s. to £7, according to weekly cash takings; adult shop assistants, according to age—qualified males, 80s. to 95s.; unqualified males with 3 years' apprenticeship, 60s. to 70s.; females (with 3 years' pharmacy experience at 19 years of age), 24s. increasing each year to 41s. at 21 and 52s. at 24; junior shop assistants—males, 13s. to 30s. (at 18) and 45s. (at 20); females, 13s. to 24s. (at 18) and 32s. (at 20); apprentices, 1st year, 12s. 6d.; 2nd year, 17s. 6d.; 3rd year, 25s.; female warehouse workers, 13s. at 14 to 24s. at 18 and 33s. at 21; male packers and porters, 13s. at 14 to 44s. at 20 and 60s. at 25.¶

PRINCIPAL CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH, 1931.

Agriculture	Worcestershire¶ ...	1 Mar.	Male workers ...	Hours in respect of which the weekly minimum rates are payable under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, fixed at 52 in summer and 48 in winter, instead of 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ in summer and 48 in winter.
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* The above changes took effect as a result of a new schedule of conditions issued by the Pianoforte Manufacturers' Association and Pianomakers' Industrial Council. No trade union was a party to the arrangement.

† The above deductions took effect in accordance with findings issued by the National Wages Board (for Railways) and were to operate from the date shown up to the first full pay after 26th March, 1932, and thereafter until altered by agreement or by a decision of the Central or National Wages Board. A full summary of the Board's findings was given on pages 123-4 of the March GAZETTE. The Board cancelled the separate classification which had existed since January, 1924, in regard to certain drivers on shunting and shed yard engines or engaged in preparing or disposing of engines, thereby abolishing the lower differential rate of 14s. per day applicable after 5th year (as compared with 15s. for other drivers). The Board also increased the rate for engine cleaners of 22 years of age and over from 7s. per day to 8s. The findings of the Board (which covers the four Main Line Companies) were also applied to the employees of the Metropolitan Railway by agreement between the Company, the National Union of Railwaymen, The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and the Railway Clerks' Association; an agreement between the four Companies and the National Union of Railwaymen provided for similar deductions from all wages payments to restaurant car travelling staffs, the further deduction of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to be made from payments in excess of 30s. per week.

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

§ The decreases, which in some cases were made in two instalments of 5 per cent. each, took effect at dates varying with different firms.

¶ Excluding the parishes of Alderminster, Shipston-on-Stour, Tidmington and Tredington, Blockley, Cutsdean, Daylesford and Evenlode.

RATES OF WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADE IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

The following Table shows the revised rates of wages authorised by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry, after the recent general reduction of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour for craftsmen and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for labourers and the various re-gradings reported on page 115 of the March issue of the GAZETTE. The rates of wages in the London district, which is not included in the Table, are as follows:—within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross: painters, 1s. 7d.; other craftsmen (except plasterers), 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3d.; 12- to 15-mile radius from Charing Cross: $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour less for craftsmen and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour less for labourers. In the case of plasterers an agreement made in January, 1929, fixed a rate of 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for a 15-mile radius from Charing Cross. This agreement expired 30th April, 1930, and there is now no agreement defining a standard rate; a general reduction of 1d. per hour, however, was agreed upon by a National Joint Committee to take effect from 1st February last, as reported in the March GAZETTE.

Grade.	Craftsmen.	Labourers.	Grade.	Craftsmen.	Labourers.	Grade.	Craftsmen.	Labourers.
	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
A	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2	B	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	C	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11
A1	1 6	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	B1	1 4	1 0	C1	1 2	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
A2	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	B2	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$			
A3	1 5	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	B3	1 3	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$			

GRADING OF TOWNS.

The towns in which the above Grade rates have been reported to apply are shown below, divided into their main Area Groups. The principal exceptions are indicated in the notes appended to each Group. In towns marked* the rate for painters is 1d. less than that paid to other craftsmen and in towns marked † it is $\frac{1}{4}$ d. less than the craftsmen's rate. The differential rates indicated for plumbers and labourers in certain towns have not received the approval of the National Joint Council, but are reported as representing the current rates in the instances mentioned.

NORTHERN COUNTIES.—Grade A.—Blyth, Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland, Tees-side, Tyne district. Grade A1.—Aunfield Plain, Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland, Blackhall Mill, Blackhill, Brandon, Burnhope, Burnopfield, Cockfield, Consett, Coundon, Craghead, Crook, Crook Stanley, Dipton, Ebchester, Esh, Esh Winning, Etherley, Evenwood, Ferryhill, Hamsterley Colliery, Hunwick, Knitsley, Lanchester, Langley Park, Leadgate, Medomsley, Shildon, Shotley Bridge, South Moor, Spennymoor, Stanley, Tanfield, Tantobie, Waterhouses, West Auckland, Willington, Witton. Grade A2.—Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Bedlington, Berwick, Morpeth, Newbiggin, Seahouses, Wooler. Grade A3.—Barnard Castle, Frosterley, Hamsterley, Stanhope, Tow Law, Wolsingham.

YORKSHIRE.—Grade A.—Barnsley, Batley, Beverley, Bingley, Bradford, Brighouse, Calder Valley, Castleford, Colne Valley, Crosshills, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Grimsby, Halifax, Harrogate, Hebden Bridge, Holmfirth, Huddersfield, Hull, Ilkley, Immingham, Keighley, Leeds, Mexborough, Morley, Normanton, Ossett and Horbury, Pontefract, Pudsey, Rotherham, Scunthorpe, Selby, Sheffield, Shipley, Sowerby Bridge, Spen Valley, Wakefield, Wombwell, Yeadon, York. Grade A1.—Bridlington, Scarborough. Grade A2.—Barnoldswick, Goole, Skipton, Whitby. Grade A3.—Driffield, Filey, Malton, Worksop.

[NOTE.—Under agreements arrived at between the local employers of plasterers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers, a rate of 1s. 7d. had previously been fixed for plasterers at Bradford, Leeds, and Sheffield. It is understood that this rate remains unaltered within the limits of operation of the agreements, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

NORTH-WESTERN COUNTIES WITH NORTH WALES.—Grade A.—Accrington, Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barrow-in-Furness, Bispham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Blackrod, Bolton, Brierfield, Broughton (Ches.), Buckley, Burnley, Bury, Carlisle, Carnforth, Chester, Chorley, Cleveleys, Clitheroe, Colne, Connahs Quay, Darwen, Fleetwood, Flint, Frodsham, Garstang, Glossop, Hawarden, Haydock, Heysham, Heywood, Higher Kinnerton, Hornby, Horwich, Kirkham, Lancaster, Leigh, Leyland, Longridge, Lytham, Manchester, Middleton, Morecambe, Nelson, Northop, Oldham, Ormskirk, Poulton, Prescott, Preston, Queensferry, Radcliffe, Rainford, Rochdale, Rossendale Valley, Runcorn, St. Annes-on-Sea, St. Helens, Shotton, Silverdale, Southport, Stockport, Thornton, Todmorden, Warrington (plumbers 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.), Westhoughton, Whalley, Widnes, Wigan, Wilmslow. Grade A1.—Bollington, Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Congleton, Disley, Hayfield, Macclesfield, New Mills, Prestbury, Whaley Bridge, Wrexham. Grade A2.—Audlem, Crewe, Knutsford, Malpas, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich, Over, Sandbach, Tarporley, Tilston, Winsford. Grade A3.—Bakewell, Cleator Moor, Furness, Grange-over-Sands, Harrington, Market Drayton, Maryport, Millom, Ulverston, Whitehaven, Workington. Grade B.—Cockermouth, Kendal, Keswick, Penrith, Windermere. Grade B1.—Bangor, Caernarvon, Pwllheli, Towyn.

[NOTE.—In the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts the rates remain unaltered at 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour plus 2s. per week "tool money" for bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners and plumbers; 1s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for plasterers; 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for other craftsmen, and 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for labourers. Under an agreement made between the local employers of plasterers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers a rate of 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. had previously been fixed for plasterers at Southport. It is understood that this rate remains unaltered within the limits of operation of the arrangement, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

MIDLAND COUNTIES.—Grade A.—Alfreton and Ripley, Belper, Birmingham, Blackheath, Burslem, Burton-on-Trent, Chesterfield, Coalville, Coventry, Derby, Dudley district (including Dudley Port, Gornal, Sedgley, and Tipton), Eastwood, Fenton, Hanley, Heanor, Hinckley, Ilkeston, Kenilworth, Langley Mill, Leek, Leicester, Lincoln, Long Eaton, Longton, Loughborough, Mansfield and East Kirby, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Rugby, Stoke-on-Trent, Sutton Coldfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Swadlincote, Swanwick, Tunstall, Walsall district (including Wednesbury and Darlaston), West Bromwich, Wolverhampton district (including Willenhall and Bilston). Grade A1.—Northampton, Stourbridge district (including Brierley Hill, Cradley, Cradley Heath, Halesowen, Lye, Old Hill and Quarry Bank), Tamworth. Grade A2.—Bewdley, Bromsgrove, Cannock and Hednesford, Droitwich, Kettering, Kidderminster and Stourport, Knowle, Leamington and Warwick, Lichfield, Melton Mowbray, Newark, Peterborough, Redditch, Shrewsbury, Solihull, Stafford, Wellingborough, Worcester. Grade A3.—Atherstone, Boston, Gainsborough, Grantham, Louth, Malvern, Market Harborough, Matlock, Retford, Rugeley, Ruskington, Skegness, Sleaford, Stratford-on-Avon, Wellington. Grade B.—Horncastle, Newport, Oundle, Raunds, Rushden, Thrapston, Uttoxeter. Grade B1.—Ashbourne, Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Ludlow, Spalding, Wirksworth. Grade B2.—Huntingdon.

[NOTE.—Under an agreement made between the local employers of plasterers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers a rate of 1s. 7d. per hour had previously been fixed for plasterers at Leicester. It is understood that this rate remains unaltered within the limits of operation of this agreement, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

EASTERN COUNTIES.—Grade A2.—Brentwood, Cambridge, Norwich, Prittlewell, St. Albans, Shoeburyness, Southend, Thorpe Bay, Westcliff. Grade A3.—Bedford, Colchester, Felixstowe, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hoddesdon, Ipswich, Luton, Ware. Grade B.—Baldock, Braintree, Chelmsford, Dovercourt, Harwich, Hitchin, Letchworth, Sible Hedingham, Silver End, Stevenage. Grade B1.—Biggleswade, Clacton, Frinton, Great Yarmouth, Halstead, Lowestoft, Newmarket, Sawbridgeworth, Walton. Grade B2.—King's Lynn. Grade B3.—Aylsham, Bishop's Stortford, Braughing, Buntingford, Cromer, Dunstable, Ely, Leighton Buzzard, March, Much Hadham, Mundesley, North Walsham, Puckeridge, Royston, Sheringham, Southwold, Standon, Stowmarket, Tring. Grade C.—Aldeburgh, East Dereham, Halesworth, Leiston, Saxmundham, Wymondham.

[NOTE.—Under agreements arrived at between the local employers of plasterers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers a rate of 1s. 7d. had previously been fixed for plasterers at Cambridge and 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for plasterers at Norwich. It is understood that these rates remain unaltered within the limits of operation of the agreements, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

SOUTHERN COUNTIES.—Grade A1.—Gravesend. Grade A3.—Ashford (Middlesex), Addlestone, Bournemouth, Brighton, Chertsey, Cobham, Eastbourne, Eastleigh, Egham, Gosport, Leatherhead, Maidenhead, Oxford, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, Staines, Weybridge, Windsor and Eton, Wycombe. Grade B.—Abingdon, Amersham, Ascot, Beaconsfield, Chalfonts, Chatham, Didcot, Gerrards Cross, Henley, Maidstone, Redhill, Reigate, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Woking, Wokingham. Grade B1.—Banbury, Basingstoke, Bexhill, Bracknell, Chesham, Dorking, East Grinstead district (including Ardingly, Charlwood, Crawley, Crowborough, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, Turners Hill), Fareham, Godalming, Guildford, Isle of Thanet, Lingfield, Wallingford, Winchester. Grade B2.—Arundel, Bognor Regis, Bramley, Canterbury, Chichester, Cranleigh, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Grayshott, Haslemere, Hastings, Horsham, Littlehampton, Newbury, New Forest, Witley, Worthing. Grade B3.—Andover, Ashford (Kent), Burgess Hill, Chipping Norton, Faringdon, Farnham, Fenny Stratford, Isle of Wight, Midhurst, Mortimer, Newport Pagnell, Overton, Pangbourne, Petworth, Stony Stratford, Tenterden, Wantage, Whitstable, Winslow, Witney. Grade C1.—Hawthurst, Staplehurst.

SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.—Grade A.—Bristol, Keynsham, Plymouth,* Portishead. Grade A1.—Torquay. Grade A2.—Dartmouth,† Exeter,* Gloucester,* Paignton, Weston-super-Mare. Grade A3.—Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon,* Tewkesbury.* Grade B.—Barnstaple, Bideford, Hereford,* Ross-on-Wye,* Stroud.† Grade B1.—Buckfastleigh,* Exmouth, Swanage (labourers, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.),* Taunton. Grade B2.—Bridgwater, Bradford-on-Avon,* Burnham, Chippenham,* Cirencester,* Dorchester,* Tiverton,* Trowbridge,* Thornbury, Wellington,* West Gloucestershire,* Weymouth,* Yeovil.* Grade B3.—Cheddar,* Midsomer Norton. Grade C.—Bromyard,* Castle Cary.*

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.—Grade A.—Aberavon, Ammanford, Barry, Bridgend and Porthcawl, Burry Port, Cardiff, Gorseinon, Llanelli, Maesteg, Neath, Newport, Ogmore and Garw, Pontardawe and Swansea Valley, Port Talbot, Swansea. Grade A1.—Aberdare, Abergavenny, East Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire Valleys (including Caerphilly, Abertridwr, Senghennydd, Bargoed up to Rhymney Bridge including Bedwas), Ebbw Vale district (including Tredegar, Brynmawr, Nantyglo, Blaina and Abertillery), Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd and Rhondda Valley district, Pontypool district (including Blaenavon, Abersychan, Pontnewynydd, Panteg), Sirhowy Valley (Abercarn, Newbridge, Cwmarn, Crumlin, Blackwood, Pontllanfraith, Crosskeys). Grade A2.—Chepstow. Grade B.—Brecon, Carmarthen, Llandilo. Grade B3.—Pembroke Dock, Pembroke Town, Tenby.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 28, as compared with 24 in the previous month, and 35 in March, 1930. In these new disputes about 23,800 workpeople were directly involved and 900 workpeople indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 3,500 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 14 disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 42, involving about 28,200 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during March, of about 175,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, showing the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress :—

Industry Group.	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	4	11	15	19,300	86,000
Textile	1	4	5	2,500	44,000
Building, Public Works	2	3	5	3,200	29,000
Contracting, etc.	7	10	17	3,200	16,000
Other					
Total, March, 1931	14	28	42	28,200	175,000
Total, Feb., 1931	10	24	34	127,000	1,495,000
Total, March, 1930	9	35	44	9,200	51,000

Causes.—Of the 28 disputes beginning in March, 11, directly involving 18,900 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 7, directly involving 1,900 workpeople, on other wages questions; 4, directly involving 300 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 3, directly involving 2,200 workpeople, on other questions of working arrangements; and 3, directly involving 500 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 22 new disputes, directly involving 18,800 workpeople, and 13 old disputes, directly involving 2,600 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 9, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 15, directly involving 16,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 11, directly involving 2,300 workpeople, were compromised.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1930 AND 1931.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first three months of 1931, as compared with the corresponding period of 1930 :—

Industry Group.	January to March, 1930.			January to March, 1931.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining	33	12,300	23,000	36	179,300	2,165,000
Other Mining and Quarrying	3	300	2,000	3	400	4,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc.	2	300	3,000	3	400	6,000
Chemical	2	400	3,000	2	300	1,000
Engineering	3	200	2,000	...	...	...
Shipbuilding	5	1,700	7,000	3	200	3,000
Other Metal	7	600	2,000	4	800	9,000
Textile	15	3,400	40,000	6	123,100	2,820,000
Clothing	4	100	1,000	6	100	1,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco	2	500	2,000	...	...	...
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	7	500	3,000	2	400	6,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	1	400	5,000	1	200	1,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.	12	1,900	26,000	15	4,100	37,000
Transport	8	1,300	3,000	4	2,000	5,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance	1	3,300	50,000	2	100	1,000
Other	2	600	4,000	5	200	9,000
Total	107	27,800	176,000	92	311,600	5,068,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MARCH, 1931.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
Colliery workpeople—Barnsley	1,745		1931. 26 Feb.	1931. 7 March	Against employment of three men in a stall instead of two, alleged to result in decreased earnings.	Two men per stall to be employed normally, with a third man in certain circumstances if required by employers.
Colliery workpeople—Various districts in South Wales.	14,000		7 March§	20 March§	Dissatisfaction with terms of award of Independent Chairman of Joint Conciliation Board, involving reductions in wages.	Work resumed on terms of the award. (See also page 154.)
Cotton weavers, warp dressers, cloth lookers, warehousemen, etc.—Colne.	398	...	16 Feb.	26 March	Refusal to resume work on termination of general stoppage in the cotton manufacturing industry, failing reinstatement of a "sample weaver" who had declined employers' request to work during the stoppage.	Work to be resumed without reinstatement of the "sample weaver" in question.
Cotton weavers, overlookers, etc.—Burnley (one firm).	400	...	23 March	28 March	Against introduction of system of working more looms per weaver.	System abandoned.
Linen weavers, winders, etc.—Lurgan, Co. Armagh.	978	253	2 March	...	Against proposed reduction in wages	No settlement reported.
Cabinet makers, french polishers, machinists, etc.—Ponders End, Middlesex.	350	...	20 Feb.	31 March	Against proposal that short intervals for refreshment should be made up by working extra time, and other grievances.	Strike abandoned, some of the workpeople having resumed work on employers' terms and others having been replaced.
Workpeople employed by electrical contractors—Dagenham (one firm)	50	...	23 Feb.	2 April	For payment of London rate of wages (involving an advance of 4½d. per hour) at a works situated on the border-line of the London area.	Advance of 1½d. per hour to be paid at the border-line works originally involved, and special addition to London rate of wages to be restored.
London area	3,000	...	20-23 March.		Against withdrawal of special addition to London rate of wages, payable upon condition of observance of working agreement by Trade Union, employers alleging breach of agreement by above strike.	
Railway goods yard porters and carters—London.	1,500	...	30 March	31 March	Refusal to abandon "work-to-rule" policy adopted as a protest against findings of National Wages Board.	Normal working resumed.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (*i.e.*, number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
† In making up these totals 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.
‡ *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.
§ At most of the collieries involved the stoppage of work lasted one or two days only.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	47%
Food only	...	...	29%

FOOD.

At 1st April the general level of the retail prices of food showed a substantial decline as compared with that at 28th February. Eggs were, on the average, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each cheaper than a month earlier, and at practically the same level as in July, 1914; summer prices for milk were introduced in a number of towns; and reductions were also recorded in the average prices of butter, flour, beef, mutton, bacon and fish. Potatoes were slightly dearer.

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 29 per cent. at 1st April, 1931, as compared with 34 per cent. at 28th February, 1931, and 43 per cent. at 1st April, 1930.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 28th February and 1st April, 1931:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) at 1st April, 1931, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	28th Feb., 1931.	1st April, 1931.	July, 1914.	28th Feb., 1931.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ...	s. d. 0 10	s. d. 1 4	s. d. 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thin Flank ...	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thin Flank ...	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Breast ...	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Breast ...	0 4	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7	0 7	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Tea ...	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salt ...	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese†	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Margarine ...	0 7	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st April, 1931, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 28th Feb., 1931.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs ...	Per cent. 57	Per cent. 59	Per cent. 58	Per cent. 61
Thin Flank ...	29	33	31	32
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	29	36	33	36
Thin Flank ...	3	12	8	10
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	63	68	66	67
Breast ...	42	43	43	45
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	52	49	51	55
Breast ...	9	17	13	18
Bacon (streaky)*	4	7	5	7
Fish ...	122	100	111	116
Flour ...	9	10	9	12
Bread ...	22	19	21	22
Tea ...	21	33	27	28
Sugar (granulated) ...	24	17	20	20
Milk ...	67	79	73	85
Butter—				
Fresh ...	18	29	23	27
Salt ...	10	15	12	17
Cheese†	29	29	29	29
Margarine ...	3	–1	1	2
Eggs (fresh) ...	11	2	7	43
Potatoes ...	65	37	51	47
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	29	29	29	34

* 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 controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st April, 1931, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase in working-class rents since July, 1914, is approximately 54 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase for all the items included in these statistics.

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, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st April the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged about 100 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the prices of coal at 1st April averaged about 85 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas was between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st April, 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 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st April, 1931, is approximately 47 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 50 per cent. at 28th February, 1931, and 57 per cent. at 1st April, 1930.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1931 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). In view of 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, the standard of living may have been raised in many cases 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: 1920 to 1931.

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, 1920 to 1931:—

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

Month (beginning of).	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Jan. ...	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75	68	67	66	53
Feb. ...	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72	66	65	64	52
Mar. ...	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71	64	66	61	50
April ...	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	65	64	62	57	47
May ...	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	64	64	61	55	...
June ...	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	63	65	60	54	...
July ...	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	66	65	61	55	...
Aug. ...	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	64	65	63	57	...
Sept. ...	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	65	65	64	57	...
Oct. ...	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	67	66	65	56	...
Nov. ...	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	69	67	67	57	...
Dec. ...	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	69	68	67	55	...

NOTE.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics has been published in a White Paper: "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation."

Copies may be purchased, price 3d. net (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 1 per cent. less.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during March, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 175, as compared with 135 in the previous month and with 219* in March, 1930. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in March, 1931, numbered 43, as compared with 33 in the previous month and with 55 in March, 1930.

RAILWAY SERVICE.			
Brakemen and Goods			
Guards	2		
Engine Drivers and Motor-			
men	1		
Firemen	1		
Guards (Passenger)		
Permanent Way Men	5		
Porters		
Shunters	2		
Mechanics	1		
Labourers	1		
Miscellaneous	4		
Contractors' Servants		
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	17		
MINES.			
Underground	62		
Surface	8		
TOTAL, MINES	70		
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep	9		
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.			
Cotton	5		
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy	2		
Other Textiles		
Textile Bleaching and			
Dyeing	1		
Metal Extracting and Re-			
fining	2		
Metal Conversion, including			
Rolling Mills and Tube			
Making	6		
Metal Founding	2		
Engineering and Machine			
Making	5		
Boiler Making and Construc-			
tional Engineering	1		
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued).			
Locomotives, Railway and			
Tramway Carriages,			
Motors, Aircraft... ..	5		
Other Metal Trades	3		
Shipbuilding	1		
Wood		
Gas	4		
Electric Generating Stations	1		
Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...	1		
Chemicals, etc.	3		
Food and Drink	7		
Paper, Printing, etc.	4		
Tanning, Currying, etc.		
Rubber Trades	1		
Other Non-Textile Industries	3		
PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.			
Docks, Wharves, etc.	6		
Buildings	13		
Warehouses and Railway			
Sidings		
TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS	79		
Total (excluding Seamen) 175			
SEAMEN.			
Trading Vessels, Sailing ...	6		
" " Steam	29		
Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...	1		
" " Steam	7		
TOTAL, SEAMEN	43		
Total (including Seamen) 218			

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of *cases*† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during March, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 47, and the total number of *deaths*† reported was 9. In addition, two cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among plumbers not employed in factories came to the knowledge of the Home Office during March, but notification of such cases is not obligatory.

I. Cases.

(a) LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—			
Smelting of Metals	...	1	
Other Contact with Molten Lead	...	...	...
Vitreous Enamelling	...	1	
Electric Accumulator Works	...	...	5
Coach and Car Painting	...		
Paint used in Other Industries	...	...	1
Painting of Buildings	...	4	
TOTAL, LEAD POISONING			12

I. Cases—(continued).

(d) EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).

Pitch	...	...	...	3
Tar	...	...	...	3
Oil...	...	...	...	17
TOTAL,	EPITHELIOMATOUS			—
ULCERATION	...	...	...	23

(e) CHROME ULCEATION.

Dyeing and Finishing ...	1
Chromium Plating ...	2
	<hr/>
TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION	3

II. Deaths.

LEAD POISONING.

Smelting of Metals	...	1
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ANTHRAX.

Handling and Sorting of
Hides and Skins ... 1

EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).

Tar	...	...	...	2
Oil	...	...	...	5
TOTAL,	EPITHELIOMATOUS			—
ULCERATION	...	...	...	7

* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1913 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.

† Fuel and light are also included in these figures.

‡ New series.

¶ Fuel and light are also included in these figures.
 † New series.
 § Figure for June.
 || A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light;
 E = Other or Miscellaneous Items.
 ¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter.

* The figure previously published for March, 1930, has been revised.

† 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.

POOR RELIEF IN MARCH.

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

OWING to the alterations made by the Local Government Acts of 1929, which took effect in England and Wales on 1st April, 1930, and in Scotland on 16th May, 1930, comparable statistics are available only from those dates.

The statistics which appear in the Table below relate to the County of London and to those County Boroughs in England and Wales and Burghs in Scotland having an estimated population exceeding 100,000.

The number of persons* relieved on one day† in March, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below was 581,363, or 0.5 per cent. less than in the previous month. The numbers relieved at these two dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 350 and 352 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in March, 1931, was 484,786, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. as compared with February, 1931. In the four areas in Scotland the number relieved was 96,577, an increase of 3.0 per cent. as compared with February, 1931.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in March numbered 119,540, or 1.9 per cent. less than in the previous month. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 461,823, or 0.1 per cent. less than in the previous month.

	Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Relief on one day† in March, 1931.				Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with Feb., 1931.	
	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.		
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
County of London	51,723	91,659	143,382	324	—	6
Birkenhead ...	901	3,978	4,879	310	+	3
Birmingham ...	5,750	14,419	20,169	208	—	1
Blackburn ...	883	2,367	3,250	259	—	10
Bolton ...	933	2,652	3,585	198	—	13
Bradford ...	1,285	6,541	7,826	271	+	5
Brighton ...	1,140	2,085	3,225	219	—	2
Bristol ...	2,289	6,706	8,995	230	+	5
Burnley ...	571	1,674	2,245	224	—	12
Cardiff ...	1,591	6,971	8,562	382	—	16
Coventry ...	469	1,457	1,926	119	+	2
Croydon ...	1,098	1,841	2,939	132	+	1
Derby ...	856	6,213	7,069	502	+	22
East Ham ...	656	2,435	3,091	209	—	4
Gateshead ...	776	6,337	7,113	580	+	3
Huddersfield ...	554	1,409	1,963	174	—	6
Kingston-upon-Hull	1,797	15,239	17,036	568	—	17
Leeds ...	2,991	10,907	13,898	290	—	9
Leicester ...	797	4,304	5,101	208	+	8
Liverpool ...	7,476	37,868	45,344	521	+	5
Manchester ...	4,019	29,200	33,219	445	—	3
Middlesbrough ...	581	3,489	4,070	306	—	3
Newcastle-on-Tyne	1,038	12,761	13,799	486	—	10
Norwich ...	924	5,095	6,019	480	—	24
Nottingham ...	1,826	8,299	10,125	379	—	24
Oldham ...	943	1,094	2,037	143	—	3
Plymouth ...	531	5,577	6,108	286	+	1
Portsmouth ...	1,402	2,323	3,725	143	—	2
Preston ...	673	699	1,372	109	—	8
St. Helens ...	542	3,651	4,193	384	—	39
Salford ...	1,809	4,698	6,507	276	+	3
Sheffield ...	1,886	27,019	28,905	558	+	15
Southampton ...	1,375	2,437	3,812	221	—	4
Southend-on-Sea ...	332	1,338	1,670	146	...	
South Shields ...	770	3,012	3,782	316	—	1
Stockport ...	609	1,032	1,641	128	—	11
Stoke-on-Trent ...	1,868	4,885	6,753	242	+	3
Sunderland ...	1,174	7,935	9,109	495	—	11
Swansea ...	738	5,348	6,086	374	...	
Wallasey ...	265	1,040	1,305	129	—	7
Walsall ...	640	3,444	4,084	408	—	10
West Ham ...	2,339	10,198	12,537	408	—	17
Wolverhampton ...	627	1,703	2,330	173	+	2
Total of the above-named County Boroughs ...	59,724	281,680	341,404	330	—	3
Total, County of London and Selected County Boroughs ...	111,447	373,339	484,786	328	—	4
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow ...	5,356	66,717	72,073	671	+	22
Edinburgh ...	1,539	15,811	17,350	406	+	3
Dundee ...	747	3,232	3,979	238	+	2
Aberdeen ...	451	2,724	3,175	201	+	18
Total for the above Scottish Burghs	8,093	88,484	96,577	528	+	15
TOTAL for above 47 areas in March, 1931 ...	119,540	461,823	581,363	350	—	2

* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, patients in mental hospitals (formerly referred to as lunatics in asylums), and in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also excluded.

† 28th March in England and Wales and 15th March in Scotland.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

FIRST QUARTER OF 1931.

RETURNS have been received from 140 Local Authorities in Great Britain, giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the first quarter of 1931. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1930.

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 140 Towns from which returns have been received.					TOTAL.
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations to Existing Buildings.	
(a) FIRST QUARTER OF 1931.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (758,000)	180,900	38,100	37,300	61,700	51,600	369,600
Yorkshire (2,171,000)	1,036,400	31,100	179,700	118,300	249,900	1,615,400
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,988,000)	739,300	74,800	92,600	978,000	144,900	2,029,600
North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000)	1,503,600	180,500	184,900	279,900	359,400	2,508,300
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (616,000)	387,400	123,000	87,600	21,500	124,400	743,900
Outer London* (2,203,000)	4,269,600	246,300	429,200	192,800	356,500	5,494,400
South - Eastern Counties (974,000)	887,300	17,400	166,900	81,500	264,200	1,417,300
South - Western Counties (433,000)	294,400	21,000	64,100	2,200	67,800	449,500
Wales and Monmouthshire (671,000)	110,000	2,800	18,700	92,500	36,800	260,800
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	528,500	85,700	86,300	164,100	302,300	1,166,900
Total (15,871,000)	9,937,400	820,700	1,347,300	1,992,500	1,957,800	16,055,700

(b) FIRST QUARTER OF 1930.

ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (758,000)	314,900	25,400	84,300	93,000	67,700	585,300
Yorkshire (2,171,000)	952,900	260,600	128,500	187,700	240,000	1,769,700
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,988,000)	761,200	98,200	244,400	268,500	344,800	1,717,100
North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000)	1,751,500	777,500	284,900	258,700	446,500	3,519,100
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (616,000)	456,200	66,000	122,300	30,000	124,900	799,400
Outer London* (2,203,000)	4,773,500	428,700	470,800	263,100	447,600	6,383,700
South - Eastern Counties (974,000)	933,400	28,700	127,500	226,300	246,500	1,562,400
South - Western Counties (433,000)	154,600	2,000	33,500	1,000	67,700	258,800
Wales and Monmouthshire (671,000)	225,600	3,100	127,300	100,800	44,700	501,500
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	824,300	30,600	89,700	178,700	319,500	1,442,800
Total (15,871,000)	11,148,100	1,720,800	1,713,200	1,607,800	2,349,900	18,539,800

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE following statistics relate to assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act. The figures include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted. Approvals subsequently cancelled have been excluded. The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Destination.	Applica-tions Approved in March, 1931.	Total Applications Approved.		Departures in March, 1931.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1930.	Jan.-March, 1931.		1922 to 1930.	Jan.-March, 1931.
Australia ...	27	172,620	64	26	171,935	59
Canada ...	471	131,357	962	10	126,842	78
New Zealand ...	32	45,246	192	34	44,198	197
Africa and other parts of Empire	...	1,159	12	5	978	17
Total ...	530	350,382	1,230	75	343,953	351

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

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.

POWER OF MINISTER OF LABOUR TO MAKE SPECIAL ORDER—MEANING OF SPECIFIED TRADE.

The Court of Appeal by a majority (Lord Justice Greer dissenting) allowed the appeal of the Minister of Labour from the decision of a Divisional Court (reported on page 77 of the GAZETTE for February, 1931) making absolute three rules *nisi* for prohibition directed to the Minister prohibiting her from proceeding with the making of a Special Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, applying the Trade Boards Acts to the catering trade as defined by the Minister in a draft Special Order issued on 6th August, 1930.

Lord Justice Scrutton, in giving judgment, said that, by the Trade Boards Act, 1918, the Minister was given power to legislate if certain conditions were fulfilled. The result seemed to be that the Minister had absolute discretion to make the Order. In those circumstances the judges had no power to overrule the Minister. They might think the Order unwise, or even unintelligible, but they were not the persons to decide that matter if the conditions giving the Minister jurisdiction had been fulfilled. If they had not been fulfilled, the Courts had power to interfere by prohibition.

The first condition seemed to be that before the Minister acted there must be "a trade" in existence. The Minister must form an opinion that in that existing trade there was no adequate machinery for regulating wages, and that, having regard to the rates of wages then prevailing in the trade or part of the trade, it was expedient that the Trade Boards Acts should apply. The Minister need not state the evidence on which she acted; her honest opinion with regard to the sufficiency of the rate of wages and the absence of adequate machinery was sufficient. It was not for the Courts to say whether such legislation was desirable, or to doubt whether a Minister, politician, or even an all-wise Civil Service, could successfully manage all the trades in England. Parliament had given that power to the Minister.

The Minister, however, must consider an existing trade; and there the difficulties at once began. It was said that the Minister could not create a trade by definition, but could only specify a definite trade. He doubted whether there was such a thing as a definite trade. Its boundaries were always uncertain, and needed definition or specification by someone. Parliament, in his opinion, had given that power of definition or specification to the Minister, with the qualification that there must be some subject matter which could be reasonably described as a trade. For instance, if an enthusiastic Minister conceived the idea that he could introduce regulated hours and wages at one fell swoop into all industries by applying the Trade Boards Acts to the trade of supplying for reward manual labour to employers, the Courts could prohibit him on the ground that there was no such existing or recognised trade.

A further difficulty was created by the fact that he did not think that Parliament considered, when passing the Act, whether they meant a trade from the point of view of the workman, his particular craft, as the trade of a waiter or of a cook; or a trade from the point of view of the employer who, in carrying out his trade, employed both waiters and cooks. The result in the existing Trade Board Orders was that an employer, in his one trade, might find himself obliged to comply with the orders of half a dozen trade boards (see the Toymaking Order); or that a workman, such as a painter, might find himself concerned in Trade Board Orders for half a dozen trades in which painters were employed. Looking at the provisions of the Trade Boards Acts, it appeared that Parliament had given great liberty to the Minister in her definition of the trade to which the Acts applied. She had been allowed to specify a trade by definition and exclusions.

In those circumstances the Minister proposed to make an Order applying the Acts to the catering trade. It could hardly be disputed that some people thought that there was such a trade before the Minister proposed to specify it. It was clear that it would be difficult to get general agreement to any definition of the catering trade, and in his view the Minister had been appointed by Parliament to define it.

His Lordship read the definition in the draft Special Order, and said that, having considered the Acts and the Orders sanctioned by Parliament, he could not see that the catering Order had exceeded the very extensive powers given to the Minister. Some of the provisions of the Order, especially that with regard to residential hotels, would be very difficult to work in practice, and if only one Trade Board was appointed under the Order it would be difficult to get any satisfactory representation of employers and employed without making the Trade Board of unwieldy and unmanageable size. But that could be cured by appointing more than one Trade Board.

He had some doubt whether that wealthy and powerful institution, the licensed victuallers, sometimes called "The Trade," was not so marked an identity that it should not be insulted by being put in the same category as railway restaurant-cars or street coffee-stalls, and should not have to listen to the indignity of hearing discussions whether both it and an ice-cream tricycle were caterers. But licensed victuallers certainly supplied drink in an establishment, though some of them were not so eager to supply food as one would wish.

The judgment of the Court below was erroneous, and the appeal must be allowed.

Lord Justice Greer, in a dissenting judgment, said that before any Order was made under the Acts the Minister had to form the opinion that no adequate machinery existed for the regulation of wages throughout the trade. To do that the Minister must find that there

was something that was a trade in which no such adequate machinery existed. Until the existence of such a trade was found, the Minister could not act. It was not possible artificially to make up a catalogue of various kinds of work, in some one of which there was no such adequate machinery existing, and lump them together and specify them as a trade to which the Acts were to apply.

The trade within the meaning of the Acts was the class or kind of industrial employment in which there was no adequate machinery for the regulation of the wages of the workers. He agreed with the opinion expressed by Mr. Justice Shearman in *Skinner v. Jack Breach, Ltd.*, that "'specified' does not mean anything which the Minister of Labour chooses to call a trade." A trade before it could be specified must, in his view, be "a recognised species of industrial work."

He considered the draft Special Order bad for three reasons. First, he considered the trades to be specified in the Special Order were not the whole of the trades carried on by a trading employer but the trades as determined by the work done by the workmen whose minimum wage was to be determined. Secondly, the Minister had no power, once she has specified the trade, to make exceptions which would prevent either her or her successor from establishing a Trade Board for that portion of the trade which was within the excepted sections. Thirdly, the Order was bad because it purported to include in the trade work which might be done in another trade if it was done "in connection with the specified trade."

Lord Justice Slesser said that he had come to the conclusion that the word "trade" in the Trade Boards Acts meant the industrial undertaking or commercial adventure, and not the collective occupation of the tradesmen, using that word in the old sense, for the following reasons. First, if regard might be had to the trades actually specified by name in the 1909 Act as an assistance to interpret the mind of the legislature, he thought that the reference in the schedule to "ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, and any other branch of tailoring in which the Board of Trade considered that the system of manufacture was generally similar to that prevailing in the wholesale trade," pointed to this interpretation being the correct one; for in the schedule a distinction appeared to be drawn between trades wholesale and trades not wholesale, and such a distinction pointed rather to the industry than to the worker in it; that was to say, there was no reference to wholesale or retail tailors as tradesmen, but to wholesale bespoke tailoring and the wholesale trade as businesses.

Other reasons for the conclusion that the word "trade" was used to denote the industry might be found in the statute, as well as in the consideration of the schedule. Thus in subsection (2) of Section 1, the Act spoke of the rate of wages prevailing in any "branch of the trade," whereas Section 2 of the same Act, which dealt with the establishment of Trade Boards for trades to which the Act applied, spoke of Trade Boards constituted for "any branch of work in the trade," thus distinguishing the work in the trade, which was the vocational aspect, from the trade itself.

Yet another ground for the view that by "trade" was meant industry, in which there might be many persons of different vocations, was afforded by section 4, which dealt with the duties and powers of the Trade Boards. In that section it was provided that Trade Boards might fix minimum rates of wages so as to apply universally to the trade, or so as to apply to any special process in the work of the trade, or to any "special class of workers in the trade" or "to any 'special area.'" The words "class of workers in the trade" again pointed to the trade containing more than one class of worker, and the words "special area" seemed only to have meaning if the trade were regarded as an industry in an area rather than as a vocation.

It was significant, though, of course, by no means conclusive, that in the other classes of minimum wage legislation now extant, namely, the minimum wage established under the Coal Mines (Minimum) Wage Act, 1912, which dealt with the employment of a workman underground in a coal mine, and the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, which was an Act to provide for the regulation of wages of workers in agriculture, the industry, and not the vocation, was the basis of the legislation. In the former case, the place where the workman was employed was the fact which brought him within the Act; in the latter, all workers, of whatever craft, were included so long as they were workers in agriculture.

In the absence of evidence to the contrary, he was not prepared to hold that there was not in existence at the time when the Minister made her Order a generic industry which could fairly be called the "catering trade," and there were admissions in the evidence that such a trade existed. He could see no reason why an industry should not be defined by reference to the place where it was carried on, nor why persons engaged in the same occupation should not be within the Act or outside it according to the place where they were working.

It was said that the Order was bad because the definition by reference to a trade involved the bringing in of a number of occupations whose collocation was fortuitous—which could not be said to be branches of one unit. That argument depended on a fallacious view of the meaning of the term "trade" in the statute. The collocation of the workers in the catering trade was not fortuitous if they were regarded from the point of view that they had the common quality of doing work performed in or in connection with a catering establishment.

He had therefore come to the conclusion that the Minister was entitled to make the draft Special Order, and that the appeal should be allowed.—*The King v. Minister of Labour*, ex parte *The National Trade Defence Association*; ex parte *The Incorporated Association of Purveyors of Light Refreshments*; and ex parte *Strand Hotels, Limited*. Court of Appeal. 27th March, 1931.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918.**MILK DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE (ENGLAND AND WALES).**

A firm was prosecuted on charges of underpaying four male workers and failing to keep adequate records. The defendants pleaded guilty, and were bound over in the sum of £10, on payment of costs amounting to £5. Arrears of wages amounting to £119 6s. 1d. were paid before the hearing.—*Rex v. R. C. Pike & Sons. Bristol Police Court. 12th March, 1931.*

An employer was prosecuted for failing to keep adequate records and producing a false record. He was fined £1 and £5, respectively, on these charges, with 10s. costs.—*Rex v. R. H. Ridd. Bristol Police Court. 12th March, 1931.*

MILK DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE (SCOTLAND).

An employer was charged with underpaying two workers, failing to post the Trade Board notice, and failing to keep time records. He was admonished on all charges. Arrears of wages, amounting to £61 0s. 9d., were paid into court.—*Rex v. Robert Hamilton. Glasgow Sheriff Court. 4th March, 1931.*

RETAIL BESPOKE TAILORING TRADE (SCOTLAND).

An employer was prosecuted for failing to keep wages records in respect of five workers. The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined £5.—*Rex v. John George Fisher. Cupar Sheriff Court. 10th March, 1931.*

Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923.**LINEN AND COTTON HANDKERCHIEF AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND LINEN PIECE GOODS TRADE.**

Criminal proceedings were brought against a firm in the Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods trade in Northern Ireland for (1) production of false records, and (2) failure to pay wages at not less than the minimum rates fixed by the Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

The defendants pleaded guilty, and the Court imposed a fine of £5 for production of false records and a fine of £1 for underpayment of wages. In addition, arrears of wages amounting to £2 19s. 11d. were ordered in respect of the worker concerned and costs amounting to £1 14s. were allowed.—*J. H. Craig v. D. Millar & Co. Belfast Petty Sessions. 5th March, 1931.*

Factory and Workshop Acts (Northern Ireland), 1901 to 1920.

The occupiers of the factory referred to above were also proceeded against for the employment of two women and two female young persons after legal hours. A fine of £2, with 17s. costs, was imposed.—*J. H. Craig v. D. Millar & Co. Belfast Petty Sessions. 5th March, 1931.*

The occupier of a handkerchief hemstitching and finishing factory was prosecuted for employment at night of two women and two female young persons. A fine of 10s., with 20s. costs, was imposed.—*J. H. Craig v. Thomas Jordan. Lurgan Petty Sessions. 3rd March, 1931.*

Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920–1931.**LIBEL—EMPLOYER'S NOTIFICATION TO THE MINISTRY OF THE REASON FOR THE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT—LIMITS OF PRIVILEGE.**

This was an action for libel brought by a worker against his former employer, on the grounds that, in a communication to the Ministry of Labour, the employer stated that the plaintiff's employment had been terminated for "false trading for his own personal gain, by selling 3d. skate for 4d., thus robbing the customers." The statement further alleged that on different nights the cash register till had been 6½d., 11½d., and 8s. 11½d. short, and concluded, "I can assure you that the five days he and his wife were here, they have done me a lot of harm by catching my customers."

The plaintiff was at first refused unemployment benefit, but, on appeal, benefit was allowed. The defendant, giving evidence, stated that he had made no accusation of dishonesty against the plaintiff. When making the accusation of "false trading" against the plaintiff, he did not himself believe it.

It was agreed by counsel on both sides that the communication was privileged, and that the plaintiff must prove malice in order to succeed.

Mr. Justice Swift, summing up, said all the jury had to decide was whether the defendant acted honestly in writing to the Ministry of Labour. It was obviously essential that the Ministry of Labour should be entitled to ask questions. If an employer answered those questions honestly no evil consequences would ensue; the employer was perfectly safe if he acted honestly.

It would be contrary to every instinct of justice if the Ministry of Labour hesitated for one moment to tell people who applied for a grant what had been said about them by their late employer. It was with great propriety that the Ministry communicated to the plaintiff what the defendant had said about him.

The jury found in favour of the plaintiff, and awarded £75 damages.—*Harris v. Burrows. King's Bench Division. 17th March, 1931.*

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920–31.**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 claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

The following is a recent decision of general interest:—

Case No. 5851/31. (16.3.31.)

SECTION 4 (1) OF 1930 ACT—OFFERS OF SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT—OFFERS OF PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE USUAL TRADE HELD AS A GENERAL RULE TO BE UNSUITABLE FOR SKILLED OPERATIVES WHEN UNEMPLOYED FOR LESS THAN 4 MONTHS.

The circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision given by the Deputy Umpire:—

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

"The claimant in this case is 25 years of age and was for 10 years prior to 27th June, 1930, employed as a tenter with one employer by whom she was put off for slackness of work.

"On 25th September, 1930, she was notified of a vacancy as a kitchenmaid. The vacancy was for a permanent and not for a temporary maid, and had claimant been accepted she would have been required to live in. She refused to apply for the vacancy, the substantial ground for her refusal being that she was a skilled operative who had been unemployed for three months only when she was notified of the vacancy, and that in the circumstances her refusal to apply was justified.

"As a general rule a skilled operative would be justified in refusing, on the ground of unsuitability, permanent work outside her trade until she had been unemployed for at least 4 months.

"It is impossible, however, to determine every case by the application thereto of a hard-and-fast time limit, a refusal within which limit would justify, but outside of which would not justify, a claimant's failure to apply for a vacancy necessitating a change of employment.

"Each case must be judged upon its merits, with due regard to all the surrounding circumstances. (Section 5(2) (ii) Unemployment Insurance Act 1927.)

"The age, efficiency, and experience of a claimant; whether her employment as a skilled operative has been in the past continuous or intermittent; whether, where the work offered necessitates a change in the nature of her employment, the employment is of a permanent or temporary character; the prospects for the employment of the operative in her trade in the district in which she resides or in the surrounding districts to which she has ready access: all these are amongst the factors to be taken into account when considering whether a refusal of an offer is or is not justified.

"In the present instance the whole of the claimant's industrial life has been spent in one employment. At the time when she was notified of a vacancy for a permanent domestic worker she had been unemployed for a period of about 3 months only.

"There is no evidence to justify the inference that work in her own trade with some other employer either in her own or in the surrounding district will not become available for her with an improvement of conditions in the industry, and in all the circumstances she was, in my view, justified in refusing to apply for the vacancy brought to her notice."

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.**Recent Proceedings.****(A)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.**

MOTOR DRIVERS—H.M. DOCKYARDS AND OTHER ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS.—Award No. 1478—Interpretation. *Trade Union Side v. Official Side, Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments.* *Decision.*—The Court ruled that the words "when so engaged" in Clause 7 of Award No. 1478, in relation to men employed in driving vehicles with a tonnage capacity of two tons or over, were not intended to be limited to the time in which the vehicle concerned was actually in motion, but were intended to include the time in which the driver of such a vehicle was employed on journeys to and from the garage, waiting time at the garage or elsewhere, or time spent in day-to-day cleaning, washing down, oiling, etc., of such vehicles. Award issued 13th March, 1931. (1494.)

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1929 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net), and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription, the latest pamphlet being that for February, 1931.

CLERICAL OFFICERS, ESTABLISHED SHORTHAND-TYPISTS, TYPISTS AND WRITING ASSISTANTS, CIVIL SERVICE.—*Civil Service Clerical Association v. H.M. Treasury. Difference.*—Rate of payment for overtime. *Decision.*—The Court ruled that, for the purposes of Award No. 118 of the Civil Service Arbitration Board, clerical officers, established shorthand-typists, typists and writing assistants shall be entitled to overtime payment at time-and-a-half rate after the first twelve hours' attendance in excess of an attendance equivalent to the total of seven hours' attendance per diem for each week-day on which the officer is on duty. Award issued 19th March, 1931. (1495.)

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

[There were no cases under this heading during March.]

(C)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

COMMERCIAL ROAD TRANSPORT, SCOTLAND.—*Scottish Horse and Motor Contractors' Federation v. Scottish Horse and Motormen's Association. Difference.*—Claim of trade union for 2s. per week increase, and stabilisation instead of cost-of-living regulation. Agreement reached for the stabilisation of the minimum wage of 50s. per week in Glasgow until 31st March, 1932, and in outside districts a rate of 49s., to be operative from 4th April, 1931, to be increased by 1s. per week from the first pay day in October, 1931, so as to establish a uniform minimum wage of 50s. in all districts.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Coffin Furniture and Cerement-Making Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order U. (28), dated 20th March, 1931, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in the cerement-making section of the trade for specified periods not dependent upon the cost-of-living index figure, and specifying 1st April, 1931, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order W.M. (26), dated 20th March, 1931, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male workers, and specifying 30th March, 1931, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Cotton Waste Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order C.W. (19), dated 27th March, 1931, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male workers and certain classes of female workers, and specifying 6th April, 1931, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Button Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order V. (21), dated 26th March, 1931, confirming general minimum piece-rates fixed for certain classes of female homeworkers and the variation of the piece-work basis time-rate for female homeworkers and the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male workers, and specifying 7th April, 1931, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal S. (12), dated 16th March, 1931, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male workers employed in cutting and tie-cutting.

Objection period expires 6th May, 1931.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal R.B.S. (8), dated 2nd April, 1931, to vary general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates, and to fix additional piece-work basis time-rates and general minimum piece-rates for certain classes of male and female workers.

Objection period expires 24th May, 1931.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.R. (N. 17), dated 30th March, 1931, to vary certain general minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates for female workers.

Objection period expires 13th April, 1931.

III.—CHANGES IN THE MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES DUE TO AN ALTERATION IN THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FIGURE.

Lower rates of wages became effective as from 1st April, 1931, in the undermentioned trade. The minimum rates now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 50, and are set out in the Confirming Order quoted below:—

Coffin Furniture and Cerement-Making Trade (Great Britain), male workers in the Coffin Furniture Section of the trade, U. (13), column 6.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Draft Building (Amendment) Regulations: Cranes and other Hoisting and Lifting Appliances.

THE Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 31st March, 1931, stating that, in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, he proposes to amend the Building Regulations of 1926 in respect of cranes and other hoisting and lifting appliances.

Regulations amending the Building Regulations in respect of cranes, etc., were issued, in draft, on 1st July, 1930;* but various objections were received thereto, and the Regulations now proposed have been agreed upon following further negotiations with the chief employers' associations and trade unions connected with the building industry.

The principal requirements of the proposed Regulations are that jib cranes shall be properly tested and examined at regular intervals, and a certificate specifying the safe working load obtained. A further requirement is the provision on and after 1st January, 1934, subject to certain exceptions, of an automatic indicator, showing when the safe working load is approached or exceeded.

Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office (Whitehall, London, S.W.1); and any objection to them must be sent to the Secretary of State at the Home Office within 21 days from the date of the notice. Every such objection must be in writing, and must state: (a) the draft Regulations or portions of draft Regulations objected to; (b) the specific grounds of objection; and (c) the omissions, additions or modifications asked for.

Chrome Plating: Draft Regulations.

The Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 31st March, 1931, stating that, in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, he proposes to make Regulations dealing with factories and workshops, or parts thereof, in which is carried on the electrolytic chromium plating or oxidation of metal articles.

Draft Regulations dealing with chrome plating were issued by the Home Secretary on 29th April, 1930;† but a number of objections were received thereto, which have formed the subject of discussion between the Factory Department and the objectors. As a result, practically all the objections have been substantially met in the revised draft Regulations now issued.

The principal requirements of the Regulations now proposed are:—the provision of an efficient exhaust draught at every vessel in which an electrolytic chromium process is carried on; the provision of protective clothing for the use of all persons employed; the provision and maintenance of adequate lavatory arrangements, with a sufficient supply of towels, soap, nail brushes, and suitable ointment; and the provision of an adequate supply of drinking water.

A further requirement stipulates that every person employed shall be examined by a surgeon once a fortnight, or at other such intervals as may be specified. During the discussions which have taken place since the issue of the original draft Regulations, objection was taken to the fortnightly medical examination as unnecessarily frequent. In view of the rapidity with which the chromic acid affects the skin and mucous membrane of the nose, no general relaxation of this requirement is thought advisable; but the Chief Inspector of Factories will be authorised to extend the period between examinations in particular cases, if it is found after trial that this can be done without prejudice to the health of the workers concerned.

Copies of the draft Regulations may be obtained on application to the Factory Department, Home Office (Whitehall, London, S.W.1); and any objection with respect to them must be sent to the Secretary of State, Home Office, within 30 days from the date of the notice. Every such objection must be in writing, and must state: (a) the draft Regulations or portions thereof objected to; (b) the specific grounds of objection; and (c) the omissions, additions or modifications asked for.

Shipbuilding Regulations, 1931.

The Home Secretary has made, under section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, new Regulations,‡ dated 24th February, 1931, which will supersede, as from 1st July, 1931, the Shipbuilding Regulations of 4th April, 1914.

The new Regulations have been drawn up as the result of protracted negotiations with the employers' organisations and trade unions concerned, as explained in the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1930 (page 353).

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices quoted in this list are net, and do not include postage.]

BLIND WORKERS.—*Ninth Report of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind to the Minister of Health, 1930.* (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER.—*The cost of living index number. Method of compilation.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 3d.) (See page 133.)

LABOUR STATISTICS.—*Twentieth abstract of labour statistics of the United Kingdom.* Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 3831; price 3s. 6d.) (See page 133.)

MINING.—*Coal Mines Act, 1911. Regulations and orders relating to safety and health, 1931 edition.* Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.)

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1930 (page 275).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1930 (page 195).

‡ *The Shipbuilding Regulations, 1931. Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931, No. 133.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (4½d. post free).

POOR RELIEF.—Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of poor relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in December, 1930, 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 134.)

SAFETY.—Memorandum on the use of blow lamps in factories. February, 1931. Factory Form, 819. Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—(i) *Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931. Selected decisions given by the Umpire on claims for benefit.* (U.I. Code 8B.) Pamphlet No. 2, 1931. February, 1931. (S.O. publication; price 6d.) (ii) *Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance. Minutes of evidence, first thirteen days.* (S.O. publications; price 10s., 3s., 4s., 4s., 4s., 6s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 4s., and 3s., respectively.)

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE.—(i) *Employment Committee of the Incorporated Association of Head Mistresses of Public Secondary schools, in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour. Annual Report for 1930.* (S.O. publication; price 3d.) (ii) *Choice of Career Series, No. 1. Chemistry and Physics.* (Revised, February, 1931). Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MARCH, 1931.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Devonport: **Blue Elvan Stone:** Steed Bros., Ltd., Landrake.—**Chatham:** **Heating Installation:** W. G. Cannon & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Asbestos Fibre: G. MacLellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Asbestos Fibre Sheeting, Tape and Braiding:** Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., Rochdale.—**Bags, Calico:** Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.; E.H.P. (Hadleigh), Ltd., Hadleigh.—**Batteries and Cells:** London Battery and Cable Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Belting, Balata:** Jas. Dawson & Son, Ltd., Lincoln; Macinlop, Ltd., Manchester.—**Blading Material, Turbine:** The Wallsend Slipway and Engineering Co., Ltd., Wallsend-on-Tyne.—**Blocks, Geared:** Wharton Crane and Hoist Co., Ltd., Stockport; Tangyes, Ltd., Birmingham; Wm. Thomson & Co. (Kinning Park), Ltd., Glasgow; Rowland Priest, Cradley Heath.—**Boats, Motor:** Ferry Engine Co., Southampton; Rutherford & Co. Birkenhead.—**Britannia Metal, Nickel Silver and White Metal Articles:** Mappin & Webb, Ltd., Sheffield; Sheffield Silver Plate and Cutlery Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Viners, Ltd., Sheffield; Walker & Hall, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Brooms and Brushes:** Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham; Brushes, Ltd., St. Albans; R. Chase & Sons, Birmingham; E. A. & W. Greenslade, Ltd., Bristol; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Newton & Cook, London, S.W.; Jas. Root & Son, London, N.; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse, Glos.; Webb & Foulger (Brush Manufacturers), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Chain:** N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Netherton.—**Cable, Submarine Telephone:** Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Caps, Forage:** R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.; Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Capstan:** Clarke Chapman & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne.—**Clips, Cable:** The Aston Chain and Hook Co., Ltd., Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Freckleton & Co., Glasgow.—**Cloth, Leather:** The Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Copper Articles:** T. G. Blood, Ltd., Birmingham; Burt Bros. Ltd., Birmingham; J. Hudson & Co., Birmingham; Lawden & Poole, Birmingham; S. Briggs & Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; T. Warwick & Son, London, W.C.—**Crane, one 1-Ton Electric Travelling:** Wharton Crane and Hoist Co., Ltd., Reddish.—**Cranes, one 10-Ton and one 5-Ton Electric Travelling:** Vaughan Crane Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Crane, 3-Ton Electric Travelling:** Sir William Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cutlery, Electro-Plated Metal-Handled:** Walker & Hall, Ltd., Sheffield; Gladwin, Ltd., Sheffield; James Deakin & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Cutlery, Miscellaneous:** John Clarke & Son, Ltd., Sheffield; Ralph Hawley & Sons, Sheffield; S. & J. Kitchen, Ltd., Sheffield; Mappin & Webb, Ltd., Sheffield; Sheffield Steel Products Ltd., Sheffield.—**Deck Fittings:** Carron Company, Falkirk; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow; John Roby, Ltd., Liverpool; J. & J. Woods, Ltd., Liverpool.—**Deck Tubes, Bulkhead Glands, etc.:** Fairless Engineering Supplies Co., Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; Perfecta Seamless Steel Tube and Conduit Co. (1923), Ltd., Birmingham; Player Mitchell & Breeden, Birmingham; Satchwell & Gittings, Walsall.—**Dieheads and Dies:** Alfred Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Dinghies, Motor:** British Power Boat Co., Southampton.—**Drawers, Brown Cotton:** I. & R. Morley, Heanor; Nottingham Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Loughborough.—**Drawers and Vests, Cellular and Cotton Fabric Shorts:** E.H.P. (Hadleigh), Ltd., Hadleigh; Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, E.—**Drill, Satin:** Langworthy Bros. & Co., Ltd., Salford; Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Littleborough; Ritchie & Eason, Ltd., Manchester; Joshua Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Summerseat; Hoyle & Smith, Ltd., Manchester.—**Drums:** Drums, Ltd., London, S.W.; Reads, Ltd., Liverpool; F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Duck, Cotton:** Joshua Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Summerseat.—**Dungaree, Blue:** John Bentley & Sons (Radcliffe) Ltd., Radcliffe.—**Dynamometers:** Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—**Enamelware:** Anglo-Enamelware, Ltd., West Bromwich; Eveson Bros. (1928), Ltd., Lye; Welsh Tinplate and Metal Stamping

Co., Ltd., Llanelly.—**Engine Spares:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Engines and Davits:** Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Fans, Engine Room and Ventilating:** Laurence Scott & Electromotors, Ltd., Manchester; Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham; Veritys, Ltd., London; General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Firebricks:** Bonnybridge Silica and Fireclay Co., Ltd., Bonnybridge; Burn Fireclay Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Consett Iron Co., Ltd., Consett; H. Foster & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Glenboig Union Fireclay Co., Ltd., Glasgow; E. J. & J. Pearson, Ltd., Stourbridge; J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge; Southwood Jones & Co., Ltd., Risca.—**Fireclay:** Castleary Fireclay Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Church Gresley Firebrick and Fireclay Co., Ltd., Church Gresley; J. Dougall & Sons, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Morgan Crucible Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Flags:** Adam & Lane & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Flour:** J. Rank, Ltd., London, E.C.; S. P. Mumford & Sons, London, E.C.—**Furnaces, Tilting:** Morgan Crucible Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Generating Sets, Electric:** Arrol-Johnston & Aster, London, W.C.—**Golden Syrup:** Westburn Sugar Refineries, Greenock.—**Gunmetal Articles:** Ansell, Jones & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Gabriel & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Player, Mitchell & Breeden, Birmingham; G. & W. Purser, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Barr & Co., Greenock; Carron Company, Falkirk; Highton & Son, Ltd., London, E.; A. Kenrick & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Ogden & Lawson, Workington; John Roby, Ltd., Liverpool; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; John Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Hammer, Pneumatic:** B. & S. Massey, Ltd., Manchester.—**Heating Equipment:** Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Hose Tubing, Canvas:** Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Iron, Cold Blast Pig:** Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. (Ironfounders), Ltd., Gateshead.—**Iron Plate Workers' Wares:** Bird, Stevens & Co., Stafford; S. W. Bullas & Sons, Ltd., Stafford; Darlaston Galvanised Hollow-ware Co., Ltd., Stafford; Davies Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton; Froggart & Tyler, Ltd., Stafford; E. Griffiths & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Pratt Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; John Hill & Sons, Stourbridge; Suttons Holloware Co., Ltd., Stourbridge; Premier Galvanised Holloware Co., Stourbridge; Sargeant, Turner & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Jute Goods:** Ogilvy Bros., Kirriemuir; Craiks, Ltd., Forfar; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.—**Kingstons and Panels, Telemotor-Operated:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; MacTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Knives, Clasp:** Harrison Bros. & Howson, Sheffield; Joseph Rodgers & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Lamps, Electric:** General Electric Co. Ltd., London, W.; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lamps, Spare Parts for, etc.:** Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph Co., Liverpool.—**Lanterns, Portable Signalling:** Aldis Bros., Birmingham.—**Leather:** G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. Conyers & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; Richard Nickols, Leeds; A. G. Spalding & Bros. (British), Ltd., Leeds; W. & A. J. Turner, Ltd., Ipswich; Thos. Ware & Sons, Ltd., Bristol; E. Watts & Co., Ltd., Wellingborough; The Western Tanning Co., Bristol.—**Leggings, Web:** Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Linen Goods:** D. & R. Duke, Brechin; The Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; A. Blythe & Co., Kirkcaldy; W. Lumsden & Son, Freuchie; Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast.—**Machine, Flanging, Plate:** Craig & Donald, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Grinding:** Craven Bros. (Manchester), Ltd., Reddish, Stockport.—**Machine, Milling:** John Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Milnrow.—**Machine, Planing:** George Richards & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Planing, Plate Edge:** Craig & Donald, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Screw, Automatic:** A. Butterworth & Co., Rochdale.—**Machine, Testing:** Samuel Denison & Son, Ltd., Leeds.—**Milk, Condensed:** Wilts United Dairies, Ltd., Trowbridge; Nestlé & Anglo Swiss Condensed Milk Co., London, E.C.—**Motors and Accessories:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Motor Boats (Machinery for):** W. H. Dorman & Co., Stafford.—**Oilskin Clothing:** M. Barr & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Chamberlins, Ltd., Norwich; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; Edward Macbean & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Overcoats, Seamen's:** J. Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Oxide of Iron Oil-Paste:** Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; Golden Valley & Ochre & Oxide Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Pins, Split:** T. P. Hawkins & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Guest Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; Birmingham Wirework Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Cooper & Turner, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Plates, Steel, "D" Quality:** British (Guest Keen Baldwins) Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Cardiff; Colvilles, Ltd., Glasgow; Consett Iron Co., Ltd., Consett; Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Park Gate Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; South Durham Steel and Iron Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plates, Steel Ship:** Appleby Iron Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe; British (Guest Keen Baldwins) Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Cardiff; Colvilles, Ltd., Glasgow; Consett Iron Co., Ltd., Consett; Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plywood:** Aeronautical and Panel Plywood Co., Ltd., London, E.; Saunders-Roe, Ltd., East Cowes; Tucker Armoured Plywood Co., Ltd., Crayford.—**Press, Vertical Hydraulic:** Hollings & Guest, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Propeller:** Darlington Forge, Ltd., Darlington.—**Pumps, Salt and Fresh Water:** Drysdale & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Razors:** Thomas Turner & Co. (Sheffield), Ltd., Sheffield.—**Reflectors, Projector:** Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rivets, D.R. Steel:** Cooper & Turner, Ltd., Sheffield; Lanarkshire Bolt and Rivet Co., Burnbank; North West Rivet, Bolt and Nut Factory, Ltd., Airdrie; Rivet, Bolt and Nut Co., Ltd., Glasgow; T. D. Robinson & Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Rivets, Mild Steel:** Cooper & Turner, Ltd., Sheffield; Darlington Rolling Mills Co., Ltd., Darlington; Gadd Thomas, Rowley Regis; North West Rivet, Bolt and Nut Factory, Ltd., Airdrie; Rivet Bolt and Nut Co., Ltd., Glasgow; T. D. Robinson

& Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Scuttles, Side:** John Roby, Ltd., Liverpool; J. & J. Woods, Ltd., Liverpool; Carron Company, Falkirk.—**Serge, Blue:** Jas. Casson, Ltd., Elland; Reuben Gaunt & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; J. W. Whitworth, Ltd., Luddendenfoot; Hy. Mason (Shipley), Ltd., Shipley.—**Shirting, Cotton:** John Wilkinson & Sons (Manchester and Nelson), Ltd., Nelson; R. & J. Partington (1920), Ltd., Worsley; Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Littleborough; Howe & Coates, Ltd., Batley; George Howarth & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath.—**Shirts, Soft, White:** John Desmond & Co., Ltd., Londonderry; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Gorleston; Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Shoes, Gymnasium:** North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Socks, Blue Cashmere:** Pool, Lorrimer & Tabberer, Ltd., Coventry; Wolsey, Ltd., Leicester; A. Yates & Co., Sileby.—**Suits, Blue Overall:** J. B. Hoyle & Co., Halifax; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Table Glass:** Butterworth Bros., Ltd., Manchester; Edinburgh and Leith Flint Glass Works, Edinburgh; Jas. A. Jobling & Co., Ltd., Sunderland; Robinson, Son & Co., Warrington; Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Stuart & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge; John Walsh Walsh, Ltd., Birmingham; Thomas Webb & Corbett, Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Tallow, White:** Thos. S. Harris & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; J. Crosfield & Sons, Ltd., Warrington.—**Tartan, Blue:** Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Alverthorpe; Smith & Calverley, Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Tiles:** Mansfield Bros., Ltd., Church Gresley; Campbell Tile Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Gibbons, Hinton & Co., Ltd., Brierley Hill; Malkin Tiles (Burslem), Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Minton, Hollins & Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Maw & Co., Ltd., Jackfield.—**Timber, English:** G. Blay, Honiton; C. R. Claridge & Sons, Ltd., Exeter; Darby Bros., Ltd., Beccles; Dartington Hall, Ltd., Totnes; J. D. Foster, Emsworth; G. F. Griffiths, Totnes; Wm. Ivens & Sons, Rugby; H. Longley & Sons, Ltd., East Grinstead; R. Mulford, Ltd., Basingstoke; G. Randle & Son, Ltd., Bridgwater; J. Stenning & Son, Ltd., East Grinstead; A. Turner & Son, Ltd., Lewes; E. C. White & Son, Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Towelling, Terry:** Stott & Smith, Ltd., Congleton; W. T. Taylor & Co., Ltd., Horwich.—**Valves, Vent, Telemotor-Operated:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; MacTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Vests, Summer:** Nottingham Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Loughborough.—**Vests, Winter:** I. & R. Morley, Heanor.—**Winches:** Clarke, Chapman & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne.—**Wire, Steel:** Bruntons, Musselburgh; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Latch & Batchelor, Ltd., Birmingham; Ramsden, Camm & Co., Ltd., Brighouse; John Smith, Ltd., Birmingham; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.

WAR OFFICE.

Asbestos Protected Metal Sheets: Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port.—**Barge:** Hyams Oliver & Co., Ltd., Rotherhithe.—**Basins and Plates, Steel:** M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Belts, Waist, Leather:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Walsall.—**Boiler, Water Tube:** John Thompson Water Tube Boilers, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Brassfoundry, Plumbers:** Manley & Regulus, Ltd., Wolverhampton; C. Winn & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brushes, Shaving:** C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham.—**Caps, Bearskin and Forage:** L. Silberston & Sons, London, E.—**Chassis:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Drawers, Cellular, Short:** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Drills, Twist:** Sheffield Twist Drill & Steel Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Engines, Petrol:** Stuart, Turner, Ltd., Henley-on-Thames.—**Generating Sets:** Douglas Motors, Ltd., Bristol.—**Helmet Bodies:** Helmets, Ltd., Wheathampstead; Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.—**Kerosene:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Sealand Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lead, Pig:** H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Machine Tools, Multi-purpose:** Kitchen & Wade, Ltd., Halifax.—**M.T. Spirit:** British Petroleum Company, Ltd., London, E.C.; Shell-Mex, Ltd., London, W.C.; Redline Motor Spirit Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Oil Fuel, etc.:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Shell-Mex, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Oil, Lubricating:** Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., Llandarcy.—**Paint, P.F.U., Service Colour:** John Hare & Co. (Colours), Ltd., Bristol.—**Petrol-benzol Mixture:** National Benzole Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Glico Petroleum, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Pyjama Jackets and Trousers:** Kelsall & Kemp, Ltd., Rochdale.—**Steel, Bright, Rounds, etc.:** Steel Nut & Joseph Hampton, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Steel Castings:** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Clyde Alloy Steel Co., Ltd., Motherwell.—**Tin Ingot:** Vivian Younger & Bond, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Trestles, for Tables, Barrack:** Douglass Brothers, Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne.—**Tyres:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Webbing, Elastic:** Swann Elastics, Lutterworth.—**Wood Refuse Extraction Plant:** Thermal Engineering Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Works Services:** *Building Works and Services:* Woolwich, Shrapnel Barracks: Alterations and Additions to R.A.V.C. Mob. Store to provide a Dental Centre: W. F. Blay, Ltd., Dartford.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft Cooling System, etc.:** Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Hucclecote.—**Aircraft, Fitting of Engine:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Brough, Yorks.—**Aircraft, Repairs:** Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—**Aircraft, Scale Model:** Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester.—**Aircraft, Spares:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; Vickers

(Aviation), Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Tail Turret:** Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester.—**Bombs, Empty:** Sheep-bridge Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Chesterfield.—**Bomb Boxes:** Hobbies, Ltd., Dereham, Norfolk.—**Buildings and Works Services:** Flashing Beacon for Merstham: Chance Bros & Co., Ltd., Smethwick, Birmingham. Builders' Work (Gosport): John Hunt, Ltd., Gosport. Petrol Installations (Biggin Hill): A. H. Earnshaw & Son, Darlington. Married Quarters (Gosport): John Laing & Son, Ltd., London, N.W. Regimental Buildings (Peterborough): A. H. Earnshaw & Son, Darlington. Underground Cables (Biggin Hill): F. Dixon & Sons, London, S.W.—**Cabs and Bodies, M.T.:** Taskers of Andover, Ltd., Andover.—**Control Resistance and Voltmeter:** Telephone Manufacturing Co. (1929), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Controls, Electrical, Aircraft:** Williamson Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Engines, Aircraft:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Modification:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Overhaul:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Repairs:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Type Test:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Fire Extinguishers:** General Fire Appliance Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; National Fire Protector Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Floor Polish:** Carr & Son, London, N.—**Fuel Oil, Diesel Engine:** Shell Mex, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Fuel Oil, Furnace:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Gauges, Boost:** Negretti & Zambra, London, E.C.—**Generators:** Haslam & Newton, Ltd., Derby.—**Hose, Canvas:** Fleming, Birkby & Goodall, Ltd., Halifax.—**Mast Sections:** Talbot-Stead Tube Co., Ltd., Walsall.—**Morris Chassis and Bodies:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Morris 6-wheeler Spares:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Petrol Electric Mobile Crane:** Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Plates, Photographic:** Ilford, Ltd., Ilford.—**Plugs and Washers, Bomb:** Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Polish, Metal:** Nicholsons (N.O.T.), Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Radiators and Cases, Aircraft:** John Marston, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Receivers:** Radio Instruments, Ltd., Croydon.—**Scow, Torpedo and Bomb:** Saunders-Roe, Ltd., East Cowes.—**Steel Wire Rope:** Hall's Barton Ropery Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Thermometers, Oil Temperature:** Negretti & Zambra, London, E.C.—**Voltage Control Boxes:** C. A. Carter & Co., Ltd., London, N.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Aeroplane: De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware.—**Asbestos Sheets:** Asbestos Cement Bld. Products, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Basins:** Shanks & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Boilers:** Cochran & Co., Annan, Ltd., Annan.—**Boots:** S. Walker, Walgrave.—**Buckets:** Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston.—**Cable:** Callender's Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Casebourne & Co. (1926) Ltd.), Stockton-on-Tees.—**Clip Bolts:** Nuts and Bolts (Darlaston, Ltd.), Darlaston.—**Cloth:** J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth.—**Clothing:** Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Coal:** James Burness & Sons, London, E.C.; Watts Watts & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Colas:** Colas Products, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Corrugated Iron Sheets:** South Durham Steel and Iron Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool.—**Dredger Spares:** Lobnitz & Co., Ltd., Renfrew.—**Drill:** E. Spinner & Co., Manchester.—**Drums:** F. Francis & Sons, London, S.E.—**Electric Hammer:** R. G. Ross & Son, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Explosives:** Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Fishbolts:** Anderston Foundry Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Fuel Economiser:** E. Green & Son, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Generating Plant:** Ruston & Hornsby Ltd., Lincoln.—**Generator:** Lancashire Dynamo & Motor Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Insulators:** Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lathe:** Craven Bros. (Manchester), Ltd., Stockport.—**Letter Boxes:** S. Withers & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Lithographic Machine:** Hunter Penrose, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Locomotives:** Hunslet Engine Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Meters:** Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood.—**Neosalvarsan:** Bayer Products, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Novarsenobillon:** May & Baker, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Petrol:** The Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Pipes:** Wellington Tube Works, Ltd., Tipton.—**Planing Machine:** J. Stirk & Sons, Ltd., Halifax.—**Pumping Unit:** Tangyes, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Quinine:** Howards & Sons, Ltd., Ilford.—**Rail Clips:** C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Rails and Fishplates:** British (Guest, Keen & Baldwins) Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Road Rollers:** Agricultural & General Engineers, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Road Tar:** Lancashire Tar Distillers, Ltd., Manchester.—**Sera:** The Lister Institute, Elstree.—**Spares for "Lux" Cells:** Chloride Elec. Storage Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Spraying Machines:** Bristowes Machinery, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Static Transformer:** British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Stationery:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steel Poles:** British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steel Sheets:** Wolverhampton C.I. Co., Ltd., Wirral.—**Steel Shutters:** Haskins (E. Pollard & Co.), London, E.—**Steel Tank:** Thos. Piggott & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Steel Tubes:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steelwork:** F. Morton & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Surgical Dressings:** T. J. Smith & Nephew, Ltd., Hull.—**Surgical Instruments:** Down Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Switches and Crossings:** Isca Foundry Co., Ltd., Newport, Mon.—**Timber:** C. Leary & Co., London, E.C.—**Tubes:** J. Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Tyres:** Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., London, N.; J. Baker & Bessemer, Ltd., Rotherham; United Steel Companies, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Water Meters:** Manchester Water Meter Co., Manchester; Tylors (Water & Sanitary) Ltd., London, N.—**Windows:** Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Wireless Apparatus:**

Marconi's Wireless Tel. Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Wire**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.; I.C.I. Metals, Ltd. (Elliot's Metal Co., Ltd.), Birmingham; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Carbons: Swallow Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Cloth, Tracing**: North British Book Cloth Co., Radcliffe.—**Paper (various descriptions)**: Caldwell's Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; E. Collins & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Alex. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Penicuik; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Airdrie; J. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal; Darwen Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Darwen; Disley Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Disley; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Ltd., Bitton; London Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Dartford; Wm. Nash, Ltd., St. Paul's Cray; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet; Reed & Smith, Ltd., Watchet; Ryburndale Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Ripponden; St. Neots Paper Mill Co., Ltd., St. Neots; Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Ivybridge.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.**: Loose Leaf Binders and Accessories: G. Wells & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Notices and Proceedings for the Traffic Commissioners: **Area**—Northern: Christie Malcolm, Ltd., Newcastle; Yorkshire: Edwin Jowett, Ltd., Leeds; North-Western: Richard Bates, Manchester; West Midland: Birmingham Printers, Ltd., Birmingham; East Midland: John Corah & Son, Ltd., Loughborough; Eastern: W. Heffer & Sons, Ltd., Cambridge; Southern Scotland: Bishop & Sons, Ltd., Edinburgh; South-Eastern: London Caledonian Press, Ltd., London, W.C.; South Wales: William Lewis (Printers), Ltd., Cardiff; Northern Scotland: John Avery & Co., Ltd., Aberdeen; Western: Burleigh, Ltd., Bristol; Southern: Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Reading; Metropolitan: Eyre & Spottiswoode, Ltd., London, E.C. Wireless Receiving Licence Books: John Corah & Son, Ltd., Loughborough. 50,000 "Manual of Physical Training 1931": Dow & Lester, London, E.C.—**Stencils**: P. & J. Arnold, Ltd., London, N.—**Toilet Rolls**: British Patent Perforated Paper Co., London, E.—**Typewriters**: Bar-Lock (1925) Co., Nottingham; Imperial Typewriters Co., Ltd., Leicester; Oliver Typewriter (Sales) Co., Ltd., Croydon.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Mail-Bag: James Smith & Son, London, N.—**Apparatus, Telephonic**: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts; General Electric Co., Ltd., Telephone Works, Coventry; Joseph Sankey & Sons, Ltd., Bilston; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Arms, Wood**: British Australian Timber Co., Ltd., London, E.; Alex. Bruce & Co., Grays; Calders, Ltd., London, S.E.; Millars' Timber and Trading Co., Ltd., Purfleet; Neil Small & Sons, Ayr.—**Beeswax**: Charles Farris, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Bolts**: Thomas William Lench, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Boots**: Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds.—**Boxes, Coin-collecting**: Hall Telephone Accessories (1928), Ltd., London, N.W.—**Cable**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Callenders Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs; Connollys' (Blackley), Ltd., Manchester; Erewash Electric Wire Co., Ltd., Long Eaton; General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby; Pirelli-General Cable Works, Ltd., Eastleigh; Reliance Electrical Wire Co., London, E.C.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Canvas**: Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee.—**Chains for Bicycles**: Coventry Chain Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Chassis**: Maudslay Motor Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Clocks**: Gillett & Johnston, Ltd., Croydon.—**Coils, Loading**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Salford; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Coils, Resistance**: Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Combiners**: David Willetts, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Cords, Telephone**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; L.P.S. Electrical Co., Ltd., Alport; Phoenix Telephone and Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Reliance Electrical Wire Co., London, E.C.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Home Safes**: Taylor, Law & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Insulators**: Doulton & Co., Ltd., Burslem.—**Lead Seals**: R. P. Bannerman & Son, Ltd., London, N.—**Leggings**: Campbell Achnach & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; D. Moseley & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Pipes, Cast-Iron**: Bailey, Pegg & Co., Ltd., Brierley Hill.—**Rheostats**: A. W. Hart & Co., London, N.—**Rope Hemp**: Wright's Ropes, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Scales**: W. & T. Avery, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Solder**: The Tyne Solder Co., Felling-on-Tyne.—**Speedometers, etc.**: The Cowey Engineering Co., Ltd., Kew.—**Staples**: Tower Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Worcester.—**Suspenders, Cable**: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Transformers**: Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood, Lancs; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Valves, Thermionic**: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Wire, Flameproof**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby.

Conduits, Laying: Streatham-Balham High Road; Croydon, etc.; Bethnal Green Automatic Exchange Area; West Ham, etc.; Ilford, etc.; Birmingham Midland-Acocks Green, etc.; Richmond, etc.; Bexley Heath (South); Kensington Automatic Exchange Area and Grosvenor-Sloane Junction; Merton, S.W. (Scheme I): Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Birmingham. Tottenham-Edmonton; Tottenham-Angel Bridge: A. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Stepney (Bedford Street, Turner Street, etc.); Charing Cross-Leicester Square B.O., London: Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Stepney, Hackney, Poplar and Bethnal Green; Bexley Heath Broadway: O. C. Summers, London, N. Dartford, West Malling and Fairseat (Kent): E. J. Treasure,

York. Stafford-Penkridge Junction: G. Fred. Leadbeter, Newport Mon. Benson (Oxon), Farringdon, etc. (Berks); Stone and Haddenham (Bucks); Churchdown (Gloucester); Heath End and Chandlersford (Hants); and Portsmouth-Gosport-Lee-on-Solent: William Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh. Falkirk (B.B.C. New Station): J. McAdam & Sons, Ltd., Aberdeen. Crewkerne (Somerset): E. Ireland, Bath. Eccles (Manchester): Thornleys (Bolton), Ltd., Bolton. Mansfield (Notts): James F. Hodge, Birmingham. New Cross-New Cross Road, S.E.; Westminster and Chelsea: J. Cochrane & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. Wembley Automatic Exchange Area East, etc.; and Colindale (London, N.W.): J. E. Billings & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Pagham and Lower Beeding (Sussex): Harvey Collingridge, London, W.C. City of London: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Tulse Hill-Christchurch Road: Howard Farrow, Ltd., London, N.W. Bridgeton: The Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Old Swan (Prescot Road), Knotty Ash, Hooton, etc. (Liverpool): W. Connolly & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Loading Manholes—Constructing**: London-Brighton Cable: Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Birmingham. **Selective Basket Band Conveyor**: Mount Pleasant, London, E.C.1. New Letter Sorting Office: A. Sauvée & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment**: Castle Bromwich (Birmingham Area); Springfield (Birmingham Area); Ardwick (Manchester): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Park (Dundee Multi-Exchange Area); Coventry (Coventry Automatic Area); and Wordsworth (London Automatic Area): The General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry. Sub-Contractors for Wordsworth: D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries; Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Charging Machines and Ringing Machines; Bowes Park (London Automatic Area): The General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry. Sub-Contractors for Bowes Park: Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines; D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries; Messrs. Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd. (Smethwick): The Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; London County Council (County Hall), York, Ipswich and Newbury (Berks): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors for Newbury: The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Motor Generator Set; The Alton Battery Co., Ltd., Alton, Hants, for Batteries; Wolverhampton, Finchfield, Bilston, Fallings Park, Penn and Tettenhall (Wolverhampton Multi Exchange Area), Valentine (London Area): Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors for Valentine: Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Motor Generator Sets; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Ringing Machines; Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries.—**Telephonic Repeater Equipment**: Hull and Nottingham: Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.

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