

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XLIX.—No. 9.]

SEPTEMBER, 1941.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 11th August was 116,127. As compared with 14th July there was a reduction of 3,273 in the number of wholly unemployed men on the register; the number of boys, however, showed an increase of 5,738, due mainly to the registration of boys who had left school at the end of the summer term. Of the total of 98,737 men registered as wholly unemployed, 32,345 had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment.

The number of men and boys registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 15,566, showing a decrease of 5,296 as compared with 14th July. Those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 11,982, an increase of 977 as compared with 14th July.

For women and girls the corresponding figures at 11th August were 103,644 wholly unemployed (of whom 3,623 had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment, and 4,154 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area although employment was not likely to be available locally), 22,384 temporarily stopped, and 586 unemployed casual workers. As compared with 14th July, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 6,644 amongst women and an increase of 4,373 amongst girls (the latter being mainly due to the registration of school-leavers), those temporarily stopped a decrease of 2,781, and unemployed casual workers a decrease of 85.

The number of applicants for unemployment benefit or allowances on the registers at 11th August was 191,178, as compared with 207,311 at 14th July, and 619,507 at 12th August, 1940.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £58,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 415,000 workpeople, and in a decrease estimated at about £4,600 in those of 267,000 workpeople.*

In the road transport (goods) industry, the statutory minimum rates for men employed as drivers, attendants and mates were increased by 4s. a week. In the electricity supply industry, the war bonus was increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour in the case of men, with proportional increases in the case of youths and apprentices. In the sugar

confectionery and food preserving industry, the statutory minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were raised by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour for men, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $\frac{3}{8}$ d. an hour for women, and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour for youths, boys and girls. There were also wage increases in the manufacture of cast stone and cast concrete products, sack and bag making and the manufacture of boot and floor polish.

In the coal mining industry, there were slight reductions in the percentage additions to basis rates in Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire), Warwickshire and Cannock Chase, resulting from the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the industry. In ironstone mining and quarrying, in the iron and steel manufacturing industry, and in the tinsplate industry, the flat-rate additions to wages were reduced, in accordance with sliding-scale arrangements based on fluctuations in the cost of living, by 0.8d. a shift for men, and by 0.4d. a shift for youths and boys. The statutory minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were decreased, under cost-of-living sliding scales, in the tobacco manufacturing industry in Great Britain and the baking trade in Scotland.

The changes reported in the first eight months of 1941, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £1,480,000 a week in the wage rates of over 7,300,000 workpeople. In the corresponding eight months of 1940, over 7,400,000 workpeople in these industries received a net increase estimated at about £1,700,000 a week.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages in August are given on pages 180 to 183.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the official cost-of-living index figure was 99 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, showing no change as compared with 1st August.

For food prices alone, the index figure at 1st September was 66 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 67 per cent. at 1st August, the decline being due to reductions in the prices of potatoes. Among items other than food, the only important change was a slight rise in the average level of prices of clothing and clothing materials.

Further particulars of the changes in retail prices are given on page 184.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August, was 94. In addition, 4 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 98 disputes (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred) was 22,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in August was about 44,000 working days.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress during the first eight months of 1941 was about 760,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 225,000.

* The workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in August had received increases of greater amount during the earlier months of 1941.

RECRUITMENT OF WOMEN FOR WAR WORK.

REVISED PROCEDURE UNDER THE REGISTRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT ORDER.

In order to obtain the large numbers of women who are urgently required for the full mobilisation of the Armed Forces and the war industries, the Ministry of Labour and National Service has recently made some important changes in the administration of the Registration for Employment Order.* The main changes in the scheme, as now administered by the Local Offices of the Ministry, are: (1) a more selective basis of interviewing the women who have registered under the Order has been adopted, with a view to obtaining the greatest results in the shortest time; (2) women in the registered age groups will be recruited for a strictly limited list of services or employments; (3) the onus of proving the indispensability of an employee will be placed on the employer, who will be consulted beforehand; (4) the onus of proving that a woman is unable for domestic reasons to transfer to war-work will rest on her, and in case of dispute, the advice of the Women's Panel will be sought.

Women in the categories described below are not, for the present, being called for interview: their cases are being left for consideration after the women not in these categories have been dealt with. These categories are those in which the least numbers are likely to be found available for transfer, namely:—(a) women in full-time paid employment in an undertaking engaged to the extent of at least 75 per cent. on Government work or work for export, except in such industries as the concentration industries; (b) women in full-time paid employment in an undertaking which has been Scheduled under the Essential Work Order; (c) women who are reserved by the Schedule of Reserved Occupations; and (d) married women who are responsible for the household.

In the case of certain employments it has been recognised that substitutes may be necessary before women in the registered age groups can be withdrawn in appreciable numbers. These employments are being considered separately.

Before a woman is called for interview, her employer will be informed, so as to give him an opportunity to make any representations he may desire. If, after consideration of these representations, it is decided that the woman should be interviewed, the nature of such representations will be communicated to her.

In future, interviews will be conducted at the Local Office nearest the employer's premises instead of at the Local Office nearest to the woman's home. This will facilitate consideration of the cases of all women employed in the same undertaking in relation to the requirements of the undertaking in which they are employed.

It will be assumed that a woman is available for transfer to vital war work of a type described in the next paragraph unless the employer shows that she is indispensable to his business. It will also be assumed that a woman is not prevented by personal reasons from transferring to vital war work, in another area if necessary, unless she shows that the contrary is the case. If she represents that such transfer would involve serious personal or domestic hardship, and such representations cannot be accepted by the interviewer, her case will be referred to the Women's Panel of the local Employment Committee for advice. Any point of difficulty relating to the personal or domestic circumstances of the woman will similarly be referred to this Panel. If it is decided in such a case, after considering the advice of the Panel, that she has no good reason for refusing to transfer to another area, compulsory directions will be given, if necessary, to enforce transfer.

Women in the registered age groups who are deemed available for transfer to vital war work will, subject to the proper utilisation in the national interest of special qualifications, be required to take up industrial work of the kind described below unless they go into one of the Services mentioned below. If such work is not available to them locally, transfer to other areas will be necessary. The following will be regarded for this purpose as vital war work:—

- (a) *Services*.—Women's Royal Naval Service; Auxiliary Territorial Service; Women's Auxiliary Air Force; Civil Defence Service; Nursing Services; Hospital Domestics; Women's Land Army; Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes.
- (b) *Industrial Work*.—Aircraft Manufacture; Electric Cable Making; Engineering in undertakings engaged on armament and munitions production (including training for such work at Government Training Centres, Technical Colleges or in employers' establishments); Radio Manufacture; Royal Ordnance Factories; Tanks and Tank parts manufacture; and Transport Service (including maintenance). The list of industrial work may be varied from time to time.

If vital war work is available locally, a mobile woman will be sent to such work only if no immobile women are available. The immobile woman will either be sent to vital war work if it is available locally or her services will be utilised to replace a woman in other employment who is available for transfer for vital war work elsewhere. She will not be asked to change her work, if in employment, except for one of these purposes.

In some cases it has been found that after registration women have gone into employment which they have thought to be of greater national importance than their previous work. In future when women have changed their occupation after registration, they will nevertheless be considered for transfer, however

important their new employment, unless it is on the list of vital war work.

Nothing in the new arrangements alters the existing position in the following respects:—(1) wives of men serving in the Armed Forces will not be called upon to leave home; (2) women with children of their own under 14 years living with them will not be called for selection interview; and (3) expectant mothers will not be asked to take employment.

In making these arrangements, the Minister is satisfied that women who are registered are anxious to play their part and that they will respond to clear guidance as to how best they can serve the country in the present emergency. The use of directions will only be required when a woman unreasonably refuses to undertake vital war work. If in any case directions are issued, she will be entitled to appeal to an Appeal Board. The demands for additional labour are most urgent and the work to which women will be asked to go is vital. They will have the satisfaction of knowing that in taking up such work, they are making a direct personal contribution to the war effort.

In order that women in the registered age groups can be released quickly, without undue dislocation of important work, it is necessary that employers should be prepared to engage older women. The help of older women is urgently necessary, both for vital war work if they can undertake it and for replacement purposes.

Two hundred thousand women are needed for the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the bulk of them before the end of this year. Women of all classes must consider whether they can undertake this service. It provides opportunities of work that is not only interesting but highly responsible, and every woman enrolled in the Women's Services means one less man to be called from man's work in industry into the Forces.

THE USE OF SKILLED MAN-POWER IN THE SERVICES.

COMMITTEE'S INTERIM REPORT.

A Committee was appointed by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 9th June to examine, in consultation with the three Service Departments, the use now made in the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force of skilled men and to advise in the light of the operational and maintenance commitments of the three Services (a) whether the skilled man-power already at the disposal of the Services is being used with due economy and effect; (b) whether the Service arrangements for training skilled men are such as to meet to the greatest practicable extent the Service requirements for skilled men; and (c) whether the demands of the Services for skilled men as recruits to Service trades during the period ending 31st March, 1942, should in any respect be modified. The members of the Committee were Sir W. H. Beveridge, K.C.B. (Chairman), and Messrs. G. E. Bailey, J. C. Little, and R. G. Simpson.

The Committee have sent to the Minister, at his request, an Interim Report,* in which they state that although their terms of reference involve extensive enquiry they realise that it is desirable for them to put forward at an early date, as a guide to immediate action, whatever advice they are able to give upon the matters referred to them, without prejudice to their final recommendations. They emphasise the fact that they are still at a very early stage of their enquiries, and that this is true particularly as regards the Navy. In relation, however, to the two Services—the Army and the Air Force—in which their enquiries are most advanced they feel justified in reaching the interim conclusions set out below.

First, the necessary work of modification, repair, maintenance and servicing of machines and instruments of war is now being performed, both in the Army and in the Air Force, with a notable economy of skilled men, secured by a high degree of dilution and extensive and well-designed arrangements for training.

Second, vigorous efforts are being made by these Services to discover men already in the forces not already engaged on such work, whose qualifications make it likely that they could undertake it with success or could be trained to do so.

Third, in view of the military programmes, a large increase of men engaged on such work is inevitable, exceeding the numbers who can be obtained within the Services by training or transfer.

The Committee express themselves as satisfied that, in the light of these considerations, a further substantial withdrawal of skilled men from the engineering and allied trades to the Services is required, and should be met by a corresponding extension of dilution in civilian industry.

SCHEDULE OF RESERVED OCCUPATIONS.

DE-RESERVATION AT STAGE C.

THE changes in ages of reservation at Stage C† under the Schedule of Reserved Occupations and Protected Work become effective as from 1st October, 1941. Men de-reserved at this stage are not required to join their units before that date, but may have been called for medical examination from the beginning of September. Applications for deferment of the calling up of indispensable men employed on work of urgent public importance who are de-reserved at Stage C should have been made not later than 6th September, 1941. A copy of the Schedule of Reserved Occupations and Protected Work can be seen at any Ministry of Labour and National Service Office or can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 1s.

* Cmd. 6307; H.M. Stationery Office, price 2d. net (3d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, page 78.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, page 50.

LABOUR PROBLEMS OF THE WAR INDUSTRIES.

REPORT BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

AN inquiry into the labour problems of the war industries as a whole has been undertaken by the Home Defence Services Sub-Committee of the Select Committee on National Expenditure. Details of the inquiry and the recommendations made are contained in a recently-published Report by the Select Committee.*

The Report points out that, since the man-power of the country is limited and shortages of labour have been felt for some time, it is of the utmost importance that the output of every worker should be increased to the maximum. For this purpose it is necessary that the individual worker should work his hardest and that the work should be organised as carefully as possible. To ensure the maximum national output, Government Departments concerned must assume a large measure of direct responsibility for ensuring that labour and materials are used to the best advantage. In particular, the labour sections of Production Departments should relate their activities specifically to the output of labour. They should, when possible, keep complete and comparable records of output per worker, and systematically use them as a basis for improving efficiency. The Industrial Health Research Board should work in the closest co-operation with the Production Departments, should advise them and be strengthened so as to be able to carry out investigations on a wide scale into the main problems of industrial health and efficiency.

The Report sets out in detail under separate headings the findings and conclusions of the Sub-Committee on a number of specific factors which affect output. A brief summary is given below of the recommendations under each of these headings:—

Hours of Work.—Government Departments should, after consultation with employers and employed, decide the maximum number of hours which should be regularly worked in the interests of production and give definite instructions to contractors accordingly. The Industrial Health Research Board should carry out investigations to determine the best length of working week for a wide range of different kinds of work and for men, women and juveniles.

Workpeople should have one day's rest in seven. Factories, on the other hand, should wherever possible be kept working seven days a week, and negotiations should be conducted with trade unions to make arrangements whereby a six-day week for the workpeople may be fitted into a seven-day week for the factory. Factories and plant should be employed for as much of the twenty-four hours as possible, and the necessary improvements in the conditions of night work should be made.

Wages—Consideration should be given by Departments to the problem of devising arrangements for the adjustment of piece-rates which will not discourage improvement in the rate of output.

Management.—Whenever lack of work is unavoidable, workers should, as far as possible, be temporarily transferred to other factories and the assurance should be made widely known among employers that workpeople so lent will return to their own factories as soon as work becomes available again. Employers should be instructed to report temporary surpluses of labour. Managements should take their workpeople more closely into their confidence. In particular, when lack of work is unavoidable and temporary transfer is not possible, managements should explain, as far as is possible, the cause to their workpeople.

All large firms should have a central personnel department. Wide publicity should be given to the training courses for personnel managers and welfare supervisors organised by the Ministry of Labour, and employers should be encouraged to take advantage of the scheme. Men should be appointed to positions of authority in industry, particularly as chargehands and foremen, for their qualities of leadership, tact and organising ability as well as for their technical skill. The courses of evening lectures in foremanship which are being organised by the Ministry of Labour† should be made widely known among employers and workpeople.

Discipline.—(i) The disciplinary provisions of the Essential Work Orders should be kept constantly under review; (ii) the provision under the Essential Work Orders whereby an employer may suspend a worker for three days without pay for reasons of a disciplinary character should be amended to make it clear that slackness is covered; (iii) a persistent offender who refuses to obey a direction under the Essential Work Orders should be de-reserved; (iv) it should be made clear that a direction under the Essential Work Orders, once made, remains in force and that a person who fails to comply with it at any time renders himself liable to legal proceedings, or de-reservation; (v) those undertakings engaged on essential work which have not yet been scheduled under the Essential Work Orders should be provisionally scheduled without delay.

Industrial Relations.—Publicity should be given to the work of the Conciliation Officers of the Ministry of Labour so that all cases of impending stoppage of work are brought early to their notice.

Transport.—The Minister of War Transport should have

power to regulate the times, frequency and routes of road passenger services in the interests of people engaged in essential work and to require services to continue to run during air raids. As many road passenger vehicles should be completed and put into service before the winter as possible, and sufficient spare parts and adequate facilities for maintenance should be provided. Further, numbers of buses now retained idle by the Ministry of Health as inter-hospital ambulances should be released. Arrangements should be made to train drivers for small transport operators.

The Minister of Labour should be given power after consultation with the Ministry of War Transport and the Production Departments to require employers and workpeople in suitable areas to devise schemes of staggering of hours, particularly as between factories in the same district, and largely using the same communications. Special passes should be issued to workpeople to give them priority on certain services. Greater use of existing train services should be further encouraged and wherever the difference in fares between rail and road transport operates so as unduly to over-load the latter, special service train fares should be reduced to the level of bus fares. All Departments should wherever necessary pay fares in excess of 3s. a week to workpeople at any establishment engaged in Government work.

Feeding.—The Factories (Canteens) Order, 1940, should be amended so as to require factories engaged mainly in work on behalf of the Crown, with a sufficient number of workers to make the arrangements feasible and necessary, either to provide their own canteens or to make suitable alternative provision. Financial assistance may be necessary in some cases. A few days' stock of food should be laid in at canteens in case of breakdowns of supplies. There should be careful collaboration between the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Food to ensure that movements of population are promptly followed by appropriate diversions of food supplies. Workpeople should have some responsibility for the management of their own canteens.

Lighting and Ventilation.—The work of improving lighting in factories should be expedited.

Incentives to Output.—Educative publicity is needed to demonstrate to workpeople that there is a real need for ever greater output of munitions, and to make them realise the importance of their work. Speakers from the Services should be carefully chosen, and should consult with the management. "Output-mindedness" should be stimulated by the display of graphic records of output. Outstanding merit and exceptional efforts under conditions of special difficulty should be rewarded and publicity given in the Press and on the wireless.

There is a widespread (but mistaken) belief among workpeople that as soon as they become liable for income tax they pay at the full rate of 10s. in £1. Publicity is needed to remove misconceptions about income tax, and to explain how the Excess Profits Tax operates to prevent profiteering.

ROAD HAULAGE INDUSTRY.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND CONDITIONS.

THE Minister of Labour and National Service has made a new Order (R.H. (8)) dated 15th August, 1941, under Section 3 of the Road Haulage Wages Act, 1938, and Section 3 of the Holidays with Pay Act, 1938, amending the statutory remuneration for road haulage workers prescribed by the Order (R.H. (6)) made by him on 11th December, 1940,* and fixing rates of remuneration (including holiday remuneration) for road haulage workers between the ages of 14 and 18 and for vanguards between the ages of 18 and 21 in the London Area. The principal effect of this new Order, which became operative on 25th August, 1941, is to increase by 4s. a week the remuneration of all road haulage workers who are entitled to the adult rates and by 2s. 3d. a week the remuneration of all other road haulage workers. Hourly rates, overtime, and holiday remuneration are increased in proportion.

The new Order is noteworthy in that it makes provision for the first time for special rates of remuneration for the following classes of workers who have hitherto been covered by the general rates:—

- Foremen, removal packers and porters of the age of 21 or over in the furniture warehousing and removing industry;
- Driver-trainees of the age of 21 or over who have had no previous employment as drivers of commercial vehicles;
- Female workers with not more than 39 weeks' employment in the trade; and
- Drivers of tractors of not more than two tons unladen weight used exclusively for furniture removal work.

The special rates of remuneration provided for driver-trainees apply to the first four weeks of training only. For female workers with not more than 39 weeks' employment in the trade, the new Order provides for the remuneration to be based upon a percentage of the statutory remuneration which would be applicable to a male worker of the same age, with the same length of employment in the trade and employed on the same work, the percentage being fixed at 80 per cent. for the first 13 weeks of employment in the trade, and at 90 per cent. for the next 26 weeks.

* Twenty-first Report from the Select Committee on National Expenditure, Session 1940-1941 (H.C. 109); H.M. Stationery Office, price 4d. net (5d. post free).
† See the issue of this GAZETTE for August, page 158.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1941, page 12.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS, 1941

THE seventy-third Annual Trades Union Congress was held at Edinburgh on September 1st, 1941, and the three following days. The President was Mr. G. Gibson, Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the statistical statement compiled by the General Council, was 681; the number of organisations affiliated to the Congress (including organisations, with an aggregate membership of 30,000, which did not appoint delegates) was 176,* with a membership of approximately 5,079,000 at the end of 1940.

The following Table shows the total membership of the affiliated organisations, grouped according to the classification adopted by the Department for its annual statistics of membership of *all* trade unions; comparative figures are also given for the previous year.

Group of Organisations.	1941.			1940.		
	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members at end of 1940.	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members at end of 1939.
Agriculture, Horticulture, etc. ..	1	10	45,100	1	6	45,000
Coal Mining ..	5	113	598,332	5	115	597,962
Pottery and Glass ..	5	4	21,605	6	3	24,155
Metals, Machines, Conveyances, etc.	46	102	973,073	47	100	860,536
Textile ..	28*	106	311,323	27*	108	306,847
Clothing (including Boot and Shoe) ..	8	30	240,663	8	30	222,121
Paper, Printing, etc.	14	34	202,589	14	35	199,529
Building, Wood-working and Furniture Manufacture, Public Works Contracting, etc. ..	17	34	375,337	17	33	383,563
Railway Service ..	3	25	489,996	3	25	466,931
Water Transport ..	2	10	58,375	2	13	58,375
Other Transport (Road, Dock, etc.) and General Labour ..	7	117	1,165,508	7	113	1,149,547
Commerce and Distribution ..	6	28	304,592	6	30	279,769
Banking and Insurance ..	6	18	71,291	5	16	72,271
Local Government ..	6	25	121,924	6	21	104,185
Entertainments and Sport ..	4	4	17,820	4	3	20,327
All Other Groups ..	18	21	81,566	18	16	75,593
TOTALS ..	176*	681	5,079,094	176*	667	4,866,711

The Congress adopted unanimously a resolution which affirmed the unalterable resolve of the British working class to go on with the struggle for the destruction of the Nazi-Fascist regime, and to establish democracy, free citizenship, and peace; welcomed the evidence of Anglo-American accord afforded by the Atlantic Conference; and pledged the trade union movement to do all that lies in its power to help the Soviet Union. The resolution also endorsed the General Council's proposal for the establishment of an Anglo-Russian Trade Union Council for the exchange of views and information on matters of common concern, and called upon workers in all occupied countries to remain loyal to the principles upon which the foundations of working-class liberty rest.

Among other matters upon which Congress adopted resolutions were the institution of adequate negotiating machinery in the insurance industry; consultation between Government Departments and Trade Unions in connection with the provision of man-power for war industries; the Fire Prevention (Business Premises) Order, 1941; increased rates of pay and allowances to Service men and their dependents; the abolition of the Purchase Tax on all commodities necessary to maintain the health and well-being of the working classes; post-war reconstruction, with particular reference to the control of financial interests and the ensuring of speedy and continuous employment for all workers; food rationing, price control and communal feeding; the establishment of an earlier pay-day throughout industry; the general recognition of trade union membership cards; air-raid precaution services; and employees' pension schemes. A proposal regarding the payment of family allowances by the State was discussed and the General Council was instructed to give consideration to this issue and to submit proposals upon it to Congress in due course.

Among other subjects discussed were war-time wage policy, including the White Paper issued by His Majesty's Government on Price Stabilisation and Industrial Policy;† the medical examination of school children and of young persons in factory or workshop employment; the position of women in industry, with particular reference to long hours of employment; and the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927. As regards this Act, the Congress endorsed a proposal by the General Council that action should be taken with a view to obtaining the repeal of Sections 5 and 6, which sections have the effect, *inter alia*, of prohibiting established civil servants from joining trade unions not restricted to civil servants, of prohibiting civil service

unions from affiliating to the Trades Union Congress, and of making it unlawful for a public authority to require that an employee shall or shall not be a member of a trade union.

Mr. Frank Wolstencroft, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, and a member of the Trades Union Congress General Council since 1928, has been elected Chairman of the General Council of the Congress for the forthcoming year.

FALL-BACK WAGE FOR COTTON WEAVERS.

AN Agreement has been arrived at between the employers' and workers' organisations concerned, providing for a fall-back wage for weavers in the cotton manufacturing industry. An agreement on the principle involved had been reached in May, 1939, but the matter had been deferred for further negotiations regarding certain points of detail and application. Some delay was caused by the war, but at a joint meeting of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and the Amalgamated Weavers' Association, held on 15th August, 1941, complete agreement was reached on the outstanding points, and at the request of both parties the terms of the agreement have been embodied in an Award, dated 19th August, 1941, by Sir Charles Doughty, K.C., Chairman of the Cotton Conciliation Committee. The principal provisions of the Agreement, which comes into operation on the first pay-day in October, 1941, are summarised below.

The Agreement applies only to weavers engaged on the ordinary system of weaving. It covers weavers engaged on sheetings, quilts,* towels,* worsted goods, waste cloths, velvets and fustians, canvas and duck cloths, and cotton blankets, as well as the cloths covered by the Uniform Weaving Lists, 1937, and the Supplement. It does not apply to weavers engaged on looms fitted with an automatic weft replenishing motion, or on smallware looms; nor does it apply to weavers who have had less than 12 months' training or to weavers temporarily working in place of absentees.

The Agreement provides that there is to be a fall-back wage of 66½ per cent. of the individual weavers' gross normal weekly wages averaged over four full weeks; the fall-back wage payable is subject to a maximum of 33s. and a minimum of 25s., but these maximum and minimum rates are subject to general advances and reductions in wages since September, 1939.†

The fall-back wage provisions apply to weavers who are normally running four looms or who are normally running less than four looms where the type of the cloth or the looms makes it customary for less than four looms to be regarded as a full complement for an adult skilled weaver. Where a weaver is running as a full complement any less number than the number of looms which, in other firms or districts, is regarded as the full complement of a competent weaver on similar looms and cloths, the maximum and minimum rates of 33s. and 25s. are reduced proportionately. This arrangement also applies in the case of weavers who, on account of age, disability or other personal reasons are running as their full complement less than the normal number of looms in their mill and of weavers who are not fully competent after 12 months' training and are on less than a full complement.

Where all the looms in a weaver's full complement are running, and he or she is employed the full normal weekly hours, the average wages taken over three consecutive weeks (that is, the week directly concerned, the week preceding and the week following) must be less than the fall-back wage to qualify for payment of such fall-back wage. Where such a weaver is employed less than the full normal number of hours in any week, there must be a proportionate adjustment to cover this factor.

Where any of the looms in a weaver's complement are stopped in any week (except for normal gaiting-time) and the weaver is kept at work with less than the full normal complement, the Agreement provides that where the weaver works the full normal hours in any week, the fall-back wage provisions apply to that week's wages alone. If the weaver works a less number than the normal hours in any week, the fall-back wage provisions apply to that week's wages alone, but there must be a proportionate adjustment for the time actually worked.

FOOD CONTROL.

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

MAXIMUM retail prices were prescribed for venison from 18th August, for honey from 25th August, for blackberries from 29th August, and, as regards bacon, for uncooked boneless whole bellies and for cooked boneless streaks or bellies from 15th September. New maximum prices were prescribed for home-grown apples from 8th September and for jam from 11th September.

FOOD RATIONING.

The special ration of cheese, viz., 8 ozs. per week, granted to agricultural workers and underground miners was extended, as from 22nd September, to county roadmen, forestry workers, land drainage workers, members of the Auxiliary Force of the Women's Land Army, and certain types of agricultural industry workers and railwaymen.

Cooked boneless streak and belly bacon were saleable without coupon from 15th September.

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

† See page 154 of the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1941.

* A supplementary agreement, appended to the main agreement, contains some adaptations due to the special circumstances obtaining in the towel and quilt weaving sections.

† At the present time, rates of wages are subject to an advance of 32½ per cent. on the level of September, 1939.

SOCIAL LEGISLATION IN AUSTRALIA.

I.—CHILD ENDOWMENT.

A FEDERAL system of child endowment has been introduced in Australia by an Act which came into force on 7th April, 1941. The Act, which is to be administered by the Secretary of the Department of Social Services, provides for the payment from Federal Funds of an endowment at the rate of 5s. a week as from 1st July, 1941, in respect of children under the age of 16 years. The endowment is to be granted to (a) any person who maintains more than one such child, in respect of each child in excess of one, and (b) to any approved charitable institution or organisation (other than an institution or organisation wholly or mainly maintained at the cost of the Commonwealth or a State) in respect of every child maintained by it. Endowment allowances may be granted to aboriginal natives of Australia under the same conditions as for other Australian subjects, except in the case of nomadic aboriginals and children who are wholly or mainly dependent upon the Commonwealth or a State for their support.

No endowment is payable unless (a) the person claiming the endowment is in Australia on the date on which the claim is made, and, if not born in Australia, has had his usual place of residence there for the period of twelve months immediately preceding that date; and (b) the child in respect of whom the endowment is claimed is in Australia and, if not born in Australia, has been resident there for the period of twelve months immediately preceding the date on which the claim is made. The endowment is normally payable to the mother of the child in respect of whom it is granted; but, where reasonable grounds exist for the disqualification of the mother, payment may be made to some person other than the mother. An endowment is not payable in respect of any child for any period after (a) the person to whom it is granted ceases to be resident in Australia; (b) the child reaches the age of 16 years; (c) the child ceases to be resident in Australia, or dies before reaching that age; or (d) if the child is a female, she marries before reaching that age. In no case may any endowment allowances be sent to any person outside Australia.

The Act stipulates that the endowment must be used by the person to whom it is paid for the maintenance, training and advancement of the child concerned, or, in certain specially prescribed circumstances, for such other purpose as may be specified.

It is estimated that about one million out of the total of 1,830,000 children in Australia under the age of 16 years belong to families with more than one dependent child, and that the cost of the scheme will amount to about £13,000,000 annually. This sum, according to the official *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, is to be partly met out of the proceeds of the pay-roll tax (see below). This tax is estimated to produce about £9,000,000. Another £2,000,000 will be obtained through extra income tax as a result of the abolition of income tax abatements for each child after the first. The balance will be met from general revenue.

II.—PAY-ROLL TAX.

A TAX on all employers in Australia at the rate of 2½ per cent. on the wages, as defined below, paid or payable by them in respect of any period after 30th June, 1941, is imposed by the Pay-roll Tax Act, 1941, supplemented by a further Act to regulate the imposition, assessment and collection of the tax. Both Acts came into force on 2nd May, 1941.

Liability to Taxation.—The tax is to be payable by the employer who pays or is liable to pay the wages. By "wages" is meant "any wages, salary, commission, bonus or allowances paid or payable (whether at piece-work rates or otherwise and whether paid or payable in cash or in kind) to any employee as such, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, (a) any payment made under any prescribed classes of contracts to the extent to which that payment is attributable to labour; (b) any payment made by a company by way of remuneration to a director of that company; (c) any payment made by way of commission to an insurance or time-payment canvasser or collector; and (d) the provision by the employer of meals or sustenance or the use of premises or quarters as consideration or part consideration for the employee's services." Meals or sustenance and premises or quarters provided by an employer are to be deemed in general to have a value of fifteen shillings a week and five shillings a week respectively. The tax is not to be applied to the wages paid (a) by the Governor-General or the Governor of a State; (b) by a religious or public benevolent institution, or a public hospital; and (c) to members of their official staffs by diplomatic, consular or other representatives in Australia of the Governments of any other part of the British Dominions or of any other country, or by Trade Commissioners representing in Australia any other part of the British Dominions.

For the purpose of assessing the amount of the tax to be paid by an employer for any particular period, a sum calculated at the rate of £20 a week is to be excluded from the total wages paid or payable by him during the period in question, and where the wages paid or payable by an employer in respect of the financial year commencing on 1st July, 1941, or any subsequent financial year, do not exceed £1,040 (or a proportionate amount in the case of a person who is an employer during only part of the year), the Commissioner of Taxation is to refund or rebate to the employer the amount of the tax paid or payable

by him in respect of the year or part year. Where a person who is an employer for only part of the year satisfies the Commissioner that, by reason of the nature of his trade or business, the wages paid by him fluctuate with different periods of the year, and that, as a consequence, if he had been an employer for the full period of the financial year, the total wages paid or payable by him would not have exceeded £1,040, he may be treated as a person who is an employer for the whole of the year.

Registration and Returns.—Every employer who, in respect of any period after the operative date of the legislation, pays or is liable to pay wages at a rate in excess of £20 a week, must, within seven days after the close of the month in which the period ends, make application to the Commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed, for registration as an employer. Every registered employer must furnish to the Commissioner, within seven days after the close of each month, a return of all wages paid or payable by him in respect of each pay period in that month. No returns are, however, to be furnished in respect of any month prior to July, 1941. Where the Commissioner is of the opinion that an employer will not be liable for the tax, he may issue a certificate exempting him, either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose, from the liability to furnish any monthly wages returns. Employers to whom such certificates are issued must, however, unless the contrary is expressed in the certificate, furnish annual wages returns within twenty-one days after the close of each financial year. The issue of a certificate of exemption is not to exempt an employer from the payment of any tax for which he may be liable, notwithstanding that it may have the effect of postponing the time of its payment.

Collection of Tax.—The tax for which an employer is liable must be paid by him within the time within which he is required to lodge the return of the wages on which the amount of the tax is assessed. Where the Commissioner finds that the tax, although due, has not been paid, or has not been paid in full, he may assess the amount of the wages paid or payable by the employer concerned and calculate the tax or further tax payable thereon. If an employer fails to furnish any wages return, or the Commissioner is not satisfied with the returns, or has reason to believe that an employer, although he may not have furnished any returns, is liable for the tax, the Commissioner may assess the amount on which, in his judgment, the tax ought to be levied, and the employer must pay not only the appropriate tax on the sum assessed but also an additional tax of double the amount of the tax, or the sum of £1, whichever is the greater. The whole or part of such additional tax may, however, be remitted by the Commissioner, for any reasons which he thinks sufficient. In such cases, where he thinks fit, the Commissioner may extend the time for the payment of the tax by such period as he considers the circumstances warrant, and he may also permit payment to be made by instalments over a specified period. Taxes which are not paid when they fall due are to be subject to an additional tax at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the amount of tax unpaid, but the Commissioner may, at his discretion, remit the whole or part of such additional tax.

Enforcement.—Provision is also made for the imposition of penalties on employers who contravene any of the provisions of the legislation, and for the establishment of a Board of Review to hear and decide objections and appeals by employers against decisions concerning the tax made by the Commissioner of Taxation.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN EIRE.

INCREASE IN RATES OF DEPENDANTS' BENEFIT.
By the Emergency Powers (No. 93) Order, dated 10th June, 1941, the allowances payable in Eire in respect of dependants of recipients of unemployment benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1941, have been increased from 5s. and 1s. a week to 7s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. a week for adult and child dependants, respectively. Similar increases have been made in the corresponding allowances for dependants payable to recipients of Out-of-Work Benefit under the Special Scheme of Unemployment Insurance for the Insurance Industry. The increased rates first became payable on 19th June, 1941.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION IN BOMBAY.

UNDER the terms of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, arbitration proceedings for the settlement of disputes could be instituted only in cases where this was sanctioned by agreement between the employer and a trade union registered under the Act. In industries and localities where no registered trade unions existed, or where the two parties could not agree to submit the dispute to arbitration, arbitration procedure was not possible. The relevant provisions have now been amended by the Bombay Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1941, which introduces a system of compulsory arbitration to be applied immediately to all industries at present covered by the main Act. By this amending Act, the Provincial Government is empowered to refer any industrial dispute to the arbitration of the Industrial Court set up under the main Act, if it is satisfied that the continuance of such a dispute is likely to cause serious or prolonged hardship to a large section of the community, or seriously to affect an industry and the prospects and scope of employment therein, or to cause a serious outbreak of disorder or breach of the public peace.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 11th August was 116,127. As compared with 14th July there was a reduction of 3,273 in the number of wholly unemployed men on the register; the number of boys, however, showed an increase of 5,738, due mainly to the registration of boys who had left school at the end of the summer term. Of the total of 98,737 men registered as wholly unemployed, 32,345 had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment.

The number of men and boys registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 15,566, showing a decrease of 5,296 as compared with 14th July. Those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 11,982, an increase of 977 as compared with 14th July.

For women and girls the corresponding figures at 11th August were 103,644 wholly unemployed (of whom 3,623 had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment, and 4,154 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area although employment was not likely to be available locally), 22,384 temporarily stopped, and 586 unemployed casual workers. As compared with 14th July, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 6,644 amongst women and an increase of 4,373 amongst girls (the latter being mainly due to the registration of school-leavers), those temporarily stopped a decrease of 2,781, and unemployed casual workers a decrease of 85.

The number of applicants for unemployment benefit or allowances on the registers at 11th August was 191,178, as compared with 207,311 at 14th July, and 619,507 at 12th August, 1940.

The numbers registered as unemployed at 11th August are analysed below:—

	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	Unemployed Casual Workers.
Great Britain.			
Men	98,737	15,131	11,958
Boys	17,390	435	24
Women	82,208	21,255	585
Girls	21,436	1,129	1
Total	219,771	37,950	12,568
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with			
14th July, 1941	+ 194	— 8,077	+ 892
12th August, 1940	— 393,385	— 116,430	— 19,348
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			
Men	108,091	15,963	13,065
Boys	18,427	471	24
Women	97,746	24,719	589
Girls	23,030	1,294	1
Total	247,294	42,447	13,679
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with			
14th July, 1941	— 4,708	— 8,551	+ 781
12th August, 1940	— 423,194	— 120,915	— 20,210

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

THE following Table shows the numbers of unemployed persons on the registers at 11th August in each administrative region:—

Region.	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.
Wholly Unemployed.					
London and South-Eastern	15,579	3,310	15,693	3,342	37,924
Eastern	3,466	634	4,528	991	9,619
Southern	2,137	547	3,307	738	6,729
South-Western	4,134	1,143	4,519	1,303	11,099
Midlands	2,370	884	1,910	843	6,007
North-Midlands	2,902	454	2,804	797	6,957
North-Eastern	7,917	1,215	5,096	1,686	15,914
North-Western	15,713	2,509	17,646	2,199	38,067
Northern	11,875	2,077	5,613	4,099	23,664
Scotland	17,613	2,673	16,241	2,852	39,379
Wales	15,031	1,944	4,851	2,586	24,412
Great Britain	98,737	17,390	82,208	21,436	219,771
Northern Ireland	9,354	1,037	15,538	1,594	27,523
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	108,091	18,427	97,746	23,030	247,294
Temporarily Stopped.					
London and South-Eastern	397	3	2,018	52	2,470
Eastern	130	2	378	24	534
Southern	37	1	230	6	274
South-Western	372	15	546	36	969
Midlands	532	7	1,306	26	1,871
North-Midlands	575	8	1,816	162	2,561
North-Eastern	2,390	10	3,834	93	6,327
North-Western	3,137	49	6,417	168	9,771
Northern	723	16	877	98	1,714
Scotland	1,369	38	2,949	179	4,535
Wales	5,469	286	884	285	6,924
Great Britain	15,131	435	21,255	1,129	37,950
Northern Ireland	832	36	3,464	165	4,497
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	15,963	471	24,719	1,294	42,447

Region.	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.
Unemployed Casual Workers.					
London and South-Eastern	4,435	2	257	—	4,694
Eastern	691	—	16	1	708
Southern	207	—	3	—	210
South-Western	1,255	—	8	—	1,263
Midlands	14	—	—	—	14
North-Midlands	416	—	44	—	460
North-Eastern	274	—	—	—	274
North-Western	427	14	107	—	548
Northern	1,893	4	55	—	1,952
Scotland	1,119	3	95	—	1,217
Wales	1,227	1	—	—	1,228
Great Britain	11,958	24	585	1	12,568
Northern Ireland	1,107	—	4	—	1,111
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	13,065	24	589	1	13,679

THE increases (+) or decreases (—) between 14th July, 1941, and 11th August, 1941, in the numbers of persons on the registers in the various administrative regions were as shown below:—

Region.	Wholly Unemployed.		Temporarily Stopped.		Unemployed Casual Workers.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
London and South-Eastern	+ 1,139	— 591	+ 82	+ 391	+ 1,265	— 26
Eastern	+ 105	— 234	+ 61	— 197	— 6	+ 6
Southern	+ 9	— 110	+ 8	+ 17	+ 54	— 2
South-Western	+ 762	— 315	+ 144	+ 209	+ 115	+ 2
Midlands	+ 400	+ 318	+ 83	+ 263	+ 4	—
North-Midlands	+ 41	+ 33	— 68	+ 300	+ 151	— 16
North-Eastern	+ 493	— 282	— 1,050	— 1,060	— 272	—
North-Western	+ 359	+ 516	— 947	— 1,657	— 108	— 5
Northern	+ 508	+ 596	+ 58	— 10	— 109	+ 2
Scotland	— 1,330	— 1,455	— 796	— 1,024	+ 127	— 45
Wales	— 21	— 747	— 2,871	— 13	— 244	— 1
Northern Ireland	— 2,470	— 2,432	— 97	— 377	— 111	—

A further analysis of the numbers unemployed at 11th August in Great Britain, giving separate figures for persons insured against unemployment, together with the numbers applying for benefit or unemployment allowances, is shown on page 179.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

THE following Table shows the numbers of persons (insured and uninsured) on the registers of Employment Exchanges at one date in each month since August, 1940:—

Date.	Great Britain.					G. Britain & N. Ireland.
	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.	Total.
Wholly Unemployed.						
1940.						
12 August	303,979	27,168	235,192	46,817	613,156	670,488
16 September	318,234	25,145	227,293	42,999	613,671	675,642
14 October	309,357	24,579	257,300	44,195	635,431	695,864
11 November	285,790	22,341	255,055	40,055	603,241	665,471
9 December	248,068	16,943	244,166	32,723	541,900	602,495
1941.						
13 January	236,957	22,005	222,142	40,284	521,388	580,528
10 February	200,160	17,386	197,293	34,136	448,975	502,399
17 March	159,638	13,022	165,319	26,329	364,308	404,538
21 April	139,895	17,344	133,056	28,477	318,772	359,122
12 May	127,733	14,251	122,002	26,326	290,312	334,887
16 June	110,428	11,134	102,181	19,913	243,656	278,238
14 July	102,010	11,652	88,852	17,063	219,577	252,002
11 August	98,737	17,390	82,208	21,436	219,771	247,294
Temporarily Stopped.						
1940.						
12 August	75,407	2,603	71,993	4,377	154,380	163,362
16 September	97,548	3,056	78,995	5,401	185,000	194,401
14 October	92,886	2,739	71,593	3,864	171,082	178,472
11 November	93,738	2,839	63,247	3,540	163,364	171,210
9 December	82,435	2,415	53,952	3,046	141,848	148,753
1941.						
13 January	89,699	2,360	56,936	3,386	152,381	159,941
10 February	67,711	1,706	42,588	2,230	114,235	120,429
17 March	40,856	820	31,786	2,229	75,691	80,819
21 April	40,992	803	31,809	1,769	75,373	80,711
12 May	27,261	523	36,016	1,944	65,744	70,643
16 June	17,656	390	28,268	1,419	47,733	51,419
14 July	20,340	522	23,854	1,311	46,027	50,998
11 August	15,131	435	21,255	1,129	37,950	42,447
Unemployed Casual Workers.						
1940.						
12 August	30,265	91	1,554	6	31,916	33,889
16 September	29,486	110	1,561	18	31,175	33,394
14 October	26,898	131	1,299	10	28,338	30,144
11 November	23,471	77	1,012	15	24,575	26,132
9 December	20,372	63	1,076	20	21,531	23,674
1941.						
13 January	20,606	68	1,149	14	21,837	23,861
10 February	16,515	70	1,035	19	17,639	19,657
17 March	16,938	62	916	3	17,919	19,327
21 April	15,479	36	846	5	16,366	17,655
12 May	12,028	27	873	4	12,932	14,338
16 June	9,786	17	742	5	10,550	11,888
14 July	10,986	19	670	1	11,676	12,898
11 August	11,958	24	585	1	12,568	13,679

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG BOYS AND GIRLS.

ON page 178 details are given of the numbers of boys and girls under 18 years of age on the registers of Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux at 11th August, 1941. The following Table shows the total numbers of juveniles, (a) aged 14 and 15 years, and (b) aged 16 and 17 years, on the registers at that date:—

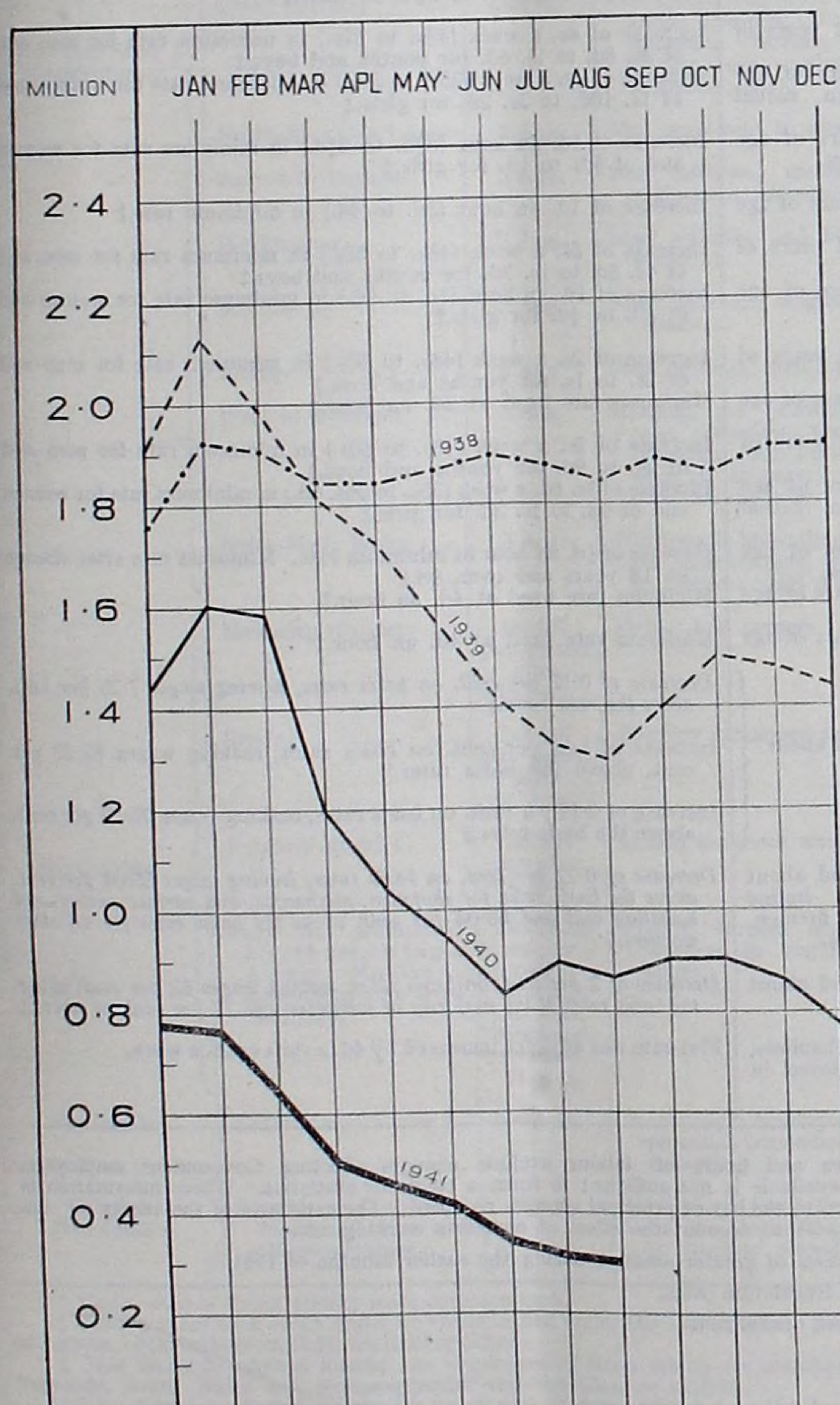
Region.	Boys.			Girls.		
	Aged 14 and 15.	Aged 16 and 17.	Total.	Aged 14 and 15.	Aged 16 and 17.	Total.
London and South-Eastern ..	1,739	1,576	3,315	2,015	1,379	3,394
Eastern ..	370	266	636	463	553	1,016
Southern ..	380	168	548	483	261	744
South-Western ..	823	335	1,158	784	555	1,339
Midlands ..	524	367	891	513	356	869
North-Midlands ..	289	173	462	483	476	959
North-Eastern ..	874	351	1,225	1,122	657	1,779
North-Western ..	1,594	978	2,572	1,345	1,022	2,367
Northern ..	1,512	585	2,097	2,619	1,578	4,197
Scotland ..	1,417	1,297	2,714	1,437	1,594	3,031
Wales ..	1,035	1,196	2,231	1,202	1,669	2,871
Great Britain..	10,557	7,292	17,849	12,466	10,100	22,566
Northern Ireland	131	942	1,073	148	1,611	1,759
Gt. Britain and N. Ireland ..	10,688	8,234	18,922	12,614	11,711	24,325

The total number of insured juveniles, under 18 years of age, recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 11th August, 1941, was 33,382 of whom 14,797 were boys and 18,585 were girls. Of these, 5,523 boys and 6,483 girls were under 16 years of age.

In the week ended 20th August, 1941, the number of juveniles, under 18 years of age, who attended authorised courses of instruction was 258, including 29 boys and 229 girls. Of this total, 150 were in the Northern Region, 24 in Scotland, and 84 in Wales.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.



COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 11TH AUGUST, 1941.

	Men 18 years and over.	Boys under 18 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls under 18 years.	Total.
Insured on Register:—					
1. Claimants to Benefit and applicants for Unemployment Allowances ..	106,432	3,534	67,444	5,084	182,494
2. Non-claimants —					
(a) Aged 16 and over ..	7,846	1,870	13,030	2,366	25,112
(b) Aged 14 and 15 ..	—	3,513	—	3,744	7,257
Others on Register —					
3. Applicants for Unemployment Allowances ..	4,067	32	3,345	109	7,553
4. Women, aged 60–64, claiming Benefit* ..	—	—	1,131	—	1,131
5. Persons without applications —					
(a) Aged 16 and over ..	7,481	1,856	19,098	2,541	30,976
(b) Aged 14 and 15 ..	—	7,044	—	8,722	15,766
Total on Register ..	125,826	17,849	104,048	22,566	270,289
Insured Unemployed:—					
Aged 16 and over:—					
6. Number on Register (items 1 and 2 (a)) ..	114,278	5,404	80,474	7,450	207,606
7. Two months' file ..	29,083	2,824	43,029	3,098	78,034
8. Special Schemes—Claimants to Benefit ..	169	4	137	3	313
Total aged 16 and over ..	143,530	8,232	123,640	10,551	285,953
Aged 14 and 15:—					
9. Numbers on Register (item 2 (b)) ..	—	3,513	—	3,744	7,257
10. Two months' file ..	—	1,850	—	2,546	4,396
Total aged 14 and over ..	143,530	13,595	123,640	16,841	297,606

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

THE following Table shows, *approximately*, the income and expenditure of the Unemployment Fund† in Great Britain for the periods stated:—

	Five weeks ended 30th Aug., 1941.	Four weeks ended 26th July, 1941.	Five weeks ended 31st Aug., 1940.
(1) General Account.	£	£	£
Contributions received from —			
Employers	2,456,000	1,987,000	1,817,000
Employed persons	2,455,000	1,987,000	1,817,000
Exchequer	2,455,000	1,987,000	1,822,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	297,000	96,000	43,000
Total Income	7,663,000	6,057,000	5,499,000
Benefit	584,000	505,000	1,890,000
Cost of Administration	380,000	301,000	417,000
Accrued Charge for Debt Service†	—	—	192,000
Miscellaneous Payments	28,000	30,000	27,000
Total Expenditure	992,000	836,000	2,526,000
Debt Outstanding‡	—	—	39,354,000
(2) Agricultural Account.			
Contributions received from —			
Employers	32,000	60,000	35,000
Employed persons	32,000	60,000	35,000
Exchequer	33,000	60,000	35,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	25,000	7,000	3,000
Total Income	122,000	187,000	108,000
Benefit	11,000	4,000	23,000
Cost of Administration	12,000	23,000	13,000
Miscellaneous Payments	1,000	—	—
Total Expenditure	24,000	27,000	36,000

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

For the period of five weeks ended 30th August, 1941, expenditure on unemployment allowances (excluding the cost of administration) amounted to approximately £415,000, compared with £325,000 during the four weeks ended 26th July, 1941, and £1,027,000 during the five weeks ended 31st August, 1940.

Comparison of the figures for July and August, 1941, with those for the corresponding months of 1940 is affected by an increase in November, 1940, in the scale which forms the basis for the calculation of unemployment allowances (see the issue of this GAZETTE for October and November, 1940, pages 264 and 297), and further by the operation of the Determination of Needs Act, 1941 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1941, page 76).

* These are women who had ceased to be insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts at 1st July, 1940, or on reaching the age of 60, but were still applying for unemployment benefit under Section 3 (4) of the Old Age and Widows' Pensions Act, 1940.

† A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 20 of 1941 for the period ended 31st March, 1940).

‡ The debt which stood at £105,780,000 at 1st July, 1934, had been completely discharged at 31st March, 1941, by the principal repaid (£7,193,000) in the statutory half-yearly instalments and special repayments under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1938 (£98,587,000).

§ Includes adjustment.

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

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 Great Britain and Northern Ireland in August resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £58,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 415,000 workpeople, and in a decrease estimated at about £4,600 in those of 267,000 workpeople.†

The majority of the workpeople affected by the increases were employed in the road transport industry, in the electricity supply industry and in the sugar confectionery and food preserving industry, while the decreases, most of which were slight, mainly affected workpeople employed in mining and quarrying in certain areas, in iron and steel manufacture, in the tobacco manufacturing industry, and in the baking trade in Scotland.

In the road transport (goods) industry, the statutory minimum rates for men employed as drivers, attendants, and mates were increased by 4s. a week. In the electricity supply industry, the war bonus was increased by ½d. an hour in the case of men, with proportional increases in the case of youths and apprentices. In the sugar confectionery and food preserving industry, the statutory minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were raised by ½d. an hour for men, ¼d. or ⅜d. an hour for women and ¼d. an hour for youths, boys and girls. Other industries in which wage rates were increased included the manufacture of cast stone and cast concrete products, sack and bag making, and the manufacture of boot and floor polish.

In the coal mining industry, there were slight reductions in the percentage additions to basis rates in Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire), Warwickshire and Cannock Chase under the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the industry. In ironstone mining and quarrying, the iron and steel industry (including pig iron manufacture, iron

puddling, steel melting and rolling), galvanising processes and tinplate manufacture, the flat-rate additions to wages were reduced, in accordance with sliding-scale arrangements based on fluctuations in the cost of living, by 0·8d. a shift for men, and by 0·4d. a shift for youths and boys. The statutory minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were decreased, under the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales, by 4½d. a week for men and by 3d. a week for women and juveniles in the tobacco manufacturing industry in Great Britain, and by 9d. or 1s. a week for men, and by 6d. or 9d. a week for all other workers, in the baking trade in Scotland.

Of the estimated total increase of £58,000 a week, about £190 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the coal mining industry; £53,350 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies; £10 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the cost of living; £100 was due to arbitration awards; and the remaining £4,350 was the result of direct negotiation between the employers and workpeople or their representatives. Of the estimated decrease of £4,600, about £3,800 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the cost of living, and the remainder to sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the coal mining industry.

The changes reported in the first eight months of 1941, in the industries covered by the statistics, are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £1,480,000 a week in the full-time wages of over 7,300,000 workpeople.* In the corresponding eight months of 1940, there was, in these industries, a net increase estimated at about £1,700,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 7,450,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported during August.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Agriculture	East Riding of Yorkshire.	3 Aug.	Men, youths and boys (14 years of age and over). Women and girls (14 years of age and over) employed whole-time by the week or longer period. Other women and girls (14 years of age and over).	Increase of 2s. a week (48s. to 50s.) in minimum rate for men and of 1s. 6d. to 6d. for youths and boys.† Increase of 11d. a week in minimum rate. Minimum rate after change, at 18 years and over, 32s. 1d.‡
	Nottinghamshire ..	17 Aug.	Men, youths and boys (14 years of age and over). Women and girls (14 years of age and over), other than casual workers. Women and girls (14 years of age and over), casual workers.	Increase of 4s. a week (48s. to 52s.) in minimum rate for men and of 3s. 8d. to 1s. 6d. for youths and boys.† Increase of 4s. a week (35s. to 39s.) in minimum rate for women and of 1s. 10d. to 3s. 2d. for girls.‡
	Staffordshire	17 Aug.	Boys and girls 12 to 14 years of age	Increase of 1d. an hour (8½d. to 9½d.) in minimum rate for women and of ½d. to 1d. for girls.‡
	Leicestershire and Rutland.	3 Aug.	Men, youths and boys (14 years of age and over). Women and girls (14 years of age and over).	Increase of 1d. an hour (3d. to 4d.) in minimum rate.‡
	Shropshire	3 Aug.	Men, youths and boys (14 years of age and over). Boys and girls 12 to 14 years of age	Increase of 5s. a week (48s. to 53s.) in minimum rate for men and of 4s. 8d. to 1s. 7d. for youths and boys.† Increase of 1d. an hour (8d. to 9d.) in minimum rate for women and of ½d. or ¾d. for girls.‡
	Warwickshire ..	17 Aug.	Men, youths and boys (14 years of age and over). Women and girls (14 years of age and over), other than casual workers. Women and girls (17 years of age and over), casual workers. Boys and girls 12 to 14 years of age	Increase of 2s. a week (48s. to 50s.) in minimum rate for men and of 2s. to 9d. for youths and boys.† Increase of 1s. 6d. a week (35s. to 36s. 6d.) in minimum rate for women and of 9d. to 1s. 3d. for girls.‡
	Wiltshire	3 Aug.	Boys and girls 12 to 14 years of age	Increase of ½d. an hour in minimum rate. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 9d.‡ Minimum rate fixed at 4d. an hour.‡
	Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire).	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Decrease of 0·12 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 7·25 per cent. above the basis rates.§
	South Derbyshire ..			Increase of 1·31 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 82·20 per cent. above the basis rates.§
	Leicestershire			Increase of 0·19 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 76·39 per cent. above the basis rates.§
Coal Mining.	Cannock Chase ..	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than engine winders, deputies and firemen, examiners and shotlighters.	Decrease of 0·77 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 55·04 per cent. above the basis rates for shopmen, mechanics, and surface workers not handling coal and 53·04 per cent. above the basis rates for all other workers.§
	Warwickshire ..	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Decrease of 2 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 82 per cent. above the basis rates at the majority of collieries and 77 per cent. at others.§
	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	1st full pay week in August.	Firemen, shotmen, master-hauliers, and traffic foremen, employed in coal mines.	Flat-rate war advance increased by 4d. a shift or 2s. a week.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in the weekly wages and hours of labour 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 wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of overtime working, etc.

† The workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in August had received increases of greater amount during the earlier months of 1941.

‡ These changes took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages Regulation Acts.

§ Flat-rate advances, previously paid in addition to basis rates and percentages, remained unchanged.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in <i>Italics</i> .)
Other Mining and Quarrying.	England and Wales	1st full pay week after 12 Aug.	Cast stone and cast concrete products workers.	War bonus increased by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for every hour worked, for men, women and youths.
	Cleveland	4 Aug.	Ironstone miners.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 6·4d. to 1s. 5·6d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (9·2d. to 8·8d.) for youths and boys.
	Leicestershire and adjoining parts of Lincolnshire.	1st pay day in Aug.	Ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen.	
	North Lincolnshire ..	3 Aug.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen ..	
	Banbury and district.	3 Aug.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen ..	
	Northamptonshire (excluding Corby).	3 Aug.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen ..	
	Corby	3 Aug.	Certain ironstone miners and quarrymen.	
Boot and Floor Polish Manufacture.	Northamptonshire (excluding Corby).	3 Aug.	Limestone quarrymen	Increase of 3s. a week (62s. to 65s.) in the general minimum time rate for men, of 3s. for youths, and of 2s. for boys; increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour in the piecework basis time rate.†
	South and West Durham.	4 Aug.	Limestone quarrymen	
	Great Britain ..	15 Aug.	Men, youths and boys	Increase of 3s. a week (36s. to 39s.) for women and of 2s. for girls; increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour in the piecework basis time rate.†
			Women and girls	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 6·4d. to 1s. 5·6d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (9·2d. to 8·8d.) for youths and boys.
	Cleveland and Durham, West Cumberland and North Lancs., North Lincs., North Staffs., South Staffs., Bilston, Northants., Corby, and South Wales and Monmouthshire.	3 Aug.	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries).	
	Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.	1st pay day in Aug.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 4·8d. to 1s. 4d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (8·4d. to 8d.) for youths and boys.
	West of Scotland ..	Pay period commencing nearest 1 Aug.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at certain blastfurnaces.	
	Great Britain‡	4 Aug.	Workpeople employed in steel sheet rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 5·6d. to 1s. 4·8d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (8·8d. to 8·4d.) for youths and boys.
	North-East Coast Area	3 Aug.	Workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and rolling mills.	
	Great Britain§	3 Aug.	Workpeople employed at steel melting shops (melting, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, gas producermen, semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc.).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 6·4d. to 1s. 5·6d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (9·2d. to 8·8d.) for youths and boys.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	North-East Coast Area	3 Aug.	Men employed in steel rolling mills	
	Barrow-in-Furness ..	3 Aug.	Rail millmen, merchant millmen, enginemen, crane-men, etc.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 5·6d. to 1s. 4·8d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (8·8d. to 8·4d.) for youths and boys.
	Workington	3 Aug.	Steel millmen and labourers (datal workers).	
	Scunthorpe	3 Aug.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 5·6d. to 1s. 4·8d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (8·8d. to 8·4d.) for youths and boys.
	Bilston	3 Aug.	Steel millmen, maintenance men, etc.	
	West of Scotland ..	3 Aug.	Millmen, gas producermen, enginemen, crane-men, firemen, and mill labourers, semi-skilled workers and general labourers employed in steel rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 5·6d. to 1s. 4·8d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (8·8d. to 8·4d.) for youths and boys.
	South-West Wales ..	3 Aug.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	
	Kettering district ..	1st full pay period after 18 Aug.	Fitters and turners	Increase of 1s. a week on basic rate. Rate after change, 45s. plus a bonus of 30s. 6d. for timeworkers.
	Bristol	1st full pay period after 30 Aug.	Foundry labourers and fettlers ..	Minimum basic rates adopted. Minimum rates after change: foundry labourers, 30s.; fettlers, 33s.; plus a bonus of 30s. 6d. for timeworkers in each case.
	Keighley district ..	1st pay day after 4 Aug.	Skilled toolroom workers	Basic rate adopted 3s. above the district basic rate for skilled fitters. Rate after change, 48s. plus a bonus of 30s. 6d. for timeworkers.
Engineering	Bury St. Edmunds, Dereham, King's Lynn, Maldon, Stowmarket and Sudbury.	Beginning of pay period starting in week commencing 11 Aug.	Fitters, turners and other skilled workers in engine and foundry shops.	Increase of 2s. a week on basic rates. Rates after change for fitters, 44s. plus a bonus of 30s. 6d. for timeworkers.
Galvanising	England and Wales ¶	4 Aug.	Workpeople employed in galvanising processes (excluding the process of annealing).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 5·6d. to 1s. 4·8d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (8·8d. to 8·4d.) for youths and boys.
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.	3 Aug.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in tinplate manufacture.	Cost-of-living war bonus reduced* by 0·8d. a shift (1s. 7·2d. to 1s. 6·4d.) for men and by 0·4d. a shift (9·6d. to 9·2d.) for women and juveniles.

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

† This increase took effect under an Order issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Order of the Minister of Labour, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

‡ This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Sheet Trade Board, the principal districts concerned being Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Glasgow district.

§ This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms affiliated to the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts concerned being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, the Midlands, South Wales and the West of Scotland.

¶ This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in <i>Italics</i> .)
Calico Printing	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	1st pay day in Sept.*	Machine calico printers	<i>Supplementary wage reduced† from 45 to 44.55 per cent. on basis wage, the flat rate bonuses of 20s. and 14s. for journeymen and apprentices, respectively, remaining unchanged.</i>
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield	Pay day in week ending 9 Aug.	Men, women and juveniles	Cost-of-living wage increased† from 98 to 99 per cent. on basis rates. Minimum weekly rates after change: men 21 years and over, 63s. 8d., plus 2s. 6d. for 48 hours special payment; women, 18 years and over, 39s. 10d., plus 1s. 6d. for 48 hours special payment.
Sack and Bag Manufacture.	Great Britain	13 Aug.	Sack and bag makers, repairers, etc.	Increase of 17½ per cent. (from 12½ to 30 per cent.) in the general minimum time and piecework basis time rates.†
Boot and Shoe Repairing.	Great Britain	15 Aug.	New entrants (21 years of age or over).	Statutory minimum rates adopted as follows:—during the first 8 weeks employment, 70 per cent. of the appropriate general minimum time rates; from the 9th to 16th week, 80 per cent.; from the 17th to 26th week (inclusive), 90 per cent.; thereafter the full appropriate general minimum time rates.†
Fur Dressing, etc.	Great Britain	15 Aug.	Fur dressers, dyers, makers-up, etc.	Increase of 10 per cent. on the general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates and general minimum piece rates.†
Baking	Scotland	1 Aug.	Bakers and confectioners	<i>Decrease† in Trade Board minimum rates of 9d. or 1s. a week for men and of 6d. or 9d. for women, youths, boys and girls. General minimum rates after change include: men—foremen, 79s. 6d. to 95s.; journey-men bakers, 67s. 6d. to 75s.; women—forewomen, 42s. to 55s. 9d.; confectioners, table hands, etc., 40s. to 47s. 9d., according to area.†</i>
	Edinburgh and Leith	1 Aug.	Bakers and confectioners	<i>Decrease† of 1s. a week. Rates after change, 82s. 6d. to 88s., according to times of start.</i>
Flour Milling	Great Britain (except London).	25 Aug.	Road transport workers	Increase of 4s. a week. Rates after change: drivers of mechanical vehicles up to and including 2 tons carrying capacity, 63s. 6d. to 75s. 6d., over 2 tons carrying capacity and up to and including 12 tons gross laden weight, 70s. 6d. to 83s., over 12 tons gross laden weight, 75s. 6d. to 88s. (according to class of mill and grade of town); mates, 62s. 6d. to 74s. 6d. (according to class of mill); horse carmen—pair horse, 65s. 6d. to 75s. 6d., single horse 62s. 6d. to 71s. 6d. (according to grade of town).
Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving.	Great Britain	13 Aug.	Men, youths and boys; and certain classes of women and girls.	Increase of ¼d. an hour in the general minimum time rates for men and women, 21 years and over, and of ¼d. for youths, boys and girls; and of ¼d. an hour in piecework basis time rates.†
			Other women and girls	Increase of ¼d. an hour in the general minimum time rates for women, 21 years and over, and of ¼d. for girls; and of ¼d. an hour in the piecework basis time rates.†
Tobacco Manufacture.	Great Britain	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in tobacco, cigarette, etc., manufacture.	<i>Decrease† of 4½d. a week in the minimum time rates for men and of 3d. for women and juveniles, with corresponding decreases for pieceworkers.†</i>
Mill-Sawing	Bo'ness, Grangemouth and South Alloa.	1st pay period after 5 Aug.	Pitwood workers:— Men, youths and boys	Increase of 3s. a week for men 19 years and over and of 2s. for youths and boys under 19 years. Rates after change, at 19 years and over: single bench sawyers, 83s.; double bench sawyers and saw sharpeners, 80s.; drawers off, 75s.; mill loaders, mill and motor cross-cutters, tallymen, etc., 74s.; labourers, 73s.‡
			Women and girls	Increase of 3s. a week (35s. to 38s.) for women 19 years and over, and of 2s. a week for girls under 19 years.‡
	Bristol, Cardiff, Gloucester, Newport and Swansea.	8 Aug.	Regular labourers employed by timber importers.	Increase of 1½d. an hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Cardiff, Newport and Swansea.	1 Aug.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills.	Increase of 2d. an hour (1s. 10d. to 2s.).
Building	Northern Counties Region.||	14 Aug.	Apprentices	War bonus granted of 3s. 6d. a week for those 16 to 17 years of age increasing to 5s. 6d. at 20 to 21 years.
Waterworks Undertakings.	Certain Undertakings in the Northern Area.¶	1st full pay in Aug.	Manual workers except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of ¼d. an hour. Rate after change for general labourers, 1s. 4½d.
	Certain Undertakings in the Home Counties Area.¶	1st full pay in Aug.	Manual workers except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 1s. a week. Rates after change for labourers: Grade C Areas, 62s. 6d.; Grade B, 60s.; Grade A, 56s.
Electricity Supply.	Various districts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.**	1st full pay period after 27 Aug.	Manual workers employed by electricity supply undertakings except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	War bonus increased by ¼d. an hour (2½d. to 2¾d.) for men with proportional increases for youths and apprentices.
Road Transport (Goods).	Great Britain	25 Aug.	Road transport (goods) drivers, attendants and mates.	Statutory minimum rates increased by 4s. a week for men employed as drivers, statutory attendants and mates, and by 2s. 3d. for drivers, under 21 years of age, of vehicles of carrying capacity of 30 cwt. or less (20 cwt. or less in the London area) and for statutory attendants and mates, 18 years and under 21 years of age, outside the London area (other than vanguards).††
	Great Britain	25 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the furniture warehousing and removal industry:— Drivers	Statutory minimum rates increased by 4s. a week for men employed as drivers and by 2s. 3d. a week for drivers, under 21 years of age, of vehicles of carrying capacity of 30 cwt. or less (20 cwt. or less in the London area); and statutory minimum rates adopted (outside London area) of 68s. to 78s. according to area, for drivers of tractors not exceeding 2 tons unladen weight.††
			Foremen, removal packers and porters.	Statutory minimum rates adopted involving increases of amounts varying between 5s. and 7s. 6d. according to area. Rates after change, for London and Grade 1, 2 and 3 areas respectively: foremen 79s. 6d., 75s., 72s., 68s.; removal packers, 74s. 6d., 72s., 69s., 65s.; porters, 72s. 6d., 70s., 66s., 62s.††
	Metropolitan Area ..	25 Aug.	Horse carters, stablemen, etc. ..	Increase of 4s. a week for adult workers and of 2s. 3d. for juniors. Rates after change include: one horse drivers (heavy), 73s. 6d. (light), 72s. 6d.; two horse drivers (heavy), 77s. 6d., (light), 76s. 6d.; assistant horse keepers and stablemen, 73s. 6d.
	Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	25 Aug.	Horse carters	Increase of 3s. a week. Rates after change: one horse drivers, 62s.; two horse drivers, 64s.

* In respect of the preceding pay period.

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

‡ These changes took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

§ This increase took effect under Industrial Court Award No. 1818, dated 5th August, 1941.

|| Northumberland, Durham, the Cleveland district and part of Yorkshire.

¶ The Undertakings affected are mainly those affiliated to the District Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry in the Area concerned.

** The Undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry.

†† These increases took effect as the result of an Order of the Minister of Labour and National Service giving effect to the proposals of the Road Haulage Central Wages Board. The Order also introduced statutory minimum rates of wages for youths and boys in the London Area, female workers, and trainee drivers. (See article on page 175).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in <i>Italics</i>).
Road Transport (Goods)— <i>contd.</i>	Liverpool, Bootle, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	25 Aug.	Horse carters	Increase of 4s. a week for adults and of 2s. 3d. for juniors. Rates after change include : one horse drivers, 69s. 6d. ; teamsmen, 75s. 6d.
	Sheffield area ..	Pay week preceding 30 Aug.	Horse carters	Increase of 4s. a week. Rates after change : one horse drivers, 61s. 6d. ; two horse drivers, 66s. 6d.
	Angus	4 Aug.	Horse carters	Increase of 4s. a week. Rates after change : Dundee, 66s. ; remainder of Angus, 64s.
Skip and Basket Making.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	4 Aug.	Skip and basket makers	<i>Decrease* of 1 per cent. on list prices, leaving wages 126½ per cent. above the list for both timeworkers and pieceworkers.</i>
Distributive	Rochdale and district	25 Aug.	Drivers, loaders, etc., employed by coal merchants.	Increase of 4s. a week.
	Stockport and district			
	Cheshire and Whitchurch.			
Entertainments	Great Britain ..	4 Aug.	Workpeople employed in cinema theatres.	National war bonus adopted of 12½ per cent. in respect of minimum rates of wages of 60s. a week and over and of 15 per cent. in respect of those under 60s.†
	London	1st pay day in Aug.	Workpeople employed in film studios	<i>Bonus reduced* by 4d. a week (15s. to 14s. 8d. for those paid weekly and 16s. to 15s. 8d. for those paid hourly) for workpeople 21 years and over and by 2d. (7s. 6d. to 7s. 4d. for those paid weekly and 8s. to 7s. 10d. for those paid hourly) for workpeople under 21.</i>
	London (Suburban) ..	4 Aug.	Workpeople employed in suburban twice-nightly variety theatres.	New scale of general minimum time rates adopted involving increases of varying amounts. Rates include : stage managers, electricians, property masters making properties, 92s. 6d. a week ; box office managers, manageresses and secretaries, 63s. 0d. ; other assistants and telephone operators, 46s. ; firemen, 70s. ; hallkeepers, 67s. 6d. ; women cleaners, 27s. 6d. ; carpenters and joiners, 1s. 10½d. an hour ; painters and decorators (qualified journeymen), 1s. 9d. ; assistants, 1s. 5½d.
	Certain provincial towns)‡	4 Aug.	Workpeople employed in variety theatres.	New scale of general minimum time rates adopted for weekly paid workers involving increases of varying amounts. Rates include : stage managers, chief electricians and property masters making properties, 95s. to 105s. ; daymen, firemen, cellarmen and hallkeepers, 60s. to 70s. ; box office staff—chiefs, 50s. to 58s., assistants, 40s. to 47s. 6d. ; telephonists, 32s. 6d. or 42s. 6d. Increase of 1d. an hour for all hourly paid workers.
Cemeteries	London	Pay day in 1st week in Aug.	Gravediggers, gardeners, etc., employed in certain non-municipal cemeteries.	Increase of ½d. an hour for gravediggers, assistant gravediggers, qualified gardeners and general labourers.

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

† It is agreed that, where a higher rate of bonus is already being paid, this higher rate will continue to be paid ; where a lower rate is being paid, it is increased to the amounts quoted.

‡ Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool, Nottingham, Birmingham, Swansea and Wolverhampton.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen*, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in August† was 217, as compared with 274‡ in the previous month and with 202‡ in August, 1940.

MINES AND QUARRIES	Factories—continued.
Under Coal Mines Acts :—	Paper, Printing, etc. .. 4
Underground 41	Rubber
Surface 2	Gas Works 1
Metalliferous Mines	Electrical Stations .. 2
Quarries 9	Other Industries
TOTAL :	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER
MINES AND QUARRIES .. 52	ss. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES
	ACT, 1937.
Factories.	Docks, Wharves, Quays
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass	and Ships 6
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc. 14	Building Operations .. 41
Metal Extracting and Refining 3	Works of Engineering
Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making) 13	Construction 1
Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc. 15	Warehouses 3
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles and Aircraft Manufacture .. 5	TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT 132
Shipbuilding 9	CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR
Other Metal Trades .. 1	OF RAILWAY 1
Cotton 2	RAILWAY SERVICE.
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy ..	Brakesmen, Goods Guards 3
Other Textile Manufacture 1	Engine Drivers, Motor-men 3
Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing 1	Firemen 2
Tanning, Currying, etc. .. 2	Guards (Passenger) ..
Food and Drink 3	Labourers 2
General Woodwork and Furniture 5	Mechanics 5
	Permanent Way Men .. 8
	Porters 4
	Shunters
	Other Grades 5
	Contractors' Servants ..
	TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE 32
	Total (excluding Seamen) 217

* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.

† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 30th August, 1941, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 2nd August, 1941, and the 4 weeks ended 31st August, 1940.

‡ Revised figure.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE Table below shows the number of cases* and deaths* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during August, under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926 :—

I. Cases.	I. Cases.—continued
LEAD POISONING.	ANTHRAX.
Among Operatives engaged in :	Wool 1
Smelting of Metals .. 3	Handling of Horsehair .. 1
Plumbing and Soldering ..	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins .. 1
Shipbreaking	TOTAL 3
Printing	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).
Other Contact with Molten Lead	Pitch 6
White and Red Lead Works	CHROME ULCERATION.
Pottery	Manufacture of Bichromates
Vitreous Enamelling	Dyeing and Finishing .. 2
Electric Accumulator Works 1	Chrome Tanning 2
Paint and Colour Works ..	Chromium Plating .. 1
Coach and Car Painting ..	Other Industries 2
Shipbuilding	TOTAL 7
Paint used in Other Industries	Total, Cases .. 38
Other Industries	II.—Deaths.
Painting of Buildings ..	POISONING.
TOTAL 4	Toxic Jaundice 2
OTHER POISONING.	ANTHRAX.
Mercurial 1	Handling of Horsehair .. 1
Aniline 14	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).
Toxic Jaundice 3	Oil 1
TOTAL 18	Total, Deaths .. 4

* 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 or not included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st September, 1941.

	Food	All Items
Increase since July, 1914..	66%	99%
Change since 1st August, 1941:—		
Index Points	—1	nil
Per cent.	— $\frac{1}{2}$ *	nil

FOOD.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics was slightly lower than at 1st August. This was the result of reductions in the prices of potatoes in most districts. Changes in the retail prices of other articles of food were relatively unimportant.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st September, 1941, with the corresponding prices at 1st August, 1941, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ d.) at—			Percentage Inc. or Dec. (—) at 1st Sept., 1941, compared with	
	1st Sept., 1941.	1st Aug., 1941.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Aug., 1941.	1st Sept., 1939.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	11
Thin Flank	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	26
Beef, Chilled or Frozen					
Ribs	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	34
Thin Flank	0 6	0 6	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	22
Mutton, British—					
Legs	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	13
Breast	0 8	0 8	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	1 0	1 0	0 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	15
Breast	0 4	0 4	0 4	..	..
Bacon†	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 3	..	36
Fish	—	—	—	..	56
Flour .. per 7 lb.	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	—1
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	3
Tea	2 6	2 6	2 4	..	7
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 3	..	32
Milk .. per quart	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	30
Butter—					
Fresh	1 7	1 7	1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	15
Salt	—	—	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	24
Cheese§	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	30
Margarine||—					
Special	0 9	0 9	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	12
Standard	0 5	0 5	—	..	..
Eggs (fresh)¶ .. each	0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 2	..	26
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	—7	36

The following Table shows the average percentage increases or decreases in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st August, 1941, and 1st September, 1941, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	1st August, 1941.	1st September, 1941.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—			
Ribs	44	59	59
Thin Flank	15	46	46
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs	32	77	77
Thin Flank	1	23	24
Mutton, British—			
Legs	48	67	67
Breast	14	24	24
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs	51	74	74
Breast	—3	—3	—3
Bacon†	35	83	83
Fish	116	237	237
Flour	26	25	25
Bread	42	46	46
Tea	52	63	63
Sugar (granulated) ..	46	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$
Milk	92	149	151
Butter—			
Fresh	13	30	30
Salt	7	34	34
Cheese§	16	50	50
Margarine	—8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)	58	100	100
Potatoes	33	95	82
All above articles (Weighted Average)	38	67	66

On the basis of the figures in the foregoing Table, the average level of retail prices of food at 1st September was about one-half per cent. lower than at 1st August, and about 20 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939.

* A fall of 1 point on a total of 167 for food (the figure for July, 1914 being 100) is equivalent to rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

† The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind was seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

‡ The average rise of 1d. per lb. in the price of sugar since 1st September, 1939, is due to increased duty.

§ Mostly Canadian or New Zealand cheese, but in some districts the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

|| On 1st August and 1st September, 1941, two brands of margarine, "special" and "standard," were on sale at 9d. and 5d. per lb. respectively. The figures for 1st September, 1939, and July, 1914, are averages calculated from the prices of various brands on sale at those dates.

¶ Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st August and 1st September, 1941, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for small eggs (in category II). The figure for 1st September, 1939, is an average of the varying prices charged at that date.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

The average level of working-class *rents* (including rates) at 1st September showed no appreciable change as compared with 1st August, being about 1 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939, and about 64 per cent. above that in July, 1914.

As regards *clothing*, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st September the retail prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about 1 per cent. higher than at 1st August, and about 85 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. The average increase during August was less than 1 per cent. for men's suits and overcoats and for woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery, about 2 per cent. for cotton materials and hosiery, and less than 1 per cent. for boots and shoes. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make an exact comparison over a long period of years, but on the basis of such information as is available it is estimated that at 1st September the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 280 to 285 per cent.

In the *fuel and light* group the average level of the prices of coal and of gas was about the same at 1st September as a month earlier. Prices of coal averaged about 21 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 135 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The prices of gas were about 23 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 89 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There were increases in the prices of candles during August, averaging about 4 per cent., but lamp oil and matches showed little change in price during the month. In the fuel and light group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st September was about the same as at 1st August, about 25 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 128 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards *other items** included in these statistics, there were increases in the prices of domestic ironmongery, brushes and pottery, averaging between 2 and 3 per cent., but for the remaining items changes in prices during August were relatively slight. In the group as a whole, the average level at 1st September was less than 1 per cent. higher than at 1st August, about 28 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 130 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st September, 1941, is approximately **99 per cent. over the level of July, 1914**, the same figure as a month earlier, as compared with 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, *no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or readjustments in consumption and expenditure since the outbreak of the war.*

The rise of 44 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 28 per cent. Of these 44 points, about 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ points are due to the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches; and approximately 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ points are due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.

SUMMARY TABLE: ALL ITEMS.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1920.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1920 ..	125	130	130	132	141	150	152	155	161	164	176	169
1921 ..	165	151	141	133	128	119	119	122	120	110	103	99
1922 ..	92	88	86	82	81	80	84	81	79	78	80	80
1923 ..	78	77	76	74	70	69	69	71	73	75	75	77
1924 ..	77	79	78	73	71	69	70	71	72	76	80	81
1925 ..	80	79	79	75	73	72	73	73	74	76	76	77
1926 ..	75	73	72	68	67	68	70	70	72	74	79	79
1927 ..	75	72	71	65	64	63	66	64	65	67	69	69
1928 ..	68	66	64	64	64	65	65	65	65	66	67	68
1929 ..	67	65	66	62	61	60	61	63	64	65	67	67
1930 ..	66	64	61	57	55	54	55	57	57	56	57	55
1931 ..	53	52	50	47	47	45	47	45	45	45	46	48
1932 ..	47	47	46	44	43	42	43	41	41	43	43	43
1933 ..	42	41	39	37	36	36	38	39	41	41	43	43
1934 ..	42	41	40	39	37	38	41	42	43	43	44	44
1935 ..	43	42	41	39	39	40	43	43	43	45	47	47
1936 ..	47	47	46	44	44	44	46	46	47	48	51	51
1937 ..	51	51	51	51	52	52	55	55	55	55	56	56
1938 ..	59	57	56	54	56	55	59	56	55	55	56	56
1939 ..	55	55	53	53	53	53	56	55	55	65	69	73
1940 ..	74	77	79	78	80	81	87	85	87	89	92	95
1941 ..	96	97	97	98	100	100	99	99	99	—	—	—

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number; Method of Compilation," is obtainable, price 3d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

* Soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushes, pottery, tobacco and cigarettes, fares and newspapers.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.*

Number, Magnitude, and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 94, as compared with 60 in the previous month and 50 in August, 1940. In these 94 new disputes about 17,300 workpeople were directly involved, and 2,200 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 2,600 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 4 disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 98, involving about 22,100 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during August, estimated at 44,000 working days.

In the following Table an analysis is given, by groups of industries, of all disputes in progress in August :—

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 ..	2	21	23	6,200	11,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	..	49	49	11,000	25,000
Other	2	24	26	4,900	8,000
Total, August, 1941 ..	4	94	98	22,100	44,000
Total, July, 1941 ..	5	60	65	16,500	25,000
Total, August, 1940 ..	2	50	52	7,400	13,000

Causes.—Of the 94 disputes beginning in August, 31, directly involving 3,400 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 2, directly involving 600 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 29, directly involving 5,900 workpeople, on other wage questions; 4, directly involving 600 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 12, directly involving 2,000

workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 11, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 5, directly involving 3,500 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during August, have been effected in the case of 70 disputes, directly involving 13,100 workpeople. Of these disputes, 10, directly involving 5,800 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 34, directly involving 3,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 26, directly involving 4,200 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 15 other disputes, directly involving 6,100 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR JANUARY–AUGUST, 1941 and 1940.†

Industry Group.	January to August, 1941.			January to August, 1940.		
	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 ..	306	104,200†	234,000	220	137,200†	366,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	7	300	1,000	4	200	1,000
Brick Pottery, Glass Chemical, etc. ..	22	1,600	5,000	21	1,400	4,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	174	70,600	336,000	70	17,500	69,000
Other Metal ..	79	21,000	111,000	60	7,100	26,000
Textile ..	30	3,700	8,000	39	8,000	73,000
Clothing ..	15	3,200	11,000	16	4,600	15,000
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ..	9	600	1,000	10	4,700	13,000
Building, etc. ..	39	6,800	16,000	59	18,700	66,000
Transport ..	38	8,000	22,000	30	5,200	13,000
Other ..	34	4,500	16,000	45	11,900	43,000
Total ..	753	224,500†	761,000	574	216,500†	689,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING AUGUST.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING :— Colliery workpeople—near Glasgow (one colliery).	400	400	14 Aug.	14 Aug.	Against action of management in suspending, for three days, two on-setters who had refused to work on a certain day on account of alleged wet working conditions.	Period of suspension of men in question reduced to one day.
ENGINEERING :— Workpeople employed in aircraft construction—Lancashire (one firm).	1,878	..	9 Aug.§	14 Aug.	Workpeople's dissatisfaction with earnings under recently introduced individual time bonus system.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Workpeople employed in engineering—Glamorgan (one firm).	1,390	..	11 Aug.||	11 Aug.	Dissatisfaction with terms of proposed agreement following demand by workpeople for improvements in wages and working conditions.	Work resumed pending negotiations, which resulted in certain modifications in proposed agreement.
Workpeople employed in engineering—Glasgow (one firm).	3,000¶	..	27 Aug.||	27 Aug.	For reinstatement of branch secretary of workpeople's trade union and a shop steward who had been dismissed for alleged breach of factory rules.	Dismissed employees reinstated following consideration of case by an Appeals Board under the Essential Work (General Provisions) Order, 1941.
SHIPBUILDING :— Workpeople employed in ship-repairing—Co. Durham (one firm).	1,282	..	16 Aug.	16 Aug.	Against withdrawal of travelling time and outworking allowances in respect of workpeople transferred to a newly opened dock.	Employers agreed to continue payment of travelling time, etc., until dock became scheduled under the Essential Work (Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing) Order, 1941.
STRUCTURAL STEELWORKING :— Workpeople employed at structural steelworks—near Glasgow (one firm).	510	..	22 Aug.||	22 Aug.	Dispute respecting piece-work rates and allowances for certain classes of workers.	Increases granted in piece-work rates and in sliding scale bonus payments.
CLOTHING :— Clothing operatives — Yorkshire (one firm).	250	..	14 Aug.	15 Aug.	For dismissal of newly-appointed works manager, workpeople resenting certain remarks he was alleged to have made.	Work resumed after works manager had apologised for remarks in question.
PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING :— Labourers employed in civil engineering — Nottinghamshire (one firm).	550	..	25 Aug.	26 Aug.**	Against reduction in working hours, and consequent loss of earnings arising out of the substitution of rail for road transport for workpeople travelling to and from site.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
TRANSPORT :— Dock labourers—Glasgow. . . .	2,000	..	31 July.	1 Aug.	Objection to the introduction of a new system of allocation of labour under which men must report at specified control points, trade unionists claiming that they should retain the right to seek work at any place in the port.	Work resumed; operation of new arrangements suspended pending negotiations.
Omnibus drivers, conductors, and inspectors—Renfrewshire (two firms).	308	15	13 Aug.	13 Aug.	For dismissal of two drivers who had refused to transfer their membership from one trade union to another in which the majority of the workpeople were organised.	Agreement reached in respect of fields of organising activity as between the unions concerned.
LEATHER MANUFACTURE :— Youths and other workpeople employed in leather manufacture—Glasgow (one firm).	66	98	13 Aug.	15 Aug.	For advance of 3d. per hour on basic rates of wages of youths and boys.	Agreement reached providing for payment of bonuses, after a qualifying period of satisfactory service; and other concessions.

* 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, 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, however, is slight, except in coal mining, in which the *net* number of workpeople involved was approximately 65,000 in 1941, and 95,000 in 1940. For all industries combined the *net* totals were approximately 180,000 in 1941, and 173,000 in 1940.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, *i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.

§ Employees in one department ceased work on the night shift of 8th August.

|| The stoppage began with the night shift of the previous day.

¶ Estimated number.

** Work was resumed at 2-30 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

ÉIRE.

THE number of persons on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges rose from 53,630 at 26th July, 1941, to 57,921 at 30th August. The figures for both these dates are affected by the entry into force, on 5th March, 1941, of an Order issued under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1933, the effect of which is to restrict, during the period from 5th March, 1941, to 28th October, the eligibility for unemployment assistance of certain classes of persons living in rural areas. At 31st August, 1940, when three Orders, similar in character but of more restricted scope, were in force, the total number of persons on the live registers was 61,543.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

Denmark.—At the end of May, 1941, 11.3 per cent. of the aggregate membership (approximately 519,000) of approved unemployment funds were unemployed, as compared with 18.3 per cent. (revised figure) at the end of April, 1941. At the end of May, 1940, the corresponding percentage was 20.3, but owing to subsequent changes in the method of compiling the data, this percentage is not strictly comparable with the foregoing figures.

Sweden.—Of a total of approximately 742,000 members covered by the returns of the reporting trade unions, 12.9 per cent. were unemployed at the end of April, 1941, as compared with 15.1 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 11.1 per cent. at the end of April, 1940.

SWITZERLAND.

According to statistics published in the Swiss co-operative journal, *Schweiz. Konsum-Verein* for 19th July, 1941, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges as wholly unemployed totalled 4,380 at the end of June, 1941, 6,320 at the end of May, 1941, and 8,032 at the end of June, 1940.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Returns received by the Bureau of Labour Statistics from employers, covering over 55 per cent. of the aggregate number of wage-earners in manufacturing industries, showed that the number of workpeople employed at the middle of June, 1941, increased by 2.3 per cent. as compared with the previous month. If the average monthly index of employment in the establishments covered for the three years 1923–25 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for June, 1941, was 127.6, as compared with 124.7 for May, 1941, and 103.1 for June, 1940.

Information supplied by the Social Security Board shows that the number of applications for employment registered at Public Employment Offices at the end of June, 1941, was 5,125,862, a decline of 0.6 per cent. as compared with the figure for the end of May, 1941, and of 11.0 per cent. as compared with that for the end of June, 1940.

Estimates of the National Industrial Conference Board published in *The Conference Board Management Record* for July, 1941, give the total number of unemployed persons in the United States in May, 1941, as 3,962,000, as compared with 5,357,000 (revised figure) in April, 1941, and 8,735,000 in May, 1940.

These estimates and the statistics of applications for employment include large numbers of persons given employment on the various established systems of Federal works projects.

AUSTRALIA.

Information supplied by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, shows that there was a further decline in unemployment during the first quarter of 1941. The percentage of members of trade unions who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in that quarter was 5.3, as compared with corresponding percentages of 6.2 in the preceding quarter, and 7.9 in the first quarter of 1940.

CANADA.

According to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 12,555 firms, the number of workpeople employed at 1st June, 1941, was 1,528,834, as compared with 1,451,322 at 1st May. If the average number of workpeople employed by the reporting firms in the year 1926 be taken as 100, the corresponding index of employment was 153.0 at 1st June, 1941, 145.5 at 1st May, 1941, and 120.9 at 1st June, 1940. Changes which took place as from 1st April, 1941, in the method of reporting the data may, however, affect to some extent the comparability of the successive monthly figures with those for the corresponding months in 1940.

At the end of May, 1941, 4.6 per cent. of the aggregate membership (approximately 284,000) of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 5.5 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 7.9 per cent. at the end of May, 1940.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Returns received by the Office of Census and Statistics from selected industrial undertakings employing approximately 802,000 workpeople in May, 1941, show that the level of employment increased during that month, according to information appearing in the official *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* for July, 1941. If the average number of workpeople employed in the reporting firms in July, 1925, be taken as 100, the index of employment for May, 1941, was 188.0, as compared with 187.0 for April, 1941, and 180.6 for May, 1940.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

In the following paragraphs a summary is given of the latest information contained in official publications received since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, relating to changes in retail prices and the cost of living in oversea countries.

EGYPT.

In April, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure for Cairo showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. as compared with the figure for March, 1941, and of 28.9 per cent. as compared with that for August, 1939. For food and fuel and light combined the official index figure for April, 1941, showed no change as compared with that for the previous month, and an increase of 21.8 per cent. as compared with the figure for August, 1939.

GERMANY.

In May, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. as compared with that for the preceding month, and of 4.8 per cent. as compared with that for August, 1939.

PORTUGAL.

At 15th May, 1941, the official index figure relating to the cost of food, fuel and light, showed a decline of 0.6 per cent. as compared with the figure for 15th April, 1941, but an increase of 14.4 per cent. as compared with that for 15th August, 1939.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

Denmark.—In April, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure was 1.5 per cent. above the figure for January, 1941, and 43.7 per cent. above that for July, 1939.

Norway.—In June, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure was 1.4 per cent. above the figure for May, 1941, and 37.5 per cent. above that for August, 1939. For food alone, the official index figure for June, 1941, showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. as compared with the figure for the previous month, and of 48.1 per cent. as compared with that for August, 1939.

Sweden.—At 1st May, 1941, the official index figure relating to the cost of food, and fuel and light showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. as compared with the figure for 1st April, 1941, and of 35.6 per cent. as compared with that for 1st September, 1939.

SWITZERLAND.

At the end of May, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure was 1.5 per cent. above that for the end of April, 1941, and 24.8 per cent. above the figure for the end of August, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 2.6 and 31.3, respectively.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

At the middle of June, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure showed a rise of 1.7 per cent. over the figure for the middle of May, 1941, and of 6.1 per cent. over that for the middle of June, 1939. For food alone, the official index figure for the middle of June, 1941, was 3.7 per cent. above the figure for the middle of the previous month, and 13.3 per cent. above that for the middle of August, 1939.

AUSTRALIA.

In the first quarter of 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure for six capital cities showed an increase of one per cent. as compared with the figure for the previous quarter, and of 8.5 per cent. as compared with the figure for the second quarter of 1939.

CANADA.

At the beginning of July, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure was 1.3 per cent. above the figure for the beginning of June, 1940, and 11.0 per cent. above that for the beginning of September, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 3.6 and 17.3, respectively.

INDIA.

In May, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure for the working classes in Bombay City showed a rise of 0.8 per cent. over the figure for the previous month, and of 16.2 per cent. as compared with that for August, 1939. For food alone, the official index for May, 1941, showed no change as compared with that for the previous month, and an increase of 23.2 per cent. as compared with the figure for August, 1939.

NEW ZEALAND.

In May, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.5 per cent. above the figure for April, 1941, and 7.1 per cent. above that for August, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 0.6 and 3.7, respectively.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

The official cost-of-living index figure for June, 1941, was 0.5 per cent. above the figure for May, 1941, and 9.1 per cent. above that for August, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 0.6 and 13.0, respectively.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

PITWOOD WORKERS : SCOTLAND.—The Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of General and Municipal Workers claimed an increase of 1½d. an hour on the existing rates of wages of all male and female employees of members of the Pitwood Association of Scotland. In support of the claim evidence was submitted as to the increase in the cost of living, the advances in wages which had been given to other classes of workpeople and the corresponding increases to the workpeople concerned. As against the claim evidence was submitted by the Employers of the alterations which the war had brought about in the industry, such as the use of home grown timber, the control of buying and selling prices and the higher costs of other charges on the industry. The Court awarded the following increases in the rates of wages:—men, 3s. a week; youths and boys, 2s. a week; women, 3s. a week; girls 2s. a week.—*Award No. 1818*; dated 5th August, 1941.

LINESMEN : RILEY AND NEATE LIMITED, DARLINGTON.—The Electrical Trades Union asked for a decision as to whether linesmen employed by Riley and Neate Ltd. in the erection of pylons of wood, steel and re-inforced concrete for the suspension of high tension electric cables, should be employed upon the terms and conditions laid down in the working rule agreement of the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board as amended by the "Uniformity Agreement," or upon the terms and conditions prescribed for electricians by the National Federated Electrical Association, and whether the rates of wages paid to such linesmen should be based upon an addition to the rates for labourers prescribed by the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board, or the rates prescribed for electricians by the National Federated Electrical Association Rules. The Court were of opinion that the linesmen in question are employed on work the nature of which is Civil Engineering Construction and accordingly their rates of pay, hours of work and conditions of service fall to be dealt with in accordance with the agreements and practice of the Civil Engineering Construction Industry and awarded that the following plus rates above the appropriate labourers' rate should be paid to the men:—During the first six months, 1d. per hour; after six months, 2d. per hour; after 12 months, 3d. per hour.—*Award No. 1819*; dated 6th August, 1941.

MUSICIANS : LONDON PALLADIUM.—The Musicians' Union claimed that musicians employed by the General Theatre Corporation Ltd. at the London Palladium should be paid according to the rates for twice nightly performances established in the district. The district referred to was the West End district of London and the rates claimed were those said to be operative in West End Theatres for musical productions given twice nightly. It was submitted on behalf of the General Theatre Corporation Ltd. that the London Palladium whilst being geographically in the West End does not come within the category of what is generally known as a West End Theatre and the basic foundation of all productions there has always been and still is variety.

The Court decided that the present performance at the London Palladium is similar in nature to twice nightly musical performances given in other theatres in the West End at which the rates claimed are being paid, and accordingly awarded that the rates claimed shall be paid during the run of the present or any other similar production.—*Award No. 1820*; dated 6th August, 1941.

NON-TRADING SERVICES : BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The National Union of Public Employees claimed on behalf of the manual employees engaged in the non-trading service of the Brentwood Urban District Council the observance of the decisions on war wage adjustments of the Eastern District Council for Local Authorities non-trading Services (Manual Workers).

The Brentwood Urban District Council contended that their wages did not compare unfavourably with those paid in adjacent districts and that as they were not members of the Eastern District Council for Local Authorities non-trading services (Manual Workers) they were not bound by its decisions.

The Court awarded war wage advances of 8s. a week for men and 6s. a week for women as from the pay week beginning 6th February, 1941, with lesser amounts dating back to May, 1940.—*Award No. 1821*; dated 7th August, 1941.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN.—The United Patternmakers Association claimed that the rates of pay of patternmakers covered by Industrial Court Award No. 728, employed by the Great Western, London Midland and Scottish, London and North Eastern, and Southern Railway Companies should be increased by 1s. a week in the case of piece work and 2s. 9d. a week in the case of time work. The Court awarded that the standard time rates of pay shall be increased by 1s. a week.—*Award No. 1822*; dated 21st August, 1941.

WATERWORKS EMPLOYEES : MORLEY TOWN COUNCIL.—The National Union of Public Employees representing the normal staff employed by the Morley Town Council at their Morley-Bruntcliffe Depot and at Withens Reservoir, asked for a decision regarding the payment, if any, to be made to the employees of the Waterworks Committee in respect of Civil Defence Stand-by Duties. The Court awarded that during the period of the war employees of the Waterworks Committee of Morley Town Council, who may be required to do Civil Defence work outside their normal hours of employment shall receive the following

payments: (1) men who are notified on or before Friday that during the following week they will be required to do stand-by duties at the Depot or other appointed places on the sounding of the siren, a token payment of 7s. 6d. per week; (2) standing-by between the sounding of the siren and the "all clear" or when called upon to stand-by on an emergency, 9d. an hour or part of an hour when so engaged; (3) men so standing-by who may be called upon to undertake normal or emergency duties payment at the normal appropriate rates of pay whilst so engaged.—*Award No. 1823*; dated 26th August, 1941.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN : SOUTHERN RAILWAY.—The National Union of Railwaymen claimed the payment of a meal allowance on certain dates to a carpenter employed at Nine Elms Building Depot when he was sent to work at Wimbledon. The Company stated that the man was employed at Nine Elms as a district man and at the time in question was not sent beyond his district. The Court awarded against the claim but suggested an *ex-gratia* payment for the first day the man was sent to Wimbledon.—*Award No. 1824*; dated 29th August, 1941.

CIVIL SERVICE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARD.

NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS.—The Staff Side of the Civil Service National Whitley Council claimed that all non-industrial Civil Servants of 21 years of age or more employed full-time, whose remuneration (excluding bonus where at present payable) does not exceed £850, should receive a war bonus of 10s. a week in place of the existing bonus of 10s. a week (men) and 7s. 6d. a week (women) on salaries up to £250 a year, 5s. a week for men on salaries between £250 and £350, and 4s. for women on salaries between £250 and £300. The modifications of the existing bonus arrangements involved in the claim were that—(1) women should receive the same bonus as men; (2) bonus should be 10s. a week on all (adult) salaries instead of being reduced in the higher ranges; (3) bonus should be payable on salaries above £350 (men) and £300 (women) as well as on salaries below those points.

The Tribunal took the view that the maximum amount of pay up to which bonus should be payable should be the same for men and women, but that a differentiation should be made between men and women in the amount of the bonus and the figures awarded were decided by the Tribunal so as to reflect as far as possible the general trend in employment outside the Civil Service at the present time.

The Tribunal awarded that all adult non-industrial Civil Servants of 21 years of age or more whose salary (excluding bonus) does not exceed £500 a year shall receive a war bonus of 10s. a week (men) and 7s. 6d. (women) up to £250 a year; over £250 a year and up to £500 a year 5s. (men) and 4s. (women).—*Award No. 66*; dated 27th August, 1941.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, OLDBURY.—A dispute between Albright and Wilson Limited, Oldbury, and their yard labourers was reported by the firm under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Order, 1940. The parties agreed to the difference being disposed of by reference to a single arbitrator and Mr. V. R. Aronson, M.A., B.C.L., was appointed under the powers conferred on the Minister by the Order and by the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act in that capacity. He issued his Award on the 13th August dismissing the claim of the yard labourers for an increase in wages.

MENTAL WELFARE, LEEDS.—The National Union of Public Employees reported a dispute concerning the case of an individual employee of the City of Leeds Voluntary Mental Welfare Committee under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Order, 1940, and the matter not having been otherwise settled, it was agreed between the parties that it should be referred to a single arbitrator. By the powers conferred on the Minister by the Order and by the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, Mr. A. N. Shimmin, M.A., was appointed to act as Arbitrator and he issued his Award on 25th August.

FLAX AND JUTE INDUSTRY, DUNDEE.—Mr. John Stewart was appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as arbitrator in the matter of a claim by the Mills and Factories Allied Trades Committee against Don Brothers, Buist and Company Limited, Dundee, concerning overtime allowances to mechanics during part of a specially arranged holiday period for 1940. In his Award dated 25th August, Mr. Stewart decided against the claim.

COURT OF INQUIRY.

INDUSTRIAL UNREST AMONG THE EMPLOYEES OF RIBBLE MOTOR SERVICES, LIMITED.

The Minister of Labour and National Service appointed a Court of Inquiry consisting of Sir Hector Hetherington, M.A., LL.D., J.P. (Chairman), Lieut.-Colonel Ernest Briggs, D.S.O., and A. M. Wall, Esq., J.P., to inquire into the causes and circumstances of industrial unrest in the undertaking of Ribble Motor Services Limited, with particular reference to the adequacy of the arrangements and procedure for discussing and settling disputes. The inquiry was held in public on 17th July, 1941, and after the public hearing the Court held private consultations with the parties, which were continued at a further private meeting on 7th August.

The Report of the Court, issued on 18th August, showed that the immediate cause of the unrest was the dismissal of three employees of the Company, under circumstances which appeared to the two Trade Unions concerned, viz., the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport and General Workers' Union, to create a presumption of victimisation. However, there were other matters which, it was claimed by the Trade Unions, had disturbed the relations between the management and the workers. At the suggestion of the Court the Company undertook to reinstate the three dismissed workers and, accordingly, the Court restricted their observations to some of the broader matters raised at the inquiry, especially, in accordance with the terms of reference, to the question of the adequacy of the arrangements for discussing and settling disputes. The negotiating machinery for this purpose was, the Court found, satisfactory in its main elements but, for reasons which were made clear later in the Report, some development not so much of machinery as of techniques and procedures would prove to be advantageous.

The desire of the men that more should be done to enable them to know in advance their probable hours of duty on particular days appeared to the Court to be the most substantial of the matters brought forward by the Unions, and in order to make the inevitable margin of uncertainty as small as possible, the Court made suggestions which, they believed, would provide an improved basis for the construction of the rosters which govern the assignments of daily duty to the workers, and thereby not only help to meet the desire of the workers for fore-knowledge of their duties, but also serve an important objective of public policy by assisting in the maintenance of the services of the Company on the basis of the fullest possible utilisation of the available man-power. In order also to afford the men timely opportunity in the ordinary routine of administration for submitting comments on the rosters for the consideration of the management, the Court suggested that when the main seasonal rosters are brought into operation, or when any major change in a roster is proposed, the new roster should be posted in the garages seven or ten days in advance of the event and that, for the purposes of the reference to the central management of any matters in connection with the rosters which could not be dealt with by the manager of the garage or other local officer, the Unions should designate one of their officials as a specialist on matters of roster.

In the concluding part of their Report the Court stated that they were of the opinion that this roster matter covered the great bulk of the ground which was in debate between the Company and its workers, and that, if it were settled broadly in accordance with the considerations outlined above, nearly every other issue would be reduced to small proportions.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDER, 1940.*

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF A DONCASTER COMPANY OF RAILWAY WAGON BUILDERS AND REPAIRERS.

Parties : Thomas Burnett and Company Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Amalgamated Society of Vehicle Builders, Carpenters and Mechanics). For payment of rates of wages in accordance with the terms of the Joint Agreements in the trade.

Award : The Tribunal awarded that, in so far as the Company were not observing the agreements and arrangements between the Wagon Repairing Association and the Society relating to the payment of daywork rates and overtime rates as set out in the Memorandum of Agreement dated 19th February, 1941, such agreements and arrangements should be observed.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 110; dated 5th August, 1941.

RATES OF REMUNERATION OF WORKERS EMPLOYED ON THE EIGHT-HOUR SHIFT SYSTEM IN COTTON WASTE PURIFICATION IN LANCASTER.

Parties : Lansil Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers). For increases in rates of remuneration for workers on an eight-hour shift system.

Award : The Tribunal awarded that the Company should apply to male and female workers employed on eight-hour shifts scales of minimum normal rates (made up of basic rate, war bonus, output bonus and night work allowance) and overtime rates for day workers and night workers, as specified in detail in the award.

This award is without prejudice to the operation of the terms of Award No. 80 in relation to the twelve-hour shift system.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 111; dated 5th August, 1941.

* Summaries of two cases referred under Article 2 of the Order, and, decided under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, are printed among awards by Single Arbitrators and *ad hoc* Boards of Arbitration.

RATES OF WAGES OF APPRENTICE GLAZIERS IN SCOTLAND.

Parties : The Scottish Glass Merchants' and Glaziers' Association and Employees of the Association.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Scottish Operative Glaziers' Trade and Friendly Society). For an increase of wages of apprentice glaziers.

Award : The Tribunal awarded that war bonus shall be counted as wages for the purpose of calculating payment for any overtime worked. Subject thereto, they found against the claim and awarded accordingly.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 112; dated 6th August, 1941.

REMUNERATION OF OUTDOOR STAFF OF THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Parties : Prudential Assurance Company Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Prudential Staff Union). For the payment of a cost-of-living bonus to all permanent outdoor employees.

Award : The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established and they awarded accordingly.

Award No. 113; dated 7th August, 1941.

RATES OF WAGES FOR ENGINEERING PRODUCTION WORK IN WORKSOP.

Parties : George Turton Platts and Company Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Amalgamated Engineering Union). For payment by the Company of the rates of wages which are applicable to certain classes of skilled workers in the Worksop area.

Award : The Tribunal found that there was no established rate fixed by the machinery of collective bargaining for engineering workers in Worksop engaged in production work. They found against the claim and awarded accordingly. At the same time they expressed the view that the rates for engineering production work in Worksop should be settled by joint negotiation between the organisations on the two sides in the industry.

Award No. 114; dated 8th August, 1941.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEES AT TWO CARDIFF THEATRES.

Parties : Theatre Properties (Cardiff) Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees). For improved wages and conditions of employment.

Award : The Tribunal awarded that the Company should observe rates of wages and conditions of employment as specified in detail in the award.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 115; dated 9th August, 1941.

RATES OF REMUNERATION OF EMPLOYEES OF A GLASGOW COLD STORAGE FIRM WORKING AT IMPORTED COMMODITIES FROM SHIPS.

Parties : United Cold Storage Company Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Scottish Transport and General Workers' Union). For increased rates of remuneration.

Award : The Tribunal found against the claim and they awarded accordingly.

Award No. 116; dated 12th August, 1941.

RATES OF WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEES AT THE THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.

Parties : Theatre Royal (Lincoln) Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees). For the observance by the Company of certain wages and conditions of employment.

Award : } As in Award No. 115 above.

Date of Operation : } As in Award No. 115 above.

Award No. 117; dated 12th August, 1941

RATES OF WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEES AT THE HIPPODROME, NORWICH.

Parties : F.J.B. Theatres (Norwich) Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees). For the observance by the Company of certain wages and conditions of employment.

Award : } As in Award No. 115 above.

Date of Operation : } As in Award No. 115 above.

Award No. 118; dated 12th August, 1941.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING INDUSTRY. QUESTION OF POWER OF ONE SIDE TO DETERMINE JOINT AGREEMENT.

Parties : The National Federated Electrical Association and Employees of the Association.

Dispute : The dispute, which had been reported to the Minister by the Electrical Trades Union on behalf of persons employed by the Association arose out of an application made by the Association for a modification of the terms of the Wages (War Adjustment) Agreement dated 24th November, 1939.

Award : The Tribunal found that the agreement of 24th November, 1939, had not been validly determined and they awarded accordingly.

Award No. 119; dated 14th August, 1941.

"COST-OF-LIVING" BONUSES FOR THE CLERICAL STAFFS OF THE LIVERPOOL VICTORIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Parties : The Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society and Employees of the Society.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the National Amalgamated Union of Life Assurance Workers and the Liverpool Victoria Workers' Union). For the payment of "cost-of-living" bonuses.

Award : The Tribunal awarded "cost-of-living" bonuses to (a) all members of the Head Office Clerical (including Typing) Staffs in receipt of salaries under £300 per annum and (b) all members of the Branch Office Clerical (including Typing) Staffs engaged prior to 1st July, 1940, and in receipt of salaries under £300 per annum, as follows :

Male employees of 21 years of age or over	8s. 6d. per week.
Female " " " "	6s. 0d. " "
Male and female employees of 18 " and under 21 years of age	5s. 0d. " "
Male and female employees under 18 years of age	3s. 0d. " "

Provided that in no case shall salary and bonus together exceed £300 per annum.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 120; dated 14th August, 1941.

"COST-OF-LIVING" BONUSES FOR THE CLERICAL STAFFS OF THE ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Parties : The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society Limited and Employees of the Society.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the National Amalgamated Union of Life Assurance Workers and the Royal London Staff Association). For the payment of "cost-of-living" bonuses.

Award : } As in *Award No.* 120 above.

Date of Operation : } *Award No.* 121; dated 14th August, 1941.

"COST-OF-LIVING" BONUSES FOR THE HEAD OFFICE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Parties : The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society Limited and Employees of the Society.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Guild of Insurance Officials). For the payment of a "cost-of-living" bonus.

Award : The Tribunal awarded "cost-of-living" bonuses to all members of the Head Office Clerical (including Typing) Staffs in receipt of salaries under £300 per annum as follows :—

Male employees of 21 years of age or over	8s. 6d. per week.
Female " " " "	6s. 0d. " "
Male and female employees of 18 " and under 21 years of age	5s. 0d. " "
Male and female employees under 18 years of age	3s. 0d. " "

Provided that in no case shall salary and bonus together exceed £300 per annum.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 122; dated 14th August, 1941.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF A LONDON FIRM OF PACKING CASE MAKERS.

Parties : The National Union of Packing Case Makers (Wood and Tin), Box Makers, Sawyers and Mill Workers and Messrs. W. Smith & Son.

Question raised : Whether the firm are observing terms and conditions which are not less favourable than "the recognised terms and conditions."

Claim : That the firm should observe the terms of an agreement dated August, 1940, applicable to the Box and Packing Case Making Industry in the London District.

Award : The Tribunal found that the terms and conditions of employment observed by the firm were less favourable than "the recognised terms and conditions" being the terms and conditions agreed upon from time to time between the Metropolitan Box and Packing Case Manufacturers' Federation of London and the Export Packing Case Manufacturers' Association of London and District and the National Union of Packing Case Makers (Wood & Tin), Box Makers, Sawyers and Mill Workers of London and the Amalgamated Society of Wood-cutting Machinists of London; and they awarded that the firm should observe the terms and conditions so agreed upon.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 123; dated 14th August, 1941.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF A COVENTRY CASTINGS FOUNDRY.

Parties : Fozel Castings Company Limited and Employees of the Company.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Transport and General Workers' Union, Coventry Branch). For holidays with pay and certain increases in wages.

Award : The Tribunal awarded that the Company :—

- (i) should operate the terms of the joint agreement made

in the Engineering Trade in 1937 relating to holidays with pay ;

- (ii) should pay to foundry labourers for a week of 47 hours a minimum rate consisting of the base rate of 33s. 6d. together with the differential for foundry labourers of 3s. 11d. together with the national bonus of 30s. 6d.
- (iii) should pay retrospectively for all work performed on Whit Tuesday, 3rd June, 1941, on the following basis :—
Day Shift—Day time rates and half until midnight and thereafter double time rates until day shift starting time ;
Night Shift—Day time rates and two thirds for all hours worked.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award, except as respects item (iii) of the award.

Award No. 124; dated 15th August, 1941.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

WAGES OF MENTAL HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES.

Parties : The Committee of the County Mental Hospital, Antrim, and various Grades of Employees of the Committee.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union). That (1) all male and female attendants be granted an increase of 30s. per month; (2) one carpenter, two painters, one mason and one plumber, be paid the Building Trades' agreed rate for Antrim district, and that these men's wages be governed in future by the Antrim District rates, as agreed to by the Building Trades' Federation and Employers' Association; (3) one tailor be paid the Trade Board Rate in accordance with agreed rates for above Board (Tailors & Garment Workers' Trade Board), Northern Ireland; (4) upholsterer be paid nearest Belfast District agreed rates for this job; (5) one general labourer and assistant fireman be paid Antrim District Rate, Building Trades' Federation; (6) two firemen be granted an increase to 1s. 1d. per hour; (7) resident engineer be paid agreed engineering rate for Northern Ireland; (8) any other odd workers in connection with the Institution be considered under the application made for male and female workers.

Award : The Tribunal awarded the following increases on current rates of wages :—(1) £1 per month and 10s. per month respectively for non-resident and resident male and female attendants; (2) 7s. 6d. per week for tradesmen (carpenter, painters, upholsterer, mason, plumber, tailor and resident engineer); (3) 5s. per week for firemen; (4) £1 per month and 10s. per month respectively for non-resident and resident laundress and domestic workers. The claim in respect of the general labourer and assistant fireman (para. 5 of the employees' claim) was withdrawn.

Date of Operation : As from 1st August, 1941.

Award No. 55; dated 28th July, 1941.

WAGES OF PAINTERS IN BANBRIDGE AND DROMORE.

Parties : The National Society of Painters and Messrs. W. Wright, F. Larmour, J. Stevenson and W. Finlay, of Banbridge, Co. Down, and Messrs. W. Thompson and W. Scott, of Dromore, Co. Down.

Claim of Trade Union : "That the rate of wages (i.e., 1s. 8d. per hour) for painters applicable in Armagh, Lurgan and Portadown be observed by the master painters of Banbridge and Dromore."

Award : The Tribunal awarded that (a) the rate of wages for painters in Banbridge and Dromore should be 1s. 8d. per hour, and (b) in future the rates of wages for painters in Banbridge and Dromore should be regulated in accordance with the Building Trade (Northern Ireland) War Emergency Agreement.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 56; dated 31st July, 1941.

WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS OF SURFACEMEN.

Parties : The Tyrone County Council and Employees of the Council.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union). For (a) a rate of wages of 45s. per week; (b) a 50 hour week; and (c) ten days' holiday with pay.

Award : The Tribunal awarded (a) an increase of 1s. 6d. per week on the current rate of wages; (b) a working week of 50 hours; and (c) six days' annual holiday with pay.

Date of Operation : As from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 57; dated 6th August, 1941.

WAGES OF PAINTERS (AND APPRENTICES).

Parties : Messrs. J. Greer, J. McDowell, and S. Bell, of Ballynahinch, J. Scott, of Dromara, and R. W. Massey, of Saintfield, and employees of the foregoing firms.

Claim : (Made on behalf of the employees by the National Society of Painters). That (a) master painters in Ballynahinch, Dromara and Saintfield shall observe a rate of wages for painters of 1s. 8d. per hour; (b) only one apprentice be allowed to every four journeymen; and (c) the rate of wages for apprentices be as fixed by the Tribunal.

Award : The Tribunal awarded that (a) employers in Bally-

nahinch, Dromara and Saintfield shall observe a rate of wage for painters of 1s. 8d. per hour; (b) the weekly scale of wages to be observed for apprentices shall be:—1st year, 8s.; 2nd year, 11s.; 3rd year, 14s.; 4th year, 20s.; and 5th year 30s.; (c) in future the rates of wages for painters in Ballynahinch, Dromara and Saintfield shall be regulated in accordance with the Building Trade (Northern Ireland) War Emergency Agreement. The Tribunal considered that it would not be justified on the submissions in making an award in respect of the number of apprentices to be employed for each journeyman.

Date of Operation: With effect as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Award No. 58; dated 11th August, 1941.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT OF BUTCHERS.

Parties: The Journeymen Butchers' Association and the Northern Ireland Master Butchers' Association.

Claim of Trade Union: That the hours of employment of butchers be reduced from 54½ hours to 50 hours per week, arranged as follows:—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 8-0 a.m. to 6-0 p.m.; Wednesday 8-0 a.m. to 1-0 p.m.

Award: The Tribunal awarded that the hours of work in Belfast shall be as follows:—Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8-0 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 6-30 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7-30 p.m.

Date of Operation: With effect as from Monday, 18th August, 1941.

Award No. 59; dated 15th August, 1941.

WAGES OF PLUMBERS AT EGLINTON AND LIMAVADY.

Parties: The Plumbers, Glaziers and Domestic Engineers' Union and Messrs. Stewart and Partners Ltd.

Claim of Trade Union: That Belfast plumbers sent to work at Eglinton and Limavady should be paid the Belfast rate of wages.

Award: The Tribunal found against the claim and awarded accordingly.

Award No. 60; dated 28th August, 1941.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, HOLIDAYS WITH PAY ACT, AND ROAD HAULAGE WAGES ACTS.

A.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

PROPOSALS to vary minimum rates of wages have been issued as shown below. Further information may be obtained by persons engaged in the respective trades on application to the Secretary of the Trade Board concerned at the Gordon Hotel, Leicester Street, Southport, Lancashire, in the case of Trade Boards in Great Britain, or at Stormont, Belfast, in the case of Trade Boards in Northern Ireland.

CUTLERY TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Proposal C.T. (26), dated 5th August, 1941, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

LINEN AND COTTON HANDKERCHIEF AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND LINEN PIECE GOODS TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Proposal H.L. (21), dated 12th August, 1941, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

CUTLERY TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Proposal C.T. (27), dated 15th August, 1941, to vary the direction for holidays with pay and rates of holiday remuneration.

SHIRT MAKING TRADE BOARD (NORTHERN IRELAND).

Proposal N.I.S. (N.25), dated 11th August, 1941, to vary minimum rates of wages for male workers.

B.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

In pursuance of the powers conferred by the Trade Boards Acts, the Holidays with Pay Act and the Road Haulage Wages Acts, the Minister of Labour and National Service in Great Britain and the Ministry of Labour in Northern Ireland have made Orders confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the Trade Boards indicated below and the Road Haulage Wages Board. Copies of the Orders may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, either directly or through any bookseller.

SACK AND BAG TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Order S.B. (19), dated 6th August, 1941, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 13th August, 1941, as the date from which such rates became effective.

SUGAR CONFECTIONERY AND FOOD PRESERVING TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Order F. (27), dated 6th August, 1941, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 13th August, 1941, as the date from which such rates became effective.

BOOT AND SHOE REPAIRING TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Order D. (67), dated 6th August, 1941, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 15th August, 1941, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Order D. (68), dated 6th August, 1941, confirming a variation of holiday remuneration and specifying 15th August, 1941, as the date from which such rates became effective.

BOOT AND FLOOR POLISH TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Order B.P. (15), dated 8th August, 1941, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 15th August, 1941, as the date from which such rates became effective.

FUR TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Order Z. (37), dated 8th August, 1941, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and holiday remuneration and specifying 15th August, 1941, as the date from which such rates became effective.

ROAD HAULAGE CENTRAL WAGES BOARD.

Order R.H. (8), dated 15th August, 1941, amending the statutory remuneration for road haulage workers prescribed by the Order R.H. (6) made on 11th December, 1940, and fixing rates of remuneration (including holiday remuneration) for road haulage workers between the ages of 14 and 18 and for vanguards between the ages of 18 and 21 in the London Area (see article on page 175). The new Order became effective on 25th August, 1941.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE Umpire is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown (see Section 40 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935) for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions* are final.

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 leave of the Chairman 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 recent decisions are of general interest:—

Case No. 1086/41. (19.8.41).

SECTION 28 OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1935; REFUSAL OR FAILURE TO APPLY FOR WORK: SUB-SECTION (1) (a); OFFERS OF SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT. A SHORT-TIME POTTERY WORKER UNEMPLOYED FOR TWO DAYS REFUSED EMPLOYMENT, CERTIFIED TO BE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE BUT OTHER THAN IN HER USUAL OCCUPATION: GENERAL PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO "THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE": EFFECT OF CONCENTRATION OF INDUSTRY SCHEME ON CLAIMANT'S EXPECTATION OF FUTURE EMPLOYMENT.

The material circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision:—

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

"The claimant was employed as a gilder in a pottery factory. On 30th May, 1941, when she had been unemployed for two days, she was notified of a vacant situation for a trainee as an operator in an ordnance factory four miles from her home. Travelling facilities were available between the two last-mentioned places. The employment as an operator at the factory was expected to last for the duration of the war.

"The work for which the claimant was required at the ordnance factory was urgent work of national importance and, as the claimant was informed when notified of the vacancy, it had been certified by the Minister under Regulation 26 of the Unemployment Insurance (Emergency Powers) Regulations 1939 and 1940 (see S.R. & O. 1940, No. 1235, Regulation 3) to be such work.

"The claimant's employment at the pottery factory had been intermittent. In the seventeen weeks which ended 28th May, 1941, she had been employed on seventy-three days out of one-hundred-and-two working days. I will refer in greater detail hereinafter to the matter of the claimant's intermittent employment.

"The claimant refused to apply for the vacant situation, giving as her reason therefor that she 'wishes to wait until her husband comes home on leave to make arrangements for her home.' I assume from this statement that the claimant's husband is serving in His Majesty's Forces. The claimant and her husband have no children. I cannot say that the reason given by the claimant for refusing to apply for the vacant situation constituted 'good cause' for such refusal. She is not, however, disqualified for receiving benefit by virtue of section 28 (1) (a) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, because she advanced a reason for not applying for the vacant situation which did not constitute good cause (see Decision 12133/34+).

"On these facts the Court of Referees disqualified the claimant for receiving benefit for six weeks on the ground that she had 'refused to apply for suitable situation.' The Chief Insurance Officer has formally appealed against the decision of the Court of Referees 'in order to obtain the guidance of the Umpire as to the position of a short time worker who refuses employment certified by the Minister to be work of national importance, but which is employment other than in the claimant's usual occupation.'

"For reasons which I will hereinafter explain each case of this nature must be decided in the light of its particular facts, and

* Selected decisions of the Umpire are published (i) in monthly pamphlets—U.I. Code 8B; (ii) in annual volumes. Applications and enquiries should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

† U.I. Code 8B, Vol. XIII, page 78 (Pamphlet No. 8/1934).

this may deprive the Chief Insurance Officer of the guidance which he hoped to obtain by appealing against the decision of the Court of Referees.

"As the Minister had certified under Regulation 26 aforesaid that the employment for which the claimant refused to apply was employment on work of national importance, the fact that such employment was not employment in the claimant's usual occupation would not in itself have rendered the certified employment unsuitable in the claimant's case had she been unemployed for not less than fourteen days. As the claimant had not been unemployed for fourteen days when she was notified of the vacant situation at the ordnance factory sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, must be applied without regard to Regulation 26.

"Sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Act reads 'After the lapse of such an interval from the date on which an insured contributor becomes unemployed as, in the circumstances of the case, is reasonable, employment shall not be deemed to be unsuitable by reason only that it is employment of a kind other than employment in the usual occupation of the insured contributor, if it is employment at a rate of wage not lower, and on conditions not less favourable, than those generally observed by agreement between associations of employers and of employees, or, failing any such agreement, than those generally recognised by good employers.'

"The effect of Regulation 26 is that, where the insured contributor has been unemployed for not less than fourteen days, and the employment in question has been certified under sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (1) of the Regulation, when applying sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Act you apply it without reference to the words preceding 'employment shall' not be deemed to be unsuitable by reason only,' and by interposing the words 'in the district in which the employment is available' between the words 'by agreement' and 'between associations.'

"I now proceed to apply sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Act without any reference to alterations therein effected by Regulation 26.

"The sub-section requires a review of all 'the circumstances of the case.' If those circumstances show that, having regard to the length of time the claimant has been unemployed, it is reasonable that he or she should accept employment in an occupation other than his or her usual occupation, employment in that other occupation may be suitable employment if the provisions relating to wages and conditions contained in the latter part of the sub-section are satisfied. That being so it is patent that each case which is decided under the sub-section must be decided on its own particular facts, that is to say 'the circumstances of the case,' as I have previously observed.

"There are, however, general principles which are applicable, and some of them were stated in Decision 3248/38, which has not been reported.

"In that decision it was said 'One of the important circumstances to be taken into account when considering a case under section 28 (3) is "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 (Decision 5851/31)."'

"Another passage from Decision 3248/38 reads 'the existing state of trade is another circumstance of the district which is very relevant in this connection.'

"When a claimant has been unemployed for only a day, employment in an occupation other than in his or her usual occupation may be suitable employment in his or her case. Full-time employment in another occupation may at any time be suitable employment in the case of an insured contributor whose usual occupation only affords employment on one or two days a week, and who has no prospect of employment in that occupation on more days in the week. A married woman, who has lost her employment on marriage because her employer and all other employers in the district refuse to employ married women in her usual occupation, could not successfully contend that employment in another occupation was not suitable employment in her case immediately upon her loss of employment.

'It was known to the officers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service when the claimant was notified of the vacant situation at the ordnance factory that the claimant's employers were affected by the steps which were being taken by the Government to limit unessential production in the pottery industry with the object of liberating workers for more essential work. The claimant's name had been given by the employers to the Board of Trade as a person whose services could be dispensed with under the Scheme for concentration of the industry. In these circumstances the claimant's chances of obtaining or retaining employment in her usual occupation in the future were rendered remote.

"The circumstances mentioned in the preceding paragraph, coupled with all the other circumstances, one of which was the urgent need for women workers in the aforesaid ordnance factory in order to assist in the prosecution of the war, are 'the circumstances of the case' which have to be considered in applying section 28 (3) of the Act.

"Having regard to all the circumstances of the case I must find that on 30th May, 1941, the vacant situation at the ordnance factory for which the claimant refused to apply was in suitable employment in her case. From this it follows that it has been 'proved by an officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service that the claimant, after a situation in any employment which is suitable in her case has been notified to her by an employment exchange as vacant, has refused to apply for that

situation.' As a consequence she is disqualified under section 28 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, for receiving benefit if she had not 'good cause' for her refusal so to apply.

"The absence of good cause is one of the matters which section 28 (1) of the Act requires an officer of the Ministry to prove before a claimant is disqualified under the section for receiving benefit (Decision 3146/31).*

"What now is section 28 (3) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, was, when Decision 3146/31 was given, section 5 (2) (ii) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, and in that decision the sub-section was considered in relation to proof of 'suitability of employment' but not in relation to 'good cause' for refusing to apply for a vacant situation (see the third paragraph on page 51 of the 1931 volume of Umpire's Decisions).

"In a case such as the one under consideration the officer of the Ministry must prove facts which show that the claimant had not good cause for refusing to change her occupation. In the two illustrations which I have previously given, namely, of the one day or two days a week worker and the married woman, proof of the absence of opportunity for more employment in the first case, and of refusal by employers to employ married women in the claimant's usual occupation in the second case, would afford proof of absence of good cause for refusing a change of occupation.

"In the present case had it been proved that the claimant was aware that she could not expect further employment in her usual occupation there would have been evidence that the claimant had not good cause for refusing to apply for the vacant situation at the ordnance factory.

"I have said in the fourth paragraph of this decision that I would at a later stage refer in greater detail to the claimant's intermittent employment. I should add that the details which I am about to give were not known to the Court of Referees.

"For eight weeks which ended on 28th May, 1941, the claimant had been fully employed with the exception of one week, namely, the week which ended on 14th May when she proved unemployment on five days. The reason for the claimant's unemployment in that week has not been stated. The bulk of the claimant's intermittent employment in the aforesaid seventeen weeks was in the nine weeks preceding the said eight weeks, and in three of those nine weeks the claimant did not prove unemployment.

"There is no evidence to show that the claimant was aware when she refused to apply for the vacant situation at the ordnance factory of any of the circumstances which I have mentioned above in the paragraph commencing with the words 'It was known to the officers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.'

"In these circumstances there is nothing to indicate that the claimant could not legitimately look forward to securing in the future as much employment as she had had in the eight weeks preceding the notification of the vacant situation at the ordnance factory. If she could, she had good cause for refusing to apply for the vacant situation. I cannot, therefore, say that it has been proved by an officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service that the claimant 'without good cause' refused to apply for the situation in suitable employment which had been notified to her as vacant.

"For these reasons I allow the appeal of the Chief Insurance Officer."

Case No. 1101/41. (20.8.41).

SECTION 28 OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1935: REFUSAL OF OR FAILURE TO APPLY FOR WORK: SUB-SECTION (1) (a); OFFERS OF SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT. A REGISTERED PORT WORKER REFUSED SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT AT THE DOCKS IN ORDER TO STAND BY FOR THE ARRIVAL OF A STEAMSHIP ON WHICH HE EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED: THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE DOCK LABOUR (COMPULSORY REGISTRATION) ORDER, 1940, WHICH REQUIRES CLAIMANT TO OBTAIN HIS EMPLOYMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE PORT LABOUR REGISTRATION SCHEME, A MAIN PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO UTILISE IN THE NATIONAL INTERESTS TO THE FULLEST EXTENT THE AVAILABLE DOCK LABOUR.

The material circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit is disallowed, the claimant being disqualified for the receipt of benefit for the first day of the benefit period immediately following that in which this decision is given.

"The claimant is a registered port worker at the Plymouth Docks. He is registered in Work Category 'A,' which means that he is capable of performing all kinds of dock work.

"On the 31st March, 1941, the claimant was offered employment as a dock worker at the Docks upon terms to which no exception could be taken.

"The claimant refused the offer of employment for reasons which are stated later.

"The Insurance Officer disallowed benefit for the 31st March on the ground that the claimant was disqualified for benefit, having without good cause refused to accept an offer of a suitable situation. The decision of the Insurance Officer was reversed by a majority of the Court of Referees who allowed benefit for the day in question. The Chairman dissented.

"The Insurance Officer has appealed from the decision of the Court of Referees.

"By the Dock Labour (Compulsory Registration) Order, 1940 (S.R. & O., 1940, No. 1013) it is provided as follows:—

'2. Where, as respects any port, an approved Port Registration Scheme is in force the following provisions shall have effect—

- '(a) an employer engaged in work to which the Scheme applies shall not seek to engage or engage any worker for work to which the Scheme applies otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme; and
- '(b) a worker seeking to engage for work to which the

Scheme applies shall obtain his employment in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme and not otherwise.

"In so far as relevant the terms of the Plymouth Port Labour Registration Scheme are as follows:—

(1) All persons (of whatever age) employed on Dock Labour must be registered with the Ministry of Labour.

(2) All Port Transport Workers not actually in employment, even if preference men, must attend at their appropriate Signing Office at Millbay or Coxhide, every day (except Sunday) between 7.45 a.m. and 8.15 a.m.

(3) Arrangements have been made, as from August 12th, 1940, for all Employers of Dock Labour to "call on" Port Transport Workers at the Signing Offices instead of at their own premises.

(4) All Port Transport Workers must be prepared to undertake any work with any Employer of Dock Labour, if capable of doing that work.

"Reading the Scheme in the light of the circumstances in which, and the purposes for which it was framed, including the national necessity of securing expedition in the work of discharging or loading vessels and of avoiding delay in effecting the turn-round of shipping at the Docks, it must be held that the provisions of the Scheme alone determine the circumstances in which a Port Transport Worker is entitled to refuse an offer of work at the Docks.

"The result is that the considerations which in normal times might have been held to justify a refusal of work cannot prevail during the national emergency and the operation of the Scheme, in so far as those considerations are inconsistent with the provisions of the Scheme.

"In my view the effect of the Scheme is to make it incumbent on any Port Transport Worker, who is 'not actually in employment' to undertake any dock work which is offered to him and which he is capable of doing.

"The original reason which the claimant gave for not accepting the employment was that he did not wish to do the warehouse work which was offered. In his grounds of appeal to the Court of Referees from the decision of the Insurance Officer the claimant said: 'I finished a steamship on Saturday and was told there would be another for Monday morning to work which Mr. —, the stevedore, kept my Unemployment and Health Cards, so that I had a job to go to. I did not sign on till 8.30 waiting for steamship to arrive which did not come.' In his evidence before the Court of Referees the claimant said that he refused the job offered because he was 'already booked,' adding that as the boat did not arrive on the Monday he was unemployed on that day.

"To complete the story it may be added that the claimant signed the register as unemployed, not only on the 31st March, but, also on the four following days, that is to say, to and including the 4th April.

"The contention of the claimant is that because he was 'booked' on the Saturday for a new job on a boat which was due to arrive in the following week he was entitled to remain unemployed and to draw benefit until such time as the boat arrived.

"It is not necessary to consider how that contention would have been received in the time of peace. The contention has to be considered in the light of the circumstances existing at the time when the claimant refused the employment offered to him.

"In the first place the arrangement which the claimant made on the Saturday, by which he says he was 'booked' for a new job on the Monday, was made in contravention of clause 2 (b) of the Dock Labour (Compulsory Registration) Order, 1940, which requires the claimant to 'obtain his employment in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme and not otherwise.' The claimant is not entitled to rely on his own wrongdoing as a justification for refusing employment.

"In the second place the arrangement did not entitle the claimant to say that he was 'actually in employment' on the Monday. If he had been 'actually in employment' he could not rightly claim benefit for that day.

"Not being 'actually in employment' it was the claimant's duty to comply with clause (2) of the Scheme by attending for employment at the Signing Office between 7.45 and 8.15 a.m., which he did not do. His attendance at a later hour was for the purpose of claiming benefit on the ground that he was unemployed.

"The fact that in making, or for the purpose of making, the arrangement for the Monday the books of the claimant were retained by the stevedore (whether with or without the consent of the claimant) is not material. There would have been no difficulty in that respect if the claimant had been willing to accept the employment offered.

"One of the main purposes of the Scheme is to utilise in the national interests to the fullest extent the available dock labour, so that, as far as possible, there shall not be any unsatisfied demand for labour to perform the dock work. Such action as

the claimant adopted, if often repeated or if widely followed, would defeat the purposes of the Scheme.

"In the present case the Insurance Officer disallowed benefit for only one day, although events have shown that the claimant was unemployed on five days, waiting for the boat to arrive. It was that disallowance which was the subject of the appeal to the Court of Referees and on the appeal from the Court's decision the disqualification imposed by the Insurance Officer cannot be extended.

"It must not be assumed, however, that, where circumstances permit, the disqualification imposed will always be limited to a nominal period.

"I agree with the dissenting view of the Chairman of the Court of Referees and the appeal of the Insurance Officer is allowed."

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.

The Unemployment Assistance Fund (Closing) Order, 1941, dated August 27, 1941, made by the Treasury under Section 6 (2) of the Determination of Needs Act, 1941.*

By the above Order, 31st March, 1942, is declared to be the date on which the Unemployment Assistance Fund is to be closed as provided in Section 6 (1) of the Determination of Needs Act, 1941.

FACTORY ACTS.

FACTORY FORMS.

FROM time to time the Ministry of Labour and National Service issues Factory Forms regarding regulations and orders issued under the Factory Acts. The undermentioned Forms have been issued or reprinted since the previous list was published in the July issue of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE. The prices in brackets include postage.

No.	Title and Price.
100.	Docks Regulations, 1934. Notice of completion of Processes of loading, unloading or coaling at specified hatches on board ship, June, 1941. Reprinted 1941, revised price, 6 forms, 2d. (3d.).
685.	Certificate of Exemption No. 21 (General), Steam Boilers—Economisers of the Steaming Type, June, 1941. 1d. (2d.).
913.	Regulations for the process of File-cutting by Hand, June, 1941. 1d. (2d.).
982.	Hides and Skins Regulations, 1921, as amended by the First-Aid Regulations, 1937, and the First-Aid in Factories Order, 1938; July, 1938. Reprinted 1941, revised price 2d. (3d.).
993.	Grinding of Cutlery and Edge Tools Regulations, 1925; July, 1938. Reprinted 1941, revised price 2d. (3d.).

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices are net, and do not include postage.]

NATIONAL SERVICE.—*Selected decisions given by the Umpire in respect of applications for postponement of liability to be called up for service under the National Service Acts, 1939–1941.* N.S. Code 2. Pamphlets Nos. 4 and 5/1941. Ministry of Labour and National Service. [S.O. publications; price 2d. each].

SKILLED MEN.—*Interim report of the Committee on Skilled Men in the Services, July 30th, 1941.* Ministry of Labour and National Service. [Cmd. 6307; price 2d.].

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Selected decisions given by the Umpire on claims for benefit during the six months ended June 30th, 1941.* U.I. Code 8B. Pamphlet No. 1/1941. Ministry of Labour and National Service. [S.O. publication; price 2d.].

WELFARE.—*Welfare Work outside the Factory.* Ministry of Labour and National Service. [Cmd. 6310; price 3d.].

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1941, No. 1296; H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net (2d. post free).

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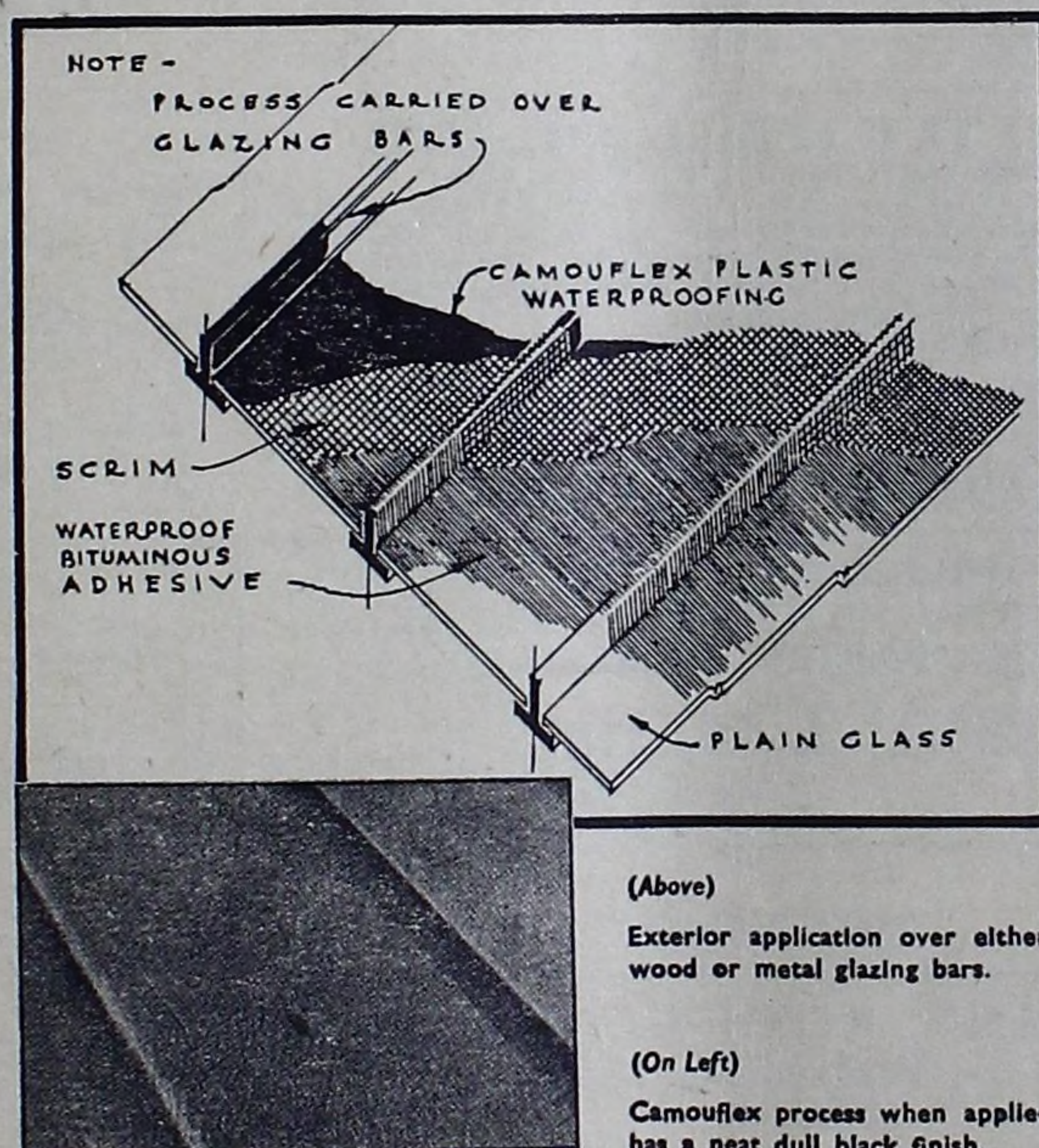
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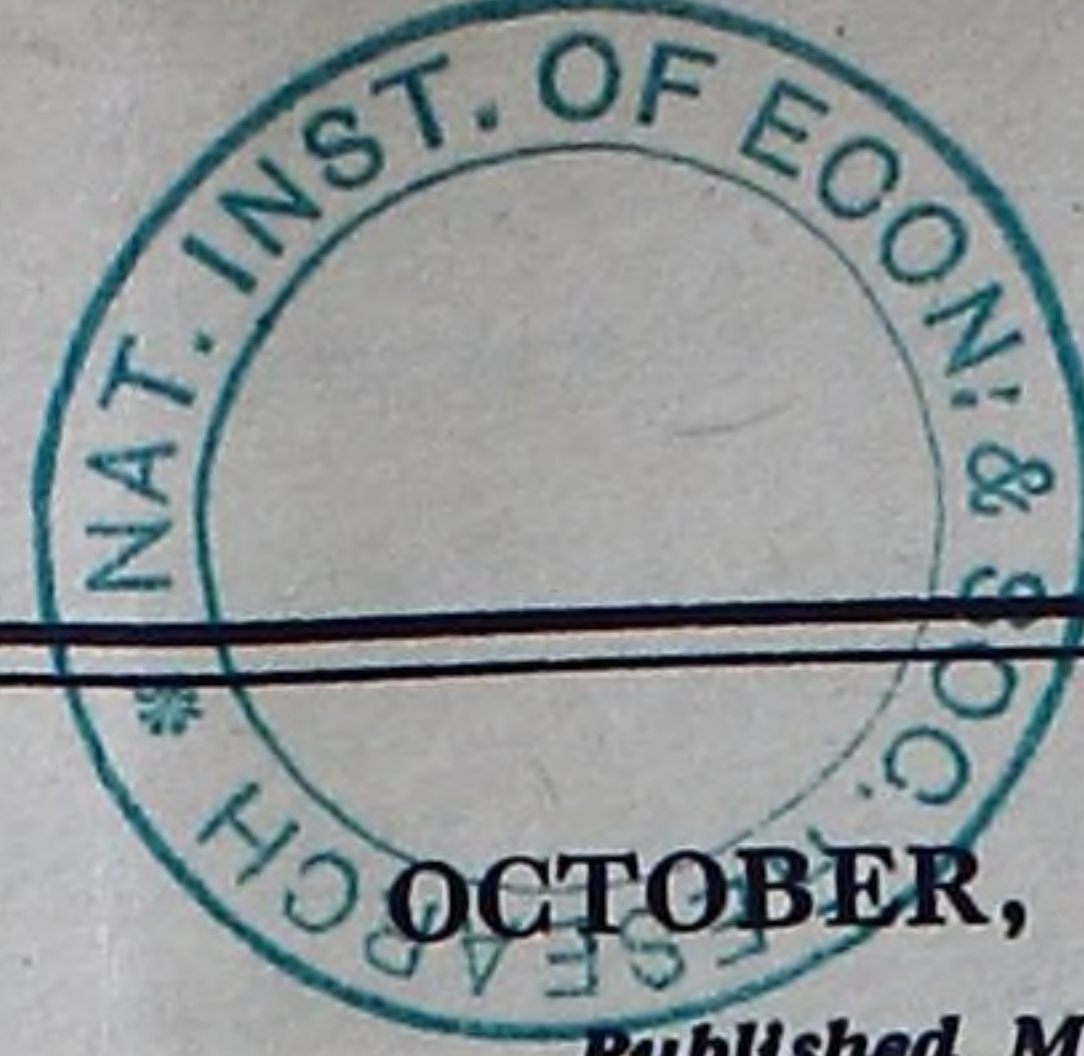
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THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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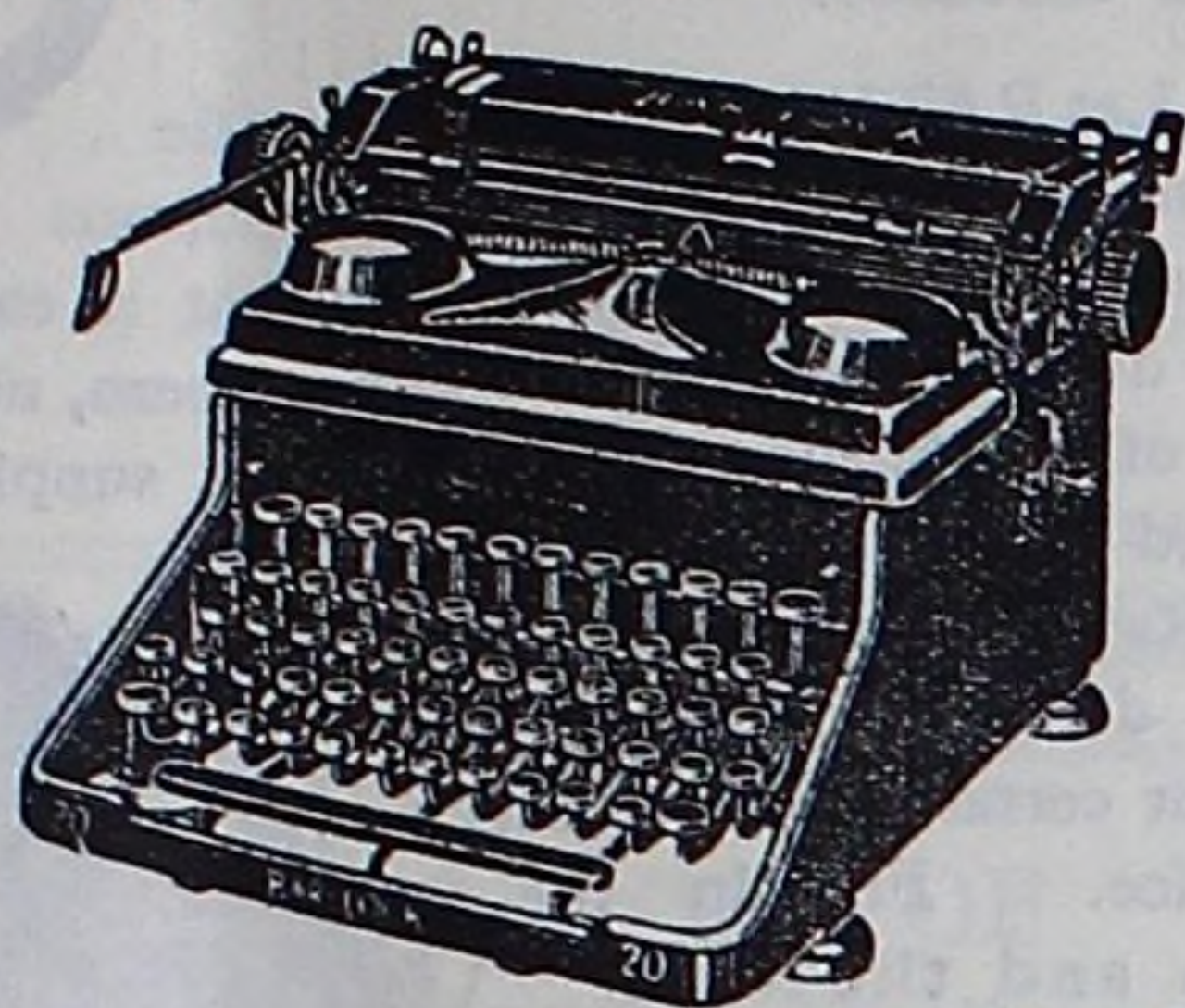
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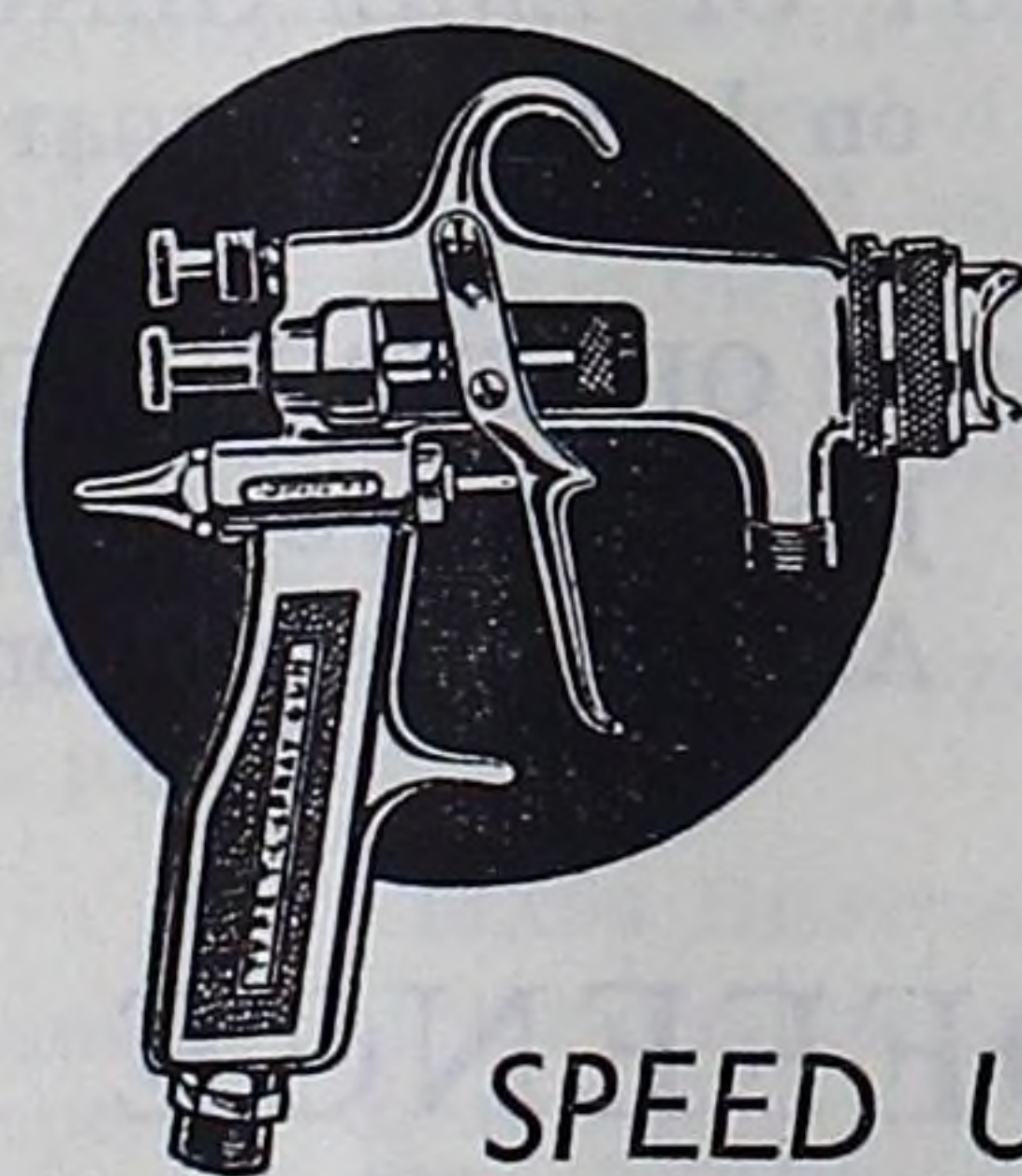
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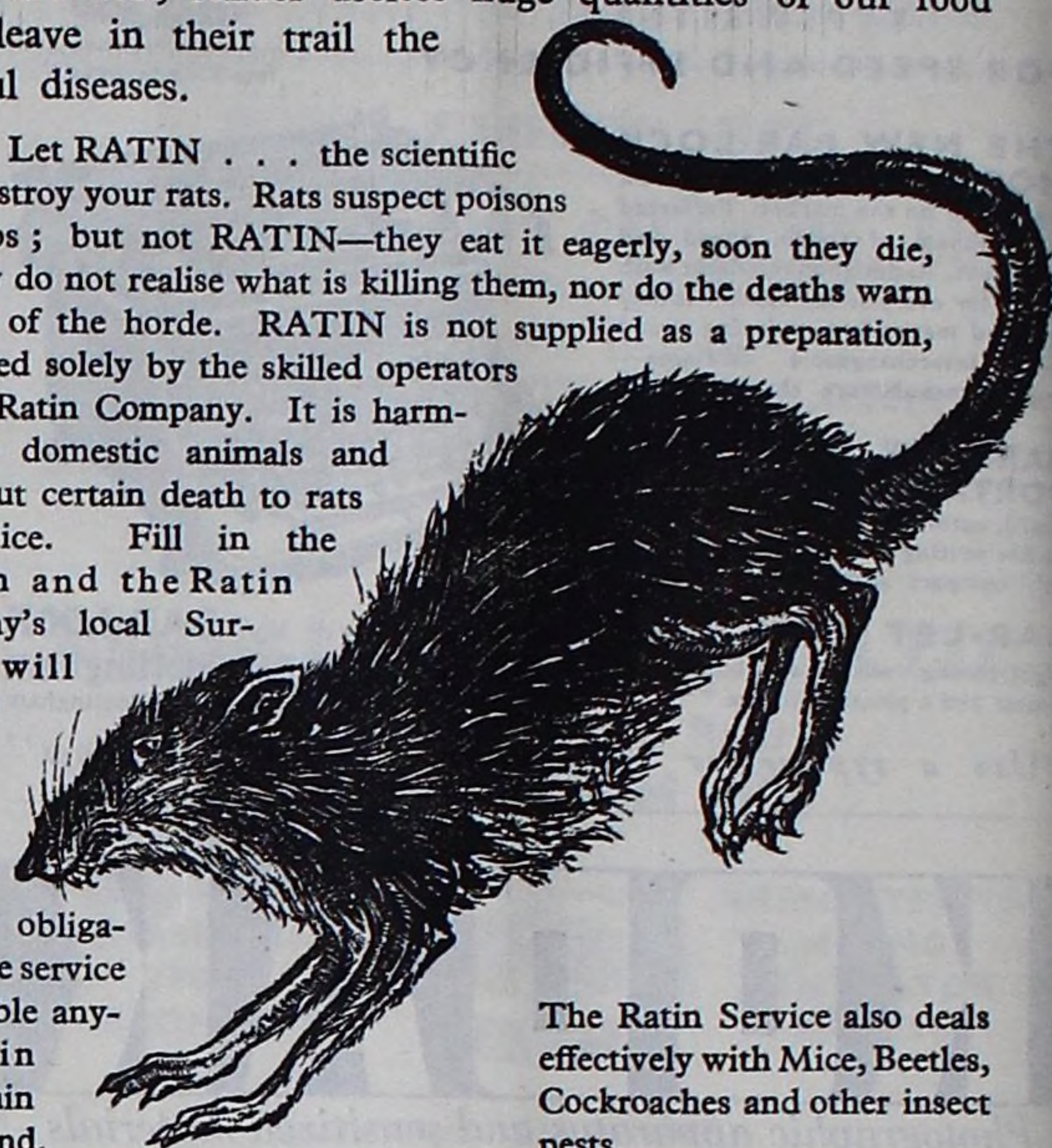
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