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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 13th April, 1942 (exclusive of men numbering 26,000 who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 69,543. As compared with 16th March, there was a decrease of 2,988 among men, but an increase of 5,094 among boys, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers. Those 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 3,281; this was a decrease of 886 as compared with 16th March. Those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 3,725, showing a decrease of 1,902 as compared with 16th March.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 13th April, 1942, were 47,505 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 1,664, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 3,200 temporarily stopped, and 245 unemployed casual workers. Of the 47,505 wholly unemployed, 1,665 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 16th March, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 9,645 among women, but an increase of 2,941 among girls, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers; those temporarily stopped showed a decrease of 869, and unemployed casual workers showed a decrease of 8.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during April resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at over £40,000 in the weekly full-time

wages of about 300,000 workpeople, and in a decrease estimated at £1,600 in those of about 100,000 workpeople.

In the coal mining industry, rates of wages were increased in Derbyshire and Warwickshire and reduced in Leicestershire and Cannock Chase, due to the operation of sliding-scale agreements under which wage rates fluctuate in correspondence with the proceeds of the industry. Increases in wage rates were also granted to workpeople engaged in the making of cast stone and cast concrete products, rope, twine and net making, laundries and flour milling, and to employees of wholesale and retail co-operative societies generally. The rates of wages of workpeople in the textile bleaching, etc., industries were reduced under the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st May the official cost-of-living index figure was 100 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 99 per cent. at 1st April. For food alone, the index figure at 1st May was 60 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, the same as at 1st April.

The rise in the cost-of-living figure was due to increases in the prices of tobacco and cigarettes, as a result of the additional duties provided for in the Budget. There was little change, on average, in the prices of other items covered by the statistics.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in April, was 83. In addition, 5 disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 88 disputes (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred) was 34,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in April was about 63,000 working days.

PAYMENT BY RESULTS IN THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

The Ministry of Works and Buildings has recently issued a Memorandum* on the system of payment by results in the building and civil engineering industries. By Section 3(1)(d) of the Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, 1941, it was provided that one of the conditions to be fulfilled before the scheduling of an undertaking was that, where practicable and desirable, arrangements should be made in the undertaking, either generally or as regards any specified class or description of workers, for remuneration to be calculated on a system of payment by results. Payment by results was accordingly introduced by Government decision at the beginning of July, 1941, for certain operations in building and civil engineering works scheduled under the Order, and, in view of the satisfactory results and notably increased output, was extended to certain additional operations in October, 1941.

As a result of recommendations made by a Joint Advisory Panel composed of representatives of employers' and workers' organisations, certain revisions and additions to the scheme have now been approved, and the rates of payment fixed for various operations are given in an Appendix to the Memorandum. Figures of basic output per hour and bonus payable for work over and above this output are fixed for twenty operations.

Bonuses are paid in addition to plain time rates, and are calculated on an hourly basis but ascertained weekly. In addition to the weekly bonus earned, each worker paid by results is entitled to payment at plain time rates for not less than eight hours each weekday and four hours for each Saturday during which he is capable of and available for work. Bonusing will normally be by gangs and this principle is to be applied to the maximum extent possible. The bonuses laid down have been fixed in relation to specified circumstances. Where the circumstances on individual sites differ from those specified, variations of details are permitted, except that no variation is permitted in the principles laid down for distributing the bonus among the members of the gang.

The following assurances, which were given by the Government when the scheme was first introduced, are repeated in the Memorandum:—

- (a) If the representatives of the employers and operatives in the industries, as a result of joint negotiations, at any time reach an agreement between themselves on any adaptation of the proposals which would in the opinion of the Government be more effective in attaining the object which the Government's scheme is designed to achieve, the Government will reconsider the scheme in the light of any such agreement.
- (b) Meanwhile unauthorised departures from the scheme will not be recognised by the Government. The scheme does not allow "lieu" bonusing, or an overall payment to all persons on a site, or the payment of a bonus without reference to a measurable volume of work. But it is intended that with these reservations the scheme should be as flexible as possible.
- (c) In so far as the scheme affects branches of the industries which were previously remunerated solely on a time rate basis, the adoption of the scheme will constitute a recognised "change of practice," and will be operative only for the period of the war, unless and in so far as it may be continued by joint agreement.
- (d) In no case will a worker under the scheme receive less remuneration than he would receive for the same time worked under existing agreements or under the guaranteed pay provisions of the Essential Work Order.

The scheme applies only to sites scheduled under the Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order. On these sites no departures from the principles of the scheme and no unauthorised methods of bonusing are permitted, whether agreement is reached with the operatives on the site or not. This is without prejudice to the rights of civil engineering employers and operatives to make arrangements for bonus payments for civil engineering operations not covered by the scheme; any such agreed arrangements must, however, be in general conformity with the principles of the scheme. In the case of building, no operations may be bonused except those enumerated.

With regard to sites not scheduled under the above Order, builders and contractors operating on such sites are required, as a condition of holding their certificate of registration under Defence Regulation 56 AB (without which it is illegal for a building or civil engineering undertaking to be carried on), to observe the terms and conditions of employment fixed by joint agreement in the industry, or by arbitration. It will, therefore, not be open to contractors on non-scheduled sites to operate bonusing schemes, unless these are in accordance with the terms and conditions of the industry. In the case of the civil engineering industry, bonusing is permissible in accordance with the national agreement in that industry, but in the building industry there is no provision for the payment of bonuses in the national agreement.

* *Payment by Results. Trade Operations for which bonus rates have been fixed. Memorandum on Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, 1941.* H.M. Stationery Office. Price, 4d. net.

LABOUR IN COALMINING.

JUVENILE LABOUR : COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY.

The question of the recruitment of juvenile workers to the coalmining industry, which is a matter of vital importance to the future of the industry and of the country, has been under consideration by the Government, and in order to overcome the reluctance of juveniles to enter the industry they consider it necessary to have the whole situation examined, with a view to the formulation of a scheme which will give boys an assurance as regards their immediate and future wellbeing and, at the same time, meet the needs and circumstances of the industry.

Accordingly, the Minister of Labour and National Service and the President of the Board of Trade, in consultation with the President of the Board of Education and the Secretary for Mines, have appointed a committee to enquire into the opportunities for training and advancement and the general welfare of juvenile workers in the coalmining industry, including wages and conditions of work, and to make recommendations thereon. The committee has been constituted as follows:—Sir John Forster (Chairman), Sir Max Bonn, K.B.E., Mr. J. W. Bowen, Mr. Ronald Gould, Professor K. Neville Moss, O.B.E., M.Sc., M.I.C.E., F.I.F., and Mr. D. T. Jack (Secretary).

The Committee held their first meeting in London on 28th April, and in view of the urgency of the problem, they hope, at an early date, to consider memoranda to be submitted by the Mining Association of Great Britain and the Mineworkers Federation of Great Britain. They also propose to invite other interested parties to submit replies to a questionnaire to be drawn up by the Committee.

RELEASE OF MINERS FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 28th April, the Secretary for Mines announced that, in cases where jobs were immediately available for them in the mines, a certain number of underground mineworkers serving in the Army in the British Isles were now being released from a limited number of military establishments, and some would shortly be released from the Royal Air Force. It was hoped to secure a further increase in man-power by the return to coalmining of a number of ex-miners employed in other industries. Men returning from the Forces for work in the coal mines were being transferred to Class W Army Reserve. Their pay and wives' allowances ceased on discharge to Class W Army Reserve. It was recognised that the men must be helped to take up work quickly in the pits, and they were being guaranteed pay for any gap there might be between discharge from the Army and their actual employment in the mines. In addition, a grant of £2 10s. was being made to each man for the provision of working clothes and the coalowners were supplying tools in order to relieve the men from any expense in that connection. Other forms of assistance which were being provided were also indicated by the Secretary for Mines.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN (CONTROL OF ENGAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) ORDER.

THE Minister of Labour and National Service has made an Order* amending in certain respects the Employment of Women (Control of Engagement) Order, 1942, which, as reported on page 32 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1942, prohibited women in the age-groups 20–30 inclusive, subject to exceptions as regards certain categories of women and specified employments, from obtaining employment otherwise than through a local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service or an employment agency approved by the Minister. Similarly, employers were prohibited from engaging or seeking to engage women covered by the Order, except through a local office or an approved employment agency.

The principal amendment effected by the new Order, which was made on 28th April and became operative on 4th May, 1942, extends the scope of the Order to include women aged 18 and 19 years of age. Other amendments provide for certain additional categories of employment to be excluded from the scope of the Order, viz., (a) the employment in a professional capacity of any person whose name is on the medical register, (b) the employment as a dentist of any person registered under the Dentists Act, 1878, as amended by the Dentists Act, 1921, and (c) employment as a member of a Police Force within the meaning of the Police Pensions Act, 1921.

REGISTRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT ORDER.

REGISTRATIONS OF WOMEN.

In accordance with the programme announced on page 58 of the March issue of this GAZETTE, female British subjects, whether married or single, were registered under the Registration for Employment Order, 1941,† on 2nd and 16th May, if they were born in the years 1904 and 1903, respectively, and were not exempted under the Order. Similar registrations are to take place on 30th May and 13th June, respectively, of women born in the years 1902 and 1901, and, on 27th June, of women born in 1923.

* The full title of the Order is given in the list of Statutory Rules and Orders on page 116.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1941, pages 51 and 73.

REGISTRATION AND PLACING OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL.

ORGANISATION OF APPOINTMENTS DEPARTMENT.

ON 11th December, 1941, the Minister of Labour and National Service announced in the House of Commons that it was his intention, as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made, to place the existing Central and Supplementary Registers* of persons with technical and professional qualifications under the administrative control of a new Appointments Department. The Appointments Department, with headquarters at Sardinia Street, Kingsway, W.C.2, is to exercise its functions through a Central (Technical and Scientific) Branch, established in London, and through a number of Appointments Offices which have been opened in the Provinces.

Responsibility for dealing with professional engineers, scientists, architects, land agents and valuers is vested in the Central (Technical and Scientific) Branch, and no action with regard to these categories of persons is to be taken by the Appointments Offices in the Provinces.

Persons with administrative, managerial, professional or technical qualifications other than those appropriate to the Central (Technical and Scientific) Register, together with persons who, while not possessing specific qualifications, have a normal salary in excess of £420 a year, will be dealt with at the Appointments Offices, whose task it will be to assist in making the best use in the national interest of all such persons. The addresses of the Appointments Offices can be obtained at any Employment Exchange.

WOMEN'S TECHNICAL SERVICE REGISTER.

To meet the demand for women capable of filling vacancies in technical departments, the Ministry of Labour and National Service have opened a section of the Appointments Register, to be called the "Women's Technical Service Register." Since many of the registrants, while having good educational qualifications, will lack technical experience, the Ministry intend if there is sufficient demand to provide, in association with the Board of Education, courses of training which will help to equip them for the occupations mentioned in leaflet P.L.101/1942, which is obtainable from any Employment Exchange.

Women and girls who have passed the School Certificate with credits in mathematics, physics or chemistry, or any higher examination in which one of these subjects is included, can apply at the Appointments Offices for enrolment in the Register. Application for enrolment may also be made by women and girls who, although not possessing the educational qualifications stipulated, consider that they have some special experience or knowledge which fits them for one of the posts described in the leaflet. Firms with vacancies of the type under consideration are invited to apply to the Appointments Offices. Correspondence should be marked "W.T.S.R."

NATIONAL SERVICE ACTS, 1939-1941.

CALLING UP OF WOMEN : 1918 AND 1919 AGE CLASSES.

It has been decided to call up to the Women's Auxiliary Services under the National Service Acts women in two further age classes, namely, those born in 1918 and 1919. This decision became operative on 1st May, 1942, and as from this date single women and widows in the age classes concerned may not be accepted as volunteers in the Women's Auxiliary Services. Women who wish to volunteer for nursing may, however, do so up to the time when they receive their call-up notices.

The calling up of women, who have already registered under the Registration for Employment Order and will not, therefore, have to register again, is to be effected under arrangements similar to those already in operation for women in the 1920 and 1921 age classes, of which particulars relating to exempted persons, reservation, deferment, cases of exceptional hardship and conscientious objection, and the right to opt for civilian duties were given in the relevant article on page 6 of the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1942.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (CONTRIBUTIONS) (AGRICULTURE) ORDER.

THE Unemployment Insurance (Contributions) (Agriculture) Order, 1942,† the draft of which was approved by both Houses of Parliament on 5th May, was made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 6th May, 1942.

The Order provides for suitable amendments of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940, so as to give effect to the recommendation of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee that the re-imposition, due to take place automatically on and after 6th July, 1942, of ½d. on the contribution rates of each party under the Agricultural Scheme of Unemployment Insurance should not take place, having regard to the considerations set out in the last paragraph of the article on page 109 dealing with the financial condition of the Unemployment Fund at the end of 1941.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1940, page 187.

† See the list of Statutory Rules and Orders given on page 116.

ASSISTED TRAVEL FACILITIES FOR TRANSFERRED WORKERS.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has decided, in consultation with the Ministry of War Transport, to introduce a scheme of assisted travel for transferred workers who wish to visit their homes. The scheme will apply to workers who have been transferred to war work by the Ministry of Labour and National Service since 1st June, 1940, and for whom no similar provision is available under any industrial agreement or practice. The assistance will take the form of the provision, not more than twice a year, of a warrant entitling the worker to the issue of a railway ticket at a cost to the worker of 7s. 6d. in cases where the return fare would exceed that amount. Forms of application for assistance under the scheme may be obtained from the nearest Local Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Warrants will not be issued in respect of journeys commenced before 18th May, 1942.

In view of the special need to restrict railway travel during the winter months, the scheme can be operated only during the summer months, and the facilities provided will not be available this year after 15th September.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN IN AGRICULTURE.

An Order in Council* made by His Majesty on 30th April, 1942, provides for the addition to the Defence (Agriculture and Fisheries) Regulations, 1939, of further Regulations whereby, subject to specified conditions and limitations, exemption from the obligation to attend school may be granted by local education authorities to children aged 12 years and over for the purpose of enabling them to be employed in agricultural work of a seasonal nature which, by reason of a shortage of labour, would be seriously delayed but for the employment of the children.

The Regulations stipulate, *inter alia*, that the exemption of a child from school attendance shall be conditional upon the consent of the father or mother of the child or of the person having the actual custody of the child, and, if exemption has already in the same year been granted to the child in respect of twenty or more school meetings, upon the approval of one of His Majesty's inspectors. Moreover, no child may be employed in agricultural work, or in agricultural work and other work, for more than thirty-six hours in any week or seven hours in any day, or for more than four hours without a continuous interval of at least one hour.

RELEASE OF CIVIL DEFENCE PERSONNEL FOR EMPLOYMENT IN WAR INDUSTRIES.

IN the interests of the national war effort as a whole, the Government have decided to release about one-third of the total number of whole-time Civil Defence workers for employment in the war industries. As far as possible, the workers will be released indefinitely, but where this is not possible workers may be released conditionally for temporary employment in war industry, either in factories or under the local authorities, for periods of not less than a week.

In the first place, the release is to be sought of men and women whose past experience fits them for professional and skilled work in industry, and on the basis of the recent industrial registration of Civil Defence personnel (see the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1942, page 58) local offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service are to prepare lists of those whose services are most urgently required and are then to arrange with the Civil Defence authority for their release.

Civil Defence workers who are released, whether indefinitely or for short periods, are to be employed under normal industrial conditions, including payment at ordinary industrial rates, and their pay and privileges as whole-time members of the Civil Defence Services will, therefore, be suspended during their release.

For whole-time Civil Defence workers who cannot be released even temporarily, arrangements are being made whereby they may be employed during some of their Civil Defence duty hours on useful work carried out by local authorities or, under certain conditions, on essential work of extreme urgency for outside employers.

The general principles governing the release of workers from the Civil Defence General Services are also to apply to release from the National Fire Service, subject, however, to the special requirements which this Service has to meet.

Persons released to go into war industries will be under obligation not only, as at present, to return to whole-time Civil Defence employment, if called upon to do so, but also, by virtue of a suitable amendment of the relevant Defence Regulation, to perform part-time duties in the meantime, if so required.

* See the list of Statutory Rules and Orders given on page 116.

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS IN 1941 : STATISTICAL REVIEW.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1942 (page 5), some preliminary statistics were given of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work, which occurred in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1941. More detailed statistics regarding these disputes, revised in accordance with the latest information received, are now available and are given below.

The number of disputes involving stoppages of work in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported to the Department as having begun in 1941, was 1,251*, as compared with 922 in 1940. In these disputes about 296,500 workpeople were directly involved (*i.e.*, on strike or locked-out), and about 63,200 indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 1,800 workpeople were involved, directly or indirectly, in 10 disputes which began in 1940 and were still in progress at the beginning of 1941. The total number of workpeople involved, either directly or indirectly, in all disputes in progress in 1941 was thus about 361,500†, as compared with 299,400† in the previous year. The aggregate time lost in 1941 by these workpeople owing to the disputes was 1,079,000 working days, as compared with 940,000 working days in 1940.

The great majority of disputes in 1941 involved only the employees of single firms, and nearly two-thirds of the disputes lasted not more than two days. The aggregate time lost through the disputes was among the lowest recorded for any year during the 49 years for which comparable statistics are available.

The following Table summarises by industries the number of disputes reported as *beginning* in 1941 and 1940 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the number of workpeople involved in, and the aggregate duration of, *all* disputes *in progress* in each year :—

Industry group.	1941.			1940.		
	No. of disputes beginning in 1941.	Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress.	No. of disputes beginning in 1940.	Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress.
Fishing and Agriculture ..	5	1,100	3,000	5	4,400	28,000
Coal Mining ..	470	154,200†	335,000	381	189,800†	505,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	12	800	3,000	5	400	3,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	35	4,800	10,000	23	1,400	5,000
Engineering ..	180	97,000	318,000	71	18,800	79,000
Shipbuilding ..	147	27,300	110,000	65	10,100	37,000
Iron and Steel and other Metal ..	145	29,600	127,000	93	10,900	47,000
Cotton ..	4	700	2,000	15	1,500	5,000
Other Textile ..	38	6,600	35,000	45	8,100	72,000
Clothing ..	20	5,600	16,000	34	9,300	40,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	13	700	2,000	13	5,000	13,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ..	9	900	7,000	11	500	1,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ..	5	1,000	7,000	5	200	1,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ..	77	10,500	36,000	81	26,000	73,000
Transport ..	58	15,800	54,000	36	5,400	13,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance ..	6	2,400	4,000	6	500	1,000
Other Industries ..	27	2,500	10,000	33	7,100	17,000
Total ..	1,251	361,500†	1,079,000	922	299,400†	940,000

Of the total number of workpeople shown as involved in all disputes, approximately 63,500 in 1941 and 74,100 in 1940 were *indirectly* involved, and not parties to the disputes.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES IN 1941.

There were no disputes of outstanding importance during 1941, the great majority of the stoppages involving only small numbers of workpeople. Among the principal disputes, the most important were those in which over 25,000 apprentices in the engineering and shipbuilding industries in certain districts of Scotland, and at Belfast, Barrow and Manchester and district, stopped work at different dates and for varying periods between the end of February and the first week in April in support of claims for increases in rates of wages, about 220,000 working days being lost in this series of disputes. About 8,000 clerical and other workers in the Welsh tinplate industry were affected by a stoppage, in which 67,000 days were lost at the end of March and in the first week of April, arising out of the suspension of a clerk for alleged breach of discipline and a claim for recognition of the trade union. In November there was a short stoppage of some 12,500 engineering operatives at Glasgow, arising on a question as to the qualifications of a charge hand.

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

† Workpeople are counted in the totals for each year as many times as they were involved in a dispute during the year. The resulting duplication during each of the above years was mainly in the coal mining industry, in which the *net* number of workpeople involved was approximately 79,000 in 1941, and 107,000 in 1940. The *net* number of workpeople involved in all industries was approximately 269,000 in 1941, and 212,000 in 1940.

CAUSES.

The numbers and proportions of disputes in 1941, and of workpeople directly involved therein, arising from the principal classes of causes, are given below. In some cases disputes originate from more than one cause, *e.g.*, a claim for an advance in wages may be accompanied by a claim for a reduction in working hours. For the purpose of the statistics such disputes have been classified according to what appeared to be the principal cause of the stoppage.

Principal causes.	Number of disputes beginning in 1941.		Number of workpeople directly involved.	
	Total.	Per cent.	Total.	Per cent.
Wage increase questions ..	332	26.6	65,100	22.0
Wage decrease questions ..	55	4.4	10,100	3.4
Other wage questions ..	362	28.9	81,400	27.4
All wage questions ..	749	59.9	156,600	52.8
Hours of labour ..	55	4.4	13,100	4.4
Employment of particular classes or persons ..	188	15.0	58,300	19.7
Other working arrangements, rules and discipline ..	212	17.0	37,400	12.6
Trade unionism ..	33	2.6	16,200	5.5
Sympathetic action ..	9	0.7	12,600	4.2
Other questions ..	5	0.4	2,300	0.8
Total ..	1,251	100.0	296,500	100.0

Wage questions, as a whole, accounted for three-fifths of the disputes occurring in 1941, and for over one-half of the workpeople directly involved in such disputes.

Disputes arising out of the employment of particular classes or persons and those connected with "other working arrangements, rules and discipline" were the two other principal causes of disputes, and together accounted for about one-third of all disputes and the same proportion of the workpeople directly involved.

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT.

The principal methods by which disputes beginning in 1941 were settled are shown in the following Table :—

Methods of settlement.	Number of disputes beginning in 1941.		Number of workpeople directly involved.	
	Total.	Per cent.	Total.	Per cent.
By direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives ..	730	58.4	195,000	65.8
By conciliation ..	115	9.2	26,400	8.9
By arbitration ..	22	1.8	12,400	4.2
By return to work on employers' terms, without negotiation ..	362	28.9	60,900	20.5
By replacement of workpeople ..	8	0.6	500	0.2
Otherwise ..	14	1.1	1,300	0.4
Total ..	1,251	100.0	296,500	100.0

The most frequent method of settlement of disputes in 1941, as in previous years, was direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives, nearly three-fifths of all the disputes being thus settled. In more than one-fourth of the disputes work was resumed on employers' terms, without negotiation.

STATISTICS OF DISPUTES IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

In the following Table comparative figures are given for each of the past ten years. In this Table the particulars of numbers involved relate to persons involved in disputes *beginning* in each year, whilst in the first Table in this article they relate to the total numbers involved in *all* disputes *in progress*, including those beginning earlier which were still unsettled at the beginning of the year.

Year.	Number of disputes beginning in year.	Number of workpeople involved in disputes beginning in year.*			Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress during year (to nearest 10,000).
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1932 ..	389	337,000	42,000	379,000	6,490,000
1933 ..	357	114,000	22,000	136,000	1,070,000
1934 ..	471	109,000	25,000	134,000	960,000
1935 ..	553	230,000	41,000	271,000	1,960,000
1936 ..	818	241,000	75,000	316,000	1,830,000
1937 ..	1,129	388,000	209,000	597,000	3,410,000
1938 ..	875	211,000	63,000	274,000	1,330,000
1939 ..	940	246,000	91,000	337,000	1,360,000
1940 ..	922	225,000	74,000	299,000	940,000
1941 ..	1,251	297,000	63,000	360,000	1,080,000

The relatively large amount of time lost by stoppages in 1932 was due to disputes in the cotton industry, which accounted for about 5,650,000 out of 6,490,000 days lost during that year. There have been no stoppages of corresponding magnitude since 1932, the relatively large amount of time lost in disputes in 1937 being due to several stoppages by youths employed in coal mining, engineering and shipbuilding, and to stoppages by omnibus workers.

* For the purpose of these totals, workpeople are counted in the total for each year as many times as they were involved in a dispute during that year. The resulting duplications in the totals for all industries during the last five years have been approximately as follows: 1937, 181,000; 1938, 66,000; 1939, 90,000; 1940, 87,000; 1941, 93,000. The greater part of the duplication in each of these years has been in the coal mining industry.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

A "MEMORANDUM on Family Allowances," prepared by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in pursuance of an undertaking which he had given to a deputation of Members of Parliament, has recently been published as a White Paper.*

The object of the Memorandum, as explained in an introductory statement, is to set out the facts and to review the practical questions which would have to be dealt with if a scheme of cash allowances were decided upon. It was not part of the purpose of the Memorandum to assess the validity of the arguments for or against a system of family allowances or to attempt the task of forming a balanced judgment upon the issues involved.

Within these limits, various types of schemes of family allowances are considered in the Memorandum, and on the basis of the payment of a weekly allowance at a flat rate of five shillings for each child estimates are given of the cost both of non-contributory and of contributory schemes calculated on three alternative assumptions, namely, (a) that an allowance would be paid in respect of every child in the family eligible on grounds of age or continued education; (b) that allowances would be paid only in respect of the second and subsequent eligible children in each family; (c) that allowances would be paid only in respect of the third and subsequent eligible children in each family.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES.

RETAIL BOOKSELLING, NEWSAGENCY, STATIONERY, TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY TRADES.

The National Joint Industrial Council for the Retail Book-selling, Newsagency, Stationery, Tobacco and Confectionery Trades† has adopted an agreement, to become operative from 18th May, 1942, relating to rates of remuneration and conditions of employment in these trades in England and Wales. The rates and conditions, which are summarised below, are stated to be minima and are not to prevent the payment of higher rates or the operation of better conditions, or to prejudice any worker who is already in receipt of higher wages or is working under more favourable conditions.

WAGES.

For wages purposes, the agreement recognises three Zones, (a) London, comprising the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District, (b) Provincial "A," comprising places outside the Metropolitan Police District with populations of 10,000 or over, and (c) Provincial "B," comprising all other places. The extension of Provincial Zone "A" to cover places with populations down to and including 5,000 is to be the subject of negotiations at an early date.

The following scales of minimum weekly rates of remuneration are provided for the London Zone, the rates for Provincial Zones "A" and "B" being, respectively, 3s. and 5s. a week less than those for the London Zone:—

Shop assistants, clerks, shop cashiers and central warehouse staffs.—Males, 21s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 65s. at 25 years; females, 19s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 43s. at 24 years.

All other male workers, except craftsmen, productive staff and transport workers.—20s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 60s. at 24 years.

Provision is made for special rates of pay for late entrants and for subnormal workers. The Council is to give further consideration to the question of fixing minimum rates of remuneration for Branch Shop Managers and Branch Shop Manageresses.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

The rates laid down in the agreement are applicable to a working week of 48 hours, exclusive of meal times. In shops wholly or mainly engaged in the sale of tobacco, newspapers and periodicals and (or) sugar confectionery, working hours may be extended, without extra remuneration, by not more than one hour a day, including the time occupied in clearing up and clearing the shop of customers, and, in other shops, by not more than half-an-hour a day to be occupied solely in clearing up and clearing the shop of customers.

Overtime is to be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-quarter, except for work on Sundays and statutory and public holidays, for which the rate is double time. In trades in which it is customary for shops to remain open on Sundays and holidays, employees who are required to work on such days are to be allowed time off in lieu.

Employees who have completed six months' continuous service by 1st August in any year are to be granted, in addition to statutory and public holidays, a holiday of six working days with full pay in the year, or, when the holiday cannot be granted, pay in lieu. In the case of Branch Managers and Branch Manageresses, the duration of the holiday is twelve working days.

Workpeople with at least three months' continuous service are to be allowed sick leave, with payment at not less than the appropriate minimum wage rate, for a maximum of twelve days in any one year, subject to the production of a medical certificate.

The agreement provides for the settlement by the National Joint Industrial Council, through an Appeals Committee, or, if the Committee fails to agree, by the Independent Chairman, of claims for special relief made by employers who consider that, owing to economic, financial or trading difficulties, they are unable to operate the agreement, in whole or in part.

* Cmd. 6354. H.M. Stationery Office, price 2d. net (3d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1941, page 32.

HOURS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

REVOCATION OF GENERAL EMERGENCY ORDER FOR POTTERIES.

By an Order made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 22nd April, 1942, effect has now been given to the Minister's decision, announced in the House of Commons on 16th April,* to revoke, as from 3rd May, 1942, the General Emergency Order of 23rd December, 1941, relating to the hours of employment of women and young persons in potteries.

GENERAL EMERGENCY ORDER FOR ENGINEERING AND CERTAIN OTHER CLASSES OF WORKS.

By an Order made on 28th April, 1942, under the powers conferred upon him by Section 150 of the Factories Act, 1937, and Regulation 59 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, the Minister of Labour and National Service has extended until further Order the operation of a General Emergency Order of 31st May, 1941, for Engineering and Certain Other Classes of Works, by which provision was made for specified classes of factories to be exempted, as respects women and young persons employed in accordance with specified schemes, from the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, as to hours of employment and holidays. The specified schemes embody the conditions respecting the duration of work, the hours between which work may be performed, rest intervals, etc., which must be satisfied in cases where work is performed according to systems of (i) three shifts, under which the hours of each shift may not exceed an average of eight a day over a period normally limited to four weeks (Scheme A); (ii) two day-shifts, under which the hours of each shift may not exceed an average of eight a day over a period normally limited to four weeks (Scheme B); (iii) two (day and night) shifts, under which the total hours worked by each shift may not exceed an average of 60 a week over a period normally limited to four weeks (Scheme C); (iv) extended day work, under which the total hours worked may not exceed 60 a week, in the case of women and young persons aged 16 or over, or 48 hours a week, by special authorisation of the District Inspector, in the case of young persons under 16 years of age (Scheme D).

The specified classes of factories include—engineering works; heavy and light metal works; works in which is carried on the extraction, refining, founding or conversion of metal; motor vehicle works; aircraft works; machine and other tool works; electrical cable works; wire rope works; shipbuilding yards and ships under construction, reconstruction or repair.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

A MEETING of the International Labour Organisation was held in London on 20th April, 1942, and following days. It was a meeting of the Emergency Committee to which the governing body has delegated power to act on its behalf. The Committee is composed of six Government representatives, three employers' representatives and three workers' representatives. Representatives of the Governments of Great Britain, U.S.A., Canada, India, Mexico and the Netherlands attended as members of the Committee; representatives of the Governments of China, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia as substitute members of the Committee, a representative of the Belgian Government as a member of the governing body, and representatives of the Czechoslovak, Greek and Luxemburg Governments as observers. The employers and workers members of the governing body were each represented by a delegation of three members or substitutes. The Minister of Labour and National Service, Mr. Ernest Bevin, addressed the Committee at the opening session.

The Emergency Committee decided to establish a committee consisting of persons who have had experience as statesmen or otherwise in translating economic facts into terms of policy. This committee will serve as a bridge between the International Labour Organisation and governments and responsible agencies who are forming economic plans for post war reconstruction. Its main function will be to keep itself informed of economic and financial reconstruction plans and to scrutinise them in relation to their social consequences and to the social aims of the International Labour Organisation. The members of this committee, who will be appointed by the Emergency Committee, have not yet been selected. The Emergency Committee also approved arrangements for a supplementary reconstruction credit designed to enable the International Labour Office to carry out the work resulting from the New York Conference. Arrangements for co-operation between the International Labour Office and the Economic and Financial Department of the League of Nations and other international agencies, and proposals regarding the programme of studies of the International Labour Office with special reference to public works policy, migration, agriculture and textiles were also approved. The normal work of the International Labour Office regarding other questions is being continued as far as circumstances allow and it is expected that a meeting of the Joint Maritime Commission to consider questions of war-time interest relating to seamen will be held in the near future.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1942, page 84.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 13th April, 1942 (exclusive of men numbering 26,000 who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 69,543. As compared with 16th March, there was a decrease of 2,988 among men, but an increase of 5,094 among boys, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers. Those 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 3,281, a decrease of 886 as compared with 16th March. Those registered as unemployed casual workers numbered 3,725, a decrease of 1,902 since 16th March.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 13th April were 47,505 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 1,664, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 3,200 temporarily stopped, and 245 unemployed casual workers. Of the 47,505 wholly unemployed, 1,665 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 16th March, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 9,645 among women, but an increase of 2,941 among girls, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers, those temporarily stopped showed a decrease of 869, and unemployed casual workers showed a decrease of 8.

The number of applicants for unemployment benefit or allowances included in the foregoing totals for 13th April was 79,663, as compared with 94,368 at 16th March, and 268,600 at 21st April, 1941.

The numbers registered as unemployed at 13th April, 1942, are analysed below:—

	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	Unemployed Casual Workers.
Great Britain.			
Men	55,365	3,217	3,725
Boys	14,178	64	—
Women	34,509	3,000	245
Girls	12,996	200	—
Total	117,048	6,481	3,970
Decrease (—) as compared with:			
16th March, 1942	— 4,598	— 1,755	— 1,910
21st April, 1941	—161,012	—68,896	—12,396
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			
Men	61,493	3,878	4,749
Boys	14,800	108	4
Women	43,251	5,864	267
Girls	13,931	360	—
Total	133,475	10,210	5,020
Decrease (—) as compared with:			
16th March, 1942	— 8,412	— 1,441	— 2,004
21st April, 1941	—184,935	—70,501	—12,635

The numbers of unemployed persons on the registers at 13th April in each administrative region are shown below:—

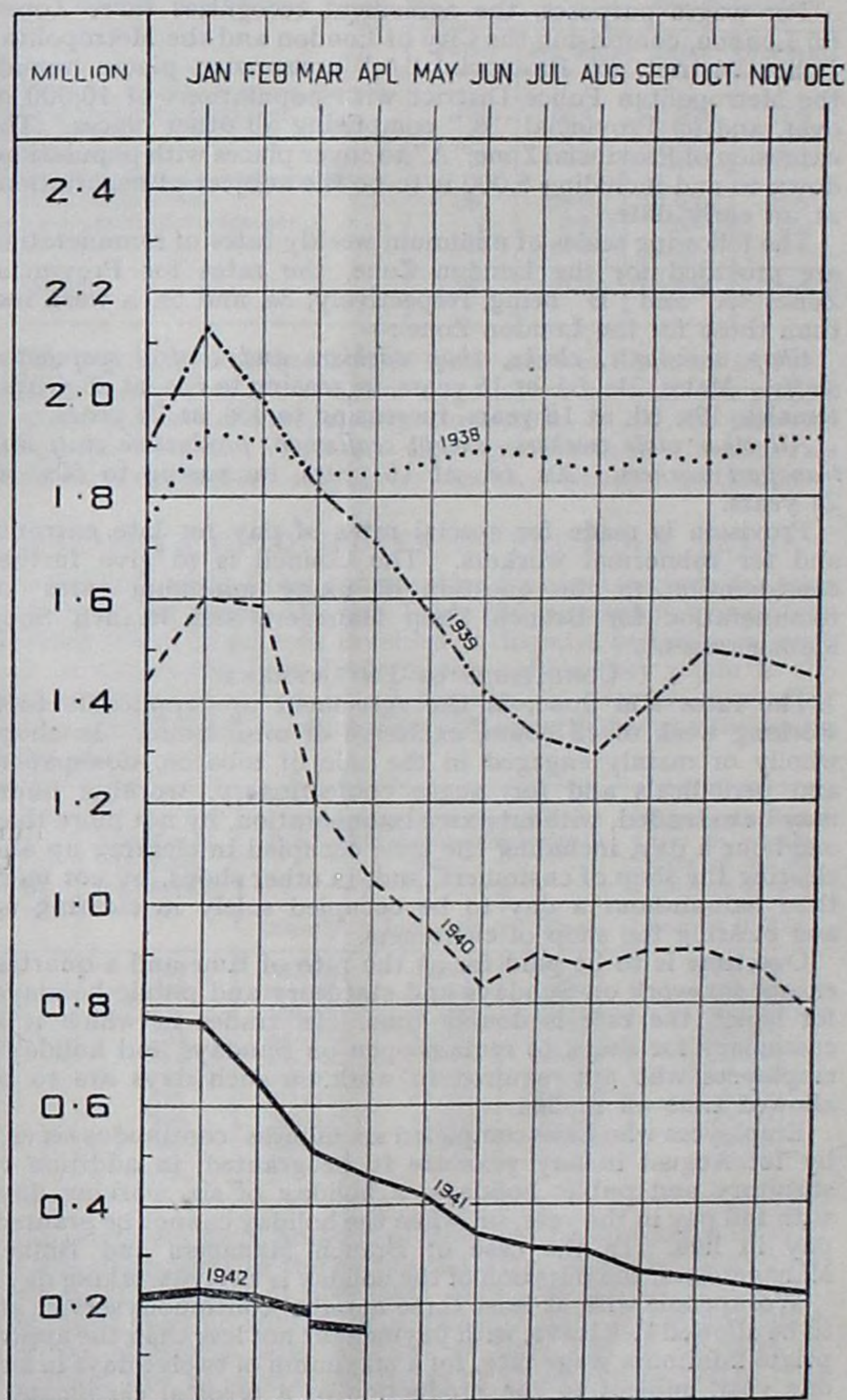
Region.	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.
Wholly Unemployed.					
London and South-Eastern	16,398	3,385	8,747	2,791	31,321
Eastern	2,074	442	2,434	456	5,406
Southern	1,646	534	978	472	3,630
South-Western	2,310	668	1,623	578	5,179
Midlands	1,153	463	705	368	2,689
North-Midlands	1,148	391	1,148	348	3,035
North-Eastern	3,836	892	1,857	961	7,546
North-Western	5,595	2,194	3,487	1,268	12,544
Northern	3,628	1,965	3,058	2,494	11,145
Scotland	9,892	1,864	8,420	1,796	21,972
Wales	7,685	1,380	2,052	1,464	12,581
Great Britain	55,365	14,178	34,509	12,996	117,048
Northern Ireland	6,128	622	8,742	935	16,427
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	61,493	14,800	43,251	13,931	133,475
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.					
London and South-Eastern	770	—	546	9	1,325
Eastern	114	—	121	2	237
Southern	48	—	59	1	108
South-Western	463	1	133	3	600
Midlands	93	—	49	—	142
North-Midlands	235	2	244	11	492
North-Eastern	1,004	9	378	17	1,408
North-Western	954	3	323	6	1,286
Northern	1,280	1	281	7	1,569
Scotland	1,116	47	1,045	128	2,336
Wales	865	1	66	16	948
Great Britain	6,942	64	3,245	200	10,451
Northern Ireland	1,685	48	2,886	160	4,779
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	8,627	112	6,131	360	15,230

The following Table shows the numbers on the registers at one date in each month since April, 1941:—

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.						
1941						
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
15 September	87,638	12,410	78,854	17,692	196,594	220,597
13 October	85,598	11,436	72,789	16,027	185,850	210,645
17 November	86,173	9,162	64,093	12,556	171,984	194,810
8 December	84,235	8,108	62,058	10,823	165,224	189,020
1942.						
12 January	87,943	12,272	56,101	14,546	170,862	195,558
16 February	89,443	10,485	50,728	11,519	162,175	184,370
16 March* (a)	84,326	9,084	45,863	10,055	149,328	169,569
13 April	55,365	14,178	34,509	12,996	117,048	133,475
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.						
1941						
21 April	56,471	839	32,655	1,774	91,739	98,366
12 May	39,289	550	36,889	1,948	78,676	84,981
16 June	27,442	407	29,010	1,424	58,283	63,307
14 July	31,326	541	24,524	1,312	57,703	63,896
11 August	27,089	459	21,840	1,130	50,518	56,126
15 September	17,323	112	16,002	590	34,027	39,213
13 October	15,956	84	13,764	545	30,349	35,129
17 November	16,611	87	9,671	749	27,118	31,616
8 December	13,862	87	8,303	878	23,130	27,498
1942						
12 January	16,160	79	7,346	401	23,986	29,172
16 February	19,080	247	6,566	349	26,242	30,801
16 March	9,731	63	4,179	143	14,116	18,675
13 April	6,942	64	3,245	200	10,451	15,230

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.



Note.—From March, 1942, persons who had been classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment, have been excluded from the statistics relating to the numbers unemployed. The effect of the change is shown by the two points, on the chart, for that month.

* The figures on line (a) include, while those on line (b) exclude, men classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women classified as unsuitable for normal full-time employment. The figures given in the Table for dates prior to March include, while those for 13th April exclude, persons in these categories.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 13TH APRIL, 1942.

	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* ..	52,436	2,106	20,884	1,680	77,106
2. Non-claimants* ..	21,342	—	880	—	22,222
3. Others on Register:—					
4. Applicants for Unemployment Allowances* ..	4,506	5,158	7,605	4,629	21,898
5. Women aged 60-64, claiming Benefit† ..	1,962	—	271	—	2,233
6. Persons without applications* ..	1,192	15	1,076	55	2,338
7. Women aged 60-64, claiming Benefit† ..	1,394	—	297	—	1,691
8. Persons without applications* ..	—	—	219	—	219
9. Persons without applications* ..	4,173	6,963	7,970	6,832	25,938
10. Special Schemes—Claimants to Benefit ..	1,302	—	216	—	1,518
Total on Register* ..	62,307	14,242	37,754	13,196	127,499
Insured Unemployed:—					
11. Number on Register* ..	56,942	7,264	28,489	6,309	99,004
12. (items 1 and 2) ..	23,304	—	1,151	—	24,455
13. Two months' file† ..	15,966	3,357	26,699	3,437	49,459
14. Special Schemes—Claimants to Benefit ..	145	5	96	4	250
Total* ..	73,053	10,626§	55,284	9,750||	148,713
	23,304	—	1,151	—	24,455

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

FINANCIAL CONDITION AT END OF 1941.

IN the exercise of their statutory function of reporting separately, before the end of February in each year, on the General and Agricultural Accounts of the Unemployment Fund as at the end of the preceding calendar year, the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee have presented to the Minister of Labour and National Service their Ninth Report on the General Account and their Sixth Report on the Agricultural Account, relating to 31st December, 1941. The principal features of these Reports, which have now been published,¶ are reviewed below.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

The Report shows that the receipts for the calendar year 1941 totalled rather more than £76½ millions and expenditure slightly less than £12½ millions. Accordingly, income during 1941 exceeded expenditure by over £63½ millions. The balance at the end of 1940 was about £54½ millions, of which £38½ millions were subsequently applied in final discharge of the debt of the Fund. The net balance at 31st December, 1941, was, therefore, about £79½ millions. In spite of this balance, the Committee state that, in view of the uncertainty of the future, they feel they must reach to-day the same conclusion as they reached in their last financial report, namely, that they should not report that the Unemployment Fund is, and is likely to continue to be, more than reasonably sufficient to discharge its liabilities.

AGRICULTURAL ACCOUNT.

Receipts totalled £1,513,906, and expenditure £477,748, so that income exceeded expenditure by £1,036,158, which, with the balance of £3,858,294 from 1940, made a balance at 31st December, 1941, of £4,894,452. As regards the question whether income and expenditure should be brought into closer agreement, the Committee state that, in general, they feel that the conditions which led them to regard as undesirable the use of their financial powers to bring about changes of contributions or benefit in the general scheme apply equally to the agricultural scheme. In view, however, of the accumulated reserve, the Committee recommend that the temporary reduction of ½d. in the contribution from each party which was to run until July, 1942, as recommended in their Third Agricultural Report on the condition of the Fund as at 31st December, 1938,** should not be discontinued in July.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND AND UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

The statistics which have been published in this GAZETTE each month under the above heading will be given in future at quarterly intervals.

* The figures on line (a) exclude men classified as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women classified as unsuitable for normal full-time employment; the figures on line (b) show the number of men and women in these categories.

† These are women who had ceased to be insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts 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.

‡ The two months' file of lodged books consists of books of persons who had registered as unemployed at some date within the previous two months and were not known to have found work, but were not maintaining registration for employment.

§ Including 4,484 boys aged 14 and 15.

|| Including 4,184 girls aged 14 and 15.

¶ H.C. 73 of Session 1941-42. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. post free).

** See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1939, page 82.

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 April† was 226, as compared with 222‡ in the previous month and with 249§ in April, 1941. Details for separate industries are given below:—

MINES AND QUARRIES.		FACORIES—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts:—		Paper, Printing, etc. ..	
Underground	68	Rubber	1
Surface	10	Gas Works	4
Metalliferous Mines ..	2	Electrical Stations ..	5
Quarries	2	Other Industries	—
TOTAL,	82	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER	SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES
MINES AND QUARRIES	82	Act, 1937.	
FACORIES.		Docks, Wharves, Quays	
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pot-		and Ships	11
tery and Glass	5	Building Operations ..	16
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	11	Works of Engineering	
Metal Extracting and		Construction	4
Refining	2	Warehouses	—
Metal Conversion and		TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT	117
Founding (including			
Rolling Mills and Tube			
Making)	9	RAILWAY SERVICE.	
Engineering, Locomotive		Brakesmen, Goods Guards	1
Building, Boilermaking,		Engine Drivers, Motor	
etc.	15	men	2
Railway and Tramway		Firemen	1
Carriages, Motor and		Guards (Passenger) ..	—
other Vehicles and Air-		Labourers	4
craft Manufacture ..	3	Mechanics	3
Shipbuilding	15	Permanent Way Men ..	5
Other Metal Trades ..	3	Porters	2
Cotton	1	Shunters	3
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy ..	—	Other Grades	5
Other Textile Manu-		Contractors' Servants ..	1
facture	4	TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	27
Textile Printing, Bleach-			
ing and Dyeing	4	Total (excluding Seamen)	226
Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	—		
Food and Drink	1		
General Woodwork and			
Furniture	3		

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE Table below shows the number of cases§ and deaths§ in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during April under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926. Details for separate industries are given below:—

I. Cases.		I. Cases—continued.	
LEAD POISONING.		EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	
Among Operatives		(SKIN CANCER)¶ ..	
engaged in:		CHROME ULCERATION.	
Smelting of Metals ..	1	Manufacture of Bichro-	
Plumbing and Soldering ..	—	mates	
Shipbreaking	2	Dyeing and Finishing ..	
Printing	—	Chrome Tanning	
Other Contact with		Chromium Plating	
Molten Lead	—	Other Industries	
White and Red Lead		TOTAL	
Works	—	Total Cases ...	
Pottery	—	II. Deaths.	
Vitreous Enamelling ..	—	LEAD POISONING.	
Electric Accumulator		Painting of Buildings ..	
Works	1	TOTAL	
Paint and Colour Works ..	—	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	
Coach and Car Painting ..	—	(SKIN CANCER).	
Shipbuilding	—	Oil	
Paint used in Other		Total Deaths ...	
Industries	1	Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.	
Other Industries	1	† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 5 weeks ended 2nd May, 1942, in comparison with the 4 weeks ended 28th March, 1942, and the 5 weeks ended 3rd May, 1941.	
Painting of Buildings ..	1	‡ Revised figure.	
TOTAL	7	§ 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.	
OTHER POISONING|| ..	19	|| Arsenical, 1; Aniline, 13; Toxic Jaundice, 1; Toxic Anaemia, 4.	
ANTHRAX.		¶ Pitch, 3; Tar, 3; Paraffin, nil; Oil, 8.	
Handling and Sorting of			
Hides and Skins	1		

* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.

† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 5 weeks ended 2nd May, 1942, in comparison with the 4 weeks ended 28th March, 1942, and the 5 weeks ended 3rd May, 1941.

‡ Revised figure.

§ 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.

|| Arsenical, 1; Aniline, 13; Toxic Jaundice, 1; Toxic Anaemia, 4.

¶ Pitch, 3; Tar, 3; Paraffin, nil; Oil, 8.

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

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 during April resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at over £40,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 300,000 workpeople and in a decrease estimated at £1,600 in those of about 100,000 workpeople.†

The principal industries in which wages were increased included coal mining in certain districts, the cast stone and cast concrete products industry, rope, twine and net making, laundering, flour milling, and co-operative distribution. Those in which wages were reduced included coal mining in certain districts and textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing.

In the coal mining industry there were increases in Derbyshire and Warwickshire, due to the operation of sliding-scale agreements under which wage rates fluctuate in correspondence with the ascertained proceeds of the industry. Workpeople employed in the cast stone and cast concrete products industry in England and Wales received an increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour in war bonus. Minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were raised by 2d. an hour for men and 1d. an hour for women in rope, twine and net making, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour in the case of men and $\frac{3}{4}$ d. or 1d. an hour in the case of women in laundries. In the flour milling industry, war supplements to wages were increased by 3s. a week for men and 2s. a week for women employed on women's work. The war advances granted to general distributive, etc., workers in the employment of wholesale and retail co-operative societies were increased by 4s. a week for men, 3s. a week for women, 2s. 6d. a week for youths and boys and 2s. a week for girls.

Other industries in which increases were granted included hollow-ware manufacture, lock, latch and key making, felt hat making in Lancashire and Cheshire and button making.

The statutory minimum rates of male agricultural workers, 16 years of age and over, in Northern Ireland were raised by 5s. 3d. a week.

There were decreases in wages in the coal mining industry under sliding-scale agreements in Cannock Chase and Leicestershire. In textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing, the operation of cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements resulted in decreases of about one-half of 1 per cent. in Yorkshire and of 4d. a week for men and 2d. a week for women in Lancashire and Scotland, with smaller decreases for juvenile workers.

Of the estimated total increases of £40,000 a week, about £600 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the coal mining industry; £29,000 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies (including £700 under cost-of-living sliding scales arranged by such bodies); and nearly all the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between the employers and workpeople or their representatives. The whole of the estimated decrease of £1,600 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the coal mining industry or in the cost of living.

The changes reported in the first four months of 1942, in the industries covered by the statistics, are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of nearly £350,000 a week in the full-time wages of about 2,500,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of about £4,000 a week in those of nearly 90,000 workpeople. In the corresponding four months of 1941, there was a net increase estimated at about £940,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 6,300,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes in hours of labour were reported during April.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Agriculture	Northern Ireland ..	6 Apr.	Male workers, 16 years of age and over (other than those employed in scutching flax or tow).	Increase of 5s. 3d. a week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change, at 21 years and over, 46s. 3d. to 53s., according to district.‡
Coal Mining	Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire).	1 Apr.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 0.22 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 6.07 per cent. above the basis rates.§
	South Derbyshire ..	1 Apr.	Do.	Increase of 1.39 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 76.70 per cent. above the basis rates.§
	Cannock Chase ..	1 Apr.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than engine winders, deputies and firemen, examiners and shotlighters.	<i>Decrease of 1.44 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 46.62 per cent. above the basis rates for shopmen, mechanics and surface workers not handling coal and 44.62 per cent. above the basis rates for all other workers.§</i>
	Leicestershire ..	1 Apr.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	<i>Decrease of 0.88 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 81.60 per cent. above the basis rates.§</i>
	Warwickshire ..	1 Apr.	Do.	Increase of 1 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 86 per cent. above the basis rates.§
	Scotland	1st pay day in Apr.	Boys employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. a shift in minimum basis rates. Rates after change: underground—4s. a shift at 15 years, increasing to 5s. 6d. at 17 years; surface—3s. at 14 and 15 years, increasing to 4s. at 17 years, plus percentage addition of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and flat-rate advances totalling 2s. 4d. a shift.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	11 Apr.	Cokemen and by-product workers ..	Increase of 10 per cent. on standard base rates, making a total addition of 75 per cent.; standard base rates of lower paid men raised to 6s. 2d. a shift; war allowance increased by 6d. a shift (2s. 2d. to 2s. 8d.) for men and by 3d. (1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.) for youths and boys, for a maximum of 7 shifts a week.
Other Mining and Quarrying.	Cumberland	27 Apr.	Iron ore miners	<i>War bonus decreased|| by $\frac{1}{2}$d. a shift (2s. to 1s. $11\frac{1}{2}$d. for those 18 years and over, and 1s. to $11\frac{1}{2}$d. for those under 18).</i>
	Furness and district ..	25 Apr.	Do.	<i>War bonus decreased|| by 2d. a shift (2s. 1d. to 1s. $11\frac{1}{2}$d.) for those 18 years and over, and by 1d. a shift (1s. $0\frac{1}{2}$d. to $11\frac{1}{2}$d.) for those under 18.</i>
	West Cumberland ..	27 Apr.	Limestone quarrymen ..	<i>Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced|| by 1d. a shift (2s. $0\frac{1}{2}$d. to 1s. $11\frac{1}{2}$d.) for those 18 years and over, the flat-rate addition for those under 18 remaining unchanged at 1s. a shift.</i>
Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products Manufacture.	England and Wales ..	1st full pay week in Apr.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	War bonus increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour on all hours worked.
Glue and Gelatine Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	1 Apr.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls (14 years of age and over).	Increase of 5s. a week for men and of 4s. a week for youths, boys, women and girls.
Soap and Candle Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	27 Apr.	Youths and boys	Increase in basic rates of 1s. a week at all ages, and increases in war allowances of 2s. a week at 14, 15 and 16 years, of 3s. at 18 and 19 and of 1s. at 20 and under 21 years.
			Women and girls	Increase in basic rates of 1s. a week at all ages, and increases in war allowances of 2s. a week at 14, 15 and 16 years and of 3s. at 17 years and over.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in the weekly wages and hours of labour exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural workers, 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.

† Of the 100,000 workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in April, nearly 70,000 had received increases of the same amount earlier in the year.

‡ This increase took effect under an Order issued under the Agricultural Wages Regulation Acts (Northern Ireland).

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

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

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	West of Scotland ..	27 Apr.	Workpeople employed at iron puddling forges and mills and sheet mills.	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.
Engineering	Tyne, Wear and Tees, and Hartlepool districts.	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 13 Apr.	Skilled toolroom workers	Basic rate adopted of not less than 8s. a week above the basic rate for skilled fitters. Rate after change, 54s., plus bonus of 35s. 6d.
	Coalville district ..	1st full pay period after 27 Apr.	Labourers	Increase of 2s. a week on basic rate. Rate after change, 29s., plus bonus of 35s. 6d.
Hollow-ware Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	27 Apr.	Men, youths and boys	Increase of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for men, and of ¾d. to 1d. for youths and boys. General minimum time rates after change, at 21 years and over: fusers' helpers in enamel-ware section, 1s. 8½d., other workers, 1s. 5½d.†
			Women, 18 years and over, and girls	Increase of ¾d. an hour in general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for women, and of ¾d. to 1d. for girls. General minimum time rate after change, at 18 years and over, 10½d.†
Iron and Steel Wire Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	1st full pay week in Mar.	Skilled and ancillary workpeople ..	Ex-gratia addition to cost-of-living bonus of 3s. a week for men, 2s. 3d. for women, and 1s. 6d. for youths and girls, irrespective of base earnings. Cost-of-living bonus after change: men, 15s. a week, women, 11s. 3d., youths and girls, 7s. 6d.
File Manufacture.	Smethwick, Darlaston, Dudley and Wolverhampton district.	Pay day in week ending 4 Apr.	Pieceworkers and timeworkers ..	Deduction of approximately 16 per cent. from 1919 wages price list discontinued, and minimum time rate of 65s. 6d. a week (47 hours) fixed for unskilled men.
Lock, Latch and Key Manufacture.	England†	Pay day in week commencing 30 Mar.	Men, women, youths and girls ..	Increase* of 5 per cent. Weekly time rates, after change, for adult workers: men, Class A occupations, 75s. 5d. to 91s., Class B, 72s. 10d. to 84s. 6d., Class C, 70s. 2d. to 79s. 4d., Class D, 68s. 11d. to 76s. 8d., bobbers, 82s. 6d. to 101s., women, 19 years and over, 35s. 1d. (37s. 1d. for women, 20 years and over, employed on power pressing, varnishing, emery wheeling, on capstan lathes, polishing and burnishing, lacquering and plating).
Jute Manufacture	Dundee	24 Apr.	Calenderers and dyers	Further increase of 10 per cent. (20 to 30 per cent.) on rates operative at August, 1939.
Rope, Twine and Net Making.	Great Britain ..	13 Apr.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of ¾d. to 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates and of 2d. in piecework basis time rate.†
			Women and girls	Increases of ¾d. to 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates and of 1d. in piecework basis time rate.†
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc.	Yorkshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Lancashire.§	1st pay day in May.||	Workpeople employed in dyeing and finishing.	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 100 to 99 per cent. on basic rates for men on timework, from 80 to 79½ for men and women on piecework (except pressers), from 60 to 59½ for hand pressers, by 1d. to 4d. a week, varying according to age, for youths and boys, and by 1d. or 2d. for girls under 18. Minimum weekly rates,¶ after change, for timeworkers: adult male process workers, 32s., plus 99 per cent., plus 2s. 6d. special payment; women, 18 years and over, 20s., plus 99 per cent., plus 1s. 6d. special payment.
	Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Yorkshire: also Scotland.**	1st pay day in May.||	Workpeople employed in bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers, mechanics, etc.).	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 32s. to 31s. 8d. a week for men on timework, from 31s. to 30s. 8d. for men on piecework, from 19s. to 18s. 10d. for women, 18 years and over in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire and 21 years and over in Scotland, by 1d. to 3d. a week, varying according to age, for youths and boys and by 1d. or 2d. for girls. Minimum weekly rates,¶ after change, for timeworkers: Lancashire, etc.—men, 30s., plus 31s. 8d., plus 2s. 6d. special payment; women, 18 years and over, 20s., plus 18s. 10d., plus 1s. 6d. special payment; Scotland—men, 27s., plus 31s. 8d., plus 2s. 6d. special payment; women, 21 years and over, 17s., plus 18s. 10d., plus 1s. 6d. special payment.
	Middleton	1st pay day in May.||	Workpeople employed in bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing.	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 100 to 99 per cent. for male dyers, from 32s. to 31s. 8d. a week for male polishers, from 19s. to 18s. 10d. for female polishers and by proportionate amounts for juveniles. Minimum weekly rates,¶ after change, for timeworkers: men—dyers, 32s., plus 99 per cent., polishers, 30s., plus 31s. 8d., plus 2s. 6d. special payment in each case; women polishers, 23s. 6d., plus 18s. 10d., plus 1s. 6d. special payment.
	West Riding of Yorkshire.	1st pay day in May.||	Mechanics employed in dye works ..	Decrease* of 4d. a week (85s. 2d. to 84s. 10d.).
	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Scotland.	1st pay day in May.||	Engravers, etc., employed in calico print works.	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 40s. to 39s. 8d. a week for engravers and from 32s. to 31s. 8d. for turners, polishers and varnishers.
			Engravers employed in engraving works.	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 40s. to 39s. 8d. a week for men and from 22s. 5d. to 22s. 3d. for women.
Fustian Cutting, Dyeing and Finishing.	Hebden Bridge ..	1st pay day in May.||	Workpeople paid at time rates ..	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 32s. to 31s. 8d. a week for men, from 19s. to 18s. 10d. for women, 18 years and over, and by proportional amounts for juveniles. Minimum weekly rates,¶ after change: men, 34s., plus 31s. 8d.; women, 30s., plus 18s. 10d.
			Workpeople paid at piece rates ..	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 90 to 89 per cent. for netherwood cutters, from 82½ to 82 for hand cutters, from 70 to 69 for menders and from 77½ to 77 for other pieceworkers.
Textile Making-up and Packing.	Manchester	1st pay day in Apr.	Men, women and juveniles	War wage decreased* by 5d. a week (19s. 2d. to 18s. 9d.) for men, by 3d. (11s. 6d. to 11s. 3d.) for women, 18 years and over, and by proportional amounts for juveniles.

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

† These increases 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.

‡ Principally Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Willenhall and Walsall districts, Bolton, Wigan and London. In the case of firms outside the Midland Area, 15 per cent. is to be added to the rates quoted.

§ This increase applied to workers employed by firms which are members of the Yorkshire Master Dyers' Committee, The Bradford Dyers' Association Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms). Except in a few cases in the Bradford Area, the change did not apply in the dyeing and finishing departments of those woollen and worsted manufacturers who do their own dyeing and finishing.

|| In respect of the preceding pay period.

¶ Temporary payments, ranging up to 3s. a week for men, and up to 1s. for women, are made, in addition, to certain timeworkers engaged in productive process work for which a system of collective piecework has not yet been introduced.

** This increase applied to workers employed by firms which are members of the Federation of Calico Printers, the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers, the Employers' Federation of Bleachers and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms), and the Scottish Federation of Dyers and Bleachers (Piece Goods).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL—*continued.*

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Laundering	Great Britain	6 Apr.	Men, youths and boys Women and girls— Timeworkers Pieceworkers	Increase of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men and of ¾d. for youths and boys. Trade Board minimum rates* after change: 5d. at under 15 years, increasing to 1s. 5½d. at 21 and over.† Increase of ¾d. or 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for women, and of ¾d. for girls. Trade Board minimum rates* after change: 4½d. at under 16 years, increasing to 10½d. at 20 and over (casual workers or workers employed for emergency work, 10½d.)† Increase of 1d. an hour in piecework basis time rate and increase of 1d. an hour in guaranteed time rates for women and ¾d. for girls.†
Felt Hat Manufacture.	Lancashire, Cheshire and Carlisle.	17 Apr.	Timeworkers Pieceworkers	Supplementary bonus of 10 per cent. on basis rates granted. Minimum rates after change: 10½d. an hour, plus cost-of-living bonus of 60 per cent., plus supplementary bonus of 10 per cent.‡ Supplementary bonus of 10 per cent. on basis rates granted, in addition to cost-of-living bonus of 65 per cent.
Glove Manufacture	Yeovil	Pay week ending 18 Apr.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	War bonus increased by 7½ per cent. (10 to 17½ per cent.). Rates after change for adults: men (unskilled), 1s. 2½d. an hour (56s. 9d. a week), women, 9d. (33s. a week), plus 17½ per cent. in each case.
Flour Milling	Great Britain	Pay period following 29 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the flour milling industry, except road transport workers, mechanics, electricians, and those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries:— Men Youths employed in mill or warehouse. Women, 18 years and over .. Women and girls engaged in packing small bags. Women employed on men's work	War supplements increased by 3s. a week (12s. to 15s.). Rates after change, including war supplements: 1st roller men, 75s. to 91s., general labourers, 63s. to 75s., according to location and size of mill. War supplements increased by 1s. 6d. or 3s. a week, according to age of worker. War supplements increased by 2s. a week (5s. for those in sackhouse). Rates after change, including war supplements: truckers and mill cleaners on day work, 42s. 6d. to 52s., mill cleaners on shift work, 44s. 6d. to 54s., sackhouse workers, 41s. to 45s., others, 38s. to 42s., according to location of mill. War supplements increased by 1s., 1s. 6d. or 2s. a week, according to age of worker. Scale of rates adopted, with a minimum of two-thirds of the men's rates.
Millsawing	Belfast	1st full pay period after 1 Apr.	Labourers employed in sawmills ..	Minimum time rate increased by ½d. an hour, for a 47-hour week, and war bonus increased by 2s. a week. Weekly rate after change, 52s. 10½d. plus 12s. war bonus.§
Wholesale Furniture Manufacture.	Sheffield	2nd pay day in Apr.	Men, apprentices, women and girls	Hourly rates adopted, for a working week of 46½ hours, of 1s. 11d. for fully qualified journeymen, of 1s. 5½d. for labourers and of 1s. 0½d. for skilled upholstresses and polishers (women 19 years and over); women engaged on men's work to receive the appropriate men's minimum rate less 10d., 8d. or 6d. an hour, according to period of service; apprentices, and girls employed as upholstresses and polishers, to receive the current Trade Board minimum rates for male or female apprentices in the industry.
Railway Service	Great Britain	9 Mar. 9 Mar. 23 Mar.	Men, and women taking the place of men, in conciliation grades (except those in receipt of the lowest scale of rates and certain of the higher paid grades). Station masters, goods agents, etc., and male supervisory staff. Locomotive drivers, motormen and firemen.	Increases ranging, in the majority of grades, from 1s. to 4s. 6d. a week.|| Class 5 salary scale extended by an additional increment of £10 a year in the 5th year, and, in Class 4 scale, £10 a year added to the minimum salary and the salary after 2 years.|| Increase of 4s. a week, such increase to include the consequential adjustment resulting from the Award of the Railway Staff National Tribunal.
Road Passenger Transport.	Northern Ireland	24 Mar. 7 Apr.	Employees of Northern Ireland Road Transport Board:— Drivers, conductors and garage staff. Clerical staff and passenger supervisors.	Increase of 1d. an hour. Rates after change include: drivers, 1s. 7½d., conductors, 1s. 5½d., shunters, 1s. 6½d., cleaners, oilers and greasers, day work, 1s. 3½d., night work, 1s. 4½d. (for a 48-hour week). Further increase of 6½ per cent. (17½s. to 23½s.) on standard rates of pay.
Button Making	Great Britain	27 Apr.	Men, youths and boys Women and girls Pieceworkers	Increase of ¾d. an hour in general minimum time rates.† Increases of ¾d. an hour in general minimum time rates for those 16 years and over, and of ½d. for those under 16.† Increase of ¾d. an hour in piecework basis time rate.†
Distribution	Great Britain	27 Apr.	General distributive, etc. workers employed by wholesale and retail co-operative societies:— Men, youths and boys Women and girls	War advance increased by 4s. a week (10s. to 14s.) for those 21 years and over, by 2s. 6d. (6s. 6d. to 9s.) for those 18 and under 21, and by 2s. 6d. (3s. 6d. to 6s.) for those under 18. War advance increased by 3s. a week (7s. to 10s.) for those 21 years and over, by 2s. (5s. to 7s.) for those 18 and under 21, and by 2s. (3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.) for those under 18.
Entertainments	London (West End)	7 Apr.	Theatre workers	Increase of 1½d. an hour for carpenters, joiners, electricians, painters and decorators, of 1d. an hour for daymen and of 6d. a performance for stage and charge hands.

* The rates for Cornwall and North of Scotland are ½d. an hour below these rates.

† These increases 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 rate applies principally to men doing odd work for which no piece rate is provided. It does not apply to labourers, packers, etc., who are in receipt of the minimum rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts.

§ These increases were the result of an Award of the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) (*see* page 115 of this GAZETTE).

|| These increases were agreed upon by the representatives of the railway companies and workpeople concerned and are consequential upon the Award of the Railway Staff National Tribunal, dated 9th March, 1942, which granted an increase of 4s. 6d. a week to workpeople in receipt of the lowest scale of rates in the traffic grades and certain extensions in salary scales for the clerical staff (*see* the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1942, page 92).

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st May, 1942.

		Food	All Items
Increase since July, 1914..	..	60%	100%
Change since 1st April, 1942	{ Index Points ..	nil	+1
	{ Per cent. ..	nil	+½*

FOOD.

In a few areas the price of milk was reduced on 1st May. Apart from this, the retail prices of the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics showed no appreciable change at 1st May as compared with 1st April.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st May, 1942, with the corresponding prices at 1st April, 1942, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ¼d., at—			Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st May, 1942, compared with	
	1st May, 1942.	1st April, 1942.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st April, 1942.	1st Sept., 1939.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	1 3½	1 3½	1 2½	..	11
Thin Flank ..	0 9½	0 9½	0 7½	..	27
Beef, Chilled or Frozen					
Ribs	1 1	1 1	0 9½	..	35
Thin Flank ..	0 6	0 6	0 4½	..	22
Mutton, British—					
Legs	1 5½	1 5½	1 3½	..	13
Breast	0 8	0 8	0 7½	..	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	1 0	1 0	0 10½	..	16
Breast	0 4	0 4	0 4	..	..
Bacon†	1 8½	1 8½	1 3	..	37
Fish .. ..	..	..	..	..	42
Flour .. per 7 lb.	1 3½	1 3½	1 1½	..	15
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 8	0 8	0 8½	..	—3
Tea	2 6	2 6	2 4	..	7
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 3	0 3	0 3	..	—1
Milk .. per quart	0 8½	0 8½	0 6½	—1	29
Butter—					
Fresh	1 7	1 7	1 4½	..	15
Salt .. ..	..	..	1 3½	..	24
Cheese	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	30
Margarine†—					
Special	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	12
Standard	0 5	0 5	..	..	..
Eggs (fresh)§ .. each	0 1½	0 1½	..	..	1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 8½	0 8½	0 6½	..	28

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st April, 1942, and 1st May, 1942, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	1st April, 1942.	1st May, 1942.
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	44	59	59
Thin Flank	15	46	46
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs	32	78	78
Thin Flank	1	24	24
Mutton, British—			
Legs	48	67	67
Breast	14	24	24
Mutton Frozen—			
Legs	51	74	74
Breast	—3	—3	—3
Bacon†	35	83	84
Fish	116	206	206
Flour	26	45	45
Bread	42	38	38
Tea	52	63	63
Sugar (granulated) ..	46	45	45
Milk	92	152	148
Butter—			
Fresh	13	30	30
Salt	7	34	34
Cheese	16	51	51
Margarine†	—8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)§	58	59	59
Potatoes	33	71	71
All above articles (Weighted Average on July, 1914, basis)	38	60	60

On the basis of the data given in the foregoing Tables the average index figure of retail food prices at 1st May, 1942, was approximately the same as at 1st April, about 16 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939, and about 60 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

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

* A rise of 1 point on a total of 199 for "all items" (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to ½ of one 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.

‡ On 1st April and 1st May, 1942, 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 April and 1st May, 1942, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1½d. for small eggs (in category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for fresh eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

As regards *clothing*, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st May the retail prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about the same as at 1st April, and about 95 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. In each of the groups of items included in the figures (viz., men's suits and overcoats; woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery; cotton underclothing materials and hosiery; and boots and shoes) there was little change in the average level of prices during April, increases in the supplies of "utility" cloth and apparel, at prices controlled by the Board of Trade, having offset small increases in the prices of some "non-utility" articles. 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 such information as is available indicates that at 1st May the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 305 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 May as a month earlier. Prices of coal averaged about 22 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 136 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; prices of gas averaged about 27 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 97 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There was little change during the month in the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches. In the fuel and light group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st May was approximately the same as at 1st April, about 27 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 132 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards *other items** included in these statistics, the prices of tobacco and cigarettes rose by about 37 per cent., on the average, during April, following the increased rates of duty provided for in the recent Budget. There were also increases, averaging about 1 per cent., in the prices of domestic ironmongery, brushes and pottery during April, but the remaining items showed little change. In the group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st May was about 12 per cent. higher than at 1st April, about 47 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 163 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 May, 1942, is approximately **100 per cent. over the level of July, 1914**, as compared with 99 per cent. at 1st April and 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 percentage 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 45 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 29 per cent. Of these 45 points, about 4 points represent the effect of the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches; and approximately 6 points are due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.

SUMMARY TABLE: ALL ITEMS.

Average percentage increases as compared with July, 1914.

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	58	60	60
1938 ..	59	57	56	54	56	55	59	56	56	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	99	100	101
1942 ..	100	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	101

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 last page of this GAZETTE.

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number, Magnitude, and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 83, as compared with 62 in the previous month and 97 in April, 1941. In these 83 new disputes about 28,300 workpeople were directly involved, and 3,700 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 1,800 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 5 disputes which began before April, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 88, involving about 33,800 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during April, estimated at 63,000 working days.

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

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying	4	42	46	12,000	23,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	..	28	28	15,000	22,000
Clothing .. ..	..	1	1	2,200	9,000
Transport	1	3	4	2,300	5,000
Other .. ..	..	9	9	2,300	4,000
Total, April, 1942 ..	5	83	88	33,800	63,000
Total, March, 1942 ..	4	62	66	15,200	43,000
Total, April, 1941 ..	20	97	117	45,700	187,000

ment of particular classes or persons; 28, directly involving 5,700 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 2, directly involving 1,700 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. Two stoppages, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, were in support of workers involved in other disputes.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during April have been effected in the case of 68 disputes, directly involving 15,500 workpeople. Of these disputes, 10, directly involving 2,400 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 37, directly involving 7,400 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 21, directly involving 5,700 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 14 other disputes, directly involving 8,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1942 AND 1941.†

Industry Group.	January to April, 1942.			January to April, 1941.		
	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 ..	134	39,000†	128,000	149	44,200†	116,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	6	400	1,000	3	100	1,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	3	300	1,000	10	900	3,000
Engineering ..	26	14,200	15,000	52	36,700	203,000
Shipbuilding ..	19	3,800	8,000	25	11,300	65,000
Other Metal ..	27	5,800	11,000	43	13,500	98,000
Textile ..	9	800	2,000	10	500	1,000
Clothing ..	2	2,200	9,000	8	2,000	8,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	6	1,000	3,000	4	200	1,000
Building, etc. ..	23	4,100	8,000	21	4,500	11,000
Transport ..	12	2,900	9,000	22	4,200	11,000
Other ..	4	1,900	2,000	15	3,100	11,000
Total ..	271	77,400†	197,000	362	121,200†	529,000

Causes.—Of the 83 disputes beginning in April, 19, directly involving 4,600 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 3, directly involving 600 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 18, directly involving 8,200 workpeople, on other wage questions; 4, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 7, directly involving 4,400 workpeople, on questions respecting the employ-

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING APRIL.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:—						
Colliers, face workers and other colliery workpeople—Wrexham (one colliery).	490	998	28 Apr.	2 May	For revision of existing agreement, workpeople alleging that their wages were adversely affected by the additional time required to fix steel supports.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Colliery workpeople—Co. Durham (four collieries).	4,285	..	30 Apr.§	2 May	Dispute arising out of the refusal of two youths to obey a direction by a National Service Officer that they should work underground, and their subsequent imprisonment, following non-payment of fines imposed.	Work resumed following the release from prison of the youths in question, the fines having been paid on their behalf.
ENGINEERING:—						
Turners and other engineering operatives—Glasgow (one firm).	1,540	..	1 Apr.||	3 Apr.||	Dispute arising out of the refusal of a workman to pay arrears of his trade union contributions.	Work resumed on the understanding that the workman would apply to the National Service Officer for permission to leave his employment.
Fitters, toolmakers, machine operators, etc.—North Midlands.	1,500	..	18 Apr.	20 Apr.	Workpeople's objection to proposed transfer of some of them to other works.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Machine setters, tool room workers, machinists, etc.—Yorkshire.	950¶	..	28 Apr.	29 Apr.	Workpeople's objection to a foreman.	Work resumed pending discussion.
SHIPBUILDING:—						
Shiprepairing craftsmen, labourers and helpers—Co. Durham (one firm).	1,722	130	1 Apr.	1 Apr.	Workpeople's objection to the continuance of an agreement respecting travelling allowances and clocking-on arrangements.	Work resumed on the understanding that workpeople's representatives would endeavour to obtain a new agreement or revision of the old agreement.
Shiprepairing operatives—Co. Durham (one firm).	403	..	13 Apr.	22 Apr.		A new agreement negotiated in respect of payment for travelling time and clocking-on arrangements.
SCREW, BOLT, ETC., MANUFACTURE:—						
Workpeople employed in screw, nut, bolt and rivet manufacture—Staffordshire (one firm).	3,050	570	22 Apr. **	4 May**	Workpeople's objection to the introduction of a new piece-work system for thirty of their number, following time study of their work.	Temporary settlement effected providing that earnings should be calculated both on the old and new systems, and payment made on whichever proved to be the higher.
CLOTHING:—						
Workpeople employed in tailoring—Leeds (one firm).	2,200	..	22 Apr.	25 Apr.	For an increase in the basic rates of piece-workers.	Provisional agreement reached providing for consideration of claim under existing negotiating machinery.
TRANSPORT:—						
Dock workers—Birkenhead ..	1,000	..	14 Apr.	16 Apr.	Dispute arising out of the resumption of practice of working "half-night" turns (from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.) under an agreement which had been inoperative during the winter.	Work resumed; agreement subsequently reached providing for the working of "half-night" turns when required in exceptional cases.
RESPIRATOR MANUFACTURE:—						
Workpeople employed in respirator assembly—Lancashire.	1,110	150	22 and 23 Apr.	24 Apr.	Alleged delay in the consideration of workpeople's demand for increase in wages; and other grievances.	Work resumed pending negotiations.

* 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 31,000 in 1942, and 34,000 in 1941. For all industries combined the *net* totals were approximately 68,000 in 1942, and 109,000 in 1941.

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

§ The stoppage began with the night shift of 29th/30th April at one colliery; three more collieries became involved on 1st May.

|| About 200 employees ceased work on 1st April and the remainder on 3rd April.

¶ A considerable additional number of employees stopped work for a part of one day.

** Only a small proportion of the employees were involved during the first few days of the stoppage.

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.

ÉIRE.

In mid-February, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure showed no change as compared with that for mid-November, 1941, but an increase of 37.0 per cent. as compared with that for mid-August, 1939. For food alone, the official index figure for mid-February, 1942, was 1.4 per cent. below the figure for mid-November, 1941, but 32.3 per cent. above that for mid-August, 1939.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In the middle of February, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.6 per cent. above the figure for the previous month, and 14.2 per cent. above that for June, 1939. For food alone, the official index figure for the middle of February, 1942, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with the figure for the previous month, and of 24.9 per cent. over that for August, 1939.

CANADA.

At the beginning of February, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure showed a rise of 0.3 per cent. as compared with the figure for 2nd January, 1942, and of 14.8 per cent. as compared with that for 1st September, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 0.7 and 23.8.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

The official cost-of-living index figure for February, 1942, was 0.7 per cent. above the figure for January, 1942, and 15.1 per cent. above that for August, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 1.6 and 20.0.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Factories Acts—Safety Provisions—Lifting Tackle—Factories Act, 1937, Section 23(1)(a)—Proof of Negligence—Expert Evidence.

COURT OF APPEAL: Before the Master of the Rolls and MacKinnon and Goddard, L.J.J.

In *Dawson v. Murex Ltd.*, the Court of Appeal affirmed a decision of Hilbery J. For the loading of a furnace used for refining raw blister copper, the Appellants used trays which were hoisted and conveyed from one part of the factory to another by a sling of four chains attached to the tray by a hook passing through an eye in a lug at each of the four corners of the tray. When the sling became defective, the man in charge rigged up a sling out of two other slings. That sling was defective because the chains were of unequal length and the hooks were sprung, with the effect that they did not hold the trays sufficiently tightly. When the sling was lifting empty trays, the top tray slipped from the sling and injured the Respondent. The Appellants contended that they had provided proper tackle which they had instructed their workmen to use and that the workmen were instructed to obtain a new sling from the shop, but that instead of so doing, they negligently and wrongfully made up the temporary tackle which was used, and that, therefore, the Appellants had committed no breach of the Factories Act. The Section in question was 23(1)(a) which states "the following provisions shall be complied with as respects every chain, rope or lifting tackle used for the purpose of raising or lowering persons, goods or materials: (a) no chain, rope or lifting tackle shall be used unless it is of good construction, sound material, adequate strength and free from patent defect." Hilbery J. found that the lifting tackle used was not free from patent defect, and the Court of Appeal stated that on the evidence he could have come to no other conclusion. The real controversy was whether or not the Respondent established the necessary causal connection between the defect in the tackle constituting a breach of statutory duty by the Defendants and the accident. At the trial, neither side had called any of the men engaged on the job when the accident happened, and both sides relied on expert evidence. The experts on behalf of the Appellants put forward a variety of theories, but all concurred that the defects in the tackle had nothing to do with the accident; but the Master of the Rolls said that he would have approached that evidence with scepticism because the experiments proved too much. He reached the conclusion that the balance of probability was in favour of the Respondent's allegation that one of the causes of the accident was the defective tackle. Whatever the true view might be of the position at common law, the Master of the Rolls said that that was of no assistance to the Appellants on a question of compliance with the Factories Act. Under that Act the employer must comply with certain obligations regarding the provision of safe apparatus and plant and he could not excuse himself by saying that the use of inadequate plant or dangerous plant was due to the fact that a foreman or supervisor failed in his duty to see that it was not used. Therefore, the appeal must be dismissed. It was also stated by the Court of Appeal that in an accident case, the onus is not upon the Plaintiff to prove precisely how the accident happened. Where by competent evidence he shows that his explanation is the more probable one the Judge is entitled to accept his case and find in his favour. (MacKinnon and Goddard L.J.J. concurred).

Dawson v. Murex Ltd. Court of Appeal, 19th, 20th and 23rd February, 1942.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

NON-TRADING SERVICES: CAERNARVON CORPORATION.—Claim by National Union of General and Municipal Workers regarding zoning and wages of manual workers. Award No. 1855.

NON-TRADING SERVICES: SURBITON CORPORATION.—Claim by National Union of Public Employees regarding the wages of manual workers. Award No. 1856.

PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL STAFF: CAERNARVON CORPORATION.—Claim by National Association of Local Government Officers regarding war bonus. Award No. 1857.

MOTOR REPAIR DEPOT: LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—Claim by the Electrical Trades Union regarding the wages of work-people employed in the maintenance and repair of electrical equipment. Award No. 1858.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

DURING April three awards relating to individual undertakings were issued by single arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, and findings relating to two individual firms were issued by a neutral Chairman appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, at the request of the two sides of the Board of Conciliation for the Cumberland Iron Ore Trade.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS, 1940 AND 1941.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During the month of April, 1942, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued seven awards, all of which relate to individual firms. The names of the employers and trade unions concerned and the nature of the claims are set out below. For further details, including particulars of the decisions of the Tribunal, reference should be made to the awards, copies of which may be obtained, price 1d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office.

Parties: The Humber Graving Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., and the Amalgamated Engineering Union. *Claim:* For the observance of the conditions of employment provided by the joint agreements between the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Grimsby Ship Repairers' Association. Award No. 201.

Parties: Richard Hill and Co., Ltd., and the Transport and General Workers' Union. *Claim:* For an increase in wages to certain classes of workers. Award No. 202.

Parties: Carreras, Ltd., and the Tobacco Workers' Union. *Claim:* That the action of the Company in discharging three workers was unjustified. Award No. 203.

Parties: Derby Gas, Light and Coke Company and the National Union of General and Municipal Workers. *Claim:* For an increase of 15s. per week to male members of the clerical staff and a proportionate increase to female members. Award No. 204.

Parties: Sun Engraving Co., Ltd., and the Electrical Trades Union. *Claim:* That the rates of wages paid to electricians and their assistants should be no less favourable than the rates paid to similar grades of workers by another firm in the area under an agreement with the Union. Award No. 205.

Parties: Carlisle South-End Co-operative Society, Ltd., and the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers. *Claim:* That a certain award relating to war bonus for mutuality club collectors whose earnings are based on commission only is binding on the Society and shall be operated by them. Award No. 206.

Parties: Kaygee Contracts Ltd., Kris Cruisers (1934), Ltd., Tough Bros., Ltd., and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, London District Committee. *Claim:* For the observance of certain wage rates and conditions of employment. Award No. 207.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

During the period from 31st March to 24th April, the Tribunal made six awards. The parties concerned and the nature of the claims are shown below, and in one case (affecting labourers employed by a number of firms in sawmills and timber yards in Belfast) particulars of the decision are also given; the other five cases affected only individual firms or local authorities. Persons interested in the awards may obtain copies by making written application to the Ministry of Labour, Stormont, Belfast.

Parties: Raceview Woollen Mills Ltd., and certain employees of the firm. *Claim:* For increases of specified amounts per week in the wages of male and female workers. Award No. 101.

Parties: The Belfast member firms of the Northern Ireland Timber Importers' Association and of the Ulster Sawmill Proprietors' Association, and certain employees of the firms. *Claim:* For an increase of 2d. per hour on the present basic rate of wages of labourers. Award: That with effect as from the beginning of the first full pay period following 1st April, 1942, (i) the present basic rate of wages be increased by ½d. per hour, (ii) the present war bonus be increased by 2s. per week. Award No. 102.

Parties: The Borough Council of Larne and workers employed in the Surveyor's Department of the Council. *Claim*: For an increase of 7s. per week on the current rates of wages. *Award No.* 103.

Parties: The Belfast Corporation and certain employees of the Corporation. *Claim*: For an increased "dirty money" allowance. *Award No.* 104.

Parties: Antrim County Council and certain employees of the Council. *Claim*: For (i) an increase of 9s. 6d. per week in the wages paid to foremen and surfacemen, and (ii) increased annual holidays with pay. *Award No.* 105.

Parties: Committee of Management of the Belfast Mental Hospital and certain of their employees. *Claim*: For the rates of pay and conditions of service recommended by the Joint Conciliation Committee of the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union and Mental Hospitals Association. *Award No.* 106.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

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 Board concerned at Sunnyside Mansions Hotel, Knowsley Road, Southport, Lancashire, in the case of Boards in Great Britain, or at Stormont, Belfast, in the case of Boards in Northern Ireland:—

RUBBER MANUFACTURING TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Proposal RU.(11), dated 31st March, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

AERATED WATERS TRADE BOARD (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Proposal A.(20), dated 7th April, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

BAKING TRADE BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Proposal BKS.(8), dated 7th April, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in certain specified areas.

PERAMBULATOR AND INVALID CARRIAGE TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Proposal I.(35), dated 17th April, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

BOOT AND SHOE REPAIRING TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Proposal D.(69), dated 24th April, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

WHOLESALE MANTLE AND COSTUME TRADE BOARD (NORTHERN IRELAND).

Proposal N.I.W.M. (N.18), dated 10th April, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

DRESSMAKING AND WOMEN'S LIGHT CLOTHING TRADE BOARD (NORTHERN IRELAND).

Proposal N.I.W.D. (N.36), dated 11th April, 1942, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers employed in the Factory Branch of the Trade.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

In pursuance of the powers conferred by the Trade Boards Acts, the Minister of Labour and National Service in Great Britain has made Orders confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the Trade Boards indicated below. Copies of the Orders may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, either directly or through any bookseller:—

BUTTON MANUFACTURING TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Order V.(31), dated 16th April, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 27th April, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

HOLLOW-WARE TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

Order H.(38), dated 16th April, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 27th April, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

MILK DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE BOARD (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Order M.D.(34), dated 18th April, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 4th May, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

BAKING TRADE BOARD (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Order BK.(E. & W.), dated 20th April, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 6th May, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

MILK DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Order M.D.S.(35), dated 24th April, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 8th May, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

In the list below, the full titles, the serial numbers and the prices are given of Orders made by the Minister of Labour and National Service which have been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders* since the last issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, as well as of other Orders relating to matters with which the Ministry is concerned, either directly or indirectly. Items in the list which are the subject of a special article or review in this issue of the GAZETTE are marked with an asterisk.

Copies of Statutory Rules and Orders may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses shown at the foot of this page. The prices quoted are all net, those in brackets including postage at Inland Postal rates.

S.R. & O.

1942, No.

Title and Price.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 712 | The Police (Employment and Offences) (Scotland) (No. 2) |
| S.19 | Order, 1942, dated March 31, 1942, made by the Secretary of State under Regulation 29B of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939. 1d. (2d.) |
| 722 | The Temporary Workers in Agriculture (Scotland) |
| S.20 | (Minimum Wages) Order, 1942, dated April 2, 1942, made by the Secretary of State for Scotland under Regulation 25A of the Defence (Agriculture and Fisheries) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.) |
| 797* | The Employment of Women (Control of Engagement) (Amendment) Order, 1942, dated April 28, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.) |
| 801 | Order in Council amending Regulations 25, 26A, 27A, 27B, 29B, 31A, 50 and 69A of, and the Third Schedule to, the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, and adding Regulations 50B, 57C, 59A, and 84AB thereto. 3d. (4d.) |
| 802* | Order in Council adding Part XII to the Defence (Agriculture and Fisheries) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.) |
| 804 | Order in Council amending the Defence (National Fire Service) Regulations, 1941. 1d. (2d.) |
| 895* | The Unemployment Insurance (Contributions) (Agriculture) Order, 1942, dated May 6, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935 (25 and 26 Geo. 5. c. 8.) 1d. (2d.) |
| 914 | The Police and Civil Defence (Tribunals) Order, 1942, dated May 8, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 29BA of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.) |

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