



THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

VOL. LI.—No. 7.]

JULY, 1943.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

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SPECIAL ARTICLES, REVIEWS, ETC.

RESETTLEMENT AND TRAINING AFTER THE WAR.

COMMITTEE UPON HIGHER APPOINTMENTS.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has appointed the following to be a Committee to consider and report upon the arrangements which should be made to facilitate the employment after the end of hostilities of men and women qualified to undertake responsible work in the professions or elsewhere, with particular reference to (a) the organisation, premises and staff of the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service; and (b) the arrangements which should be made for co-operation between the Appointments Department and other organisations and institutions (including professional, industrial and commercial organisations) and Universities, at home and abroad:—The Rt. Hon. Lord Hankey, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O. (Chairman); Mr. H. M. Barton, F.C.A., Vice-President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; Sir Bernard Bourdillon, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., late Governor of Nigeria; Mr. J. T. Davis, O.B.E., Director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.; Mr. R. H. Dobson, Chairman of A. V. Roe & Co. Ltd.; Mr. J. S. Duncan, C.B.E., Deputy High Commissioner for Australia; Sir William Fyfe, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen; Mrs. Mary Hamilton, Member of Royal Commission on the Civil Service, 1929–1931, former Governor of B.B.C., and Alderman, L.C.C., 1937–1940; Mr. Clement Jones, C.B., Director of the Booth Line; Dr. H. Lowery, Principal of the Essex Technical College, Walthamstow; Mr. John McLean, Chairman of the Overseas Committee of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and Honorary Treasurer of the London Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Godfrey Mitchell, Chairman of George Wimpey & Co.; the Hon. Eleanor Plumer, Principal of the Society of Home University Students, Oxford; Professor R. V. Southwell, F.R.S., Rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; Mr. H. V.

Tewson, C.B.E., Assistant General Secretary of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress; Mr. Henry Thirkill, M.C., Master of Clare College, Cambridge; Mr. G. W. Thomson, Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, and Member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress.

The Secretaries of the Committee are Mr. H. F. Rossetti and Mr. F. M. H. Markham, of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Sardinia Street, London, W.C.2, to whom all communications should be addressed.

The decision to appoint this Committee was announced in the House of Commons on 25th March, when, as reported on page 50 of the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1943, it was stated that it was proposed to centre in the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service the arrangements for assisting persons with qualifications for the higher posts in the professions, industry and commerce to find opportunities of suitable employment during the period of resettlement after the war. At the same time the appointment was also announced of a Committee, consisting of representatives of the Government Departments concerned, to ensure that the Government's educational and training arrangements are closely related to the prospect of employment at home and abroad and to secure co-ordination between the facilities to be provided outside and inside the Services.

The Governments of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa have been informed of the appointment of the Committee upon Higher Appointments and of the Interdepartmental Committee upon Further Education and Training, and they have all expressed a desire to establish close contact with the work of both Committees. Arrangements for this purpose will be made in the manner which commends itself to the respective Governments. As announced above, the Government of Australia have nominated Mr. J. S. Duncan, C.B.E., to be a member of the Committee upon Higher Appointments.

CATERING WAGES COMMISSION.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has announced the appointment of the Catering Wages Commission under the Catering Wages Act, 1943, particulars of which were given in the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1943. Mr. Hartley Shawcross, K.C., is to be the Chairman, and the other members of the Commission are Mr. John E. Greenwood, LL.B., A.C.A., Mrs. Hermione Hichens, A.R.R.C., J.P., Professor T. M. Knox, Captain H. W. J. Powell, F.S.I., F.A.I., Mrs. M. J. Robinson and Mr. G. W. Thomson. The office of the Commission is at 1, Bryanston Square, London, W.1, and the secretary is Mr. D. T. Jack.

The Commission are empowered to review the existing arrangements for regulating the remuneration and conditions of employment of workers in the hotel and catering industry and to make enquiries into other matters affecting the remuneration, conditions of employment, health or welfare of these workers. Where the Commission find that there is no adequate joint voluntary machinery for regulating wages and conditions of employment, they may, subject to certain enquiries, recommend to the Minister the establishment of Wages Boards. Any Wages Board which may be appointed will have power to submit proposals to the Minister for fixing remuneration and intervals for meals or rest and for requiring workers to be allowed holidays by their employers. Wages Boards will consist of persons representing employers and workers in the particular branch of the industry covered by the Board, together with independent persons.

The Commission may also enquire into means for meeting the requirements of the public, including in particular the requirements of visitors from overseas, and for developing the tourist traffic. On these matters and on any other matter affecting the remuneration, conditions of employment, health or welfare of the workers covered, the Commission may make recommendations to any Government Department.

The first meeting of the Commission was held on 19th July.

SAFETY IN MINES.

REPORT ON COAL DUST EXPLOSIONS.

The Safety in Mines Research Board undertook early in 1942, at the request of the Secretary for Mines, a review of the plans and progress of their researches into the causes and prevention of coal dust explosions. The results of this review are contained in a Special Report on Coal Dust Explosions submitted to the Minister of Fuel and Power and recently published as a Command Paper.*

The Report discusses current and future research on coal dust explosions, with special reference to the use of stone dust for preventing such explosions. In their summary and conclusions the Board state that stone dusting is the only remedy in sight, and unquestionably provides a large measure of security against the occurrence of coal dust explosions. While research into the problem must go on, the chief road to a still higher standard of safety lies for the present in the more effective application of stone dusting. The security afforded by this remedy can be progressively increased by controlling and reducing the amount of the coal dust itself, and by improvements in the stone dust, in the degree and methods of the application of stone dust, and in the technique of examination and testing. The more effective application of stone dusting depends on the individual manager of each mine; and the nearer he can bring the condition of the roads to the ideal, that is, to a dominant superiority of stone dust over coal dust, the nearer he will have brought the mine to complete safety against coal dust explosions.

PNEUMOCONIOSIS AMONG COAL MINERS.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION AND BENEFIT SCHEMES.

In the exercise of his powers under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, as amended, the Home Secretary has made two schemes relating respectively to the provision of compensation and benefits for coal miners suffering from pneumoconiosis.

The scheme for the payment of compensation is entitled "The Coal Mining Industry (Pneumoconiosis) Compensation Scheme, 1943,"† and has been made in virtue of the provisions of Section 1 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943,‡ which extends the existing powers of the Secretary of State to provide by Scheme for the payment of compensation to workmen suffering from fibrosis of the lungs due to silica or asbestos dust, so as to cover workmen suffering from any form of "pneumoconiosis," i.e., fibrosis of the lungs due to silica dust, asbestos dust, or other dust, including the condition of the lungs known as dust-reticulation. The Scheme came into force on 1st July, 1943, and applies to all workmen employed at any time on or after that date (a) in any operation underground in any coal mine; and (b) on the surface of any coal mine in any of the processes of tipping, screening, breaking, loading, handling or moving of coal or other minerals extracted from the mine.

* Coal Dust Explosions: Special Report by the Safety in Mines Research Board. Cmd. 6450; H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net (4d. post free).

† S. R. & O. 1943, No. 885. H.M. Stationery Office, price 2d. net.

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1943, page 21.

The Benefit Scheme, entitled "The Pneumoconiosis (Benefit) Scheme, 1943,"* has been made under Sec. 2 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943. It provides for the payment out of a Benefit Fund, established under the Scheme, of certain benefits for workmen who have been employed in or about coal mines since 22nd October, 1934, but not after 30th June, 1943, and who are not entitled to compensation under any compensation scheme. The benefits under the Scheme, which are in addition to any Health Insurance Benefits, are payable in respect of workmen who are certified by the Silicosis Medical Board to have become totally disabled on 1st July, 1943, or to have become totally disabled or to have died after that date, as the result of pneumoconiosis.

The Benefit Fund will be maintained by such payments by employers in the coal-mining industry as the Minister of Fuel and Power may prescribe. The administration of the Scheme is the responsibility of an Administrative Board, comprising representatives of both employers and workers in the coal-mining industry under an independent Chairman. An executive officer is to assist the Board, as Secretary. The headquarters of the Fund are at Cardiff.

WELFARE IN FACTORIES.

AGREEMENTS CONCERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF MUSIC.

The Minister of Production in the House of Commons on 26th May announced the conclusion of Agreements between the Government and (i) the Performing Right Society, a body which represents composers, authors and publishers of music, and which has vested in it the right of performing or authorising the performance in public of practically all copyright music in the United Kingdom, and (ii) Phonographic Performance Limited, which controls the manufacturers' performing rights in virtually the entire range of gramophone records manufactured in this country.

By these Agreements, the performance, whether by broadcast means or otherwise, of music and gramophone records can be made, except in the cases referred to below in which the Agreements do not apply, without payment of licence fees in all the following premises:—premises used for work necessary in the interests of the defence of the realm or the efficient prosecution of the war, or for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community; or canteens carried on in connection with such premises; or hostels established by or on behalf of any Government Department for the accommodation or recreation of persons employed in such premises. The definition is intentionally wide so as to cover practically every factory in the United Kingdom but, if any exceptional case should arise, this will be referred by the Performing Right Society or Phonographic Performance Ltd., as the case may be, to the Minister of Production for his decision.

The Agreements do not apply (1) outside the United Kingdom; (2) to performances given by the Entertainments National Service Association (E.N.S.A.) or the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (C.E.M.A.); (3) to performances given by any living artists present in person, where such artists are not themselves employed as workers in the premises in which they perform, or, in the case of a performance in a canteen or hostel, in the premises in connection with which the canteen or hostel is carried on; or (4) to performances to which the general public are admitted. In the case of (3) and (4) individual licences must still be obtained by the promoters of such performances. As regards (2), both E.N.S.A. and C.E.M.A. have comprehensive arrangements with the Performing Right Society and individual licences for performances arranged by these two bodies are not therefore necessary. They also have licences with Phonographic Performance Ltd., to cover the specified instances where records are used by them.

The Agreements, which are operative from 6th May, 1943, will remain in force so long as the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act, 1939, remains in force, although after one year has elapsed they may be terminated by either side giving one month's notice. Firms already licensed, either individually or under special arrangements, are covered by the new Agreements with effect from the end of the period for which the last payment was made by them to the Society or Company under such licences or arrangements. No further payment need be made until the Government's Agreements come to an end. From now on, therefore, no specific action is required by such firms, except in regard to types of performances, referred to above, to which the Agreements do not apply. Firms not yet licensed and not subject to any existing arrangements are covered by the Agreements with effect from 6th May, 1943. They can now diffuse programmes of music and gramophone records to their workers without being individually licensed; they need notify no one of their intention to do so, except in regard to types of performances to which the Agreements do not apply.

Apart from negotiations already in progress the Performing Right Society and Phonographic Performance Limited wish to make no claim retrospectively for performances prior to 6th May in premises covered by the Agreements. When the Government's Agreements end, all premises covered by them and taking advantage of them will, of course, require to take out individual licences.

* S. R. & O. 1943, No. 886. H.M. Stationery Office, price 2d. net.

PROBLEMS AFFECTING LABOUR IN SHIPYARDS AND WOMEN IN WAR FACTORIES.

REPLIES TO REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

The Ninth Report* of the Select Committee on National Expenditure, which has recently been published, contains memoranda giving the replies of the Government Departments concerned to the recommendations made by the Committee in certain of their earlier Reports, including those on Merchant Shipbuilding and Repairs† and the Health and Welfare of Women in War Factories.‡

With regard to the recommendations relating to the supply and output of labour made by the Committee in their Report on Merchant Shipbuilding and Repairs, a memorandum by the Ministry of Labour and National Service states that a centre for the training of boys for the shipyards, similar to that on the Clyde, has been opened on the Tyne. As regards women, the extent to which they can be employed in shipbuilding has been constantly under review by the Ministry, and as a result it has not been found necessary to set up special standards of health to which women employed in the shipyards must conform. A booklet (P.L.109/42)§ was issued at the end of August, 1942, with a view to encouraging the maximum amount of war-time employment of women in the shipbuilding and allied industries and copies of this booklet were furnished to all managements and trade unions affected. In this booklet special attention was drawn to the importance of appointing Women Welfare Supervisors. Many shipyards have, in fact, already made such appointments and it is the intention of the Ministry to continue, in association with the Admiralty, their policy of consistently urging firms employing appreciable numbers of women to engage experienced women for this purpose.

On the subject of the extended introduction of schemes of payment by results the statement refers to the many difficulties that stand in the way of extending the system by national agreement, but points out that the Ministry of Labour officers are constantly bringing this question to the attention of individual employers, and certain trade unions have now agreed to relax their rules prohibiting piecework for the period of the war in respect of their members employed on shipyard work. On the subject of the transfer of surplus labour, the memorandum states that Shipyard Labour Supply Officers have now been instructed to impress on employers the necessity of reporting to them without delay any surpluses of shipyard labour, with a view to arranging their immediate transfer. As regards the Committee's recommendations concerning matters affecting Yard Committees and personnel management the statement adds that responsibility for these matters has been undertaken by the Admiralty in agreement with the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The Report includes a memorandum by the Admiralty regarding the steps which have been taken to give effect to the Committee's recommendations.

A further memorandum sets out the observations of the Government regarding the Committee's recommendations in their Report on the Health and Welfare of Women in War Factories. The memorandum points out that the views of the Committee have received publicity through the issue of their Report, and states that the Government have given the closest attention for some time past to the problem of securing a satisfactory industrial medical service; at the same time it emphasises the difficulty of finding suitable doctors under present conditions and the fact that the health of the workers is already subject to regular and substantial supervision through the operation of the Factories Act and the provision of nurses, welfare officers, etc. For dealing with the problems concerning the recruitment and distribution of nurses and midwives the Minister of Labour and National Service has established machinery and appointed a National Advisory Council. As regards the arrangements for transferring workers from one district to another with a view to securing a closer relationship between regions that are exporting and those that are receiving labour, the Ministry of Labour and National Service are constantly trying to improve this machinery and a special investigation has lately been undertaken with that object in view. Concerning the Committee's recommendations with regard to the rearrangement of the medical supervision of industrial health, the memorandum states that suitable recruits for the suggested enlargement of the medical branch of the Factory Inspectorate have proved difficult to find. The Minister of Labour and National Service has set up an Industrial Health Advisory Committee to advise him on technical and scientific matters arising from the work of the Factory and Welfare Department; and consideration will be given to the proposed establishment of a central bureau for collecting, abstracting and disseminating information and literature relating to questions of industrial medicine.

* Ninth Report from the Select Committee on National Expenditure, Session 1942-1943. H.C. 96. H.M. Stationery Office, price 6d. net (7d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1942, page 209.

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1943, page 8.

§ See the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1942, page 161.

WOMEN IN SHIPBUILDING.

The shipbuilding industry is at present faced with an expanding programme of construction, with little prospect of appreciable increase in the male labour force, and the stage has now been reached when the industry can obtain the necessary additional labour only if it is prepared to employ women to a far greater extent than hitherto. A booklet entitled "Women in Shipbuilding" has accordingly been circulated throughout the industry under arrangements made by the Minister of Labour and National Service and the First Lord of the Admiralty, pointing out new ways in which women can be employed in shipbuilding. The booklet illustrates various types of skilled and semi-skilled work on which women are being successfully employed in some shipyards, and draws attention to the possibilities of employing them on a wider range of occupations than has hitherto been thought suitable.

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC VACANCIES FOR GIRLS.

WOMEN'S TECHNICAL SERVICE REGISTER.

There is a demand for girls of school-leaving age with a mathematical or scientific bent on work directly connected with the war effort. For some of these posts first-class technical training is given, and in most cases the practical experience which follows it will be valuable to a girl who is contemplating a scientific career. It is felt that many girls will be interested in these vacancies and that their Headmistresses will wish to bring the opportunities available to their notice; accordingly the Ministry of Labour and National Service have issued a leaflet (P.L. 126/1943) giving particulars of some of these vacancies in Government establishments and in State-aided establishments of the Agricultural Research Council.

The vacancies specifically mentioned in the leaflet are those for (i) laboratory assistants, experimental assistants (Grade III) and examiners of radio equipment under the Ministry of Supply; experimental assistants (Grade III) under the Admiralty; laboratory assistants under the Ministry of Aircraft Production; and laboratory assistants and technical assistants in State-aided Agricultural Research Institutes and Advisory Centres. As regards these posts particulars are given of the educational qualifications to be possessed by candidates, the training to be given, the work to be performed after training, and the rates of remuneration and hours of work.

In addition to Government vacancies mentioned above, there are many interesting openings in industry for girls who have taken certain courses of training, and particulars are given in the leaflet of training courses for these posts which are provided in Government Training Centres of the Ministry of Labour and National Service for girls possessing the School Certificate with a pass in mathematics. These courses are given in twenty-one Centres in different parts of England, Scotland and Wales and are of sixteen weeks' duration. The courses specially suitable to school leavers are those in engineering draughtsmanship and engineering inspection. Girls under 18 years of age are accepted for training only if they live within daily travelling distance of a Training Centre and have prospects of being placed in the neighbourhood. The weekly rates of pay are as follows: *Starting Rates*: At age 16, 20s.; 17, 21s.; 18, 42s. 6d.; 19, 45s.; 20, 47s. 6d.; 21 and over, 50s. *Final Rates* (subject to passing tests): At age 16, 24s.; 17, 25s.; 18, 46s. 6d.; 19, 49s.; 20, 51s. 6d.; 21 and over, 54s.

The filling of the vacancies is considered to be of such importance in the war effort that a special register, known as the Women's Technical Service Register (or W.T.S.R.) has been set up by the Ministry of Labour and National Service to deal with them and also with the other technical vacancies in industry demanding similar educational qualifications. In the case of juveniles (girls of 16 and 17 years of age) it is recommended that they should consult the Juvenile Department of the Local Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service or the Juvenile Employment Bureau in their own locality; these offices are in a position to advise the girls in their own interests on their careers from the broadest point of view and will, if it appears advisable, arrange for their placing in one of the vacancies mentioned above. According to present arrangements girls so placed will not be called up on reaching National Service age. It can be arranged, if desired, for girls to be interviewed at the school by a representative of the Local Office or Bureau.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAINING DISABLED NURSES.

Arrangements have been made between the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland under which State Registered Nurses who, on account of disability, are not fit to return to their previous nursing work, but who are suitable for employment as sister tutors, health visitors or industrial nurses, may receive training for that purpose.

Hospital authorities have been invited by the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland to inform nurses who are undergoing treatment about these arrangements and any such nurse who wishes to apply will be interviewed in hospital by a representative of the Health Department

concerned. A disabled nurse who is not receiving treatment in hospital and who, being unfit to resume her normal occupation, wishes to apply for training of this kind should write, with full particulars of her case, to the Chief Nursing Officer and Principal Matron of the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1, or to the Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health for Scotland, St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh, 1 (whichever is appropriate), who will arrange for her to be interviewed and, if she is considered suitable, to enter a course of training.

Disabled nurses who are not able to take advantage of any of the courses of training for the nursing profession referred to above, may apply to the Ministry of Labour and National Service for training in some other occupation. Either under the scheme of "Further Education and Training"* recently announced by the Government or under the interim scheme of training for disabled persons,† it is now possible in the case of disabled persons to provide a variety of courses, and arrangements will be made for disabled nurses who may be found suitable to take courses for such occupations as hospital almoner, radiographer, masseuse, and chiropodist.

The cost of a training course under the above schemes, together with maintenance allowances, will be paid by the Departments concerned. Further information about the schemes can be obtained at any Local Office or Appointments Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales made Orders on 9th June bringing into operation various revisions in the County Minimum Wages Orders. These revisions, which operate as from 20th June, affect mainly the minimum rates of wages for women and juvenile workers.

The new Orders make no alterations in the weekly minimum wage of 60s. a week for ordinary adult male workers. In a few areas, however, where the hours in respect of which this wage is payable have hitherto exceeded 52 a week in the eight "summer" months and 48 in the remainder of the year, the hours are reduced so as not to exceed the average of these hours over the year as a whole.

In the case of female workers, the Orders give effect to the Board's decisions that the principle of the guaranteed weekly minimum wage should be extended to every county, and that, in the case of workers aged 18 and over, the rate should not be less than 45s. a week of 50 hours in the eight "summer" months and 48 in the remainder of the year. In five areas, where the weekly hours had been less than 48 all the year round, the lower hours will remain but the weekly wage is fixed at not less than the equivalent of the 45s. rate on the 50 and 48 hour basis. For juvenile male workers, the new Orders fix a minimum standard rate of 56s. for workers aged 20 and under 21, 52s. at 19, 48s. at 18, and proportionately lower rates for younger workers. Minimum standard rates are also fixed for girls under the age of 18. In the case of children under 14 years, the Orders provide for a flat minimum rate of 5d. an hour for both boys and girls.

As regards payment for overtime, the new Orders provide for a minimum rate for men of 1s. 5d. an hour on the five weekdays and 1s. 9d. for any overtime employment on the weekly short-day, on Sundays and on public holidays which are defined as overtime. The corresponding rates for women are 1s. 1d. and 1s. 4d.

In a number of areas, holidays with pay fixed under the Holidays with Pay Act are increased so as to provide for four days a year. The Orders also give effect to the Board's decision that, as a general rule, there should be not less than four public holidays for which payment is made and for work on which overtime rates are payable.

The Orders also make certain provisions in regard to the minimum rates in some areas for workers engaged in tending animals and for casual workers.

UNDERTAKINGS (RECORDS AND INFORMATION AND INSPECTION OF PREMISES) ORDER.

A new Order‡ relating to industrial records and information and the inspection of premises was made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 18th June, 1943. This Order, which revokes the Undertakings (Inspection) Order, 1940§, provides that every person carrying on an undertaking shall (a) keep such records relating to the undertaking as the Minister may from time to time by notice direct; (b) produce to such person or to a person of such class or description as may be designated by or on behalf of the Minister such records relating to the undertaking and furnish such information relating thereto as may be set out in any notice or direction and (c) permit any person designated by or on behalf of the Minister to enter and inspect with a view to securing compliance with the Order any premises used for or in connection with the undertaking.

The above provisions are in addition to, and not in derogation of, any provisions relating to the keeping or production of records, the furnishing of information or the inspection of premises, contained in any of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, in any Order made under those Regulations or in any direction given under any such Regulation or Order.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1943, page 63.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1941, page 212.

‡ S.R. & O, 1943, No. 870. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. (2d. post free).

§ See the issue of this GAZETTE for June 1940, pages 180 and 181.

PENSIONS AND DETERMINATION OF NEEDS ACT, 1943.

The Royal Assent was given on 6th July to the Pensions and Determination of Needs Act, 1943. A summary of the principal features of the Bill thus enacted was given on page 65 of the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1943, and this summary may be read as a summary of the relevant provisions of the Act.

FOOD CONTROL.

MAXIMUM PRICES.

Under a recent Order of the Minister of Food, the maximum retail price of ordinary milk in those parts of England and Wales outside the Greater London area is to be at the rate of 2s. 8d. a gallon during the period 25th July, 1943, to 18th September 1943, inclusive, and at the rate of 3s. a gallon during the remainder of the year 1943.* In the Greater London area the maximum retail price is at the rate of 3s. a gallon throughout the year. Another Order, which took effect on 18th July, reduced the maximum prices for pork sausages and pork sausage meat and amended the regulations controlling the meat content of beef and pork sausages.

As regards vegetables and fruit, recent Orders have been made by the Minister of Food prescribing maximum prices for carrots of the 1943 crop, for plums (including greengages and damsons), and for dessert gooseberries. The Soft Drinks Order, 1943, dated 11th June, consolidated various existing regulations regarding soft drinks, and in addition limited the descriptions under which soft drinks can now be sold and prescribed ingredients and maximum prices.

Other recent Orders have reduced the maximum retail price of domestic pack dried egg, from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 3d. a package of 12 eggs, amended the schedule of maximum prices of cereal breakfast foods, and extended price control to certain speciality breads.

RATIONING.

The Ministry of Food has announced a new scheme under which expectant mothers are to be provided with a second ration book entitling them to additional supplies of milk, shell eggs, dried eggs and meat, and to the same priority as children in respect of supplies of oranges, when available. Other Orders concerned with rationing extend, from 26th June until further notice, the arrangement under which consumers may acquire extra rations of sugar by relinquishing the equivalent ration or allowance of preserves, and provide for an additional allowance of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of sugar per person during each of the weeks beginning 11th and 18th July, to enable housewives to make their own jam.

CONTROL OF WAGES AND PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES.

An Executive Order, described as a "hold-the-line Order," was issued by President Roosevelt on 8th April, 1943, for the purpose of securing the more effective application of regulations made under the legislation enacted on 2nd October, 1942, stabilising wages and prices in the United States.† Under the new Order, the National War Labour Board, whose approval under existing regulations is required for all increases or decreases in wages and salaries, is directed to authorise no further increases except those that are clearly necessary to correct sub-standards of living, or are granted as compensatory adjustments for the rise in the cost of living under the Board's "Little Steel" formula. (This formula is based on a rise in the cost of living of 15 per cent. between 1st January, 1941, and 15th May, 1942, and was established in July, 1942, in the settlement of wage disputes in the four companies of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation collectively known as "Little Steel." To compensate for the increase, the War Labour Board ruled that wages might also rise by 15 per cent.). The authorisation of reasonable adjustments on promotion and in other special cases is not precluded, so long as no increase in prices or costs is involved.

The Executive Order also empowers the Chairman of the War Man-Power Commission to forbid any engagement for employment that does not comply with regulations that may be issued by him prohibiting the payment of a wage or salary in excess of that received by the employee in his last employment, unless the engagement would promote the effective prosecution of the war. A further provision directs the Price Administrator and the Food Administrator to take immediate steps to place ceiling prices on all commodities affecting the cost of living, and to use all the discretionary powers vested in them by law to prevent fresh price increases, direct or indirect, to prevent profiteering, and to reduce prices that are excessively high, unfair or inequitable.

* The maximum price has been at the rate of 3s. a gallon since 1st October 1942.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1942, page 192.

PREVENTION OF LABOUR STOPPAGES IN THE UNITED STATES.

An Act, to be known as the War Labour Disputes Act, providing for the use and operation by the United States of America of certain undertakings in the prosecution of the war and for the prevention of strikes, lockouts and other stoppages of production, was passed by both Houses of Congress in June, 1943. The Act is to remain in force until six months after the termination of hostilities, unless previously repealed by Congress.

The Act extends the existing powers of the President under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 to enable him to take possession of, and operate, any plant, mine or facility equipped for the manufacture, production or mining of any articles or materials that may be required for the war effort or may be useful in connection with it, provided that, after investigation, he finds and proclaims that there has been an interruption of operations in the undertaking concerned as the result of a strike or other labour disturbance, that the war effort will be unduly impeded or delayed by such interruption, and that the exercise of such power is necessary to ensure operation in the interest of the war effort. Undertakings so taken possession of are to be returned to the owners as soon as practicable, but not more than sixty days after the restoration of the productive efficiency prevailing before the interruption. Undertakings may not be taken over after the termination of hostilities as proclaimed by the President or after the termination of the War Labour Disputes Act. Undertakings taken over are to be operated under the terms and conditions of employment in effect at the time of taking over, unless, on the application of the Government agency operating the undertaking or of a majority of the workers or their representatives, the National War Labour Board orders a change in wages or other conditions of employment.

While any undertaking is in the possession of the United States, it is unlawful for any person to coerce, instigate, induce, conspire with or encourage any person to interfere with the operation of the undertaking through lockout, strike, slowdown or other interruption by giving direction or guidance in its conduct or by providing funds for its conduct or direction or for the payment of strike, unemployment or other benefits to those taking part. The penalties for contravention of these provisions are a fine not exceeding 5,000 dollars or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or both.

The Act also confers on the National War Labour Board the following additional powers and duties:—(1) Wherever the United States Conciliation Service certifies that a labour dispute exists that may lead to substantial interference with the war effort and cannot be settled by collective bargaining or conciliation, or wherever the Board itself considers this to be the case, to summon both parties before it and conduct a public hearing on the merits of the dispute; (2) to decide the dispute and provide by order the wages, hours and all other terms and conditions customarily included in collective bargaining agreements, which are to remain in effect until further order of the Board; (3) to require the attendance of witnesses and the production of such documents and records as may be material to its investigation of facts in any labour dispute and to issue subpoenas requiring such attendance or production; and (4) to apply to any Federal district court for an order requiring any person within its jurisdiction to obey a subpoena issued by the Board. The provisions of (1) and (2) above do not apply to undertakings of which the United States has taken possession, and the Board has no power under this Section of the Act with respect to any matter within the scope of the Railway Labour Act.

A further clause provides that, in order that the President may be apprised of labour disputes that threaten seriously to interrupt war production, and that workers may give free and uncoerced expression to their views about interruptions of work in war time, the representatives of the workers of a war contractor (this is not applicable to any undertaking of which the United States has taken possession) must notify the Secretary of Labour, the National War Labour Board and the National Labour Relations Board of any labour dispute involving the war contractor and his workers and of the questions at issue. For thirty days after the giving of this notification, production must be continued under the conditions prevailing when the dispute arose, except as they may be modified by mutual agreement or by decision of the National War Labour Board. At the end of the thirty days, unless the dispute has been settled, the National Labour Relations Board is immediately to take a secret ballot of the workers on whether they will permit an interruption of war production, including on the ballot paper a concise statement of the major issues in the dispute and of the efforts being made for its settlement. The National Labour Relations Board must immediately certify by order the results of the ballot, which are to be open to public inspection. Any person who is under a duty to perform any act under the provisions of the above paragraph and who wilfully fails or refuses to perform it is liable for the damages resulting to any person or to the United States, if injured thereby.

The Bill embodying these provisions was vetoed by the President; but, on 25th June, the veto was overridden by both Houses of Congress, and the Bill became law.

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE COLONIES.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

A Report on labour supervision in the Colonial Empire during the period 1937–1943 has recently been issued by the Colonial Office as a White Paper,* and a further Report on labour conditions in Ceylon, Mauritius, and Malaya has been published as a Command Paper.†

The first of these Reports describes the steps taken in recent years, particularly during the past six years, to ensure more adequate and efficient supervision by Government of the conditions under which labour is employed in the various colonial territories. The Report states that remarkable progress has been made in this direction, mainly in two forms, namely, (i) the appointment of special whole-time staff in the shape of separate Labour Departments, or of Labour or Industrial Advisers, and (ii) the enactment of often much-needed protective legislation.

In the middle of 1937 the attention of Colonial Governors was drawn by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the need for passing on to the workers in the territories concerned a fair share, in the form of improved social services, of the definite improvement in the financial position of many Colonies, and in May, 1938, the post of Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State was created. In the same year a Social Services Department was established within the Colonial Office, to deal, *inter alia*, with labour questions affecting the Colonial Empire generally, and in 1939 and 1940 courses of lectures were provided for the purpose of giving Colonial Labour and Administrative Officers, while on leave, some insight into the way in which industrial problems were dealt with in this country and some knowledge of labour problems arising in other Colonial territories. In 1942 it was decided to establish a Colonial Labour Advisory Committee to take the place of the Colonial Office Labour Committee, which was a domestic committee. The new advisory committee includes outside experts with first-hand knowledge of industrial problems in this country. The functions of the Committee are to consider and advise upon any questions concerning the employment of labour in the Colonies which the Secretary of State may decide to refer to it.

With regard to labour legislation, the Report states that the Colonial Office has encouraged Colonial Governments to replace obsolete or inadequate legislation by laws framed on more modern lines and to introduce new legislation where this appears to be needed. Attention has been specially concentrated upon securing the enactment in all Colonies of simple legislation giving effect to some of the more important International Labour Conventions which have been ratified by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom—in particular, the important group regulating the employment in industry of women, young persons and children and the employment at sea of young persons and children, the Convention relating to the protection of dock workers, the Convention relating to minimum wage-fixing machinery, and of course, the group of Conventions which are primarily of Colonial interest, namely, the Forced Labour Convention and the Conventions regulating the recruitment and contracting of indigenous labour.

As regards labour supervision, the Report shows that whereas in 1937 there were only eleven Colonial Dependencies where special departments or staff had been created for supervising the conditions of employment of labour, the number of such Dependencies had increased to thirty-three in 1941. The total number of full-time officers employed as Labour Commissioners, Labour Advisers and Labour Officers or Inspectors had increased to four times the number in 1937, and these included a number of expert officers seconded from the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Particulars of developments with regard to the setting up in the several Dependencies of the various forms of supervisory and administrative machinery are given in some detail in the Report, and particulars are also given of legislative developments with regard to trade unions, minimum wages, trade disputes, the cost of living, workmen's compensation, factory and workshop control and inspection, the application of International Labour Conventions, and various other matters affecting labour.

The second of the two Reports referred to above, relating to labour conditions in Ceylon, Mauritius and Malaya, was prepared by the Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and gives in separate sections for each of the three Colonies the results of the Labour Adviser's investigations in these countries during 1941 into the general situation of labour. The Report discusses, *inter alia*, prevailing conditions with regard to the labour supply, food and housing, wages and cost of living, unemployment, trade union organisation, and the administrative machinery and legislation for the control and regulation of labour and working conditions.

* *Labour Supervision in the Colonial Empire, 1937–1943.* Colonial No. 185. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free).

† *Labour Conditions in Ceylon, Mauritius, and Malaya.* Cmd. 6423. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. net (2s. 2d. post free).

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

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 June resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £110,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 690,000 workpeople, and in a decrease estimated at £700 in those of 26,500 workpeople. These figures do not include the effect of the increases in the statutory minimum rates of agricultural workers in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland, referred to below.

The industries and services in which rates of wages were increased during June included the railway service, iron and steel manufacture, iron-ore mining, tinplate manufacture, heating, ventilating and domestic engineering, linen and cotton handkerchief, etc., manufacture in Northern Ireland, seed crushing and compound and provender manufacture, the baking trade in England and Wales, and tobacco manufacture.

For railway workers, other than the workshop staff, there were increases of 4s. 6d. a week for men and women and 2s. 3d. a week for juniors. In the iron and steel industry (pig-iron manufacture, iron puddling, steel melting and rolling, etc.), the flat-rate additions to wages were increased in most districts by 0.8d. a shift for men and 0.6d. or 0.4d. a shift for youths and boys, under the operation of sliding-scale agreements under which rates of wages vary with movements of the official cost-of-living index number. Increases of similar amounts took effect in iron-ore mining in certain districts and in tinplate manufacture. Men employed in heating, ventilating and domestic engineering were granted an increase of ½d. an hour. In linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods manufacture in Northern Ireland, the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were raised by amounts ranging from ½d. to 1½d. an hour for men, youths and boys and ¼d. to ½d. an hour for women and girls; there were also increases for pieceworkers. In seed crushing and compound and provender manufacture there were increases of 3s. a week for men and women and of smaller amounts for younger workers. The Trade Board minimum time rates in the baking industry in

England and Wales were raised by 1d. an hour for adults and ½d. an hour for juniors. In tobacco manufacture, the Trade Board minimum wage rates were raised, under a cost-of-living sliding scale, by 4½d. a week for men and 3d. a week for women and juveniles. Increases were also granted to women (employed on women's work) in the printing and bookbinding industry, coal miners in Leicestershire, the crews of steam trawlers, and building operatives in some towns in Northern Ireland.

Slight decreases were reported during June in coal mining in Warwickshire, iron-ore mining in Cumberland, the iron and steel industry in the Midlands and the West of Scotland and a few other industries.

In addition to the classes of workpeople covered by the statistics* given above, youths, boys, women and girls employed in agriculture in England and Wales received increases of varying amounts as the result of the raising of the statutory minimum weekly rates for youths and boys in most areas and of the extension of guaranteed minimum weekly rates for women and girls to all areas. In Northern Ireland, the statutory minimum rates for men employed in agriculture were raised by 3s. a week, with smaller increases for youths and boys.

Of the estimated total increase of £110,000 in industries other than agriculture, about £19,000 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workers; £3,000 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the official cost-of-living index number; £4,000 was due to arbitration awards; and most of the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between the employers and workpeople or their representatives. Most of the estimated decrease of £700 took effect under the operation of sliding scales based upon the official cost-of-living index number.

Output Bonus in Coal Mining.—The amounts of increase in rates of wages quoted above, and the details in the Table below, do not include the bonuses on output in the coal mining industry referred to on page 102.

Hours of Labour.

The number of hours in respect of which the minimum weekly wages of agricultural workers are payable was reduced in certain areas in England and Wales (see particulars on page 102).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Agriculture	England and Wales..	20 June	Youths and boys (14 and under 21 years). Women and girls (14 years and over).	Minimum rates fixed at 24s. a week at 14 years, rising to 56s. at 20, resulting in increases in most areas.† Minimum rates fixed at 22s. a week at 14 years, rising to 45s. at 18 and over (for a normal working week of 50 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter or of 48 hours all the year round), resulting in increases of varying amounts in most areas; in a few areas, in which the normal working week is less than 48 hours, the minimum rates are proportionately less.†
	Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely, Cumberland and Westmorland, Herefordshire, Lincs. (Holland Division), Norfolk, Northumberland, Surrey, Sussex, Yorks. (North and West Ridings), Denbighshire and Flintshire.	20 June	Boys and girls (12 and under 14 years). Stockmen, shepherds, horsemen, tractor drivers and other special classes of workers.	Minimum rates fixed at 5d. an hour, resulting in increases of varying amounts in certain areas.† Increases of 3s. to 7s. a week in minimum rates for men in some areas, with increases of various amounts in some areas for juveniles.†
	Northern Ireland	7 June	Male agricultural workers (16 and over), other than workers employed in scutching flax and tow.	Increases of 1s. 3d. to 3s. a week, according to age, in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change, at 21 years and over, 49s. 3d. to 56s. according to area.†
	Great Britain ..	12 June	Crews of steam trawlers	Increases of 10s. a day (20s. to 30s.) in guaranteed minimum for skippers and of 7s. 6d. (15s. to 22s. 6d.) for mates; increases of 1s. a day in basic wage and of 2s. 5d. (3s. 7d. to 6s.) in war risk money for all ratings; in addition, special war-time poundage to be paid at the rate of ½d., ¾d. or 1d. in the £ on the nett voyage, according to rating, or of ¼d., ½d. or ¾d. in the £ on the gross voyage. Increase of 6s. 3d. a day (12s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.) in guaranteed minimum.
Fishing	Aberdeen	12 June	Share fishermen on line boats.	Decrease of 1 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 92 per cent. above the basis rates.§ Increase of 0.99 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 84.51 per cent above basis rates.§
Coal Mining	Warwickshire ..	1 June	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	War bonus decreased|| by 1d. a shift (1s. 11½d. to 1s. 10½d.) for those 18 years and over. (The bonus for those under 18 remains unchanged.)
	Leicestershire ..	1 June	Do.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) decreased|| by ½d. a shift (1s. 11½d. to 1s. 11d. for those 18 years and over and 1s. to 11½d. for those under 18).
	Cumberland	28 June	Iron-ore miners	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased|| by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 4.8d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men and by 0.4d. (8.4d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys.
	West Cumberland ..	28 June	Limestone quarry workers	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased|| by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men, by 0.6d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.2d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for boys.¶
Other Mining and Quarrying.	South and West Durham.	7 June	Limestone quarrymen	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased|| by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men, by 0.6d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.2d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for boys.
	Cleveland	7 June	Iron-ore miners	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased|| by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men, by 0.6d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.2d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for boys.
	Notts., Leicestershire, and adjoining parts of Lincs.	6 June	Ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased|| by 0.1d. an hour (4.3d. to 4.4d.) for men, by 0.075d. (3.225d. to 3.3d.) for youths 18 and under 21 and by 0.05d. (2.15d. to 2.2d.) for boys.**
	Northamptonshire (excluding Corby).	6 June	Ironstone miners and quarrymen and limestone quarrymen.	
	Banbury and district	6 June	Ironstone miners and quarrymen ..	
	North Lincolnshire ..	7 June	Ironstone miners and quarrymen ..	
	Corby	6 June	Ironstone miners and quarrymen and limestone quarrymen.	
	Scunthorpe (certain firms).	6 June	Slag and tar macadam workers ..	

*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.

† These changes took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages Regulation Acts. In some areas, minimum rates equal to or in excess of those now fixed were already in operation. See also article on page 98 and the particulars of "Principal Changes in Hours of Labour Reported during June" on page 102

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

§ Flat-rate advances, previously granted in addition to basis rates and percentages, remained unchanged. || Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

¶ The flat-rate additions are supplemented by 1s., 9d., and 6d. a shift, for men, youths and boys respectively.

** Wages continued to be supplemented by incentive bonuses of ½d. to 2½d. an hour, according to output.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in <i>Italics.</i>)
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	Cleveland and Durham, West Cumberland and North Lancs., North Lincs., North Staffs., South Staffs., Bilston, Northants., and South Wales and Mon.	6 June	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men and for women employed on men's work, by 0.6d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.2d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years and for women† employed on youths' work, and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for boys and for girls doing boys' work.
	Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.	1st pay day in June.		
	West of Scotland ..	Pay period beginning nearest 1 June.	Workpeople employed at certain blastfurnaces (excluding those engaged on maintenance work).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 3.2d. to 2s. 4d.) for men, by 0.4d. (1s. 1.6d. to 1s. 2d.) for youths and boys, by 0.8d. (11.2d. to 1s.) for women 21 years and over, and by 0.4d. (5.6d. to 6d.) for girls.
	Great Britain‡ ..	7 June	Workpeople employed at steel sheet rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 0.6d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.2d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21, and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for those under 18.
	West of Scotland ..	28 June	Workpeople employed at iron puddling forges and mills and sheet mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) decreased* by 1.1d. a shift (2s. 7.9d. to 2s. 6.8d.) for men, by 0.8d. (1s. 11.2d. to 1s. 10.4d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, by 0.55d. (1s. 3.95d. to 1s. 3.4d.) for boys, by 0.8d. (1s. to 11.2d.) for women 21 years and over, and by 0.4d. (6d. to 5.6d.) for girls. (The additional war bonuses of 5s. a week for men and married youths and of 2s. 6d. for other youths and boys remain unchanged.)
	North-East Coast Area	6 June	Iron puddlers and millmen ..	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men, by 0.6d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.2d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for boys.
	Midlands and parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire.	30 May	Workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges (excluding those engaged on maintenance work).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 2.4d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 7.2d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 1.8d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 11.4d.) for youths 18 and under 21, and by 1.2d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 3.6d.) for boys.
		Sunday preceding 1st pay day in July.	Do.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) decreased* by 2.4d. a shift (2s. 7.2d. to 2s. 4.8d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 1.8d. (1s. 11.4d. to 1s. 9.6d.) for youths 18 and under 21, and by 1.2d. (1s. 3.6d. to 1s. 2.4d.) for boys.
	Great Britain§ ..	6 June	Workpeople employed in steel melting shops (melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, gas producermen, semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc.).	
	North-East Coast Area	6 June	Workpeople employed at steel rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men and women 21 years of age and over, by 0.6d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.2d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21, and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for those under 18 years.
	Barrow-in-Furness ..	6 June	Rail millmen, merchant millmen, enginemmen, cranemen, etc.	
	Workington ..	6 June	Steel millmen and labourers (datal workers).	
Engineering	Scunthorpe ..	6 June	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers.	
	Bilston ..	6 June	Steel millmen, maintenance men, etc.	
	West of Scotland ..	6 June	Millmen, gas producermen, enginemmen, cranemen, firemen and mill labourers, semi-skilled workers and general labourers and locomotive drivers and firemen employed at steel rolling mills.	
	South-West Wales ..	6 June	Workpeople employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 4d. to 1s. 4.8d.) for men and for women employed on men's work and by 0.4d. (8d. to 8.4d.) for youths and boys and for women employed on boys' work.
	Scotland ..	1st full pay period after 31 May.	Electric welders and burners employed in steel foundries.	Minimum rates fixed at 88s. 2d. a week (47 hours) for electric welders and 84s. 3d. (47 hours) for burners.||
			Women 21 years of age and over ..	Minimum rates adopted,† for a normal week of 48 hours, as follows:—Basic minimum rate 1s. 0½d. an hour or 51s. a week; minimum rates for women performing recognised male semi-skilled work with a reasonable degree of efficiency or skill—after a probationary and (or) training period of 12 weeks, if requiring only the normal degree of supervision required by women, 1s. 2½d. or 57s.; after a further 20 weeks' employment, if requiring only the normal supervision required by male semi-skilled workers, 1s. 3½d. or 63s.¶.
			Girls	Minimum rates adopted, for a normal week of 44 hours at under 16 years and 48 hours at 16 years and over, of 4½d. an hour or 15s. 7d. a week at 14 years, increasing to 11½d. or 47s. at 20.
				Increase* of 5 per cent. (from 5 to 10 per cent.) on general minimum time rates and general minimum piece rates. General minimum time rate after change for adult workers 7½d. an hour.**
				Increase* of 5 per cent. (from 5 to 10 per cent.) on general minimum time rates and general minimum piece rates. General minimum time rate after change for the lowest paid adult workers, 1s. 5½d. an hour.**
Road Vehicle Repairing.	Great Britain	7 June		
Chain Manufacture.	Great Britain	1 June	Workpeople employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including ½ inch diameter. Workpeople employed in making dollied and tommed chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including ¾ inch diameter and hand-hammered chain from iron ¾ inch up to and including ½ inch.	
Galvanising	England and Wales††	7 June	Galvanisers and ancillary workers employed at steel sheet works (other than those engaged in the process of annealing).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 0.6d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.2d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21, and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for those under 18.
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.	6 June	Men, women and juveniles (excluding those engaged on maintenance work).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 0.8d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 5.6d.) for men and for women 21 years and over employed on men's work and by 0.4d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 2.8d.) for other women and juveniles.
Heating, Ventilating and Domestic Engineering.	Great Britain	Beginning of 1st pay period after 1 May.‡‡	Skilled craftsmen and mates ..	Increase of ¼d. an hour. Rates after change: skilled craftsmen—London, within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross, 2s. 2d. an hour, between radii of 12 and 15 miles of Charing Cross, 2s. 1½d., other towns in England and Wales with over 500,000 population and towns in Scotland 2s. 0½d., all other districts 2s. 0½d.; mates—London, within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross, 1s. 8½d., all other districts in England and Wales 1s. 6½d.‡‡
			Apprentices	Increase of ¼d. an hour. Rates after change: London 6½d. to 1s. 1½d.; all other districts in England and Wales 6d. to 1s. 1d., according to age in each case; Scotland 6½d. to 1s. 1d., according to year of apprenticeship.

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

† Women aged 21 years and over may not receive less than 4s. 8d. a shift, plus additions of 53.7, 62.5, 66.5 or 67.5 per cent. according to district, and a flat-rate addition of 2s. 5.6d.

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

§ These increases affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts concerned being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire (excluding Sheffield special steels district), the Midlands, South Wales and the West of Scotland.

¶ These rates were fixed by an Award of the National Arbitration Tribunal.

|| Women who show special individual merit, at any stage of employment, are to receive reasonable merit increments, in addition to basic or other minimum rates, in keeping with the principle that a female worker, in comparison with a male worker, should receive equal pay for equal work and ability.

** These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Order of the Minister of Labour and National Service, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

‡‡ This increase affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.

‡‡ These increases resulted from an Award of the Industrial Court dated 2nd June, with effect from the date shown.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in <i>Italics</i> .)
Cotton Spinning	Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire.	8 Mar.*	Under-engineers, boiler firemen, oilers, greasers and ashwheelers.	Basic rates increased from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2.75d. an hour for under-engineers and boiler firemen and from 11.47d. to 1s. 1.22d. for oilers, greasers and ashwheelers, and flat-rate war bonus of 5s. a week discontinued, resulting in a net increase of 4s. 6d. for a normal working week of 48 hours. Hourly rates after change, inclusive of cost-of-living addition of 35.5 per cent. on basic rates: under-engineers and boiler firemen 1s. 7.98d., oilers, greasers and ash-wheelers 1s. 5.91d.
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Manufacture.	Northern Ireland ..	14 June	Men, youths and boys	Increases ranging from ½d. to 1½d. an hour, according to area, occupation and age, in general minimum time rates, and from 1d. to 1½d. in piecework basis time rates.†
Pressed Felt Manufacture.	Rossendale Valley (certain firms).	30 June	Women and girls	Increases ranging from ½d. to ¾d. an hour, according to occupation and age, in general minimum time rates, and of ¾d. in piecework basis time rates; 30 per cent. previously paid on general minimum piece rates increased to 40 per cent.†
Hosiery Manufacture.	Hawick	31 Mar.§	Men, women and juveniles	Decrease† of 3d. a week for men and of 2d. for women and juveniles. Minimum time rate after change for men 74s. 2d., inclusive of special war bonus of 6s.
Lace Making (Plain Net Section).	Nottingham and District and West of England.	Pay day in week beginning 7 June.	Men, women and apprentices	Increases of 2s. 6d. a week (9s. 9d. to 12s. 3d.) in flat-rate bonus for men, of 2s. (7s. 6d. to 9s. 6d.) for women and of 1s. 1½d. (3s. 4½d. to 4s. 6d.) for apprentices.§
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing.	Northern Ireland ..	28 June	Twisthands and warpers	Special bonus of 5 per cent. on basic rates granted, making a total addition of 10 per cent.
Baking	England and Wales ..	11 June	Women and girls employed in retail bespoke dressmaking branch ..	Increases of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for learners and of 2d. for other workers in Belfast and Londonderry and of 1d. or 1½d. and 2½d. or 3d., respectively, in other localities. Increases of 1½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates in Belfast and Londonderry and of 2½d. in other localities.†
Tobacco, etc., Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	1 June	Men, women and juveniles	Increases of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workpeople 21 years of age and over and of ½d. for those under 21. (The increases are not to be counted in calculating overtime.) Rates after change include: men—foremen 80s. to 93s. a week (according to area), tablehands 64s. to 80s.; women—forewomen 56s. to 65s., confectioners 49s. to 56s.†
Seed Crushing, Compound and Provender Manufacture.	Great Britain (various districts).	15 Mar.||	Men, women and youths	Additions† on a time basis to minimum rates of both time and pieceworkers of 4½d. a week for men and of 3d. for women and juveniles. (The additions are not to be counted in calculating overtime.)†
Printing and Bookbinding.	England and Wales ..	1st full pay period following 21 June.	Men, women and youths	War supplements increased by 3s. a week for men (15s. to 18s.) and women (8s. to 11s.) and by proportional amounts for youths. Minimum weekly rates after change, including war supplements: labourers—seed crushing and compound cake undertakings 72s. to 78s.; compound cake and provender undertakings 67s. to 78s., according to district.
Building	Northern Ireland (certain towns).	14 June	Women and female learners engaged on women's and girls' work in bookbinding and in letterpress and machine feeding departments and in warehouses.	Increases of 4s. a week for women on timework, of 10d. a day in 5-day houses and 8d. in 5½-day houses for women on piecework, and of 3s. a week in minimum rates for learners. Rates after change for women on timework: London 52s., Grade 1 areas 45s., 2 44s., 3 43s., 4 42s.
Asphalt Manufacture and Laying.	London	10 June	Female clerical workers engaged in the production of provincial morning and evening newspapers.	Increases of 4s. a week in minimum rates for women 21 years and over and of 3s. for girls 18 and under 21. Rates after change for women at 25 and over: management and commercial clerks 54s. 6d. to 60s., according to population of town; works and publishing clerks 52s. to 57s. 6d.¶
	England and Wales ..	10 June	Craftsmen and labourers	Increases of 1d. an hour for craftsmen and of ½d. for labourers.
Railway Service	Great Britain ..	26 Apr.**	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of mastic asphalt.	Increase of 1d. an hour. Minimum rates after change: crane drivers 1s. 10d., charge hands on machines 1s. 9d., labourers 1s. 8d., night gangs 1s. 9½d.
Skip and Basket Making.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	1 June	Workpeople employed in laying asphalt.	Increase of 1d. an hour. Rates after change include: London—spreaders 2s. 2½d., potmen 1s. 10½d.; provinces—spreaders 2s. 1d., potmen 1s. 9½d.
Cinematograph Film Production.	Great Britain ..	1st pay day in June.	Workers in the "Conciliation" Grades.††	Increases of 4s. 6d. a week in war advance for men and women 20 years and over and of 2s. 3d. for male and female juniors.
			Salaried staff and staff paid salary-equivalent rates, including station-masters, agents, clerks and supervisory staffs.	Increases of £11 14s. a year or 4s. 6d. a week for men 18 years and over, of £5 17s. or 2s. 3d. for male juniors, of 4s. 6d. a week for women 18 years and over and of 2s. 3d. a week for female juniors.
			Skip and basket makers	Increase† of 1 per cent. on list prices, making wages 139 per cent. above the list.
			Men, women and juvenile workers in film studios (all employees paid by the hour and employees paid by the week whose normal salaries do not exceed £17 10s. a week).	Bonus increased† by 6d. a week (22s. 6d. to 23s. for those paid hourly and 21s. 6d. to 22s. for those paid weekly) for workpeople 21 years and over and by 4d. (15s. to 15s. 4d. for those paid hourly and 14s. 4d. to 14s. 8d. for those paid weekly) for those under 21.
			Cine-technicians, whose normal salaries do not exceed £17 10s. a week, employed in film studios.	Bonus increased† by 6d. a week (21s. 6d. to 22s.) for those 21 years and over and by 4d. (14s. 4d. to 14s. 8d.) for those under 21.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING JUNE.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Agriculture	England and Wales ..	20 June	Men, youths and boys (except those for whom special rates are fixed).	Normal working week fixed at 52 or 50 hours during the summer months and 48 during the rest of the year, involving reductions of ½ to 6 hours in some areas.††
			Women and girls	Normal working week fixed at 50 hours during the summer months and 48 during the rest of the year or at 48 all the year round, involving reductions in some areas.††

* This increase was agreed upon on 9th June, and made retrospective to the date shown.
† 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.
‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
§ This increase was awarded by the National Arbitration Tribunal on 25th June, and made retrospective to the date shown.
|| These increases were agreed upon during April and confirmed on 23rd June.
¶ These increases affected workers covered by an agreement between the Newspaper Society and the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants.
†† Including workers in the locomotive department, such as drivers, motormen, firemen, cleaners and certain locomotive shed grades; all the traffic grades, e.g., guards, shunters, signalmen and station staff, goods department grades such as goods porters, checkers, crane-men, etc.; dock porters and dock crane-men, and certain staff afloat such as dredgermen and tugboat staff; permanent way men, signalmen and telegraph staff, and also the staff employed on canals.
‡‡ These changes took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages Regulations Acts. In many areas the normal hours now fixed are the same as those already in operation. See also article on page 98 and "Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during June" on page 100.

OUTPUT BONUS IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

Under the scheme providing for the payment of a bonus to workers in the coal mining industry for output in excess of a specified tonnage (see the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1942, page 191), bonuses became payable in respect of the four weeks beginning with pay-day in the week ended 10th July, of 1s. 9d. a shift for adult workers in Leicestershire, 1s. 3d. a shift in South Derbyshire and 6d. a shift in North Derbyshire and Somerset.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st July, 1943.

		Food	All Items
Increase since July, 1914 ..	..	68%	100%
Change since 1st June, 1943	{ Index Points ..	+3	+2
	{ Per cent. ..	+2*	+1*

FOOD.

At 1st July the average price of potatoes was substantially higher than at 1st June, as a result of the partial replacement of old potatoes by the new crop, at considerably higher prices. On the other hand, the prices of some kinds of fish were reduced, following reductions in the maximum permitted prices under an Order made by the Minister of Food. The retail prices of the other articles of food included within the scope of these statistics showed no appreciable changes at 1st July as compared with 1st June.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st July, 1943, with the corresponding prices at 1st June, 1943, and 1st September, 1939.

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ½d., at—			Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st July, 1943, compared with	
	1st July, 1943.	1st June, 1943.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st June, 1943.	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	..	23
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 10½	1 10½	1 3	..	50
Fish ..	—	—	—	—4	26
Flour .. per 7 lb.	1 5	1 5	1 1½	..	27
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 9	0 9	0 8½	..	9
Tea ..	2 10	2 10	2 4	..	21
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 3	0 3	0 3	..	—1
Milk .. per quart	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	32
Butter—					
Fresh ..	1 8	1 8	1 4½	..	21
Salt ..	1 1	1 1	1 3½	..	31
Cheese ..	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	30
Margarine‡—					
Special ..	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	12
Standard ..	0 5	0 5	0 6½	..	..
Eggs (fresh)§ .. each	0 1½	0 1½	0 1½	..	1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 9½	0 6½	0 6½	40	47

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st June, 1943, and 1st July, 1943, respectively, as compared with July, 1914 :—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	1st June, 1943.	1st July, 1943.
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ..	44	59	59
Thin Flank ..	15	46	46
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs ..	32	79	79
Thin Flank ..	1	24	24
Mutton, British—			
Legs ..	48	67	67
Breast ..	14	24	24
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs ..	51	75	75
Breast ..	—3	—3	—3
Bacon† ..	35	102	102
Fish ..	116	185	173
Flour ..	26	60	61
Bread ..	42	56	56
Tea ..	52	85	85
Sugar (granulated) ..	46	45	45
Milk ..	92	154	154
Butter—			
Fresh ..	13	37	37
Salt ..	7	41	41
Cheese ..	16	51	51
Margarine‡ ..	—8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)§ ..	58	60	60
Potatoes ..	33	40	95
All above articles (Weighted Average on July, 1914, basis)	38	65	68

On the basis of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the average level of retail food prices at 1st July, 1943, was nearly 2 per cent. higher than at 1st June, 1943, about 22 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939, and about 68 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

* A rise of 3 points on a total for "food" of 165 (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to nearly 2 per cent. Similarly, a rise of 2 points on a total of 198 for "all items" is equivalent to about 1 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 July and 1st June, 1943, 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 July and 1st June, 1943, 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 eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

The average level of working-class *rents* (including rates) at 1st July was about the same as at 1st June, being about 1 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939, and about 64 per cent. above that of July, 1914.

As regards *clothing*, there was a further slight increase in the proportion of utility cloth and apparel on sale, at prices below those of non-utility goods of corresponding quality, as a result of which the average level of clothing prices generally at 1st July was nearly 1 per cent. below the level of a month earlier. The average decrease in prices during the month was about 1 per cent. for woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery, and about 2 per cent. for cotton materials and hosiery; for men's suits and overcoats and for boots and shoes there was very little change in the average level of prices during the month. 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 exact comparisons over a period of many years, but the available information (based on returns from representative retailers in a large number of towns) indicates that at 1st July the average level of prices was about 67 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 245 to 250 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group, the average levels of prices of coal and of gas at 1st July showed little change as compared with 1st June. Prices of coal averaged about 30 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 153 per cent. above the level of July, 1914: prices of gas averaged about 30 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 100 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There was no appreciable change during the month in the prices of lamp oil, candles or matches. In the fuel and light group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st July was about the same as at 1st June, about 34 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 144 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards *other items** included in these statistics, there were relatively few changes in prices during June. In the group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st July was about the same as at 1st June, about 60 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 186 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 July, 1943, is approximately **100 per cent. over the level of July, 1914**, as compared with 98 per cent. at 1st June, 1943, 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 4½ points represent the effect of the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches; and approximately 1½ 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	99	100	101	100	100	100	100
1943 ..	99	99	99	98	99	98	100					

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 the addresses shown on page 108 of this GAZETTE.

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN JUNE.*

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department† as beginning in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during June, was 123, as compared with 161 in the previous month and 144 in June, 1942. In these 123 new disputes about 27,700 workpeople were directly involved, and 6,000 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 6,100 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 14 disputes which began before June and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of disputes in progress in June was thus 137, involving about 39,800 workpeople; the aggregate number of working days lost in these disputes during June is estimated at 112,000.

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

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.		
Fishing	5	2	2	1,200	12,000
Mining and Quarrying ..	..	46	51	22,100	63,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	7	46	53	9,700	27,000
Building, etc. .. ..	..	9	9	2,300	3,000
Transport	1	5	6	2,700	5,000
Other Industries	1	15	16	1,800	2,000
Total, June, 1943† ..	14	123	137	39,800	112,000
Total, May, 1943† ..	10	161	171	66,500	185,000
Total, June, 1942† ..	21	144	165	130,500	360,000

Duration.—Of 122 stoppages which ended in June, 49, directly involving 9,800 workpeople, lasted not more than one day; 30, directly involving 4,600 workpeople, lasted two days; 13, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, lasted three days; 19, directly involving 5,200 workpeople, lasted four to six days, and 11, directly involving 19,900 workpeople, lasted over six days.

Causes.—Of the 123 disputes beginning in June, 27, directly involving 6,500 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 9, directly involving 900 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 28, directly involving 3,900 workpeople, on other wage questions; 3, directly involving 200 workpeople,

on questions as to working hours; 17, directly involving 3,500 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 28, directly involving 5,300 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 4, directly involving 300 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. Five stoppages, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were in support of demands respecting allowances of clothing or food, and two, directly involving 5,100 workpeople, were in sympathy with employees who had been prosecuted for absenteeism or for otherwise impeding the war effort.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during June have been effected in the case of 104 disputes, directly involving 34,800 workpeople. Of these disputes, 17, directly involving 2,300 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 65, directly involving 26,900 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 22, directly involving 5,600 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 18 other disputes, directly involving 6,700 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1943 AND 1942†

Industry Group.	January to June, 1943.			January to June, 1942.		
	Number of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	Number of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Fishing	3	1,700	14,000	..	..	..
Coal Mining	344	99,300†	254,000	328	203,100†	706,000
Other Mining and Quarrying	10	1,400	2,000	13	2,300	13,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	21	700	2,000	13	800	2,000
Engineering	152	49,300	105,000	61	22,700	38,000
Shipbuilding	78	13,100	45,000	38	6,600	18,000
Other Metal	72	11,200	38,000	61	9,400	31,000
Textile	19	2,400	4,000	15	1,200	3,000
Clothing	9	500	1,000	6	3,700	16,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco	7	4,800	10,000	7	1,000	3,000
Building, etc.	36	7,000	14,000	35	7,900	18,000
Transport	36	27,300	88,000	16	4,400	15,000
Other Industries ..	22	2,100	3,000	19	4,500	8,000
Total	809	220,800†	580,000	612	267,600†	871,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING JUNE.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Stoppage		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.§	Began.	Ended.		
FISHING :—						
Trawl fishermen—Fleetwood and Milford Haven.	900	..	8 June	26 June||	Objection to the operation, as from 12th June, of a postponed Order made by the Minister of Food, reducing the maximum prices of certain kinds of fish, with consequential reductions in earnings.	Work resumed.
Trawl fishermen—skippers and mates and fishermen, etc.—Fleetwood.	50	250	22 June	26 June	Objection to the withdrawal of a special bonus formerly paid to skippers.	Work resumed on the understanding that the matter would be dealt with through the trade union and the employers' organisation concerned.
COAL MINING :—						
Stallmen, haulage hands, daymen, etc., and surface workers, etc.—Doncaster (one colliery).	1,641	73	17 May	5 June	For reinstatement of an employee who had been dismissed for alleged serious misconduct, and whose appeal had been rejected by a Local Appeal Board.	Work resumed.
Colliery workpeople—Swansea and Amman Valleys.	5,000	..	12 June¶	26 June¶	In sympathy with a number of hauliers who had been convicted and subsequently imprisoned on a charge of impeding production.	Work resumed; a deputation of workpeople appointed to approach the Home Secretary with a view to obtaining remission of sentences.
Putters and other colliery workpeople—Co. Durham (one colliery).	86	937	15 June	15 June	Workpeople's objection to the transfer of a putter to dotal work as a disciplinary measure, and other grievances.	Work resumed unconditionally.
ENGINEERING :—						
Engineering operatives—Lanarkshire (one firm).	534	..	3 June	5 June	Workpeople's dissatisfaction following introduction of piece-work rates which had been agreed by their trade union representatives.	Work resumed at time rates in operation prior to stoppage, pending revision of piece-work rates.
Engineering operatives—Merthyr Tydfil (one firm).	2,129	..	7 June	10 June	In support of a demand by inspection staff for an increase in wages.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
SHIPBUILDING :—						
Platers and other shipbuilding operatives—Glasgow (one firm).	197	299	3 June	4 June**	Against the employment of shipwrights on work claimed by platers.	Work resumed on terms in operation prior to stoppage.
BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING :—						
Joiners, bricklayers and labourers—Ayrshire (two firms).	502	24	2 June	3 June	Dissatisfaction with delay in the provision of transport on days when work was stopped by wet weather; and claim for payment for time spent in waiting for special train.	Arrangements made for transport by bus instead of train in future similar cases; claim for payment in respect of waiting time not conceded.
TRANSPORT :—						
Omibus drivers and conductors—various districts in Lanarkshire (three firms).	1,050	..	12 and 19 June	12 and 19 June	Dissatisfaction with wages and with alleged delay in the consideration of a claim for an increase, and for improved working conditions.	Work resumed unconditionally.

* 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.

† The figures given for the month under review are provisional and subject to revision; those for earlier months have been revised where necessary in accordance with the most recent information.

‡ Some workpeople, chiefly in the coal mining industry, were involved in more than one stoppage, and are counted more than once in the totals. The net number of individuals involved in coal mining stoppages was approximately 68,000 in 1943, and 137,000 in 1942. For all industries combined the net totals were approximately 177,000 in 1943, and 199,000 in 1942.

§ 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.

|| Work was resumed at Fleetwood on 15th June.

¶ The stoppages occurred on different dates and lasted for varying periods between 12th and 26th June.

** While the dispute ended on Friday, 4th June, work was not resumed until Monday, 7th June.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen,* whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in June† was 203 as compared with 203‡ in the previous month and with 247‡ in June, 1942. Details for separate industries are given below:—

MINES AND QUARRIES.		Factories—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts:		Paper, Printing, etc.	2
Underground	67	Rubber Trades	1
Surface	3	Gas Works	4
Metalliferous Mines .. ..	..	Electrical Stations	1
Quarries	6	Other Industries .. ..	..
TOTAL,		WORKS AND PLACES UNDER	
MINES AND QUARRIES	76	SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES	
		ACT, 1937.	
Factories.		Docks, Wharves, Quays	
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pot-		and Ships	4
tery and Glass	3	Building Operations ..	12
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	6	Works of Engineering	
Metal Extracting and		Construction	2
Refining	4	Warehouses	2
Metal Conversion and		TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT	117
Founding (including			
Rolling Mills and Tube			
Making)	15		
Engineering, Locomotive		RAILWAY SERVICE.	
Building, Boilermaking,		Brakesmen, Goods Guards ..	
etc.	13	Engine Drivers, Motor-	
Railway and Tramway		men .. ..	..
Carriages, Motor and		Firemen	1
other Vehicles and Air-		Guards (Passenger) .. ..	..
craft Manufacture ..	5	Labourers	1
Shipbuilding	31	Mechanics .. ..	..
Other Metal Trades ..	1	Permanent Way Men ..	5
Cotton	1	Porters	2
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy ..	..	Shunters .. ..	..
Other Textile Manu-		Other Grades	1
facture	2	Contractors' Servants ..	..
Textile Printing, Bleach-		TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	10
ing and Dyeing .. ..	..	
Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	..	Total (excluding Seamen)	203
Food and Drink	4		
General Woodwork and			
Furniture	4		

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

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

I. Cases.		I. Cases—continued.	
LEAD POISONING.		EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	
Among Operatives		(SKIN CANCER).	
engaged in:		Pitch	8
Smelting of Metals ..	3	Tar	7
Plumbing and Soldering ..	..	Paraffin .. ..	..
Shipbreaking .. ..	..	Oil	1
Printing .. ..	..	TOTAL	16
Other Contact with			
Molten Lead	1	CHROME ULCERATION.	
White and Red Lead		Manufacture of Bichro-	
Works .. ..	..	mates .. ..	..
Pottery .. ..	..	Dyeing and Finishing ..	..
Vitreous Enamelling ..	..	Chrome Tanning .. ..	..
Electric Accumulator		Chromium Plating	3
Works .. ..	..	Other Industries	67
Paint and Colour Works ..	..	TOTAL	70
Coach and Car Painting ..	..	Total, Cases	95
Shipbuilding .. ..	..	
Paint used in Other		II. Deaths.	
Industries .. ..	..	LEAD POISONING.	
Other Industries .. ..	..	Smelting of Metals ..	1
Painting of Buildings ..	..	
TOTAL	4		
OTHER POISONING.			
Manganese	1		
Aniline	2		
Toxic Jaundice	2		
TOTAL	5		

* 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 3rd July, 1943, in comparison with the 4 weeks ended 29th May, 1943, and the 4 weeks ended 27th June, 1942.

‡ 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.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows, approximately, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund* in Great Britain for the periods stated:—

	Thirteen weeks ended		
	26th June, 1943	27th March, 1943	27th June, 1942
	£	£	£
(1) GENERAL ACCOUNT.			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers	6,098,000	6,223,000	6,433,000
Employed persons	6,098,000	6,222,000	6,432,000
Exchequer	6,092,000	6,227,000	6,430,000
Miscellaneous Receipts ..	365,000	1,613,000	83,000
Total Income	18,653,000	20,285,000	19,378,000
Benefit	685,000	727,000	882,000
Cost of Administration ..	641,000	422,000	633,000
Miscellaneous Payments ..	70,000	72,000	77,000
Total Expenditure ..	1,396,000	1,221,000	1,592,000
(2) AGRICULTURAL ACCOUNT.			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers	97,000	134,000	49,000
Employed persons	96,000	133,000	48,000
Exchequer	96,000	134,000	48,000
Miscellaneous Receipts ..	17,000	67,000	7,000
Total Income	306,000	468,000	152,000
Benefit	11,000	64,000	19,000
Cost of Administration ..	35,000	51,000	19,000
Miscellaneous Payments ..	—	1,000	—
Total Expenditure ..	46,000	116,000	38,000

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

For the period of thirteen weeks ended 26th June, 1943, expenditure on unemployment allowances (excluding the cost of administration) amounted to approximately £478,000, compared with £526,000 during the thirteen weeks ended 27th March, 1943, and £545,000 during the thirteen weeks ended 27th June, 1942.

Comparison of the figures for the June quarter of 1943 with those for the corresponding quarter of 1942 is affected by the increases, as from 17th August, 1942, in the rates of unemployment allowances, provided for by the Unemployment Assistance (Determination of Need and Assessment of Needs) (Amendment) Regulations, 1942, particulars of which were given on page 146 of the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1942.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

It is estimated by the United States Department of Labour that in March, 1943, the number of civilian employees in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service was 38,232,000; this was 0.4 per cent. higher than the figure for February, 1943, 8.0 per cent. higher than that for March, 1942, and 28.5 per cent. higher than the average for the year 1939. The estimated number of wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries in March, 1943, showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. over the figure for February, 1943, 15.9 per cent. over that for March, 1942, and 67.2 per cent. over the average for the year 1939.

According to estimates made by the United States Bureau of the Census, the total number of unemployed persons in the United States of America in March, 1943, was approximately 1,000,000, compared with 1,400,000 in February, 1943, and with 3,600,000 in March, 1942. These figures include persons employed on public emergency work projects.

CANADA.

According to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from over 13,500 employers, the total number of workpeople in employment at 1st March, in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, was 0.1 per cent. higher than at 1st February, 1943, 9.9 per cent. higher than at 1st March, 1942, and 81.5 per cent. above the average number for the year 1926.

Returns rendered by trade unions with a total membership of over 403,000 showed that the percentage rate of unemployment among their members at the beginning of March, 1943, was 1.5, the same as at the beginning of February; the corresponding figure for the beginning of March, 1942, was 4.0.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Returns received by the Office of Census and Statistics indicate that in February, 1943, the number of workpeople employed in manufacturing establishments generally and in mining and transport was 1.3 per cent. higher than in January but 6.2 per cent. lower than in February, 1942.

ÉIRE.

The number of persons on the live registers of Employment Exchanges at 26th June was 49,901, compared with 70,686

* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 33 of Session 1942-43 for the period ended 31st March, 1942).

at 29th May. The decrease between the two dates was due to a large extent to the entry into force in June, 1943, of a further Order under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1933, the effect of which is to apply to other classes of persons living in rural areas the restrictions on the receipt of unemployment assistance already imposed in March, 1943, on a specified class of such persons. At 27th June, 1942, when the grant of assistance was similarly restricted, the number on the live registers was 56,644.

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.

CANADA.

At 1st April, 1943, the official cost-of-living index figure showed a rise of 0.3 per cent. over the figure for the previous month and of 16.7 per cent. over that for 1st September, 1939. For food alone the index figure at 1st April was 0.8 per cent. higher than the figure for the previous month and 29.5 per cent. above that for 1st September, 1939.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

In April, 1943, the revised* official cost-of-living index figure (unadjusted for seasonal movements) showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. over the revised figure for the previous month and of 18.7 per cent. over the figure for August, 1939. For food alone the index figure for April was 0.3 per cent. above that for March, 1943, and 23.5 per cent. higher than that for August, 1939.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

In March, 1943, the official cost-of-living index figure showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. over the figure for the previous month and of 23.5 per cent. over that for August, 1939. For food alone the corresponding percentage increases were 0.2 and 31.9, respectively.

ÉIRE.

In mid-May, 1943, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.7 per cent. higher than the figure for mid-February and 59.0 per cent. above that for mid-August, 1939. For food alone the index figure for mid-May, 1943, was 2.5 per cent. lower than that for mid-February, but 50.0 per cent. higher than that for mid-August, 1939.

ICELAND.

At 1st May, 1943, the official index figure of the cost-of-living in Reykjavik was 4.6 per cent. below the figure for the previous month, but 146.5 per cent. above that for 1st September, 1939. For food alone the index figure at 1st May showed a decline of 8.6 per cent. below the figure for 1st April, 1943, but a rise of 214.9 per cent. above that for 1st September, 1939.

PORTUGAL.

In January, 1943, the official weighted index figure of the cost of food, fuel and light and certain other household articles in Lisbon was 1.2 per cent. higher than the figure for December, 1942, and 49.3 per cent. above that for August, 1939. The figure for 15th January, 1943, in the separate official series of (unweighted) index figures relating to the whole of Portugal showed increases of 1.0 and 59.6 per cent., respectively, over those for December, 1942, and August, 1939.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.†

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

COAL DUST EXPLOSIONS.—*Special Report by the Safety in Mines Research Board.* Cmd. 6450. Ministry of Fuel and Power. (Price 3d.).—See summary on page 96 of this GAZETTE.

EDUCATION.—*Educational Reconstruction.* Board of Education. Cmd. 6458. (Price 6d.).

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE COLONIES.—(i) *Labour Supervision in the Colonial Empire, 1937–1943.* (Colonial No. 185.) May, 1943. (Price 6d.). (ii) *Labour Conditions in Ceylon, Mauritius, and Malaya.* Report by Major G. St. J. Orde. Browne, C.M.G., O.B.E. Cmd. 6423. (Price 2s.).—See article on page 99 of this GAZETTE.

PENSIONS.—*Changes in War Pensions.* Ministry of Pensions. Cmd. 6459. (Price 2d.).

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.—*Ninth Report: Replies from Departments to Recommendations in Reports.* H.C.96. (Session 1942–1943). (Price 6d.).—See article on page 97 of this GAZETTE.

* Revised in accordance with the final results, now available, of a budget enquiry made in April, May and June, 1941. Two series of index figures, with and without adjustment for seasonal movements, are now published by the Department of Statistics; Southern Rhodesia.

† See footnote * on page 108

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the leave of the Chairman of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself. The claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

Synopses of two recent decisions of general interest are given below.

Case No. 109/43 (1st June, 1943)

SECTION 3(1), 4(1), 28(1) OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1935; CLAIMANT WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE REFUSED TO ACCEPT AN OFFER OF TRAINING; HELD THAT THE TRAINING OFFERED WAS A SITUATION WHICH WAS VACANT IN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT AND THAT CLAIMANT HAD NOT GOOD CAUSE FOR REFUSING IT.

The claimant, aged 39, previously employed as a labourer, made application for admission to a Government Training Centre for a course of training as a welder. There were no vacancies for welder trainees, but claimant was offered training as a fitter. This he refused to accept. His claim to benefit was accordingly disallowed by the Insurance Officer and, on appeal, by the Court of Referees for a period of six weeks under the provisions of Section 28(1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, for having failed or refused to apply for a situation notified to him, and suitable in his case. The claimant appealed to the Umpire for a reversal of the decision.

The Umpire held that as the Minister, under the powers conferred on him by Section 4(1) of the Act, had decided (in 1941) that trainees over 19 years of age and in receipt of wages while undergoing training at a Government Training Centre are employed in insurable employment as defined in Section 3(1) and Part 1 of the First Schedule of the Act, the foundation of decision 6342/29† no longer exists and the offer of training was an offer of employment under Section 28(1). The claimant was over 19 years of age and he would have been in receipt of wages while training as a fitter. Had the claimant accepted training as a fitter, he would have raised his status from that of a labourer to that of a fitter. He, therefore, had not shown good cause for refusing to accept it and his appeal was not allowed.

Case No. 124/1943 (29th June, 1943)

SECTIONS 23, 24(1), 27, 30 and 35(4) OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1935; CLAIMANT VOLUNTARILY LEFT EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT NOTIFYING EMPLOYER AND RECEIVED NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT: HELD THAT CLAIMANT SHOWED JUST CAUSE FOR LEAVING EMPLOYMENT: UMPIRE UNABLE TO DETERMINE DEGREE AND PERIOD OF INCAPABILITY OWING TO ABSENCE OF MATERIAL EVIDENCE.

The issue before the Court of Referees was whether the claimant, a labourer, had left his employment on 6th January, 1943, voluntarily without just cause. He produced to the Court a medical certificate purporting to show that he was sick from 6th January to 8th February, but the certificate was not retained with the case papers and was not available in connection with the subsequent appeal to the Umpire.

The Umpire drew attention to the unsatisfactory position in which he was placed by reason of the absence of the original medical evidence and stated that the omission to retain and place with the case papers documentary evidence produced at the hearing before a Court of Referees, might result in serious prejudice to the claimant in the event of a subsequent appeal.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During June, 1943, proposals to vary minimum rates of wages for all classes of male and female workers in the trades concerned were issued as shown below.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Scotland).—Proposal A.S. (19), dated 1st June, 1943.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal I. (37), dated 16th June, 1943.

Laundry Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal W. (43), dated 29th June, 1943.

The following further proposal was issued:—

Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal Q. 55, dated 18th June, 1943, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male workers.

Further information concerning any of the proposals listed above may be obtained by persons engaged in the respective trades from the Secretary of the Board concerned at Sunnyside Mansions Hotel, Knowsley Road, Southport, Lancashire.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

During June, 1943, Orders‡ confirming variations of minimum rates of wages for all classes of male and female workers in the trades concerned were made as follows:—

Milk Distributive Trade Board (Scotland).—Order M.D.S. (37), dated 24th June, 1943; effective from 7th July, 1943.

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

† Unemployment Insurance Code 8B, Vol. viii, page 243.

‡ See footnote * on page 108.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Scotland).—Order A.S (20), dated 29th June, 1943; effective from 9th July, 1943.

Pin, Hook and Eye and Snap Fastener Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order O. (28) dated 29th June, 1943; effective from 7th July, 1943.

Other Confirming Orders were made as follows:—

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.H.G. (78), dated 9th June, 1943, confirmed the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and the general overtime rates for male and female workers and the general minimum piece-rates for female workers; effective as from 14th June, 1943.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.W.D. (39), dated 19th June, 1943, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and general overtime rates for female workers employed in the Retail Bespoke Dressmaking Branch of the trade; effective from 28th June, 1943.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During June, 1943, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued twenty-three awards,* Nos. 362 to 384. Five of these awards are summarised below: the other awards related to cases affecting individual employers.

Award No. 364 (10th June).—*Parties:* Members of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, Scottish Section, and certain workers in their employ, being members of the Trade Unions affiliated to the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives incorporating the Operative parties to the Scottish National Joint Council for the Building Industry. *Claim:* For a particular interpretation of clauses in the Building and Civil Engineering Industries Uniformity Agreement, 1940, in their relation to working hours and overtime payments. *Award:* The findings of the Tribunal were as follows: Rule 3 of the Working Rules of the Building and Civil Engineering Industries Uniformity Agreement supersedes the provisions relating to working hours and overtime payments contained in Rules 1 and 4 of the Working Rules Agreement of the Scottish National Joint Council for the Building Industry and Rules VI and VII of the Working Rule Agreement of the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board for Great Britain, in so far that (a) the normal working hours are, during the operation of summertime, as defined by the Government, 8½ hours on each of the first five days of the week and 4½ hours on Saturdays, and, during the remainder of the year, 7½ hours on each of the first five days of the week and 4½ hours on Saturdays; and (b) the overtime rates are as specified in such Rule 3. Subject, however, to these overriding terms of the Uniformity Agreement, the other two Agreements mentioned remain untouched.

Accordingly, such adjustment as is necessitated by the terms of Working Rule 3 of the Uniformity Agreement must be made in the working conditions provided by the other two agreements mentioned, and in particular in the specification of the times as between which the 8½ or the 7½ hours, as the case may be, are to be worked on each of the first five days of the week and the 4½ hours are to be worked on Saturdays. The manner in which such adjustment is to be made is not provided for by the Uniformity Agreement and is a matter for settlement between the parties. The Tribunal awarded in accordance with these findings.

Award No. 372 (16th June).—*Parties:* Six firms (as specified in the First Schedule to the Award) and members of trade unions affiliated to the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives employed by them. *Claim:* For the observance by the firms of the terms and conditions of the Holidays-with-Pay Scheme recently agreed to and adopted by the Building and Civil Engineering Industries. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that the firms concerned, which were already operating various systems for providing holidays with pay, should observe the terms and conditions of the Holidays-with-Pay Scheme recently agreed to and adopted by the Building and Civil Engineering Industries as administered by the Management Company in accordance with clause 16 of the Scheme. The award has effect as from 5th July, 1943.

Award No. 375 (21st June).—*Parties:* Members of the British Federation of Master Printers and Members of the Newspaper Society and members of the constituent Unions of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation employed by them. *Claim:* For an increase in wages. *Award:* The Tribunal found against the claim in respect of men and women on men's work and awarded accordingly. They awarded an advance of 4s. per week in the minimum rates for other women. They made no award for the moment in respect of juveniles but stated that should the negotiations pending between the parties relating to apprentices not result in an agreement covering the rates of remuneration of juveniles, it would be open to either party to bring the question of the rates for juveniles again before

the Tribunal under the original reference. For the purpose of this Award, the expression "juveniles" has the meaning given to it by Award No. 1 as set out in paragraph 5 thereof. The award has effect as from the beginning of the first full pay period following 21st June, 1943.

Award No. 376 (21st June).—*Parties:* Members of the London Newspapers Provincial Association Ltd. and members of the constituent Unions of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation employed by them. *Claim:* For an increase in wages. *Award:* The Tribunal found against the claim.

Award No. 380 (25th June).—*Parties:* Members of the Hawick Hosiery Manufacturers' Association and members of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, Scottish District, employed by them. *Claim:* For increases in the flat-rate bonus at present payable. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that the flat-rate bonus provided by an agreement of 11th November, 1921, between the Hawick Hosiery Manufacturers' Association and the Hawick Hosiery Union (now absorbed in the National Union of General and Municipal Workers) should be increased as respects each cost-of-living period specified in the agreement by 2s. 6d. per week in the case of men, and 2s. per week in the case of women, with corresponding increases, to be settled between the parties, in the case of apprentices. The award has effect as from 31st March, 1943.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) have issued twelve awards, Nos. 208-219. Four of these awards are summarised below; the other eight awards related to cases affecting individual employers.

Award No. 208 (27th May).—*Parties:* The Belfast Members of the London Employers' Association and certain of their employees. *Claim:* For certain specified minimum wage rates and conditions of employment. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that with effect as from 5th April, 1943, the Belfast Members of the London Employers' Association shall observe during the unexpired period of the present emergency the decisions of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Trades applicable to London in so far as minimum rates of wages and conditions of employment are concerned. In a schedule to the award the appropriate minimum weekly rates of wages are set out as follows:—*Branch Managers and Manageresses:* If total number of employees (including Manager or Manageress) in Branch is (a) less than three—Manager, 82s., Manageress, 70s.; (b) three or more—Manager, 90s., Manageress, 78s. *Sales Staff, Cashiers and Clerks:* ranging, according to age, from 25s. at 16 to 72s. at 25, in the case of males and from 22s. at 16 to 48s. at 24 in the case of females. *Other Male Employees* (excluding craftsmen, productive staff and transport workers): ranging, according to age, from 24s. at 16 to 67s. at 24.

Award No. 209 (28th May).—*Parties:* The members of the Belfast Master Bakers' Association and certain of their employees. *Claim:* For the payment of a war bonus of 1 per cent. commission on all cash collected by breadservers. *Award:* The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established and they awarded accordingly.

Award No. 214 (2nd June).—*Parties:* The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland and certain of their employees employed at the Belfast abattoir. *Claim:* That the existing rate of wages on the basis of a 47 hour week shall be increased by 10s. per week. *Award:* (i) An increase of 2s. per week on the existing rate of wages of 70s. 6d. per week (exclusive of "dirty money"); (ii) that the porters employed by the Ministry of Agriculture at the Belfast abattoir shall be entitled to receive any increases in the rate of wages granted to porters in the employment of the Belfast Corporation at the Belfast abattoir in accordance with the terms of Award No. 53 made by the Arbitration Tribunal on 11th July, 1941.*

Award No. 215 (3rd June).—*Parties:* The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland and certain of their employees. *Claim:* For one week's annual holiday on full pay within the period May to September, 1943, for slaughtermen employed in the abattoirs of Belfast, Newry, Bangor, Newtownards, Downpatrick, Banbridge, Lurgan, Larne, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Londonderry. *Award:* That the slaughtermen employed in the several abattoirs specified above shall be entitled to one week's annual holiday with pay calculated in each case on the worker's average weekly earnings over the period of six months ending on the pay day immediately prior to the 1st May in the year to which the holiday period relates.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT 1919 AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During June the Industrial Court issued four awards, Nos. 1910-1913. Three of these awards are summarised below; the remaining award related to a single undertaking.

Award No. 1910 (2nd June).—*Parties:* National Union of Operative Heating and Domestic Engineers and General Metal Workers and the Plumbers, Glaziers and Domestic Engineers

* See footnote * on page 108.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1941, page 169.

Union, on the one hand, and Association of Heating, Ventilating and Domestic Engineering Employers and National Federation of Plumbers and Domestic Engineers (Employers), on the other hand. *Claim*: For 1d. an hour increase for heating engineers, plumbers employed on heating work and mates. *Award*: The Court awarded an increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour with effect as from the beginning of the first pay period following 1st May, 1943.

Award No. 1911 (28th June).—*Parties*: Transport and General Workers' Union and National Union of General and Municipal Workers; and Pitwood Association of Scotland. *Claim*: An application made by the pitwood members of the Unions employed at the pitwood yards at Bo'ness, Grangemouth and South Alloa for an increase of 3d. per hour. *Award*: The Court awarded an increase of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. an hour to men and women and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour to youths, boys and girls.

Award No. 1912 (28th June).—*Parties*: Pitwood Association of Scotland; and Transport and General Workers' Union and National Union of General and Municipal Workers. *Claim*: Claim by the Pitwood Association that the stopping time of their employees at Bo'ness, Grangemouth and South Alloa should be extended to 5.30 p.m. from 15th November to 31st January and that normal wage rates should apply up to that hour during that period. *Award*: The Court awarded in favour of the claim.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During June, 1943, three awards were issued by single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. One of these awards is summarised below; the other two awards related only to individual undertakings.

Parties: The British Funeral Workers' Association and the National Association of Funeral Directors. *Claim*: For an increase in the cost of living bonus, an increase in overtime rates and additional payments to chauffeurs acting as bearers. *Award*: The Arbitrator awarded an increase in the cost of living bonus, a higher rate of pay for overtime and an additional payment to chauffeurs employed as bearers.

CIVIL SERVICE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

During June, 1943, the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal issued two awards,* Nos. 74 and 75, relating respectively to a claim for an increase in basic pay to unestablished messengers employed in Government Department Offices and to a claim for an increase in the overtime rate for work performed on "off" days for principal officers and officers, male and female, employed by the Prison Commission.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS

Since the last issue of this GAZETTE was prepared the under-mentioned Orders relating to matters with which the Ministry of Labour and National Service is concerned, either directly or indirectly, have been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders*. The price of each Order,* unless otherwise indicated, is 1d. net (2d. post free).

The Undertakings (Records and Information and Inspection of Premises) Order, 1943 dated June 18, 1943, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service, under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 870).—See summary on page 98.

The Coal Mining Industry (Pneumoconiosis) Compensation Scheme, 1943, dated June 22, 1943. (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 885. 2d. net (3d. post free)).—See summary on page 96.

The Pneumoconiosis (Benefit) Scheme, 1943, dated June 22, 1943. (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 886. 2d. net (3d. post free)).—See summary on page 96.

The Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Amendment Scheme, 1943, dated June 22, 1943. (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 887).—This Order, made by the Home Secretary, provides, *inter alia*, that the Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Scheme 1931 (as amended), shall be extended and shall apply to the making of medical examinations and reports and giving the medical certificates, required to be made or given by the Medical Board in pursuance of any Compensation Scheme made under Section 47 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, as extended by Section 1 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943.

The Pneumoconiosis (Medical Fees) Regulations, 1943, dated June 22, 1943. (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 888).—These Regulations, made by the Home Secretary, determine the fees to be paid in respect of examinations and reports made and certificates given by the Medical Board in pursuance of the Coal Mining Industry (Pneumoconiosis) Compensation Scheme and the Pneumoconiosis (Benefit) Scheme (see S.R. & O. 1943, Nos. 885 and 886 above).

The Unemployment Insurance (Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1943. (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 900).—These Regulations, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 21st June, 1943, effect certain amendments of the existing regulations governing the payment of unemployment insurance contributions in respect of seamen and the arrangements for the stamping of unemployment books at intervals (deferred stamping arrangements). The amendment relating to seamen is designed to enable the Minister to require the contributions in respect of seamen employed on foreign-going ships on voyages commencing after 5th July, 1943, to be paid in cash instead of by the stamping of unemployment cards. As regards the payment of contributions under deferred stamping arrangements, the maximum duration of the period of deferment is extended from 27 to 53 weeks.

* Copies of official publications (including Orders, Regulations, etc.) referred to in this GAZETTE may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses below.

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