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SPECIAL ARTICLES, REVIEWS, ETC.

REGISTRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT.

WOMEN FORMERLY EMPLOYED AS COTTON OPERATIVES.

There is an urgent need for increasing the output of cotton goods for war purposes and for essential civilian services, and for this purpose more experienced women cotton workers are required. Accordingly, a special registration of such workers is to be effected under the Registration for Employment Order, 1941, during the period from 20th September to 2nd October, 1943 (inclusive).

Subject to the exceptions specified below, the women required to register are those who (1) were born (a) between 1st September, 1888, and 31st December, 1895, inclusive, (b) between 1st January, 1897, and 31st December, 1924, inclusive, and (c) between 1st July, 1925 and 20th September, 1925, inclusive; and (2) have been employed at any time since 1st January, 1935, for an aggregate period of six months or more in any capacity in a cotton, rayon or nylon spinning, doubling (twisting), winding or weaving establishment, including warehouse and packing departments of those establishments. Women are required to register even though they may have already registered under the Registration for Employment Order, 1941, or the Nurses and Midwives (Registration for Employment) Order 1943.* The following classes of women are not required to register :—(i) women belonging to the classes who are specifically exempted by the Order from the liability to register; (ii) women who on 20th September, 1943, were employed in establishments specified in (2) above; (iii) women whose previous experience in the establishments specified in (2) above was (a) office work, (b) canteen work, or (c) experience only on the extrusion of continuous filament yarns (rayon and nylon).

Women liable for registration are required to register either during the period 20th September to 2nd October, 1943, in accordance with arrangements made by the Ministry of Labour and National Service at the establishment in which they are employed, or on 25th September or 2nd October, 1943, at Local Offices of the Ministry.

WOMEN BORN IN 1896.

A further registration of women under the Registration for Employment Order, 1941, took place on 11th September, 1943. Subject to certain exemptions specified in the Order, the women required to register were those, whether married or single, with or without children, who were born in the year 1896.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN (CONTROL OF ENGAGEMENT) ORDER.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has made an Order* bringing all nurses and midwives (other than members of the Civil Nursing Reserve) of ages 18 to 40, both years inclusive, within the scope of the Employment of Women (Control of Engagement) Order, 1943.† This means that in future nurses and midwives, like other women in these age groups, must obtain their employment through a local office of the Ministry of Labour (usually the Appointments Office). Similarly, employers will not be able to engage a nurse or midwife except through an Appointments Office, unless they possess an exemption certificate exempting them from the provisions of the Order in respect of a vacancy or vacancies. These exemption certificates will be issued freely to hospitals and similar institutions in respect of appointments to grades equivalent to that of a Ward Sister or above, and in respect of supervisory grades in domiciliary nursing and midwifery services and in the public health services; but it will be stipulated as a condition of the issue of the certificates that the approval of the Ministry of Labour and National Service shall be obtained before the appointment is finally made. Exemption certificates will be issued without this restriction in respect of vacancies for student nurses and pupil midwives.

Private nurses already in practice who go from case to case will be enabled to continue in their work by virtue of a permit to find their own employment, which will be granted on application to the Appointments Office, provided that the nurse can prove that she is fully occupied on private work. Permits to take private cases will not, however, normally be issued to nurses under 30 years of age.

On the advice of the National Advisory Council for the Recruitment and Distribution of Nurses and Midwives, the Minister has decided so to operate the Order that newly qualified midwives will be required to practice in the profession for a year. As a temporary measure, because of the acute shortage of midwives at the present time, no midwife will be allowed to take employment other than in midwifery, until February, 1944. The position will then be reviewed.

The new Order came into force on 20th September, 1943.

* The Employment of Women (Control of Engagement) (Amendment) Order, 1943. S.R. & O. 1943, No. 1278. H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net.
† See the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1943, page 20.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1943, page 49.

NATIONAL SERVICE ACTS, 1939-1942.

ALLOCATION OF MAN-POWER TO SERVICES REQUIRING RECRUITS.

During the next few months it will be necessary to make certain adjustments between the intakes of men for the three Services, in order to strike the necessary balance between their requirements. The greatest need for recruits will be in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and men are also needed in the air crew branches of the Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm. Men already registered for military service and available to be called up to the Army will in most cases be called up instead to the Royal Navy or Royal Marines, and those who express a preference for the Royal Navy or the Royal Marines or for air crew duties in the Royal Air Force or Fleet Air Arm will be considered for such service. Men covered by the registration on 18th September (*see below*) who are not members of the Air Training Corps will not be accepted for ground service in the Royal Air Force and, with the exception of a few specialist categories, they will not be considered for the Army. Those who do not express an option for air crew duties or underground coalmining (*see below*) will, in general, be considered for the Royal Navy or Royal Marines.

With the exception of men who wish to make the Army their career, no man will be accepted by the Army as a volunteer if he is already registered under the National Service Acts.

CALLING UP OF MEN IN MUNITIONS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

In view of the urgent need for men in the Forces, the Government have decided that deferments granted for men, in certain occupations, who were born in or after 1915, 1910 or 1905, as the case may be, must be brought to an end. It is appreciated that this may cause some difficulty, but the Government are confident that at this stage of the war employers will do their utmost to ensure that the men required are set free for the Forces. Before any of them are called up, however, their employers will be given an opportunity of indicating for which men they need substitutes. Where it is agreed by the District Man Power Board that a substitute is needed, the man concerned will not be called up until a substitute has been supplied.

It is particularly desired that employers should not enter into correspondence at this stage regarding individuals affected by this decision. Employers will be communicated with before calling up action is taken.

UNDERGROUND MINING AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO MILITARY SERVICE.

There is also an urgent need for men for underground work in coalmining, in order to prevent a deficiency in the supplies of coal. Men available to be called up have hitherto been given an opportunity of choosing underground work in mines instead of service in the Forces, provided they did not possess special skill which could be adequately used only in the Forces and provided also that they were not more than 25 years of age at registration. This age limit has now been abolished and men of all ages who are available to be called up will be given an opportunity of choosing underground service in coalmining, unless they are in certain skilled categories.

FURTHER REGISTRATION OF YOUNG MEN.

A further registration of young men under the National Service Acts, 1939-1942, took place on 18th September, 1943. The young men concerned were those liable to be registered under the Acts who were born between 1st October, 1925, and 31st December, 1925 (both dates inclusive). Subject to medical fitness and to the arrangements indicated above, they will be called up as vacancies arise after they attain their eighteenth birthday.

MERCHANT NAVY: REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT.

FACILITIES FOR TREATMENT AND TRAINING OF SICK AND DISABLED SEAFARERS.

For officers and men of the merchant navy facilities are available whereby they may receive treatment for sickness or injury and may also be given training with a view to their resettlement in some new occupation, if they are unable to return to sea. These facilities apply not only to British subjects, including those from the Dominions and Colonies, but also to allied nationals, whether they have been serving in the British merchant navy or in allied merchant navies.

In cases of sickness or injury arising out of service in the merchant navy treatment may be obtained free of charge under the Emergency Hospital Scheme. This Scheme includes most of the main General Hospitals in this country together with a number of new or adapted war hospitals, and it provides a co-ordinated hospital service on a nation-wide basis, with specialised treatment centres of varying kinds, *e.g.*, centres for orthopaedic and fracture cases, and so on. Treatment facilities are also available for sickness or injury occurring whilst the seafarer is ashore; and another feature of the general arrangements is the provision of artificial limbs to persons who have suffered amputation.

In some cases a seafarer's disablement may be such as to make it impossible for him to return to sea, but in the great majority of such cases a seafarer can be trained for some land occupation

in which his disability will not be a handicap. In order to assist men to get such employment and to provide them with the training they need for the purpose, a scheme has been set up, covering not only disablements arising from war service or other war causes but disablements of all kinds, including those due to disease as well as to injury. The scheme has the full support of the organisations of shipowners and seafarers and is worked through the Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, in close co-operation with the Mercantile Marine Offices. Under this scheme men suffering from disablement are interviewed in hospital by a representative of the Local Office and where they need it they are given advice and help to find other employment. Training for the new employment is given either under the general scheme operated by the Ministry of Labour and National Service with the object of increasing the supply of workers for work on munitions, etc., or, if the disabled person cannot take the ordinary courses under this scheme, he may be given special training.

It is desired to bring the foregoing facilities to the notice of all officers and men of the merchant navy, and for this purpose the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the Ministry of War Transport, in consultation with the Health Departments and the organisations of shipowners and seafarers, have prepared a leaflet, P.L.127/1943, giving fuller details of the arrangements. Copies of the leaflet and any further information about the schemes can be obtained from local representatives of the Shipping Federation, the National Union of Seamen and the Officers' Societies, or through the Seamen's Welfare Officers or at any Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service or at Mercantile Marine Offices of the Ministry of War Transport.

LABOUR IN THE AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY.

AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION: REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

A recently published Report* of the Select Committee on National Expenditure, setting out the results of an investigation into aircraft production, includes some observations and recommendations by the Committee relating to the supply of labour and the wages of workpeople in that industry.

Concerning the supply of labour, the Committee state that, although the Ministry of Aircraft Production is making large demands for additional labour, there is little evidence of actual shortage; but as the production programme mounts and in view of the possibility of further demands from the Forces, there can be no doubt that it will become increasingly difficult to obtain sufficient labour. As regards the supply of scientific and technical personnel, however, the Committee say that there are not enough adequately qualified men available to maintain the industry on the proper level of efficiency, and the appropriate Departments should therefore investigate the facilities available for training research workers, aeronautical engineers and other technicians in order to determine what action is necessary to meet requirements. A similar shortage of adequately qualified staffs exists in all grades of management. The enormous expansion of the industry has entailed the up-grading of large numbers of men with relatively little experience, and in the case of foremen there is frequently reluctance to accept promotion. This situation, the Committee consider, should be met by the provision of courses for the training of foremen for higher grades, and more use should be made of the courses in foremanship already provided by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

One of the most disturbing features in regard to the supply of labour to the aircraft industry is, the Committee state, the high rate of labour wastage, resulting in a serious loss of output. On the basis of the average weekly rate of loss in the main airframe and aero-engine factories in the seven weeks ended 14th May, 1943, they estimate that in the course of a year the aircraft industry would lose (and have to replace) a number equal to about one-third of the total employed. The Committee consider that the rate of wastage disclosed is greater than it should be and that action should be taken by the Ministries of Labour and Aircraft Production to reduce it. In this connection the Committee emphasise the need, indicated in their Third Report,† for better personnel management to reduce wastage.

On the subject of earnings in the aircraft industry, as to which much public comment has been made, the Committee state that excessive earnings have been found to be almost entirely confined to a few firms, mainly in one area, and to certain kinds of occupation within those firms. Though, however, the excess amounts do not represent so great a sum as is commonly supposed, their effect on production, the Committee state, is serious. The earnings usually arise from piece-rates which were fixed before sufficient experience had been gained of the job to determine a fair price, and the Committee accordingly recommend that the Ministry of Labour and National Service should institute negotiations between the national representatives of the employers and workers in the aircraft industry to review excessive piece-rates and bring them into line with the rates current in the rest of the industry.

The Committee also make certain recommendations designed to secure uniformity in the treatment by Man-Power Boards of deferment cases.

* *Aircraft Production: Tenth Report from the Select Committee on National Expenditure*; Session 1942-1943. H.C. 104. H.M. Stationery Office, price 4d.
† *Health and Welfare of Women in War Factories: Third Report from the Select Committee on National Expenditure*; Session 1942-1943. H.C. 19. H.M. Stationery Office, price 4d.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The seventy-fifth Annual Trades Union Congress was held at Southport on September 6th, 1943, and the four following days. The President was Dame Anne Loughlin, D.B.E., Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the statistical statement compiled by the General Council, was 760. The number of organisations represented was 230 and the approximate membership represented was 6,024,000, including 1,219,500 women. The total membership showed an increase of about 592,000 over the total membership represented at the previous year's Congress.

The proceedings of the Congress were largely concerned with matters set out under the general heading "Trade Unions and the War" in the Report submitted to the Congress by the General Council on their activities during the past year. These and other matters dealt with in the Report formed the subject of numerous resolutions.

Among the resolutions adopted by the Congress was an emergency resolution concerning trade unions and the war situation. In this the Congress re-affirmed their resolve "to strive to make the coming peace worthy of the high aims for which the Allied Nations have declared themselves to be fighting" and requested the General Council "to give immediate attention to the possibility of convoking a world conference of organised workers, as soon as war conditions permit, with the object of considering the most pressing problems of policy and organisation affecting the interests of the working people, and thereby to promote the widest possible unity in aim and action of the international trade union movement."

On the subject of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927, the Congress unanimously adopted a resolution complimenting the General Council on the policy which had been adopted following the decisions of the 1941 and 1942 Congresses and registering the strong opposition of the Congress to the attitude of the Government in failing to agree to an amendment of the Act limited to sections 5 and 6. The resolution also urged the General Council to continue to pursue the present policy as an immediate measure. As regards the Beveridge Report, the resolution adopted by the Congress demanded that the preparation of legislation should commence immediately in order to give effect to the principles of the Report with the least possible delay. In their resolution on post-war reconstruction the Congress authorised the General Council to prepare and circulate, with the aid, if necessary, of a special levy on the affiliated unions, a general plan for the post-war reconstruction of the industries of this country. The resolution stipulated that the plan should have specific regard, *inter alia*, to the maintenance of full employment and to the place and responsibility of trade unions and the Trades Union Congress in such a plan.

A resolution was carried demanding the amendment of the Essential Work Orders in certain respects so as to introduce further safeguards for the interests of workers in scheduled undertakings, and by another resolution the Congress asked the General Council further to consider the demand of last year's Congress for legislation to provide that in any undertaking where a substantial proportion of the workers are members of a bona-fide trade union, appropriate machinery shall be set up for settling disputes by means of trade union negotiation.

There was a discussion on the subject of education, with particular reference to the recent White Paper setting out the Government's proposals.

The Congress was addressed on the second day by the Minister of Labour and National Service, who reviewed various aspects of the work of his Department and indicated the policy of the Government with regard to demobilisation and other post-war matters. The Congress was also addressed by delegates from the American Federation of Labour, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the U.S.S.R. and the International Federation of Trade Unions; and visitors from the Allied Nations and from Sweden attended.

Mr. E. Edwards, secretary of the Mineworkers' Federation and a member of the General Council of the Congress for a number of years, was elected Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming year.

ABSENTEEISM AMONG WOMEN.

An account of a limited study of absenteeism among women, carried out at the request of the Ministry of Supply at two Royal Ordnance Factories, is contained in a Report* recently issued by the Industrial Health Research Board.

The main purpose of the enquiry was to ascertain the amount and distribution of absenteeism in random samples of women workers in factories, over periods of six weeks. The enquiry was made at two factories, at which the workers covered were employed on the three-shift system, shifts being changed weekly.

The enquiry showed that very few women were in the habit of losing one or two shifts each week, but that a large majority were absent for varying lengths of time at irregular intervals. Thus, whatever the main causes of absenteeism, they were not regularly recurrent but were as varied as individual needs and desires. This suggests the need for a study of the personal causes of absenteeism, and for an individual method of treatment, as well as attention to the general conditions of work.

Married women lost more time than single women and, as a rule, their absences were spread over a greater number of weeks. They tended to have more longer and fewer shorter absences than single women. Younger women (up to 25 years of age) lost

more time than older women, this being so particularly among married women.

The results of the enquiry suggest that attempts to reduce absenteeism should be directed to single shift and to full week absences. The latter were due mainly to sickness. Absenteeism on the morning shift was higher than on the afternoon and night shifts, the excess on the morning shift being most noticeable in the case of single shift absences and less apparent for longer absences. The degree of absenteeism varied on different days of the week; it was highest on Saturday and was low on pay-day. The higher absenteeism on Saturday was particularly noticeable among married women, but the number of regular absentees was small.

WAGES OF JUVENILE WORKERS IN COAL MINING.

AWARD OF NATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

The National Tribunal set up under the conciliation scheme for the coal mining industry* met for the first time in August to determine a difference between the two sides of the Negotiating Committee relating to the question of a national minimum wage scale for juvenile workers in the coal industry. The Mining Association and the Mineworkers' Federation were in agreement that such a scale should be fixed and that it should be calculated on a weekly basis, but the question of the amounts had been referred to the Tribunal.

The award of the Tribunal, which was issued on 4th September, contains two scales of minimum rates of pay for underground and surface workers respectively, the amounts increasing for each half-year of age. For underground workers the scale ranges from 32s. at 14 years of age to 52s. at 18 years and 62s. at 20½ years. In the case of surface workers the scale is from 27s. 6d. at 14 to 44s. at 18 and 55s. at 20½ years of age. It is provided that the weekly rates are to be reduced to shift rates in accordance with the principle laid down by Lord Greene's Committee in their Report dated 18th June, 1942.†

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

NEW COUNCIL FOR HIDE AND SKIN MARKET TRADE.

A new Joint Industrial Council has been established for the Hide and Skin Market Trade in England and Wales. The Council is representative, on the employers' side, of the National Federation of Hide and Skin Markets Incorporated, and, on the employees' side, of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, the Amalgamated Society of Leatherworkers, the Journeymen Butchers' Federation, the National Union of Leatherworkers, the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, and the Transport and General Workers' Union. The object of the Council is to secure the largest possible measure of joint action between employers and employees in the trade, including the consideration of remuneration and working conditions and the settlement of differences.

CONTROL OF RETAIL PRICES.

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

The Minister of Food has recently made Orders relating to the retail prices of certain articles of food.

In the July, 1943, issue of this GAZETTE (page 98) it was stated that the maximum retail price of ordinary milk in England and Wales, outside the London area, was to be at the rate of 2s. 8d. a gallon up to 18th September, thereafter increasing to 3s. 0d. By a recent Order the date of the increase to the rate of 3s. 0d. a gallon was advanced from 19th September to 22nd August. As from 19th September the maximum retail prices of sugar to domestic consumers were increased by 1d. a lb., the maximum price of ordinary granulated sugar becoming 4d. in lieu of 3d. a lb. As regards coffee, the previous Order, made in 1941, prescribed the maximum retail price of roasted or ground coffee and coffee mixture as 1s. 8d. a lb., but permitted retailers to sell at prices up to 2s. 8d. a lb. provided that they were also able and willing to sell to any customer roasted or ground coffee or coffee mixture at prices not exceeding 1s. 8d. a lb.: for raw coffee the corresponding prices were 2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d., respectively. Under a new Order controlling the retail prices of coffee, the provisions relating to coffee other than coffee mixture are unchanged, but coffee mixture may no longer be sold at a price exceeding 2s. 4d. a lb.

Price control of green vegetables has now been extended beyond 5th September (the end of the period covered by the previous Order), and the new Order schedules maximum retail prices for some vegetables not covered by the previous Order. For carrots, amending Orders have now prescribed reduced maximum retail prices, varying according to district. Other Orders have reduced the maximum retail price of pearl barley by 1½d. a lb., increased the maximum retail prices of cured (pickled) herrings by ½d. a lb., and made certain adjustments in the maximum retail price for oat products.

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES OF SOAP.

By an amendment to the 1942 Order of the Minister of Food controlling the retail prices of various kinds of soap, the maximum retail prices of hard soap, other than those for a few speciality proprietary brands, were increased by 1d. a lb. as from 29th August.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1943, page 47.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1942, page 134.

* A Study of Absenteeism among Women. H.M. Stationery Office, price 2d. net.

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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during August resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at nearly £30,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 360,000 workpeople, and in a small decrease in those of nearly 4,000 workpeople.

The industries and services in which rates of wages were increased during August included iron and steel manufacture, iron-ore mining, tinplate manufacture, laundering, tobacco manufacture and sugar confectionery, cocoa and chocolate manufacture and food preserving.

The flat-rate additions to wages in the iron and steel industry (pig iron manufacture, iron puddling, steel melting and rolling, etc.) were increased in most districts by 1·6d. a shift for men and 1·2d. or 0·8d. a shift for youths and boys, as a result of 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 some districts and in tinplate manufacture. For laundry workers the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were raised by 1d. an hour in the case of men and women, with smaller amounts for juveniles, while the piece-work basis time rate was also increased by 1d. an hour. In tobacco manufacture the Trade Board minimum time rates were increased, under the operation of a cost-of-living sliding scale, by 9d. a week for men, and by 6d. a week for women and juveniles. In sugar confectionery, cocoa and chocolate manufacture and food

preserving, the Trade Board minimum time rates were raised by ½d. an hour for men and women and by ¼d. an hour for younger workers, and there were increases of ½d. or ¾d. an hour in piece-work basis time rates. Other groups of workpeople whose rates of wages were increased included coal miners in Warwickshire and Leicestershire, workers in the woollen and worsted industry in South Scotland, workers in the home-grown timber trade, women and girls employed in vehicle building and manual workers in the non-trading services of certain local authorities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Decreases of small amounts were reported in iron-ore mining in Cumberland and the Furness district of Lancashire.

Of the total increase of £30,000, about £22,000 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies (including about £900 under the operation of sliding scales based upon fluctuations in the official cost-of-living index number); £5,000 was due to the operation of other cost-of-living sliding scales; and nearly all the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives. The whole of the decreases reported took effect under the operation of sliding scales based upon fluctuations in 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 130.

Hours of Labour.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST.

| Industry. | District. | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in <i>Italics</i> .) |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Agriculture | Northumberland .. | 22 Aug. | Shepherds, stewards, horsemen, tractor drivers and cattlemen or stockmen. | Increases of 9d. to 1s. 6d. a week, according to age, in minimum rates for householders; rates for non-householders raised to the level of those for householders, resulting in increases of 4s. 9d. to 7s. 9d. Minimum rates after change: shepherds 33s. at under 15 years rising to 78s. at 21 and over; stewards, horsemen, tractor drivers and cattlemen or stockmen 33s. to 72s. 6d.† |
| | " | " | Boys (14 and under 15 years) other than those employed as shepherds. | Increase of 2s. 6d. a week. Minimum rate after change 26s. 6d. at under 15 years.† |
| | " | " | Girls (14 and under 15 years) .. | Decrease of 2s. 9d. a week in minimum rate (26s. 9d. to 24s.).† |
| Coal Mining | Warwickshire .. | 1 Aug. | Workpeople employed in and about coal mines. | Increase of 1 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 92 per cent. above the basis rates.† |
| | Leicestershire .. | 1 Aug. | " | Increase of 1·44 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 85·34 per cent. above the basis rates.† |
| Iron, etc., Mining and Quarrying. | Cumberland .. | 30 Aug. | Iron-ore miners .. | War bonus decreased§ by ½d. a shift (2s. to 1s. 11½d. for those 18 years and over and 1s. to 11½d. for those under 18). |
| | West Cumberland .. | 30 Aug. | Limestone quarry workers .. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) decreased§ by 1d. a shift (2s. 0½d. to 1s. 11½d.) for those 18 years and over. (The flat-rate addition for those under 18 remains unchanged.) |
| | Furness district .. | 28 Aug. | Iron-ore miners .. | War bonus decreased§ by 2d. a shift (2s. 1d. to 1s. 11d.) for those 18 years and over and by 1d. (1s. 0½d. to 11½d.) for those under 18. |
| | South and West Durham. | 2 Aug. | Limestone quarrymen .. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 1·6d. a shift (1s. 4·8d. to 1s. 6·4d.) for men and by 0·8d. (8·4d. to 9·2d.) for youths and boys. |
| | Cleveland .. | 2 Aug. | Iron-ore miners .. | |
| | Notts., Leicestershire, and adjoining parts of Lincs. | 1 Aug. | Ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 1·6d. a shift (2s. 4·8d. to 2s. 6·4d.) for men, by 1·2d. (1s. 9·6d. to 1s. 10·8d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years and by 0·8d. (1s. 2·4d. to 1s. 3·2d.) for boys.¶ |
| | Northamptonshire (excluding Corby). | 1 Aug. | Ironstone miners and quarrymen and limestone quarrymen. | |
| | Banbury and district | 1 Aug. | Ironstone miners and quarrymen .. | |
| | North Lincolnshire .. | 1 Aug. | Ironstone miners and quarrymen .. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 1·6d. a shift (2s. 4·8d. to 2s. 6·4d.) for men, by 1·2d. (1s. 9·6d. to 1s. 10·8d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years and by 0·8d. (1s. 2·4d. to 1s. 3·2d.) for boys. |
| | Corby .. | 1 Aug. | Ironstone miners and quarrymen and limestone quarrymen. | |
| | Scunthorpe (certain firms). | 2 Aug. | Slag and tar macadam workers .. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 0·2d. an hour, (4·3d. to 4·5d.) for men, by 0·15d. (3·225d. to 3·375d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years and by 0·1d. (2·15d. to 2·25d.) for boys.¶ |
| | Cleveland and Durham, West Cumberland and North Lincs., North Staffs., South Staffs., Bilston, Northants., and South Wales and Mon. | 1 Aug. | 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 1·6d. a shift (2s. 4·8d. to 2s. 6·4d.) for men and for women employed on men's work, by 1·2d. (1s. 9·6d. to 1s. 10·8d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and for women** employed on youths' work and by 0·8d. (1s. 2·4d. to 1s. 3·2d.) for boys and for girls doing boys' work. |
| Iron and Steel Manufacture. | Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. | 1st pay day in Aug. | | |
| | West of Scotland .. | Pay period beginning nearest 1. Aug. | Workpeople employed at certain blastfurnaces (excluding those engaged on maintenance work). | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 1·6d. a shift (2s. 3·2d. to 2s. 4·8d.) for men, by 0·8d. (1s. 1·6d. to 1s. 2·4d.) for youths and boys, by 1·6d. (11·2d. to 1s. 0·8d.) for women 21 years and over, and by 0·8d. (5·6d. to 6·4d.) for girls. |
| | Great Britain†† | 2 Aug. | Workpeople employed at steel sheet rolling mills. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased§ by 1·6d. a shift (2s. 4·8d. to 2s. 6·4d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 1·2d. (1s. 9·6d. to 1s. 10·8d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21 and by 0·8d. (1s. 2·4d. to 1s. 3·2d.) for those under 18. |

* 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 an Order issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Acts.

‡ 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.

** 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. 6·4d.

†† 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.

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

| Industry. | District. | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in <i>Italics</i> .) |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.). | West of Scotland .. | 2 Aug. | Workpeople employed at iron puddling forges and mills and sheet mills. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 2.2d. a shift (2s. 6.8d. to 2s. 9d.) for men, by 1.6d. (1s. 10.4d. to 2s.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, by 1.1d. (1s. 3.4d. to 1s. 4.5d.) for boys, by 1.6d. (11.2d. to 1s. 0.8d.) for women 21 and over, and by 0.8d. (5.6d. to 6.4d.) 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). |
| | " .. | 30 Aug. | " .. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) decreased* by 1.1d. a shift (2s. 9d. to 2s. 7.9d.) for men, by 0.8d. (2s. to 1s. 11.2d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, by 0.55d. (1s. 4.5d. to 1s. 3.95d.) for boys, by 0.8d. (1s. 0.8d. to 1s.) for women 21 and over, and by 0.4d. (6.4d. to 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 | 1 Aug. | Iron puddlers and millmen | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 1.6d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 6.4d.) for men, by 1.2d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.8d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and by 0.8d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 3.2d.) for boys. |
| | Midlands and parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire. | Sunday preceding 1st pay day in Aug. | 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. |
| | Great Britain† .. | 1 Aug. | Workpeople employed in steel melting shops (melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, gas producers, semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc.). | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 1.6d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 6.4d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 1.2d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.8d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21, and by 0.8d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 3.2d.) for those under 18. |
| | North-East Coast Area | 1 Aug. | Workpeople employed at steel rolling mills. | |
| | Barrow-in-Furness .. | 1 Aug. | Rail millmen, merchant millmen, enginemmen, cranemen, etc. | |
| | Workington | 1 Aug. | Steel millmen and labourers (datal workers). | |
| | Scunthorpe | 1 Aug. | Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers. | |
| | Bilston | 1 Aug. | Steel millmen, maintenance men, etc. | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 1.6d. a shift (1s. 4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men and for women employed on men's work and by 0.8d. (8d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys and for women employed on youths' or boys' work. |
| | West of Scotland .. | 1 Aug. | Millmen, gas producers, 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 .. | 1 Aug. | Workpeople employed in Siemens steel manufacture. | |
| | Clyde district .. | 5 July | Boiler scalers | Increase of 3d. an hour in plain time rate; extra payment of 1½d. an hour for work with boilers (whether inside or outside) of oil burning vessels abolished. Rate after change, on both oil and coal burning vessels, 2s. (leading hands 2d. extra).† |
| | " .. | " | Greasers, storekeepers, labourers, etc. | Rates adopted of 2s. an hour for donkeymen, refrigerator greasers and storekeepers, of 1s. 11½d. for firemen, winch greasers and light-up men, and of 1s. 10½d. for tank cleaners and engine room labourers. |
| | " .. | " | Boys (under 18 years) | Minimum rates adopted of 1s. 6d. an hour for boys 16 and under 18 years and of 1s. 3d. for those under 16. |
| Malleable Ironfounding. | Willenhall and district | 1st full pay period after 23 July. | Casters | Allowance of 20s. a week (47 hours), or at the rate of 5.1d. an hour for broken periods (with the appropriate overtime premium added for hours worked beyond the normal working week), granted to casters normally provided with unskilled assistants (sand riddlers) when such assistance is not provided. |
| Chain Making | Great Britain .. | 1 Aug. | Workpeople employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including ½ inch diameter. | 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.§ |
| | " .. | " | Workpeople employed in making dollied and tommyed chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including ½ inch diameter and hand-hammered chain from iron ¾ inch up to and including ½ inch diameter. | 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.§ |
| Galvanising | England and Wales | 2 Aug. | Galvanisers and ancillary workers employed in steel sheet works (other than those engaged in the process of annealing). | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 1.6d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 6.4d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 1.2d. (1s. 9.6d. to 1s. 10.8d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21, and by 0.8d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 3.2d.) for those under 18. |
| Tinplate Manufacture. | South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire. | 1 Aug. | Men, women and juveniles employed in the tinplate industry (excluding those engaged on maintenance work). | Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased* by 1.6d. a shift (2s. 4.8d. to 2s. 6.4d.) for men and for women 21 years and over employed on men's work and by 0.8d. (1s. 2.4d. to 1s. 3.2d.) for other women and juveniles. |
| Heavy Edge Tool Manufacture. | Sheffield | 8 July¶ | Adult male datal workers | Bonus of 34s. 6d. a week adjusted by the transference therefrom of 20s. a week to basic rates and by the addition thereto of 6s. a week,** making the bonus 20s. 6d. |
| | " .. | " | Adult male pieceworkers | Bonus of 34s. 6d. a week adjusted by the transference therefrom of 20s. a week to basic rates, making the bonus 14s. 6d. Piecework prices to be such as will enable a worker of average ability to earn at least 27½ per cent. over the increased basic time rates, excluding bonus. |
| Edge Tool Manufacture. | Stourbridge and district. | 31 Aug. | Men | Standard minimum rates adopted of 81s. 6d. for a normal working week for skilled workers and of 71s. 6d. for unskilled workers. (The rates for semi-skilled workers to be negotiated between individual employers and workpeople.) |
| | " .. | " | Youths and boys | Minimum rates adopted of 15s. 3½d. a week (47 hours) at 14 years rising to 54s. 8½d. at 20, plus 5 per cent. for datal workers with a piece-rater. |
| | " .. | " | Women and girls | Minimum rates adopted of 17s. 4½d. a week (47 hours) at 14 years rising to 47s. 7½d. at 21 and over. |
| Woollen and Worsted Industry. | South of Scotland .. | 1st full pay period after 20 Aug. | Men and women employed on time work or piecework. | Flat-rate war advance granted of 5s. a week for men and of 3s. a week for women (18 years and over) on current schedule rates of wages.†† |

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

† 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

‡ Extra payments are provided as follows:—cleaning flues of land boilers 1d. an hour; cleaning oil fuel on tank tops and bilges 3d.; internal cleaning of oil tanks 6d.; cleaning scavenger trunk and belting 9d.

§ This change 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.

¶ This increase was agreed upon on 26th August, and made retrospective to the date shown.

** Adult male datal workers in receipt of lieu rates, compensatory rates, output bonuses, etc., are to be granted (a) no increase in bonus if the amount so received is equal to or more than 6s. a normal working week, or (b) an increase equal to the difference between 6s. and the amount received as lieu rates, compensatory rates, output bonuses, etc., if this amount is less than 6s. a normal working week.

†† This advance was awarded by the National Arbitration Tribunal.

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

| Industry. | District. | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of Change. |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Silk Throwing | Macclesfield district .. | Pay day in week ending 20 Aug. | Men, youths, boys, women and girls | Time bonus granted of 1½d. an hour (for all hours worked) for all male workers and of 1d. for all female workers. (The time bonus is additional to the existing cost-of-living bonus of 3½d. in the shilling on basic rates.) |
| Silk Dyeing and Finishing. | Macclesfield district .. | Pay day in week ending 14 Aug. | Men, youths, boys, women and girls | Cost-of-living wage increased* from 98 to 100 per cent. on basis rates. Minimum rates after change for adults: men 64s., plus 7s. 6d. a week of 48 hours (special payment); women (18 years and over) 40s., plus 4s. 6d. a week of 48 hours (special payment). |
| Hosiery and Knitwear Manufacture. | Scotland (except Hawick district). | 2 Aug. | Women and girls | Minimum time rates adopted, at the rate of 16s. to 20s. (according to age at entry into trade) for a full week of 48 hours, during first 6 months, rising to 33s. to 42s. during eighth 6 months, and of 42s. (irrespective of age of entry) after completion of 4 years' service. Piece rates to be such as to yield to a worker of ordinary skill and experience at least 46s. a week (48 hours) or 11½d. an hour. |
| Elastic Web Manufacture. | Leicester | 1st pay day after 23 July. | Men, youths, boys, women and girls | Minimum rates fixed as follows:—men 72s. 6d. to 90s. a week (48 hours), according to occupation or skill, women (20 years and over) 1s. an hour, youths and boys 5d. an hour at 14 years rising to 1s. 3d. at 20, girls 5d. at 14 rising to 11d. at 19. Piece rates to be such as to enable the average worker to earn 25 per cent. above time rates.† |
| Laundering | Great Britain | 27 Aug. | Men, youths and boys (other than transport workers) | Increases of ½d. to 1d. an hour, according to age, in general minimum time rates. Rates after change: 5½d. at under 15 years increasing to 1s. 6½d. at 21 and over (after 12 months' experience).‡ |
| | " | " | Transport workers | Increases of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for drivers 21 years and over or with not less than 2 years' experience, of ½d. for other drivers, and of ½d. to ¾d., according to age, for vanguards. Rates after change include: drivers (21 and over) 1s. 6½d., vanguards (18 and over) 11d.‡ |
| | " | " | Women and girls | Increases of ½d. to 1d. an hour, according to age, in general minimum time rates and in guaranteed time rates for pieceworkers, and of 1d. in piecework basis time rate. Minimum time rates§ after change (for other than emergency or casual workers): 4½d. at under 15 years increasing to 11½d. at 20 and over (after 12 months' experience).‡ |
| Baking | Inverness | 7 May | Men | Increase of 4s. a week (12s. to 16s.) in cost-of-living bonus.** Minimum rate after change (inclusive of cost-of-living bonus) 90s. Supplements to minimum rate for early men of 5s. or 6s. a week (according to time of starting) replaced by supplements of 1s. or 1s. 3d. a day. |
| | Vale of Leven, Dumbarton and Helensburgh. | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Men | Increase of 4s. a week (16s. to 20s.) in cost-of-living bonus.** |
| Brewing | " | 1st pay day in July.¶ | Men | Increase of 2s. a week in basic rates. Rates after change (inclusive of cost-of-living bonus): general work 93s. 6d., night work 98s. 6d. |
| | Edinburgh district and Falkirk. | 1 Aug. | Men | Increase* of 1s. a week in cost-of-living bonus. Rates after change (inclusive of bonus): maltmen 81s., brewery labourers 75s. |
| Tobacco, etc., Manufacture. | Great Britain | 1 Aug. | Men, women and juveniles | Additions on a time basis to minimum rates of both time and pieceworkers increased* by 9d. a week for men and by 6d. for women and juveniles. (The additions are not to be counted in calculating overtime.)‡ |
| Sugar Confectionery, Cocoa and Chocolate Manufacture and Food Preserving. | Great Britain | 16 Aug. | Men, youths, boys, women and girls | Increases of ½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers 21 years and over and of ½d. for younger workers, and increases of ½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for male workers and certain classes of female workers, and of ¾d. for other female workers.‡ |
| Wood-working | England and Wales .. | 1st pay day in Aug. | Forest workers, sawmill and transport workers employed in home-grown timber trade. | Increases of 1d. an hour for men 21 years and over and of ½d. for youths and boys under 21 and for women and girls. |
| Vehicle Building and Repairing. | Great Britain and Northern Ireland. | 1st pay week beginning on or after 18 Aug. | Women and girls, other than women who have qualified for the adult male rate. | War bonus increased by ½d. an hour. Bonus after change: at 16 and 17 years 2d., at 18 to 20 3d., at 21 and over 4d. |
| Gas Retort Setting, etc. | Great Britain | 2 Aug. | Labourers waiting upon retort setters or bricklayers employed by outside contractors on certain classes of work†† in gasworks, and labourers directly engaged on dismantling retort settings. | Hourly rates adopted, being the rates ruling in the various districts for builders' labourers, supplemented in each case by ½d. an hour (labourers employed on chimney scaffolds to receive an additional supplement of 1d., 2d. or 3d. an hour, according to height from ground). |
| Local Authorities (Non-trading Services). | Kent, Surrey and Sussex (certain districts).‡‡ | Pay day in week ending 7 Aug. | Manual workers (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries). | Increases of 2s. a week in basic rates for men and of ½d. an hour for women in Grade 4 Authority areas. Minimum rate after change for general labourers (or equivalent classes of workpeople) 64s. 6d. a week, inclusive of war wage addition.‡‡ |
| Skip and Basket Making, Cinematograph Film Production. | Lancashire and Cheshire. | 1 Aug. | Skip and basket makers | Increase* of 2 per cent. on list prices making wages 140 per cent. above the list. |
| | Great Britain | 1st pay day in Aug. | 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 1s. a week (22s. 6d. to 23s. 6d. for those paid hourly and 21s. 6d. to 22s. 6d. for those paid weekly) at 21 years over and by 8d. (15s. to 15s. 8d. for those paid hourly and 14s. 4d. to 15s. for those paid weekly) at under 21. |
| | " | " | Laboratory workers, employed in the film production industry. | Bonus increased* by 1s. a week (21s. 6d. to 22s. 6d.) at 21 years and over and by 8d. (14s. 4d. to 15s.) at under 21. |
| | " | " | Cine-technicians whose normal salaries do not exceed £17 10s. a | |

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

† These minimum rates were laid down in an award of an Arbitrator appointed under the Industrial Courts Act. The award is not to operate to reduce existing rates which are above the minimum rates. Women doing men's work without additional assistance or supervision are to receive the full men's rates. Maintenance fitters and mechanics are to receive the appropriate engineering rates.

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

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

|| This change was the result of an award by an Arbitrator, dated 3rd August, and was made retrospective to the date shown.

¶ These increases were agreed to on 25th August, and made retrospective to the dates shown.

** The increase in cost-of-living bonus resulted from a modification of the cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

†† *Viz.*, work of new construction, repairs or renewals of carbonising and gas-making plant, and the building or repairing of retort stacks and chimneys; also work on retort-house brickwork when the retort house forms part of the same contracts as the retort bench. Special terms are to be arranged for furnace or similar hot work or where special circumstances exist.

‡‡ These increases took effect as the result of a decision of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services (Manual Workers) and are applicable only to local authorities classed by the Council for wages purposes as in Grade 4 (the lowest rated Grade).

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 of 1s. 9d. a shift for adult workers in Leicestershire, 6d. a shift in Somerset and 3d. a shift in South Derbyshire. These bonuses are payable for a period of four weeks, the first payment being made on the pay-day in the week ended 4th September.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st September, 1943.

| | | Food | All Items |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------|-----------|
| Increase since July, 1914 .. | .. | 66% | 98% |
| Change since 31st July, 1943 | { Index Points .. | -1 | -1 |
| | { Per cent. .. | -1* | -1* |

FOOD.

There were reductions, averaging about 2d. per 7 lb., in the retail prices of potatoes during August. On the other hand the prices of milk, which had been reduced in many districts during July, were restored to their previous level during August. Other articles included within the scope of these statistics showed no appreciable changes in price during the month.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st September, 1943, with the corresponding prices at 31st July, 1943, and 1st September, 1939 :—

| Article. | Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ½d. at— | | | Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st Sept., 1943, compared with | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|
| | 1st Sept., 1943. | 31st July, 1943. | 1st Sept., 1939. | 31st July, 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 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26 |
| Flour‡ .. per 6 lb. | 1 2½ | 1 2½ | 0 11½ | .. | 28 |
| 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 | .. | -7 |
| Milk .. per quart | 0 9 | 0 8½ | 0 6½ | 9 | 32 |
| Butter— | | | | | |
| Fresh .. | 1 8 | 1 8 | 1 4½ | .. | 21 |
| Salt .. | .. | .. | 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 | .. | .. | .. |
| Eggs (fresh) .. each | 0 2 | 0 2 | .. | .. | 1 |
| Potatoes .. per 7 lb. | 0 1½ | 0 1½ | 0 6½ | -20 | 28 |

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 31st July, 1943, and 1st September, 1943, respectively, as compared with July, 1914 :—

| Article. | Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at— | | |
|--|---|------------------|------------------|
| | 1st Sept., 1939. | 31st July, 1943. | 1st Sept., 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 | 173 | 172 |
| Flour .. | 26 | 61 | 62 |
| Bread .. | 42 | 56 | 56 |
| Tea .. | 52 | 85 | 85 |
| Sugar (granulated) .. | 46 | 45 | 45 |
| Milk .. | 92 | 133 | 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 | 113 | 70 |
| All above articles (Weighted Average on July, 1914, basis) | 38 | 67 | 66 |

On the basis of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the average level of retail food prices at 1st September, 1943, was rather more than one-half of 1 per cent. lower than at 31st July, 1943, about 20 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939, and about 66 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

* A fall of 1 point on a total for "Food" of 167 (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to rather more than one-half of 1 per cent. Similarly, a fall of 1 point on a total of 199 for "all items" is equivalent to one-half of 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.

‡ Previous issues of this GAZETTE have stated the price for 7 lb. of flour. As sales in quantities of 7 lb. have now largely ceased as a result of the Order, dated 22nd April, 1943, amending the Flour Order, 1943, (see page 65 of the May, 1943, issue of this GAZETTE), the average price for 6 lb. has been substituted.

§ On 1st September and 31st July, 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 September and 31st July, 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 September was about the same as at 31st July, 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 September was less than one-half of 1 per cent. below the level of a month earlier. The average decrease in prices during the month was about one-half of 1 per cent. for cotton materials and cotton hosiery; as regards men's suits and overcoats, woollen materials, woollen underclothing and hosiery, and 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 September the average level of prices was about 66 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 245 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 September were about the same as at 31st July. 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 September was about the same as at 31st July, 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, the average price of soap at 1st September was about 16 per cent. higher than a month earlier, following an increase of 1d. a lb. in the permitted maximum prices. There were relatively few changes in the prices of the other items included in this group. In the group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st September was nearly two per cent. higher than at 31st July, about 63 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 191 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st September, 1943, is approximately **98 per cent. over the level of July, 1914**, as compared with 99 per cent. at 31st July, 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 43 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 28 per cent. Of these 43 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 | 55 | 55 | 56 | 56 |
| 1939 .. | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 56 | 55 | 55 | 65 | 69 | 73 |
| 1940 .. | 74 | 77 | 79 | 78 | 80 | 81 | 87 | 85 | 87 | 89 | 92 | 95 |
| 1941 .. | 96 | 97 | 97 | 98 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 99 | 99 | 99 | 100 | 101 |
| 1942 .. | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 100 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1943 .. | 99 | 99 | 99 | 98 | 99 | 98 | 100 | 99 | 98 | .. | .. | .. |

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 136 of this GAZETTE.

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.*

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department† as beginning in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during August, was 137, as compared with 113 in the previous month and 123 in August, 1942. In these 137 new disputes about 48,800 workpeople were directly involved, and 2,500 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 4,800 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 10 disputes which began before August and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of disputes in progress in August was thus 147, involving about 56,100 workpeople; the aggregate number of working days lost in these disputes during August is estimated at 139,000.

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

| Industry Group. | Number of Disputes in progress in Month. | | | Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month. | Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month. |
|--|--|-------------------|--------|---|--|
| | Started before beginning of Month. | Started in Month. | Total. | | |
| Mining and Quarrying .. | 4 | 65 | 69 | 23,900 | 50,000 |
| Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding .. | 3 | 53 | 56 | 14,000 | 27,000 |
| Transport .. | .. | 4 | 4 | 16,800 | 59,000 |
| Other Industries .. | 3 | 15 | 18 | 1,400 | 3,000 |
| Total, August, 1943† .. | 10 | 137 | 147 | 56,100 | 139,000 |
| Total, July, 1943† .. | 14 | 113 | 127 | 35,100 | 98,000 |
| Total, August, 1942† .. | 6 | 123 | 129 | 22,100 | 38,000 |

Duration.—Of 139 stoppages which ended in August, 60, directly involving 11,200 workpeople, lasted not more than one day; 34, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, lasted two days; 19, directly involving 4,300 workpeople, lasted three days; 21, directly involving 13,500 workpeople, lasted four to six days, and 5, directly involving 19,900 workpeople, lasted over six days.

Causes.—Of the 137 disputes beginning in August, 29, directly involving 6,300 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 7, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 42, directly involving 8,200 workpeople, on other wage questions; 6, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 18, directly involving 21,600

workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 27, directly involving 2,300 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements. Two stoppages, directly involving 4,500 workpeople, were in support of workpeople involved in other disputes. Six stoppages, all in the coal mining industry, directly involving 3,300 workpeople, were in sympathy with employees who had been prosecuted for absenteeism, for refusing to work underground or for breaches of regulations.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during August have been effected in the case of 123 disputes, directly involving 50,700 workpeople. Of these disputes, 27, directly involving 13,900 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 77, directly involving 15,700 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 19, directly involving 21,100 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 16 other disputes, directly involving 4,200 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR JANUARY–AUGUST, 1943 AND 1942†

| Industry Group. | January to August, 1943. | | | January to August, 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 .. | 476 | 139,000† | 344,000 | 392 | 223,600† | 750,000 |
| Other Mining and Quarrying .. | 10 | 1,400 | 2,000 | 21 | 3,300 | 16,000 |
| Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. .. | 23 | 800 | 3,000 | 18 | 1,000 | 3,000 |
| Engineering .. | 189 | 61,600 | 146,000 | 109 | 30,300 | 50,000 |
| Shipbuilding .. | 116 | 17,400 | 54,000 | 56 | 7,900 | 24,000 |
| Other Metal .. | 92 | 15,100 | 47,000 | 80 | 11,800 | 36,000 |
| Textile .. | 27 | 4,100 | 11,000 | 21 | 2,000 | 4,000 |
| Clothing .. | 11 | 1,100 | 2,000 | 9 | 4,600 | 17,000 |
| Food, Drink and Tobacco .. | 11 | 7,700 | 26,000 | 7 | 1,000 | 3,000 |
| Building, etc. .. | 49 | 8,900 | 16,000 | 48 | 9,400 | 20,000 |
| Transport .. | 46 | 45,500 | 152,000 | 24 | 6,400 | 19,000 |
| Other Industries .. | 28 | 2,300 | 3,000 | 25 | 4,800 | 9,000 |
| Total .. | 1,081 | 306,600† | 820,000 | 810 | 306,100† | 951,000 |

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING AUGUST.

| Occupations§ and Locality. | Approximate Number of Workpeople involved. | | Date when Stoppage | | Cause or Object. | Result. |
|---|--|---------------|--------------------|----------|---|--|
| | Directly. | In-directly.§ | Began. | Ended. | | |
| COAL MINING :— | | | | | | |
| Underground and surface workpeople—Worksop, Notts (one colliery). | 1,210 | 325 | 19 Aug. | 25 Aug. | Dissatisfaction with wages and working conditions. | Work resumed pending negotiations. |
| Colliery workpeople—Penrhiwceiber, Glamorganshire (one colliery). | 1,100 | .. | 20 Aug. | 31 Aug. | Demand for payment of minimum wage to a number of men. | Following an official enquiry by the Regional Fuel Controller it was decided that payment of the sums in question should be made. |
| Colliery workpeople—Mountain Ash, Glamorganshire (six collieries). | 4,500 | .. | 27 Aug.¶ | 31 Aug.¶ | In sympathy with the workpeople involved in the above dispute. | |
| ENGINEERING :— | | | | | | |
| Engineering operatives — Glasgow (one firm). | 675 | .. | 2 Aug. | 6 Aug. | Failure of negotiations concerning the proposed reduction of a time allowance in respect of a shortage of tools and equipment, management contending that this deficiency had been made good. | Work resumed: the management subsequently agreed to restore the <i>status quo</i> as regards time without prejudice to the normal practice of removing "plusages" when the reasons for the "plusages" had ceased to exist. |
| Machine operators, setters, inspectors, labourers, etc.—Caernarvonshire (one firm). | 600 | .. | 6 Aug. | 9 Aug. | Dissatisfaction with alleged delay in the payment of increases in wages under the terms of a National Arbitration Award; and other grievances. | Agreement reached providing for retrospective payment of increases granted by the Award and for investigation of other grievances. |
| Engineering operatives—Leeds (one firm). | 1,415 | .. | 11 Aug. | 14 Aug. | Protest against the dismissal of a machine operator for alleged insubordination. | Work resumed unconditionally. |
| Workpeople employed in machine tool manufacture — Lancashire (one firm). | 980 | .. | 18 Aug. | 23 Aug. | Alleged breach of dilution agreement on part of management by the temporary transfer of two platemoulders to coremaking. | Work resumed. At a subsequent works conference employers agreed to withdraw the two platemoulders from coremaking if, and when, the workpeople's trade union could provide two skilled coremakers. |
| BOLT AND NUT MANUFACTURE :— | | | | | | |
| Workpeople employed in bolt and nut manufacture—Glasgow (one firm). | 500 | .. | 17 Aug. | 21 Aug. | In sympathy with an employee (a convener of shop stewards) who had been dismissed for alleged serious misconduct. | Work resumed. |
| TRANSPORT :— | | | | | | |
| Registered port workers—Liverpool and Birkenhead. | 16,000** | .. | 12 Aug.** | 19 Aug. | In sympathy with a number of men who had been suspended for refusing to work overtime; and other grievances. | Work resumed on an assurance being given that an investigation would be made into the circumstances in which the men were suspended and also into the other grievances. |

* 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 in the period under review was approximately 92,000 in 1943, and 146,000 in 1942. For all industries combined the corresponding *net* totals were approximately 243,000 and 224,000, respectively.

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

¶ The stoppage began at one colliery with the night shift of 26th–27th August and extended on 30th and 31st August.

¶ Work was resumed on the night shift of 31st August–1st September.

** Approximately 100 men ceased work on 12th August. The stoppage extended until on 17th August some 16,000 workpeople were involved.

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 August† was 178, as compared with 170‡ in the previous month and with 190‡ in August, 1942. Details for separate industries are given below:—

| MINES AND QUARRIES. | | Factories—continued. | |
|--|----|--|-----|
| Under Coal Mines Acts : | | Paper, Printing, etc. | 1 |
| Underground | 44 | Rubber Trades | .. |
| Surface | 3 | Gas Works | 2 |
| Metalliferous Mines | .. | Electrical Stations | 2 |
| Quarries | 5 | Other Industries | 2 |
| TOTAL, MINES AND QUARRIES | | WORKS AND PLACES UNDER ss. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937. | |
| FACTORIES. | | Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships | 7 |
| Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass | 3 | Building Operations | 10 |
| Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc. | 5 | Works of Engineering Construction | 6 |
| Metal Extracting and Refining | 4 | Warehouses | 1 |
| Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making) | 19 | TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT | 96 |
| Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc. | 7 | RAILWAY SERVICE. | |
| Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles and Aircraft Manufacture | 6 | Brakemen, Goods Guards | 3 |
| Shipbuilding | 7 | Engine Drivers, Motor-men | 1 |
| Other Metal Trades | .. | Firemen | 1 |
| Cotton | 1 | Guards (Passenger) | .. |
| Wool, Worsted, Shoddy.. | 1 | Labourers | 4 |
| Other Textile Manufacture | .. | Mechanics | 4 |
| Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing | 1 | Permanent Way Men | 5 |
| Tanning, Currying, etc. | 1 | Porters | 2 |
| Food and Drink | 3 | Shunters | 4 |
| General Woodwork and Furniture | 7 | Other Grades | 6 |
| | | Contractors' Servants | .. |
| | | TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE | 30 |
| | | Total (excluding Seamen) | 178 |

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

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

| I. Cases. | | I. Cases—continued. | |
|---|----|---|----|
| LEAD POISONING. | | EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER). | |
| Among Operatives engaged in : | | Pitch | .. |
| Smelting of Metals | 2 | Tar | 5 |
| Plumbing and Soldering | .. | Paraffin | .. |
| Shipbreaking | .. | Oil | 7 |
| Printing | .. | TOTAL | 12 |
| Other Contact with Molten Lead | .. | CHROME ULCERATION. | |
| White and Red Lead Works | .. | Manufacture of Bichromates | .. |
| Pottery | .. | Dyeing and Finishing | .. |
| Vitreous Enamelling | .. | Chrome Tanning | .. |
| Electric Accumulator Works | 1 | Chromium Plating | .. |
| Shipbuilding | .. | Other Industries | 11 |
| Other Industries | 1 | TOTAL | 11 |
| Painting of Buildings.. | .. | Total, Cases | 36 |
| TOTAL | 4 | II. Deaths. | |
| OTHER POISONING. | | EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER). | |
| Aniline | 6 | Oil | 5 |
| ANTHRAX. | | | |
| Wool | .. | | |
| Handling of Horsehair | .. | | |
| Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins | 2 | | |
| Other Industries | 1 | | |
| TOTAL | 3 | | |

* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.

† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 28th August, 1943, in comparison with the 4 weeks ended 31st July, 1943, and the 4 weeks ended 29th August, 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.

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 overseas countries.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.*

At mid-May and at mid-April, 1943, the official cost-of-living index figures showed increases of 0.8 and 1.1 per cent. respectively over the figures for the next preceding months, and of 26.9 and 25.9 per cent. over the figure for August, 1939. For food alone the index figures for the middle of May and April were 1.7 and 2.3 per cent. higher than the figures for the respective next preceding months, and 52.9 and 50.4 per cent. above the figure for August, 1939.

AUSTRALIA.

In the second quarter of 1943, the official cost-of-living index figure for the six capital cities was 1.8 per cent. higher than the figure for the previous quarter and 24.6 per cent. above that for the second quarter of 1939. In June, 1943, the official index figure of the cost of food in thirty towns showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. above the figure for March, 1943, and a rise of 15.1 per cent. over that for August, 1939.

CANADA.

At 1st June, 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 17.6 per cent. over that for 1st September, 1939. For food alone the index figure at 1st June was 0.8 per cent. higher than the figure for the previous month and 31.7 per cent. above that for 1st September, 1939.

NEW ZEALAND.†

At 15th June, 1943, the new official wartime price index (adjusted for normal seasonal movements) was 1.1 per cent. below the figure for 15th March, 1943, but showed no change as compared with the figure for 15th December, 1942.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

In April, 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 24.1 per cent. over that for August, 1939. For food alone the corresponding percentage increases were 1.0 and 33.3 respectively.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

In June, 1943, the revised official cost-of-living index figure (unadjusted for seasonal movements) was 0.3 per cent. higher than the corresponding figure for the previous month and 19.5 per cent. above the level of August, 1939. For food alone the index figure for June, 1943, was 0.7 per cent. below the figure for May, 1943, but 21.7 per cent. above the level of August, 1939.

INDIA.

In April, 1943, the official cost-of-living index figure for the working-classes in Bombay was 8.2 per cent. higher than the figure for the previous month and 114.3 per cent. above that for August, 1939. For food alone the index figure was 4.4 per cent. higher than that for the previous month and 109.8 per cent. above that for August, 1939.

PORTUGAL.

In April, 1943, the official weighted index figures of the cost of food, fuel and light and certain other household articles in Lisbon showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. below the figure for the previous month, and an increase of 51.3 per cent. over the figure for August, 1939. The figure for 15th April, 1943, in the separate official series of (unweighted) index figures relating to the whole of Portugal showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. over the figure for the previous month and of 63.3 per cent. over the figure for 15th August, 1939.

SWEDEN.‡

In June, 1943, the official cost-of-living index figures based on 1935 taken as = 100 showed an increase of 0.13 per cent. as compared with 1st January, 1943, and of nearly 41 per cent. as compared with 1st July, 1939. These figures are exclusive of the effects of direct taxation; if direct taxation is included, the corresponding increases amount to 0.29 per cent. and nearly 42 per cent., respectively.

For food alone the index figure in June, 1943, showed a decrease of 0.22 per cent. as compared with that for 1st January, 1943, and an increase of about 41 per cent. compared with the figure for 1st July, 1939.

* The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics has for some time been making adjustments in the basis of its cost-of-living index in respect of certain goods which were no longer obtainable owing to war conditions. As from March, 1943, further revisions have been made to take account of the effects of rationing and other war-time changes in the supply of foods, as well as the effects of movements in population to war production centres. Certain foods have been added to the index; the "weights" allotted to some of the other foods included have been revised; and data for five additional cities have been incorporated. It is stated that these revisions did not appreciably affect the level of the food index for March, 1943, or the indexes for previous months.

† See footnote* in the first column of page 122 of last month's issue of this GAZETTE.

‡ See footnote* in the second column of page 90 of the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1943.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

It is estimated by the United States Department of Labour that in April, 1943, the number of civilian employees in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service was 38,382,000; this was 0.5 per cent. higher than the figure for March, 1943, 6.9 per cent. higher than that for April, 1942, and 29.0 per cent. higher than the average for the year 1939. The number of wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries in April, 1943, is estimated to have been 13,724,000, or slightly lower than in March, 1943, and 14.5 per cent. more than in April, 1942.

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 April, 1943, was approximately 900,000, compared with 1,000,000 in March, 1943, and with 3,000,000 in April, 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 May in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service was 1.3 per cent. lower than at 1st April, 1943, but 6.5 per cent. higher than at 1st May, 1942, and 78.2 per cent. above the average number for the year 1926.

Returns rendered by trade unions with a total membership of nearly 424,000 showed that the percentage rate of unemployment among their members at the beginning of May, 1943, was 1.0, compared with 1.3 at the beginning of April and 3.3 at the beginning of May, 1942.

ÉIRE.

The number of persons on the live registers of Employment Exchanges at 28th August was 48,667, compared with 49,582 at 31st July, 1943, and 57,772 at 29th August, 1942.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS FOR BREACH OF STATUTORY DUTY TO MAINTAIN LADDERS IN EFFICIENT WORKING ORDER AND IN GOOD REPAIR.

The widow of a crane-man brought an action against her late husband's employers claiming damages for his death alleging that it had been caused by their negligence or breach of statutory duty.

To reach the driving cab of his crane the deceased workman had to go up a ladder some twenty feet high. On 20th November, 1941, he was found lying on the floor at the foot of the ladder. Close beside him was one of the rungs which had obviously come away as he was climbing the ladder. The workman died from his injuries on 23rd January, 1942.

After the accident the ladder was taken to pieces and carefully examined. The strings and all the rungs, including the rung which gave way, were found to be in perfect order. The rungs were screwed to the strings by strong 3-inch steel screws, No. 18. The screws which attached the rung which had given way had broken in half at a point between the rung and the string and the fractures were due to corrosion. The only evidence as to the cause of the corrosion was given by a witness for the plaintiff who suggested that it was due to sulphur fumes from a foundry close by since sulphur fumes do corrode iron and steel. All the other screws in the ladder were found to be in perfect condition.

The evidence showed that the defendants took great care of the safety of their workmen; there was a Safety First Committee to which the workmen elected their own representatives; the workmen were encouraged to report to their foreman or to the Committee anything which needed attention; and anything which was found to be amiss was immediately put right. The Committee themselves examined the plant and machinery including the ladders at short intervals, and they had in fact inspected the ladder in question two or three weeks before the accident happened and had found nothing which needed attention. The deceased workman who used the ladder several times a day had never made any complaint about it.

The widow of the deceased workman alleged negligence on the part of the defendants at common law and also relied on the breach of the statutory duty imposed by Section 25 (4) of the Factories Act, 1937, which provides that "all ladders shall be soundly constructed and properly maintained"; by Section 152 (1) of that Act "maintained" is defined to mean "maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair." The employers argued that they had not been guilty of negligence at common law, and that the statutory duty to keep the ladder in an efficient state and in good repair was not an absolute duty but was discharged if the employers took all practical steps to see that the ladder in question was in an efficient state and in good repair.

Mr. Justice Macnaghten found in favour of the widow, and awarded her (she being the only dependant) £700 damages and £43 8s. 6d., the agreed amount of the funeral expenses. The Learned Judge said that the fact that the rung gave way established to his mind beyond question that the ladder was not in an efficient state and was not in good repair on the morning of the accident. His Lordship said that it was true that the defendants took great care as to the safety of their men and that this

particular failure was one which apparently nobody could have anticipated. He could see no ground for qualifying the words of Section 25 (4) of the Factories Act, 1937. The duty to keep all ladders in an efficient state and in good repair appeared to him to be as absolute as the duty imposed by the Act to fence all dangerous parts of machinery.—*Cole v. Blackstone and Co. Limited*. Action heard at Nottingham Assizes and Judgment given in the Kings Bench Division in London on 19th July, 1943.

FACTORIES ACT: FAILURE TO FENCE DANGEROUS MACHINERY—TEST TO BE APPLIED.

This was an appeal by way of case stated against the acquittal by the Sheriff-Substitute of a summary complaint against the respondents under section 14 (1) of the Factories Act, 1937, for having failed to fence securely the gear wheels driving a drawing roller of a breaker carding machine in their factory, in consequence whereof one of their employees suffered bodily injury. The gear wheels were at a considerable height from the ground and they were fenced off by a cage of steel rods which extended to a height of 7 feet 2 inches from the ground. Two operatives were required to work the machine and one of them stood on a platform erected at one side of the front of the machine at a height of 4 feet 2 inches from the ground. Accordingly, the operative's body was protected from the gear wheels only up to 3 feet from the platform. The gear wheels were about 2 or 3 feet away from him as he was standing on the platform and was engaged in his work. The accident happened as the result of the operative catching his sleeve in the cogs of two of the gear wheels.

The Court, consisting of the Lord Justice General, Lord Fleming and Lord Carmont, allowed the appeal and held that, on the evidence, the Sheriff was bound to convict. The Lord Justice General said that the Learned Sheriff-Substitute had misled himself for the criterion which he appeared to have applied in making up his mind whether the gear wheels were securely fenced or not was the test whether the operative was sufficiently protected by the fence while he was carrying out his work in the ordinary way. In his Lordship's opinion, that was not the test which should be applied. The standard to be observed was a standard of fencing which would prevent accidents occurring in circumstances which might be reasonably anticipated. Circumstances which might be reasonably anticipated included a great deal more than the ordinary staid, well regulated conduct of operatives engaged in the ordinary course of their work. The occupiers of factories were bound to take into account also the possibility of conduct very different from that. They were bound to take into account the possibility of negligent, ill-advised or indolent conduct on the part of their employees, and even skylarking and other irregular conduct, especially where boys were employed. The Lord Justice General said that if this standard were applied, there was clearly a contravention of the section of the Act. It was beyond all reasonable dispute that gear wheels were dangerous things to persons who were brought into contact with them. If it had occurred to anybody to analyse the situation created by these unfenced gear wheels at the level of the upper part of the body of the boy working on the platform and within 2 feet of his body, it would have been plain that considerable risk was being incurred if the boy, for any reason, swung or moved his arm backwards while he was at work, or while he was not at work if he in any way moved towards the gear wheel over the short distance which separated himself from them.—*Lyon v. Don Brothers, Buist and Company Limited*. In the High Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, 25th August, 1943.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During August, 1943, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued sixteen awards,* Nos. 414 to 429. Four of these awards are summarised below; the other awards related to cases affecting individual employers.

Award No. 414 (3rd August).—*Parties*: Members of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association Ltd. and members of the Electrical Trades Union employed by them. *Claim*: For an increase in the existing war bonus. *Award*: The Tribunal found against the claim.

Award No. 418 (12th August).—*Parties*: Members of Associations federated with the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and members of the National Union of Scalemakers employed by them. *Claim*: For an increase in wage rates and for the payment in certain circumstances of overtime rates for travelling time in the case of men employed on repair and maintenance work. *Award*: The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established.

Award No. 421 (16th August).—*Parties*: Members of the Saddleworth and District Manufacturers' Association and members of the Saddleworth and District Weavers' and Woollen Textile Workers' Association employed by them. *Claim*: For payment at the rate of time-and-a-half for work performed on Good Friday, 1943, and the following day. *Award*: The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established.

Award No. 422 (20th August).—*Parties*: Members of the Scottish Woollen Trade Employers' Association and members of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of General and Municipal Workers employed by them.

* See footnote* on page 136.

Claim : For an increase of 17½ per cent. on the current schedule rates of wages of adult workers in the industry. **Award :** The Tribunal awarded a flat rate war advance on the current schedule rates of wages to all workers, both time-workers and piece-workers, on whose behalf the claim was made, of 5s. per week in the case of male workers of 21 years of age or over and of 3s. per week in the case of female workers of 18 years of age or over.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued eleven awards, Nos. 234-244. Three of these awards that are of special interest are summarised below ; the other eight awards relate to cases affecting individual employers.

Award No. 234 (27th July).—Parties : Messrs. Harland & Wolff Ltd., Belfast, and certain of their employees. **Claim :** For an increase of 6d. per hour in the wages of charge hands in the following piecework trades :—shipwrights, platers, riveters, welders, drillers, blacksmiths, caulkers and stagers. **Award :** An increase of 3s. 6d. per week in the earnings of all charge hands (piecework trades) specified in the claim as set out above in the employment of Messrs. Harland & Wolff Ltd., Queen's Island, Belfast.

Award No. 236 (30th July).—Parties : The Northern Ireland Road Transport Board and certain of their employees. **Claim :** An increase of 5s. per week to all lorry drivers, assistants on lorries, checkers and porters (Provincial areas and those operating from Belfast and Londonderry into the Provincial areas) employed in the Freight Department of the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board. **Award :** An increase of 3s. per week in the war addition to the weekly wages of the several classes of workmen specified in the claim as set out above.

Award No. 238 (5th August).—Parties : The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland and certain of their employees. **Claim :** That Award No. 171 of the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) dated 22nd January, 1943, should be extended to slaughtermen employed at the following abattoirs :—Newry, Bangor, Newtonards, Downpatrick, Banbridge, Lurgan, Larne, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Londonderry. **Award :** The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established and awarded accordingly.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919 AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During August, 1943, the Industrial Court issued one award, which is summarised below.

Award No. 1915 (14th August).—Parties : National Association of Local Government Officers and Congleton Borough Council. **Claim :** Regrading of employee to the administrative grade. **Award :** The Court awarded in favour of the claim.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During August, 1943, ten awards, four of which related to disputes reported under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders, 1940-1942 were issued by Single Arbitrators and a Board of Arbitration appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Four of the awards are summarised below ; the other six awards related only to individual undertakings.

Parties : Scottish Union of Bakers, Confectioners & Bakery Workers and members of the Scottish Association of Master Bakers, Inverness. **Claim :** That the Working Agreement between the parties for the year 1942/43 be amended in respect of the year 1943/44. **Award :** The Arbitrator in his award, dated 3rd August detailed the clauses to be amended during the year 1943/44.

Parties : The Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers and The Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers. **Claim :** That all members of the Society employed by members of the Association on maintenance work shall be paid the appropriate engineering allowance for such work. **Award :** In his award dated 31st August, 1943, the Arbitrator decided in favour of the claim on the basis of a 48-hour week.

Parties : The two Sides of the Joint Negotiating Committee for the General Waste Reclamation Industry. **Claim :** The Employees' Side of the Committee applied for a revision of the rates set out in the Agreement dated 1st July, 1942. **Award :** Revised rates, to operate from the first pay day in September, 1943, were given by the Arbitrator in his award dated 26th August.

Parties : Employers' and Operatives' Sides of the National Joint Wages Board for the Refractories Industry. **Claim :** (a) That the standard minimum rate for males should be raised; (b) that women doing men's work for the duration should have a higher proportion of the men's rate after three months service ; and (c) that women, 18 years of age and over engaged on normal women's work, should have a higher minimum wage. **Award :** The Arbitrator decided in his award dated 30th August, that in claims (a) and (c) the War Bonus shall be increased thereby raising the standard minimum rate payable to those concerned, with proportionate increases for boys and youths. In regard to item (b) no award was made.

In addition an Independent Chairman was appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to preside over a meeting of the Conciliation Board for the Cumberland Coal Trade (Miners) to consider an application submitted by the Workers' Side regarding (1) holiday agreement ; (2) cheap coal ; and (3) overtime payments. As no settlement on the questions in dispute was reached by the parties, the Chairman issued an award on 6th August, 1943.

COURT OF INQUIRY.

On 8th July, 1943, the Minister of Labour and National Service appointed Sir Charles Doughty, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. E. W. Bussey and Mr. Robert Crichton as a Court of Inquiry to inquire into and report upon the causes and circumstances of a dispute at Courtaulds Ltd., Castle Works, Flintshire. The Court issued its Report on 4th August, 1943.

CIVIL SERVICE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

During August, 1943, the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal issued one award,* No. 76, relating to a claim for an increase in the existing maxima of S class clerks (other than those employed in Departmentally staffed ex-Headquarters Offices and Government Training Centres of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and Senior S class clerks employed by the Board of Inland Revenue). The Tribunal found against the claim and awarded accordingly. They intimated however that the award was without prejudice to consideration by the Treasury of the question whether it might not be well to revive as respects all the Departments concerned the pre-war practice of holding comprehensive Selection Boards to appraise the relative merits of all members of the S Class with a view to the selection of the best of them for promotion.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During August, 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.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales).—Proposal M.D. (37), dated 6th August, 1943.

Tobacco Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal N. (27), dated 25th August, 1943.

Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.F. (N.16), dated 16th August, 1943.

The following proposal was also issued :—

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.W.D. (N.40), dated 19th August, 1943, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers employed in the Factory Branch of the trade.

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 Ebury Bridge House, Ebury Bridge Road, London, S.W.1, for Boards in Great Britain, or at 31 Eglantine Avenue, Belfast, for Boards in Northern Ireland.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

During August, 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 :—

Laundry Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order W. (44) and (45), dated 14th August, 1943 ; effective from 27th August, 1943.

General Waste Materials Reclamation Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.W.R. (20), dated 25th August, 1943 ; effective from 1st September, 1943.

The following Order was also made :—

Baking Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.Bk. (24), dated 17th August, 1943, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates for certain classes of male and female workers employed in establishments other than Home Bakeries in Area C, and specifying 27th August, 1943, as the date from which such rates became effective.

BOARD FOR MINING EXAMINATIONS.

EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AS MANAGERS AND UNDER-MANAGERS OF MINES AND FOR CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION AS SURVEYORS OF MINES.

Circumstances permitting, the written parts of the examinations for first and second class certificates of competency as managers and under-managers of mines will be held on 24th and 25th November, 1943, at six centres, viz., Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Doncaster, Wigan, Cardiff and Stoke-on-Trent. The oral parts of the examinations, to be attended only by those candidates who qualify in the written tests, will be held at the same centres on 19th January, 1944.

The written part of the examination for certificates of qualification as surveyors of mines will be held at the same centres on 25th November, 1943, and the oral and practical examination, to be attended only by those candidates who qualify in the written test, in January, 1944.

*See footnote * on page 136

Intending candidates should apply after 13th September for the necessary forms, stating whether they have previously attended any of the Board's examinations. The completed applications should be returned to the Secretary as soon as possible, and must in any case be received not later than 7th October, 1943.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Board for Mining Examinations, Ministry of Fuel and Power, Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (EXAMINING SURGEONS) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER, 1943.

An Order under the above title was made on 18th August, 1943, by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland, under Section 3 of the Workmen's Compensation Act (Northern Ireland), 1943. The Order prescribes the conditions under which the powers and duties under Part II of the Workmen's Compensation Act (Northern Ireland), 1927, of the examining surgeon for the district in which a workman is employed may be exercised and performed by the examining surgeon for the district where the workman resides or to which he has been removed for medical treatment.

Copies of the Order—*S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland, 1943, No. 95*—may be obtained through any bookseller or direct from H.M. Stationery Office, 80 Chichester Street, Belfast.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

Since last month's 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 International Labour Force (Registration of Bulgarians, Finns, Hungarians and Roumanians) Order, 1943 (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 1047): The International Labour Force (Registration of Japanese) Order, 1943 (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 1050): The International Labour Force (Registration of Siamese or Thais) Order, 1943 (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 1051).—The foregoing Orders were made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 17th July, 1943. As reported on page 110 of last month's issue of this GAZETTE, they provide for the industrial registration of the foreign nationals concerned for the purpose of the regulation of their engagement for employment.

Order in Council amending Regulation 55AA of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939 (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 1143).—Under Regulation 55AA (2) a "designated officer" (i.e., a person empowered by a Minister of the Crown) may authorise the inspection of an undertaking if it appears to him necessary for purposes such as enabling a competent authority to determine whether its powers under the Regulations ought to be exercised, to secure compliance with its directions or to verify information. Where, however, a competent authority has delegated its powers under some Regulation (e.g., Regulation 55 (5) or 66), Regulation 55AA (2) does not apply for the purpose of carrying out the powers delegated; for example, where a power to give directions has been delegated, an inspection cannot be authorised to secure compliance with the directions. By the present Order, made on 10th August, 1943, the definition of competent authority is therefore extended to include other authorities to whom powers have been delegated, so that a "designated officer" may authorise inspections for the purpose of carrying out the delegated powers.

The Pensions and Determination of Needs Act, 1943 (Appointed Day) Order, 1943 (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 1238): The Pensions and Determination of Needs Act, 1943, (Appointed Day) (Scotland) Order, 1943 (S.R. & O. No. 1267/S.41).—These Orders, made on 17th and 27th August by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland, respectively, specify 1st November, 1943, as the appointed day for the purpose of the entry into operation

of certain provisions of the Pensions and Determination of Needs Act, 1943, which relate to financial assistance to blind persons and to outdoor relief or maintenance under the Poor Law Acts.

The Employment of Women (Control of Engagement) (Amendment) Order, 1943, dated August 31, 1943, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939 (S.R. & O. 1943, No. 1278). See summary on page 125.

FACTORIES ACTS.

FACTORY FORMS.

From time to time the Ministry of Labour and National Service issue Factory Forms* regarding Regulations and Orders made under the Factories Acts. The under-mentioned Forms have been issued or reprinted since the previous list was published in the June, 1943, issue of this GAZETTE, and may be purchased at the prices shown. The prices in brackets include postage.

- | No. | Title and Price. |
|-----|--|
| 32 | Factories Act, 1937. General Register, Part II. Register of Young Persons (under 18 years of age) and Certificates of Fitness for Employment in cases of those under 16 years of age, July, 1938. Reprinted 1943; revised price 9d. (11d.) (exclusive of Purchase Tax). |
| 318 | Factories Act, 1937. Regulations for (a) Spinning and Weaving Flax and Tow and Processes incidental thereto (Regulation 4); (b) Spinning and Weaving Hemp, or Jute, or Hemp or Jute Tow and Processes incidental thereto (Regulation 6). Form for Record of Humidity, July, 1938. Reprinted July, 1943; revised price, doz. 6d. (7d.) (exclusive of Purchase Tax). |
| 942 | Factories Act, 1937. Regulations for the Processes of Sorting, Willeying, Washing, Combing and Carding Wool, Goat Hair, and Camel Hair, and Processes incidental thereto. Reprinted July, 1943; revised price 2d. (3d.) |
| 996 | Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926. Lead Paint Regulations, 1927. Protection of Persons employed in Painting Buildings, July, 1938. Reprinted 1943, revised price, 2d. (3d.) |

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED*

[NOTE.—The prices shown are net and, except in the case of publications of the International Labour Office, do not include postage.]

ABSENTEEISM.—*A Study of Absenteeism among Women.* Medical Research Council (Industrial Health Research Board) Emergency Report No. 4. (Price 2d.)—See summary on page 127 of this GAZETTE.

AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION.—*Tenth Report from the Select Committee on National Expenditure*, Session 1942–1943. H.C. 104. (Price 4d.)—See page 126 of this GAZETTE.

FACTORIES.—*Guide to Factories Act, 1937.* Home Office. Reprinted, 1943. (Revised price 9d.)

MERCHANT SEAMEN.—*Merchant Seamen and the War.* Record of the Twelfth Session of the Joint Maritime Commission: Studies and Reports Series P. (Seamen) No. 5. Published in the United Kingdom for the International Labour Office by P. S. King and Staples Ltd., 14 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1. (Price 4s.)

NATIONAL SERVICE.—*Selected Decisions given by the Umpire during June, 1943, in respect of Applications for Postponement of Liability to be called up for Service under the National Service Acts, 1939–1942.* N.S. Code 2. Pamphlet No. 4/1943. Ministry of Labour and National Service. (Price 2d.)

* 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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