



THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

VOL. LII.—No. 5.]

MAY, 1944.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Special Articles, Reviews, etc. :		Employment in April	78
Volunteers for Agricultural Work .. .	73	Employment Overseas	79
Nursing on Active Service : Appeal for Volunteer Nurses	73	Retail Prices Overseas	79
Safety, Health and Welfare in Factories : New Orders ..	74	Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour ..	80
National Arbitration Tribunal : New Appointments ..	74	Changes in Retail Prices and Cost of Living ..	84
Welfare of Merchant Seamen in Hospitals	74	Trade Disputes in April	85
Mobilisation of Man-Power for War	74	Fatal Industrial Accidents ; Industrial Diseases ..	86
National Service Acts, 1939-1942 : Further Registration of Men	74	Legal Cases Affecting Labour	86
Wages in the Coal Mining Industry : New Four-Years Agreement	75	Factories Act, 1937 : Draft Special Regulations ..	87
Employment, Output, Wages, etc., in the Coal Mining Industry, 1936-1943	75	Official Publications Received	87
Strikes and Lockouts in 1943	76	Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders : Arbitration Awards	87
"Pay-as-you-Earn" Income Tax : Repayments during Unemployment	77	Industrial Courts Act, 1919, and Conciliation Act, 1896 : Arbitration Awards	87
Unemployment Fund Accounts, 1942-1943	77	Trade Boards Acts : Notices and Orders	88
Workmen's Compensation Acts : Memorandum by the Home Office	77	Statutory Rules and Orders	88
Food Control	77		

SPECIAL ARTICLES, REVIEWS, ETC.

VOLUNTEERS FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK.

The Ministry of Agriculture are appealing for the co-operation of employers in securing the necessary supply of volunteers for the cultivation and harvesting of this year's food crops. The regular labour force in the industry is not large enough to cultivate and harvest unaided the crops that are now being grown. Last year nearly half a million volunteers helped to secure a record crop. This year even more volunteers will be needed to deal with what should be an even greater crop.

The best way in which most townspeople can help on the land is by spending a week—or longer if they can—at one of the Volunteer Agricultural Camps which are being set up by County War Agricultural Executive Committees in about 40 counties in England and Wales. Full particulars of the camps can be obtained from the appropriate Regional Organiser. The addresses of the Regional Organisers are given below.

The Ministry of Agriculture hope that employers will be prepared to give publicity to the need for volunteers and will encourage and make it easy for their employees to attend camps, e.g., by arranging that they should take their holiday at the most suitable time for this purpose. It will be of great assistance if the holidays of volunteers can be staggered, so that the camps may be supplied over as long a period as possible. The need for camps is particularly great from the middle of September until the end of October.

Any employer who is prepared to bring to the notice of employees the arrangements for "lending a hand on the land" and to give facilities to the Regional Organiser for making appeals for help to employees is asked to communicate with the nearest Regional Organiser.

The addresses of the Regional Organisers are as follows :—
South East Region :—Cannon Croft, Eastcote Road, Pinner, Middlesex. *South West Region* :—The Palace, Gloucester.
South Wales :—4, St. John Square, Cardiff. *Midlands* :—11, Edmund Street, Birmingham, 3. *North West Region* :—Rooms 4/5, Ground Floor, Arkwright House, Deansgate, Manchester, 3.
North East Region :—Vanderbilt Court, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate.

NURSING ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER NURSES FOR ARMY FIELD HOSPITALS.

There is an urgent need for nurses to staff the field hospitals on the battle fronts and suitably qualified nurses are invited to volunteer for service in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.). Particulars of the conditions of qualification and of the conditions of service of volunteers are set out below. They are not intended to be comprehensive in all detail, but are designed to serve merely as a guide ; the particulars given may be amended from time to time in Army Orders, and should not be cited as authoritative in matters of pay, appointment, allowances, etc.

Conditions of Qualification, etc.—The selection of members is under the control of Queen Alexandra's Army Nursing Board, of which H.M. Queen Mary is president. Candidates must not be over 55 years of age (although in certain cases this age-limit may be extended), nor be employed as Hospital Matrons, Assistant Matrons, Sister Tutors, Practising Midwives, Practising Health Visitors, District Nurses or Queen's Nurses. They must be registered by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, or for Scotland, or for the Irish Free State, or by the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland or such other General Nursing Council for England and Wales ; and they must possess a certificate of not less than three to four years' training, as required, in medical and surgical nursing, in a hospital or hospitals approved by the General Nursing Council concerned for complete, affiliated, associated or reciprocal training in general nursing.

After an interview at the Local Appointments Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, candidates will be required to complete a form of application for enrolment and appointment to a Commission (Army Form D.418), and, before enrolment is finally approved by Q.A.A.N. Board, candidates submitted by the Ministry of Labour and National Service will be interviewed at the War Office or at the Military Medical Unit nearest to the candidate's present address. Those approved for enrolment on the recommendation of Q.A.A.N. Board will

be appointed to Commissions in the Women's Forces in the rank of Sister. This rank carries the same status as that of a Lieutenant in H.M. Army, and the equivalent badges of rank are worn.

Kit Allowance.—The kit allowance granted to members of Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve is as follows:—Initial grant for uniform on joining, £45; annual grant for maintenance, £15; additional grant admissible on completion of six years' service, £10. Tropical uniform—initial grant, £10; annual grant for maintenance, £5. Active service outfit allowance, £8 5s. A free issue of certain articles of camp kit is also allowed.

Scales of Pay.—The scales of pay per annum operative as from 1st April, 1944, are as set out below:—

	Minimum	Annual Increment	Maximum
	£	£	£
Principal Matron	500	—	—
Matron	275	25	400
Senior Sister	220	10	250
Sister :			
On appointment ..	105	—	—
After one years' service ..	130	10	180
After ten years' service ..	—	—	200

Sisters are given credit for approved nursing experience by the allowance of higher rates on appointment, within a maximum of £160; and a candidate who is appointed direct from employment as a Sister in a recognised hospital will be paid at her existing salary (within the above scale).

Commissioned Nursing Sisters may also make application for War Service Grants after mobilisation in the same way as other officers of H.M. Forces.

Call-up for Service.—Members enrolled in Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve will be required to report for military duty when called upon, which will not necessarily be immediately after enrolment.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE IN FACTORIES.

NEW ORDERS.

By Regulation 60 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, the Minister of Labour and National Service is empowered to make provision by Order for securing the safety, health, and welfare, in undertakings subject to the Factories Act, 1937, of persons employed in the performance of services and engaged in operations which are essential for the defence of the realm or the efficient prosecution of the war or essential to the life of the community. In the exercise of these powers the Minister has recently made the Orders outlined below.

FACTORIES (TESTING OF AIRCRAFT ENGINES, CARBURETTORS AND OTHER ACCESSORIES) ORDER, 1944.

This Order,† made on 25th April, 1944, applies to all factories in which the testing of aircraft engines, carburettors and other accessories is carried on. It makes provision for minimising the risk of fire and explosions, in these factories, by imposing on the occupiers of the factories and, where appropriate, on other persons in the factories, specific obligations as to various matters, including the provision of proper drainage arrangements to deal with escape of petroleum spirit, ventilation of test rooms to prevent inflammable concentration of petrol vapour, the use of flame-proof electrical apparatus and other precautions in respect of the use of electrical apparatus, the fire-proof protection of test rooms, means of escape in case of fire, prohibition of smoking and the use of naked flames, and the provision of fire extinguishing equipment. The Order is to come into operation on 1st August, 1944.

THE PATENT FUEL MANUFACTURE (HEALTH AND WELFARE) ORDER, 1944.

This Order,† made on 27th April, provides for the observance in patent fuel works of various specified requirements with regard to ventilation, the suppression of dust, washing facilities and clothing accommodation, medical supervision and examination, the protection of the eyes and skin of workpeople, and messrooms. The Order came into operation on 15th May, but certain requirements of the Order which might involve structural alteration, etc., will not come into operation until three months after that date.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.

On his appointment as a Lord of Appeal, Lord Simonds has relinquished his appointment as Chairman of the National Arbitration Tribunal, and the Minister of Labour and National Service has appointed Sir John Forster, who has been one of the Appointed Members of the Tribunal since its inception, to succeed Lord Simonds as Chairman. The Minister has also appointed Lord Terrington, C.B.E., and Mr. William Gorman, K.C., to be additional members of the Appointed Members Panel of the Tribunal.

In addition to Sir John Forster, the members already serving on the Panel are Sir David Ross, K.B.E., M.A., LL.D., F.B.A., Sir Francis Floud, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., Sir Hector Hetherington, M.A., LL.D., and Mr. A. N. Shimmin, M.A.

WELFARE OF MERCHANT SEAMEN IN HOSPITALS.

Officers and men of the merchant navies of Great Britain and of allied and neutral nations are eligible for treatment in the hospitals covered by the Ministry of Health's Emergency Hospital Scheme. It therefore happens that at the present time merchant seamen are received all over the country in hospitals which may be unfamiliar with the nature and conditions of seamen's employment and with the various organisations, statutory and voluntary, concerned with their welfare. As a guide for hospital administrators and almoners concerned with the welfare of merchant seamen in hospital, the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the Ministry of War Transport have, accordingly, jointly issued a handbook (P.L. 149/1944) entitled "Welfare of Merchant Seamen in Hospital."

The handbook gives information concerning (i) the arrangements for notifying Seamen's Welfare Officers, or Superintendents of Mercantile Marine Offices at certain ports, of the admission to hospital and the discharge of seamen (including the special arrangements affecting allied and neutral seamen), and for communicating with the relatives of injured seamen; (ii) the classification of seamen in hospital for the purposes of Ministry of Health returns; (iii) the available arrangements for convalescent and special treatment, including the facilities provided by the Ministry of Labour's Scheme for Rehabilitation and Resettlement; (iv) the procedure for the submission by seamen of claims for compensation, wages due and temporary financial assistance; (v) the provision of comforts; and (vi) the arrangements for the burial of seamen who have died in hospital.

The information given in the handbook is in the nature of general outlines only, but it is considered that these are sufficient to show how to set in motion the machinery which has been devised to ensure the welfare of officers and men of the merchant navy and allied and neutral seamen while they are in hospital.

MOBILISATION OF MAN-POWER FOR WAR.

A booklet giving an authoritative account of the successive stages by which the man-power and woman-power of the country have been marshalled to man and equip the fighting forces, and, at the same time, ensure the maintenance of services essential to the well-being of the civil community, has been published by H.M. Stationery Office.* The process of mobilisation, as described in this record, has been one of planned progression, step by step, and the high degree of mobilisation now attained is demonstrated by figures set out in the booklet.

There are in Great Britain, the booklet states, 33,100,000 persons aged from 14 to 64 inclusive, including 15,900,000 men and 17,200,000 women. Of the women, most of whom are married, nearly 10,000,000 are occupied in essential household duties, including the care of children. Between the ages of 18 and 64 years, there are only 4,500,000 women who are unmarried. Over 20,700,000 men and women have been registered under the National Service Acts and the Registration for Employment Order. Of the 33,100,000 persons aged 14–64, nearly 23,000,000 are "gainfully occupied," (including those in the Armed Forces at home and abroad, and including also persons employed on a part-time basis). In addition, it is stated that about 1,000,000 men and women aged 65 and over are in paid employment. This does not take into account any form of voluntary work, such as that of married women with domestic responsibilities who are taking in lodgers and evacuees, or members of the W.V.S. or other organisations doing voluntary work at canteens, nursery schools, etc. There are at least 1,000,000 women of all ages rendering voluntary service.

It is estimated that by the middle of 1943 there were 1,200,000 more men employed on munition work than at the end of the last war, and that the proportion of women aged 14–59 in the Forces, munitions and essential industries was about double the proportion in 1918. The total number of female workers in all industries and in the Forces, excluding private domestic service, was estimated to be 7,750,000, of whom about 750,000 were in part-time employment. Nearly 3,000,000 married women and widows were in employment as compared with 1,250,000 before the war; and among women aged 18–40 years it is estimated that 90 per cent. of the single women, and 80 per cent. of the married women and widows without dependent children, were in the Forces or industry.

The booklet also describes the activities of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in setting up safeguards on wages and working conditions, in attention to welfare inside and outside the factories, including the provision of canteens and hostels, and in ensuring by all possible means the comfort of workers who have been transferred from their homes to places where their labour is vitally required.

NATIONAL SERVICE ACTS, 1939-1942.

FURTHER REGISTRATION OF MEN.

Young men born between 1st July, 1926, and 30th September, 1926, both dates inclusive, are required to register under the National Service Acts, 1939 to 1942, on 3rd June, 1944, unless they are exempt from the operation of the Acts. As in the case of other recent registrations, the men concerned are to be given an opportunity of expressing an option for coal mining as an alternative to service in the Armed Forces of the Crown.

* *Man-Power. The Story of Britain's Mobilisation for War.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net (11d. post free).

* S.R. & O. 1944, No. 495. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. post free).
† S.R. & O. 1944, No. 521. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

WAGES IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

NEW FOUR-YEARS AGREEMENT.

On 20th April the Mining Association of Great Britain and the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain, representing respectively the employers and the workpeople in the coal mining industry, signed an Agreement on behalf of their members governing the wages to be paid in the industry for the next four years.

In giving an account of the events which had led up to this Agreement, and an explanation of its significance, the Minister of Fuel and Power stated in the House of Commons, on 21st April, that he had written to the two sides of the industry in December last suggesting a series of meetings to consider a wide range of problems dealing with post-war security, including the future wage structure of the industry. This followed an undertaking which had been given by the Prime Minister that he would arrange for such discussions, in order that harassing fears for the future might as far as possible be allayed. Before, however, any of these meetings took place an application was made by the mineworkers for an increase in the national minimum weekly wage, with consequential increases for piece-workers to take account of any increase conceded in the minimum. The two sides failed to reach agreement and the issue was referred to the National Tribunal for the Coal Mining Industry, which made its award on 22nd January. In awarding a minimum weekly wage of £5 for adult male underground workers, and £4 10s. for adult male surface workers, the Tribunal rejected the application for an increase in piece-work rates, declared that a general overhaul of the wages structure was long overdue, and stressed their view that the award they had given was merely a temporary expedient which would afford an opportunity for the wage structure throughout the industry to be reconsidered and thoroughly reviewed, in conjunction with the general conditions obtaining in it.* In view of the consequences of this award, in their effect upon the long-established differences of pay for the various classes of mineworkers, it became necessary for the Minister of Fuel and Power to inform the two sides of the industry that the Government could not permit the award to be the occasion of very substantial all-round increases of wages, district by district and grade by grade, at the expense of the Coal Charges Account and of the consumer. At the same time, he stressed the need for undertaking immediately the suggested overhaul of the wages structure, and offered to give any help in his power to assist in carrying out the task. At the request of both sides, he presided over a joint meeting on 8th March to consider the principles on which changes might be made, and at that meeting he put forward proposals for consideration, the Government being ready to make the necessary financial arrangements by some means, such as the continuance of the Coal Charges Account, if alterations on the lines of these proposals proved acceptable as a basis of stability for a period of approximately four years.

The terms of the Agreement reached on 20th April by the two sides of the industry embody, with some few modifications, the proposals submitted by the Minister. These proposals had two main objectives; the first was to allay the fears of the mineworkers about the post-war position, and it was for this purpose that the Minister proposed that the Agreement should run for at least four years; the second was to offer as great an incentive as possible to the productive workers, and with this in view the Minister suggested the conversion of the flat-rate advances in wages, which had been given in 1936 and during the war, amounting to a considerable proportion of shift earnings, into percentage increases on piece rates.

The terms of the new Agreement are as shown below:—

1. The Mining Association of Great Britain and the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain having considered the suggestions for the overhaul of the wage structure of the coal-mining industry submitted to them by the Minister of Fuel and Power on 8th March, 1944, agree to operate the proposals set out in paragraph 2 hereof.

2. (i) The existing ascertainment agreements shall be suspended for the duration of this agreement, such percentage additions as are at present payable thereunder being merged in the day-wages or piece-rates payable as provided herein.

(ii) Flat-rate additions to wages, other than the cost-of-living advance, shall, subject to the approval of the Minister of Fuel and Power, in each district or wage area be incorporated in wages as follows:—

(a) In each District the day-wage basis rates shall include the District ascertainment percentage existing at the date hereof and the District flat-rate advances. The day-wages of skilled craftsmen as defined in the schedule hereto† and of the day-wage workers in a District set out in the schedule hereto applicable to that District shall be further increased by 1s. per shift provided that if such wages are at or below the minimum wage awarded for that class of work by the National Reference Tribunal for the Coal Mining Industry on 22nd January, 1944, such 1s. per shift shall be paid in addition to such minimum wage.

(b) In each District or wage area the piece-rates shall be increased by the percentage set out for each district

or wage area in the attached Schedule approved by the Minister of Fuel and Power; which percentages have been arrived at by ascertaining the percentage which the flat-rate allowances, other than the cost-of-living allowance, bear to the effective district minimum shift rate for the particular district or wage area.

(c) The District Output Bonus Scheme which came into operation in September, 1942, shall be discontinued at the end of the first output bonus period following the date hereof, but payments falling due in respect of that period shall be made. Special consideration will be given to wages in districts which have regularly earned District Output Bonus.

3. This agreement shall operate as from the beginning of the first pay-week next after the date hereof and shall continue until notice in writing shall be given by either party hereto to amend or terminate this agreement at the expiration of six months from the date of serving such notice, provided that such notice shall not be given before the 31st December, 1947.

4. The parties hereto agree that during the currency of this agreement no variation will be sought in the rates awarded in the existing operative awards of the National Reference Tribunal or District Conciliation Machinery for the Coal Mining Industry or in district rates as modified by this agreement. Further, no application for alterations in wages rates at a pit shall be made other than those normally made in respect of changed methods or conditions of working in accordance with custom or agreement existing in the district.

5. The parties hereto re-affirm their view that in war-time and in the transitional period from war to peace the smooth working of the coalmining industry is essential to the social and economic life of the nation and for the well-being of the industry itself. Realising that the purpose of this agreement for a term of years is to secure industrial peace and stability, the parties pledge themselves to use their full authority to ensure observance of this agreement by their members, and to ensure that no support, financial or otherwise, is given by the parties hereto or by any of their constituent Associations to any member acting in breach of this agreement. They further undertake to continue to use every endeavour to ensure maximum output, efficiency and regularity of attendance and the speedy determination of any disputes by the machinery established nationally or in the Districts for that purpose.

The Agreement came into operation as from the beginning of the first pay-week after 20th April.

EMPLOYMENT, OUTPUT, WAGES, ETC., IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY, 1936-1943.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 19th April the Minister of Fuel and Power gave the following statistics relating to numbers employed, output, number of shifts worked, proceeds per ton and average wages paid in the coal mining industry in the years 1936 to 1943:—

Period.	Average number of wage-earners on colliery books.	Total output of saleable coal raised.	Average number of shifts worked per wage-earner per week.†
		Tons.	
1936: Jan.-June..	759,500	114,606,500	4.99
July-Dec...	752,500	113,827,700	5.02
1937: Jan.-June..	772,000	120,488,500	5.23
July-Dec...	783,700	119,904,200	5.14
1938: Jan.-June..	789,500	116,375,900	5.05
July-Dec...	773,900	110,617,300	4.87
1939: Jan.-June..	773,000	117,751,500	5.18
July-Dec...	759,600	113,586,400	5.11
1940: Jan.-June..	762,400	117,951,700	5.36
July-Dec...	736,000	106,347,100	5.18
1941: Jan.-June..	692,900	101,314,200	5.35
July-Dec...	702,300	105,030,100	5.39
1942: Jan.-June..	707,100	100,800,200	5.35
July-Dec...	710,900	102,833,200	5.33
1943: Jan.-June*	710,300	99,151,300	5.23
July-Dec.*	702,700	96,337,300	5.03
	Average proceeds per ton disposable commercially.†	Average wages paid (excluding the value of allowances in kind).	
		Per ton disposable commercially.†	Per man-shift worked.†
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1936: Jan.-June..	14 6.31	9 1.42	10 0.03
July-Dec...	14 8.69	9 2.61	10 0.66
1937: Jan.-June..	15 6.30	9 7.25	10 7.01
July-Dec...	16 2.82	10 0.47	10 9.06
1938: Jan.-June..	17 3.58	10 5.68	11 2.38
July-Dec...	17 5.16	10 7.23	11 2.79
1939: Jan.-June..	17 6.46	10 8.35	11 5.79
July-Dec...	18 4.36	11 1.20	11 7.75
1940: Jan.-June..	19 11.82	12 2.04	12 8.67
July-Dec...	20 10.98	13 4.82	13 4.38
1941: Jan.-June..	23 6.60	14 4.89	14 2.91
July-Dec...	24 6.37	15 8.88	15 6.64
1942: Jan.-June..	24 8.69	16 9.17	16 2.24
July-Dec...	27 10.36	19 4.81	18 8.38
1943: Jan.-June*	28 11.39	19 10.93	18 11.05
July-Dec.*	28 11.15	20 7.31	19 3.36

* The figures for 1943 are provisional.

† Except in the case of shifts worked per wage-earner in 1943 (for which complete statistics were available), the figures shown relate to undertakings accounting for between 96 and 97 per cent. of the total output and have been obtained from returns made in connection with the wages ascertainsments.

* Particulars of the award were published in the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1944, page 23.

† Owing to limitations of space the schedule referred to is not reproduced here.

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS IN 1943.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1944 (page 9), some preliminary statistics were given of industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work, which occurred in the United Kingdom in 1943. More detailed statistics regarding these disputes, revised in accordance with the latest information received, are now available and are given below.

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work,* reported to the Department as having begun in the United Kingdom in 1943, was 1,785, as compared with 1,303 in the previous year. Six of the stoppages which had begun towards the end of 1942 continued into 1943, so that the total number of stoppages in progress in 1943 was 1,791.

The number of workpeople directly involved (*i.e.*, on strike or locked out) in all the stoppages in progress in 1943 was about 455,000, while about 104,000 were indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes).

The total number of workpeople involved, either directly or indirectly, in all the stoppages in progress in 1943 was thus about 559,000,† as compared with about 457,000† in 1942.

The aggregate number of working days lost on account of stoppages, at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at about 1,810,000 in 1943, compared with about 1,530,000 in 1942.

In the following Table the stoppages *beginning* in 1943 are classified according to their duration in working days, including working days lost in 1944 in cases where the stoppage was continued into that year.

Duration of Stoppage in working days.	Stoppages beginning in 1943.		
	Number of stoppages.	Number of workpeople involved, directly and indirectly.	Aggregate number of working days lost.
Not more than 1 day	768	143,100	130,000
Over 1 and not more than 2 days ..	470	102,900	159,000
" 2 " " " 3 " ..	200	56,300	135,000
" 3 " " " 4 " ..	113	44,400	131,000
" 4 " " " 5 " ..	70	23,300	92,000
" 5 " " " 6 " ..	47	42,600	173,000
" 6 " " " 12 " ..	79	89,700	459,000
" 12 " " " 18 " ..	15	31,100	285,000
Over 18 days	23	23,600	266,000
Total	1,785	557,000	1,830,000

Most of the stoppages of work which took place during 1943 involved relatively small numbers of workpeople, and the great majority were of short duration. Nearly two-fifths of all the stoppages lasted not more than one day, over four-fifths terminated within three days, and only one in fifteen lasted over six days.

The following Table analyses, by industry groups, the number of stoppages reported as *beginning* in 1943, together with the number of workpeople involved in, and the aggregate number of working days lost through, *all* stoppages *in progress* in that year, and gives corresponding figures for 1942:—

Industry group.	1943.			1942.		
	Number of stop- pages begin- ning in 1943.	Number of work- people involved in all stop- pages in progress in 1943.	Aggregate number of work- ing days lost in 1943 through all stop- pages in progress.	Number of stop- pages begin- ning in 1942.	Number of work- people involved in all stop- pages in progress in 1942.	Aggregate number of work- ing days lost in 1942 through all stop- pages in progress.
Fishing	3	1,700	14,000	..	252,000†	840,000
Coal Mining ..	843	294,000†	890,000	526	252,000†	840,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	19	1,700	3,000	29	4,600	22,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	30	1,600	4,000	39	5,500	10,000
Engineering ..	288	121,000	437,000	233	82,000	283,000
Shipbuilding ..	196	32,000	137,000	111	42,000	192,000
Iron and Steel and Other Metal ..	128	18,200	61,000	132	18,200	51,000
Textile	52	6,100	17,000	47	9,600	26,000
Clothing	23	3,100	7,000	13	5,100	19,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco	17	8,800	27,000	12	2,000	4,000
Woodworking, Fur- niture, etc. ..	4	600	1,000	8	1,700	6,000
Building, Public Works Contracting	71	13,200	25,000	66	13,400	29,000
Transport	68	53,500	180,000	51	15,600	35,000
Commerce, Distribu- tion and Finance	8	500	1,000	8	2,000	3,000
All Other Industries	35	3,000	6,000	28	3,300	7,000
Total	1,785	559,000†	1,810,000	1,303	457,000†	1,527,000

* Stoppages 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 number of working days lost exceeded 100.

† Some workpeople, chiefly in the coal mining industry, were involved in more than one stoppage in the year, and have therefore been counted more than once in the year's total. The *net* number of individuals involved in stoppages in progress during the year was approximately 410,000 in 1943, compared with approximately 340,000 in 1942. For coal mining alone the corresponding totals were approximately 180,000 in 1943 and 150,000 in 1942.

Of the total numbers of workpeople shown above as involved in all stoppages which were in progress in the two years, approximately 104,000 in 1943 and 107,000 in 1942 were involved only *indirectly*, (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments affected, but not themselves parties to the disputes).

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES IN 1943.

Nearly one-half of all the stoppages reported, and of the aggregate loss in working days involved, occurred in the coal mining industry. The principal disputes in this industry occurred in the later months of the year. During September there was a stoppage of work at collieries in Nottinghamshire in protest against the imprisonment of a surface worker who had failed to comply with a direction to work underground, which involved some 24,000 workpeople and a loss of about 80,000 working days. Later in the same month and in the first few days of October a stoppage, involving about 10,000 workpeople and some 45,000 working days, occurred at collieries in Lanarkshire, East Dumbartonshire, and West Stirlingshire, in protest against the arrest of a number of men who had failed to pay fines imposed in respect of an earlier stoppage. Some 7,500 workpeople at collieries in the Amman and Swansea Valleys were involved in a stoppage of work during the second half of October, on a question of the wages of youths, in which about 35,000 working days were lost. A protracted stoppage which began at the end of October, on a question of the wages of a number of men at a Yorkshire colliery, accounted for the loss of nearly 55,000 working days, although only about 2,000 workpeople were involved. Two disputes began in November on questions of wages, each involving some 12,500 men at various pits in Lancashire: approximately 85,000 working days were lost in the first of these stoppages and about 50,000 working days in the second.

The metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries accounted for approximately one-third of the total number of stoppages in 1943, and about the same proportion of the aggregate number of working days lost in that year. Nearly 7,000 engineering operatives were involved in a stoppage of work at Barrow-in-Furness, in September, arising from a dispute as to the interpretation of an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal, in which nearly 100,000 working days were lost. At the end of October and during the first week in November nearly 90,000 working days were lost by some 16,000 engineering operatives who ceased work at certain establishments in the West of Scotland in objection to a recently negotiated agreement respecting the wages of women workers.

In the transport industry, nearly 50,000 working days were lost in a stoppage of work involving about 12,000 passenger road transport workers in various parts of England during the latter half of May, arising from dissatisfaction on the part of the workpeople with the rejection, by a Special Tribunal, of an application for increased wages. In the third week of August some 16,000 port workers at Liverpool and Birkenhead were involved in a loss of over 55,000 working days through ceasing work in sympathy with men who had been suspended for refusing to work overtime.

CAUSES OF DISPUTES.

An analysis of the principal causes of disputes leading to stoppages of work which began in 1943, showing the numbers and proportions of disputes and of workpeople directly involved therein, is given below. In some cases disputes originate from more than one cause; *e.g.*, a claim for an advance in wages may be accompanied by a claim for a reduction in working hours. For the purpose of the statistics such disputes have been classified according to what appeared to be the principal cause of the stoppage.

Principal causes.	Stoppages beginning in 1943.		Workpeople directly involved in stoppages beginning in 1943.	
	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.
Wage increase questions	381	21.3	124,400	27.4
Wage decrease questions	94	5.3	21,700	4.8
Other wage questions	501	28.1	97,500	21.5
All wage questions	976	54.7	243,600	53.7
Hours of labour	52	2.9	10,800	2.4
Employment of particular classes or persons	214	12.0	65,000	14.3
Other working arrangements, rules and discipline	439	24.6	49,300	10.9
Trade unionism	31	1.7	11,900	2.6
Sympathetic action	15	0.8	11,700	2.6
Other questions	58	3.3	61,300	13.5
Total	1,785	100.0	453,600	100.0

Wages questions, as a whole, accounted for more than one-half, both of the total number of stoppages beginning in 1943 and of the workpeople directly involved therein. The relatively few disputes which arose on questions of hours of labour during 1943 accounted for only some 2 per cent. of the workpeople directly involved in stoppages in that year. Stoppages in connection with working arrangements (other than wages and hours), the employment of particular classes or persons, working rules and discipline were responsible for nearly two-fifths of the total number of stoppages and for one-quarter of the workpeople directly involved in stoppages.

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.

The principal methods by which disputes beginning in 1943 were settled are shown in the following Table :—

Methods of settlement.	Stoppages beginning in 1943.		Workpeople directly involved in stoppages beginning in 1943.	
	Number.	Per cent. of Total.	Number.	Per cent. of Total.
By direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives	918	51.4	203,300	44.8
By conciliation	85	4.8	29,600	6.5
By arbitration	11	0.6	5,400	1.2
By return to work on employers' terms, without negotiation ..	722	40.5	151,800	33.5
Otherwise*	49	2.7	63,500	14.0
Total	1,785	100.0	453,600	100.0

More than one-half of the disputes in 1943 were settled by direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives, while two out of every five stoppages ended in a resumption of work, on employers' terms, without negotiation.

DISPUTES IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

In the following Table comparative figures are given for each of the past fifteen years, showing the numbers of stoppages beginning in each year, the numbers of workpeople involved in these stoppages, and the aggregate number of working days lost within each year through all stoppages in progress.

Year.	Number of Stoppages beginning in Year.	Number of Workpeople† involved in Stoppages beginning in Year.			Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress during Year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1929	431	493,000	40,000	533,000	8,290,000
1930	422	286,000	21,000	307,000	4,400,000
1931	420	424,000	66,000	490,000	6,980,000
1932	389	337,000	42,000	379,000	6,490,000
1933	357	114,000	22,000	136,000	1,070,000
1934	471	109,000	25,000	134,000	960,000
1935	553	230,000	41,000	271,000	1,960,000
1936	818	241,000	75,000	316,000	1,830,000
1937	1,129	388,000	209,000	597,000	3,410,000
1938	875	211,000	63,000	274,000	1,330,000
1939	940	246,000	91,000	337,000	1,360,000
1940	922	225,000	74,000	299,000	940,000
1941	1,251	297,000	63,000	360,000	1,080,000
1942	1,303	350,000	107,000	457,000	1,530,000
1943	1,785	453,000†	104,000	557,000†	1,810,000

The aggregate number of working days lost through stoppages of work due to industrial disputes in 1943, though larger than that for any of the five preceding years, was equivalent to only a small fraction of one working day per head when averaged over the whole of the wage-earning population. During the last war, the aggregate numbers of working days lost in disputes ranged from about 2,450,000 in 1916 to nearly 5,900,000 in 1918.

“PAY-AS-YOU-EARN” INCOME TAX.

REPAYMENTS DURING UNEMPLOYMENT.

Under the “Pay-as-you-Earn” scheme for the collection of Income Tax, which came into operation on 6th April, 1944, it may happen, when the rate of earned income falls, that the cumulative tax due at the end of any week will be less than the aggregate amount of tax already deducted from wages and that a repayment of the difference becomes due to the taxpayer. Where the taxpayer is still in employment, the repayment will be made by the employer along with the payment of wages. Where, however, the taxpayer is unemployed, other arrangements for making the repayments have been made.

In the case of taxpayers who are paid benefit or allowances in cash by Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, or by postal draft, the repayments will in general be made, in accordance with arrangements concluded between the Board of Inland Revenue and the Ministry, by the Local Offices of the Ministry along with the weekly payments of benefit or allowances. The arrangements also cover repayments of Income Tax to members of Associations (with very few exceptions) through which benefit or allowances are paid indirectly, so that the repayments will be made along with the payments to be made by the Associations. The arrangements do not cover juveniles (under 18 years of age), persons whose allowances are paid by the Area Offices of the Assistance Board, or persons who receive benefit under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurances industries.

The responsibility of computing the repayments under these arrangements will remain entirely that of the Inland Revenue Department, which will certify to the Employment Exchange the amount of the weekly payment to be made in each case. In order to obtain the first repayment the wage earner will have to complete a simple form of application and employers will hold a stock of blank forms for this purpose. Subsequent repayments will be made automatically each week while unemployment continues without any further written application.

Where these arrangements are unsuitable, the Inland Revenue will make the repayments direct.

* Including one case where work had been resumed but the matter in dispute had not been finally settled at the time of going to press.

† Workpeople involved in more than one stoppage in any year are counted more than once in the year's total; see note † on previous page.

‡ In addition, about 2,000 workpeople were involved in stoppages which began in 1942 and continued into 1943.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND ACCOUNTS, 1942-1943.

The audited accounts of the Unemployment Fund for the year ended 31st March, 1943, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, have been published.* The General Account and the Agricultural Account are shown separately; the latter shows the amounts attributable to the insurance of persons employed in agriculture, while the General Account includes all other receipts and payments of the Fund.

General Account.—The receipts during 1942-43 amounted to £78,728,292; contributions from employers, employed persons and the Exchequer totalled £75,750,966, compared with £76,199,370 in the previous year, while income from investments increased from £1,281,958 to £2,974,804.

The total expenditure during 1942-43 was £6,020,406, as compared with £8,709,554 in the previous year. Owing to the continued fall in the number of persons registered as unemployed there was a further reduction in expenditure on benefit, which amounted to £3,263,548, as compared with £5,804,554 in 1941-42. The cost of administration chargeable to this account was £2,476,976, the corresponding figure for the previous year being £2,589,072.

In consequence of these factors the balance in hand rose from £97,986,484 at 1st April, 1942, to £170,694,371 at the end of the financial year.

Agricultural Account.—The receipts for the year 1942-43 amounted to £1,576,867, of which £1,440,105 represented contributions by employers, employed persons and the Exchequer; the figure for contributions during the previous year was £1,360,183. Expenditure on benefit fell from £195,834 in 1941-42 to £97,356 in 1942-43. The balance on this account rose from £5,145,463 at 1st April, 1942, to £6,441,897 at 31st March, 1943.

Investments.—The total balance in the Fund (General and Agricultural Accounts combined) at 31st March, 1943, was £177,136,268, and deposits by employers in respect of deferred and other stamping arrangements, etc., amounted to £110,514. Investments held by the National Debt Commissioners totalled £177,187,403. The cost price of the holdings of various securities was as follows: 2½ per cent. Conversion Stock, 1944-49, £6,775,366; 2 per cent. Conversion Stock, 1943-45, £12,359,208; 2½ per cent. National War Bonds, 1946-48, £39,987,000; 2½ per cent. National War Bonds, 1949-51, £84,457,650; 2½ per cent. National War Bonds, 1951-53, £15,828,750; 2½ per cent. National War Bonds, 1951-53, Series A, £4,209,600; and Treasury Bills, £13,569,829.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS.

MEMORANDUM BY THE HOME OFFICE.

The Home Office Memorandum reviewing the main provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Acts has been revised and re-published to include information concerning recent legislation. In the revised Memorandum† the principal features of the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1925-1943, are set out briefly and in plain language under the following headings:—(1) Object of the Act; (2) Injuries to which the Act applies; (3) Persons entitled to compensation; (4) The person liable to pay compensation; (5) Amount of compensation and how payable; (6) Procedure for claiming and recovering compensation; (7) Review and redemption of weekly payments; (8) Settlement of disputes by medical referees; (9) Application of Act to industrial disease; (10) Contracting-out.

In Appendices to the Memorandum details are also given of (i) the rates of weekly payments in the case of disabled workmen whose average weekly earnings are 50s. or less a week, and (ii) industrial diseases scheduled under the Act.

FOOD CONTROL.

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

Under an Order made by the Minister of Food, and taking effect from 21st April, maximum retail prices are specified for home-grown tomatoes of the 1944 crop. A further Order made by the Minister schedules the maximum retail prices for new potatoes in 1944; these prices are somewhat lower than the corresponding prices in 1943, ranging, in Great Britain from 4d. per lb. at the end of April down to 1½d. per lb. in the first week in August, and in Northern Ireland from 3d. per lb. on 12th June down to 1½d. per lb. on and after 28th July. As a result of further Orders relating to the controlled prices of fish, the maximum retail price of hake has been increased by ½d. per lb., the maximum retail prices of fillets of certain other kinds of fish have been raised by 1d. or 2d. per lb., and some alterations have been made in the maximum retail prices of canned fish.

FOOD RATIONING.

As from 30th April the amount of the preserves ration was doubled. The option to buy sugar instead of preserves, or preserves instead of sugar, continues, but on the basis that 1 lb. of sugar is regarded as the equivalent of 2 lb. of preserves. By an earlier Order of the Minister of Food, Chilean whole green lentils were removed from the points ration scheme as from 2nd April.

* H.C. 56 of 1943-4. H.M. Stationery Office, price 2d. net (3d. post free).

† *Memorandum on the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1925-1943*, H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net (4d. post free).

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

The number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 17th April (exclusive of 18,132 men who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 50,232; those registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 356; and those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 883. As compared with 17th January, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 1,286 among men but an increase of 1,585 among boys, the latter being mainly due to the registration of school leavers. Those temporarily suspended from work showed a decrease of 86, and unemployed casual workers showed a decrease of 36.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 17th April were 22,860 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 555, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 297 temporarily stopped, and 62 unemployed casual workers. Of the 22,860 wholly unemployed, 893 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 17th January, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 3,881, those temporarily stopped showed a decrease of 678, and unemployed casual workers showed an increase of 35.

The number of applicants for unemployment benefit or allowances included in the foregoing totals for 17th April was 47,120, as compared with 53,396 at 17th January, 1944, and 55,679 at 12th April, 1943.

The numbers registered as unemployed* at 17th April, 1944, are analysed below:—

	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	Unemployed Casual Workers.
Great Britain.			
Men	39,205	355	882
Boys	11,027	1	1
Women	13,754	281	62
Girls	9,106	16	—
Total	73,092	653	945
Decrease (—) as compared with:			
17th January, 1944	—3,582	—764	— 1
12th April, 1943	—3,677	—659	—1,065
United Kingdom.			
Men	48,459	820	2,033
Boys	11,692	11	1
Women	16,769	1,371	68
Girls	9,514	65	—
Total	86,434	2,267	2,102
Increase (+) or decrease (—) as compared with:			
17th January, 1944	—5,200	—527	+ 195
12th April, 1943	—6,340	+ 46	—1,110

The numbers of unemployed persons* on the registers at 17th April, 1944, in each administrative region are shown below:—

Region.	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.
Wholly Unemployed.					
London and South-Eastern	5,699	2,312	2,760	1,794	12,565
Eastern	1,360	326	597	282	2,565
Southern	715	287	225	326	1,553
South Western	1,375	441	362	438	2,616
Midlands	1,530	567	290	454	2,841
North Midlands	958	180	304	155	1,597
North Eastern	2,044	632	782	485	3,943
North Western	4,701	2,076	1,521	1,166	9,464
Northern	4,440	1,525	1,769	1,640	9,374
Scotland	9,946	1,672	3,568	1,291	16,477
Wales	6,437	1,009	1,576	1,075	10,097
Great Britain	39,205	11,027	13,754	9,106	73,092
Northern Ireland	9,254	665	3,015	408	13,342
United Kingdom	48,459	11,692	16,769	9,514	86,434
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.					
London and South-Eastern	244	—	61	—	305
Eastern	34	—	11	1	46
Southern	4	—	3	1	8
South Western	135	1	14	—	150
Midlands	36	—	15	—	51
North Midlands	12	—	44	1	57
North Eastern	62	—	40	6	108
North Western	165	—	32	—	197
Northern	184	—	57	1	242
Scotland	301	1	63	—	365
Wales	60	—	3	6	69
Great Britain	1,237	2	343	16	1,598
Northern Ireland	1,616	10	1,096	49	2,771
United Kingdom	2,853	12	1,439	65	4,369

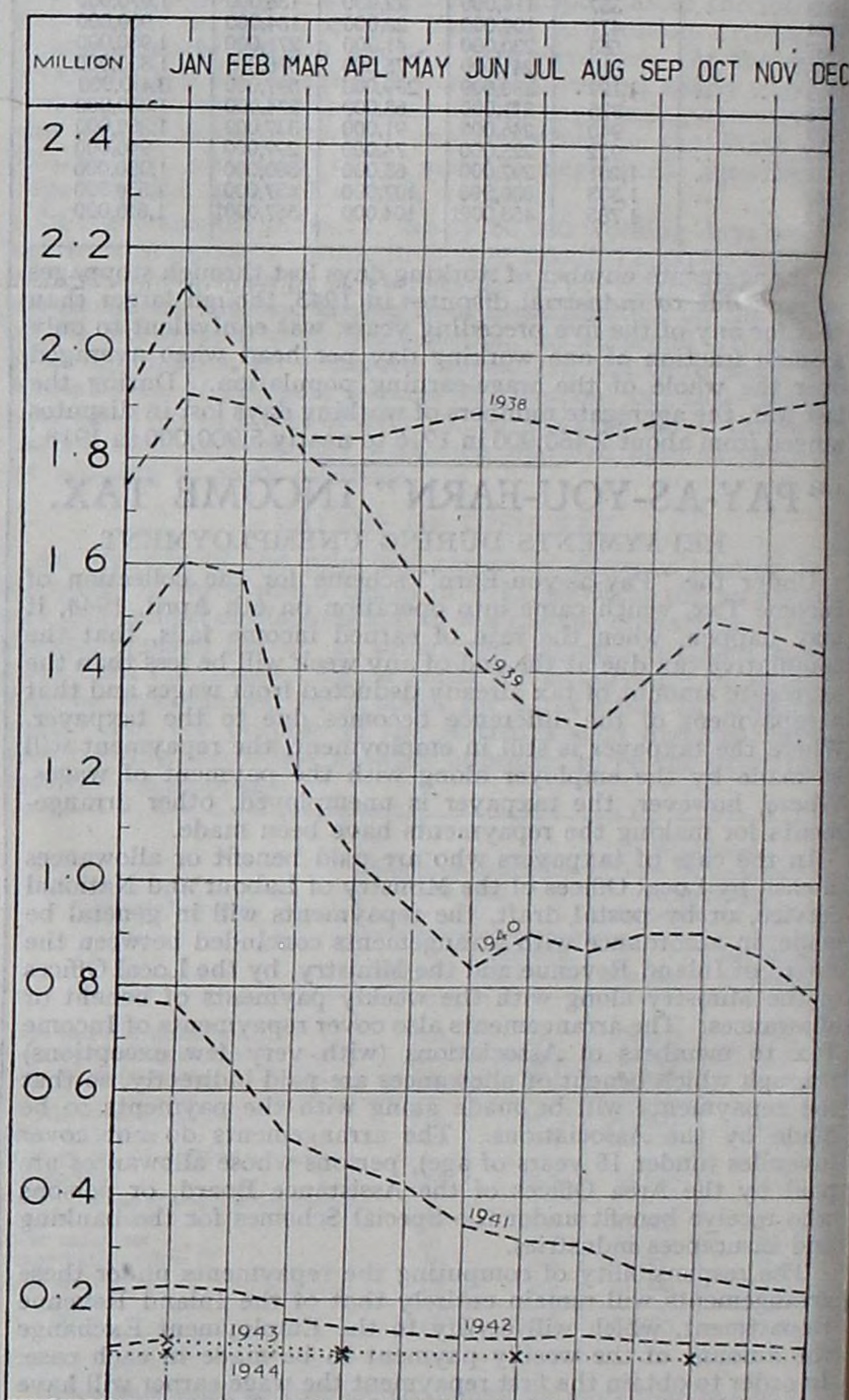
* The figures are exclusive of 18,132 men classified as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and 555 women unsuitable for normal full-time employment.

The following Table shows the numbers of unemployed persons* on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and in the United Kingdom at quarterly dates since 12th April, 1943:—

Date.	Great Britain.					United Kingdom
	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.	Total.
Wholly Unemployed.						
1943.						
12 April	44,102	7,114	18,872	6,681	76,769	92,774
19 July	39,735	8,786	14,662	7,946	71,129	85,563
18 October	40,042	8,416	15,546	8,249	72,253	82,626
1944.						
17 January	40,491	9,442	17,736	9,005	76,674	91,634
17 April	39,205	11,027	13,754	9,106	73,092	86,434
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.						
1943.						
12 April	2,614	8	641	59	3,322	5,433
19 July	1,697	18	405	9	2,129	4,989
18 October	1,346	5	328	4	1,683	3,904
1944.						
17 January	1,360	1	926	76	2,363	4,701
17 April	1,237	2	343	16	1,598	4,369

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.



Note.—Since January, 1943, statistics of unemployment have been compiled only at quarterly intervals (see the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1943, page 22). For each of the quarterly dates, since January, 1943, in respect of which statistics are available, the number registered as unemployed is indicated by a cross on the chart, the dotted lines being intended only to assist the eye by connecting the points so indicated. From March, 1942, persons classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment have been excluded from the statistics relating to the numbers unemployed; the effect of this change is shown by the two points, on the chart, for that month.

* The figures exclude men classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women classified as unsuitable for normal full-time employment.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT
STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 17TH APRIL, 1944.

	Men 18 years and over.	Boys under 18 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls under 18 years.	Total.
PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES:					
1. Insured Persons:					
Claimants to Benefit* and applicants for Unemployment Allowances†	(a) 34,841	1,174	9,514	623	46,152
Non-claimants†	(b) 15,196	—	292	—	15,488
	(a) 3,673	4,179	2,496	3,965	14,313
	(b) 1,584	—	91	—	1,675
Total—Insured Persons on Regis- ters†	(a) 38,514	5,353	12,010	4,588	60,465
	(b) 16,780	—	383	—	17,163
2. Uninsured Persons:					
Applicants for Unemployment Allowances†	(a) 367	12	584	5	968
Persons not applying for Allowances†	(b) 615	—	123	—	738
	(a) 1,561	5,664	1,503	4,529	13,257
	(b) 737	—	49	—	786
Total—Uninsured on Registers† ..	(a) 1,928	5,676	2,037	4,534	14,225
	(b) 1,352	—	172	—	1,524
GRAND TOTAL ON REGISTERS† ..	(a) 40,442	11,029	14,097	9,122	74,690
	(b) 18,132	—	555	—	18,687
INSURED PERSONS CLAIMING BENEFIT UNDER SPECIAL SCHEMES					
	93	3	94	2	192
INSURED PERSONS WITH BOOKS IN TWO MONTHS FILE†					
	4,489	1,493	6,824	1,728	14,534

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The number of civilians in employment in industries other than agriculture and domestic service in January, 1944, is estimated by the United States Department of Labour to have been approximately 37,229,000. This was 3.2 per cent. lower than the figure for December, 1943, and 1.7 per cent. lower than that for January, 1943, but 25.1 per cent. higher than the average for the year 1939. The number of wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries in January, 1944, is estimated to have been 1.7 per cent. lower than in December, 1943, 1.0 per cent. higher than in January, 1943, and 66.4 per cent. above the average for the year 1939.

Estimates by the United States Bureau of the Census show that the total number of unemployed persons in the United States of America in January, 1944, was approximately 1,100,000, as compared with 900,000 in both November and December, 1943, and 1,600,000 in January, 1943. These figures have been compiled on a revised basis and are not therefore comparable with those previously published.

AUSTRALIA.

According to information received by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the number of persons employed in factories in October, 1943, was 0.1 per cent. higher than in September, 1943, and 1.7 per cent. higher than in October, 1942.

CANADA.

According to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from over 14,000 employers, the total number of workpeople in employment at 1st February in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service was 1.3 per cent. lower than at 1st January, 1944, but 1.1 per cent. higher than at 1st February, 1943, and 83.2 per cent. above the average number for the year 1926. The number of persons employed in manufacturing industries at 1st February was 0.4 per cent. higher than the figure for the previous month and 2.3 per cent. higher than that for a year earlier.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Returns received by the Office of Census and Statistics indicate that in January, 1944, the number of workpeople employed in manufacturing establishments generally and in mining and transport was 0.6 per cent. lower than in December, 1943, and 1.3 per cent. lower than in January, 1943. The figure for December, 1943, was 0.1 per cent. lower than that for November.

* These figures do not include claimants under the Special Schemes for the Banking and Insurance industries, who are shown separately in the lower part of the Table.

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

‡ The "two-months file" contains the unemployment books of insured persons who have registered as unemployed at some time within the past two months but are not continuing to register, though they are not known to have found work and their books remain "lodged" at the Employment Exchanges concerned. Early in January, 1944, it was found that a large number of the books in the file were those of persons who had not registered at an Employment Exchange during the past two months, and it was accordingly arranged that the books of such persons should be removed from the file before the statistics for 17th January, and subsequent dates, were compiled. This action has resulted in a marked reduction in the number of books in the file (see footnote † on page 37 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1944) and in these circumstances the figures for January and April, 1944, should not be regarded as comparable with those for October, 1943, or earlier dates, given in previous issues of this GAZETTE. As, however, none of the persons whose books are in the two-months file are registering as unemployed, the breach in the comparability of these figures does not affect the statistics relating to the numbers of unemployed persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges, given on page 78.

ÉIRE.

The number of persons on the live register of Employment Exchanges at 29th April, 1944, was 63,274, compared with 67,227 at 25th March, 1944, and 77,155 at 1st May, 1943.

SWEDEN.

According to statistics compiled by the Swedish Social Board on the basis of returns from representative establishments, the number of manual workers employed in industrial, commercial and transport undertakings in February, 1944, was slightly higher than in January. The index number (based on the figure for September, 1939, as 100) was 91 in February, 1944, compared with 90 both in January, 1944, and February, 1943.

Preliminary information received from trade unions with a total membership of over 768,000 showed that 8.3 per cent. of their members were unemployed at 31st January, 1944, compared with 9.6 per cent. at 31st December, 1943, and 8.6 per cent. at 31st January, 1943.

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-January, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.2 per cent. lower than that for the previous month and 25.9 per cent. higher than the figure for mid-August, 1939. For food alone the index figure at mid-January, 1944, showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. below that for mid-December, 1943, and an increase of 45.6 per cent. above the figure for August, 1939.

CANADA.

At 1st February, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.1 per cent. below the figure for 3rd January and 18.0 per cent. above that for 1st September, 1939. For food alone the index figure at 1st February, 1944, was 0.5 per cent. lower than that for 3rd January and 31.7 per cent. higher than the figure for 1st September, 1939.

NEW ZEALAND.

At 15th December, 1943, the official war-time price index (adjusted for normal seasonal movements) was 0.5 per cent. higher than the figure for 15th September, 1943, and 0.1 per cent. above that for 15th December, 1942.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

In February, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure showed a rise of 0.6 per cent. over the figure for January, 1944, which was 0.2 per cent. higher than the figure for December, 1943. As compared with the figure for August, 1939, that for February, 1944, showed an increase of 28.1 per cent., the corresponding increase in the case of the figure for January, 1944, being 27.3 per cent.

For food alone the index figure in February was 1.4 per cent. higher than that for January, 1944, which was 0.4 per cent. above that for the previous month. The increase over the level of August, 1939, shown by the figure for February, 1944, was 38.9 per cent., and that for January was 37.0 per cent.

INDIA.

In January, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure for the working classes in Bombay showed a decline of 3.6 per cent. below the figure for the previous month, but a rise of 126.7 per cent. over that for mid-July to mid-August, 1939. For food alone the index figure for January, 1944, was 3.7 per cent. lower than that for the previous month, but 132.1 per cent. higher than the figure for mid-July to mid-August, 1939.

CEYLON.

In December, 1943, the official figure in the revised series of index numbers showing changes in the working-class cost-of-living in Colombo Town was 109, as compared with 108 in the previous month. Linked with the earlier series of index numbers, the figure for December, 1943, showed a rise of 99 per cent. above the average for the period November, 1938, to April, 1939.

PORTUGAL.

In December, 1943, the official weighted index figure of the cost of food, fuel and light and certain household articles in Lisbon showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. over the figure for the previous month, which was 0.3 per cent. higher than that for October, 1943. As compared with the figure for August, 1939, that for December, 1943, showed a rise of 64.3 per cent., the corresponding increase in the case of the figure for November being 60.7 per cent.

The figure for 15th December, 1943, in the separate official series of (unweighted) index figures relating to the whole of Portugal was 0.2 per cent. higher than that for 15th November, which was 0.4 per cent. above the figure for the previous month. As compared with the figure for 15th August, 1939, that for 15th December, 1943, showed an increase of 67.2 per cent., the corresponding increase in the case of the figure for 15th November, 1943, being 66.9 per cent.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Boot and Shoe Repairing.	Northern Ireland ..	17 Apr.	Men, women, youths, boys and girls	General minimum time rate fixed of 90s. a week for men, other than male learners, operating power sole stitchers or both power sole stitchers and power sole sewing machines; increases of 3s. a week (75s. to 78s.) for other men, of 6d. to 1s. 3d., according to year of learnership, for male learners, of 2s. (49s. 3d. to 51s. 3d.) for women 21 years and over and of 9d. to 1s. 9d., according to age, for female workers under 21; increase of 1d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for male workers and female workers (rates after change 1s. 8d. and 1s. 2d., respectively).*
Baking	North-West Lancashire	Week ending 8 Apr.	Women, youths and boys ..	Revised rates adopted consisting of current Trade Board minimum time rates and war wages, plus 2s. a week for women 21 years and over and 1s. for youths and boys, including indentured apprentices.
Flour Milling	Great Britain† ..	1st full pay period following 8 Mar.	Women and girls employed in the sackhouse.	Increases of 1s. to 5s. a week, according to location of mill. Rates after change, including war supplements: at 20 years and over 45s. to 53s., according to location of mill; under 20 years 1s. a week less.
	Great Britain, excluding London.	24 Apr.	Road transport workers employed directly and regularly by flour milling firms.	Increase of 2s. 6d. a week for drivers, statutory attendants and mates. Rates after change: drivers of mechanically-driven vehicles up to and including 2 tons carrying capacity 76s. to 86s. (according to location of mill), over 2 tons carrying capacity and up to and including 12 tons gross laden weight 83s. to 93s. 6d., over 12 tons 88s. to 98s. 6d.; statutory attendants and mates 74s. to 86s., horse carmen—pair-horse 78s. to 86s., single-horse 75s. to 82s.
Seed Crushing, Compound Food and Provender Manufacture.	Great Britain (various districts).	2 Apr.	Men, women and youths ..	War supplements increased by 4s. a week for men (18s. to 22s.) and women employed on normal women's work (11s. to 15s.) and by proportional amounts for youths, ranging from 32½ per cent. at 16 years to 80 per cent. at 20. Minimum weekly rates after change, including war supplements, for adult male labourers: seed crushing undertakings 76s. to 82s., according to district, compound food and provender undertakings 71s. to 82s.
Furniture Manufacture.	Hull	Week ending 21 Apr.	Adult‡ timeworkers, excluding dilutees.	War bonus of 1½d. an hour granted to those whose wage rates (including any special factory timeworkers' bonus) do not exceed the district minimum time rates. In the case of those whose total hourly wages, excluding overtime, exceed the district minimum time rates by less than 1½d. an hour, the war bonus to be of such amount as will bring the total hourly wage, excluding overtime, to a sum not less than the district minimum time rates plus 1½d. an hour. Minimum time rates after change include: journeymen 2s., journeywomen 1s. 1d., plus war bonus of 1½d. an hour in each case.
	High Wycombe and district.	Pay week of week ending 29 Apr.	Adult‡ timeworkers, excluding dilutees, employed in furniture and other woodwork manufacture.	War bonus of 1½d. an hour granted to those whose wage rates (including any special factory timeworkers' bonus) do not exceed the district minimum time rates. In the case of those whose total hourly wages, excluding overtime, exceed the district minimum time rates by less than 1½d. an hour, the war bonus to be of such amount as will bring the total hourly wage, excluding overtime, to a sum not less than the district minimum time rates plus 1½d. an hour. Minimum time rates after change: fully qualified journeymen mechanics 1s. 11d., labourers 1s. 6½d., women workers 1s. 1½d., plus 1½d. an hour war bonus in all cases.
	Northern Ireland ..	3 Apr.	Journeymen and tradesmen..	Special war bonus of 1½d. an hour granted.
Paper Box Manufacture.	Northern Ireland ..	13 Apr.	Male and female workers paid at time rates: Male workers employed as die makers, forme setters, cutters, machine minders, head stock keepers and other specified occupations (with two years' experience of the trade after serving a period of learnership). Other male workers Female workers	Increase of 2s. 6d. a week (77s. 6d. to 80s.) in general minimum time rate.* Increases in general minimum time rates as follows:—male workers during the 1st 2 years subsequent to the completion of learnership 3s. a week (59s. 6d. to 62s. 6d.), learners commencing at under 18—during 1st 4 years of employment 2s. 6d., during 5th year 3s., learners commencing at 18 years and over 2s. 6d., 3s. or 3s. 6d., according to age, other male workers 21 years and over 3s. 6d.* Increases of 2s. a week (36s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.) in general minimum time rate for female workers other than learners and of 1s. 6d. for learners.*
	do.	do.	Female workers paid at piece rates.	Increases of ½d. an hour (10d. to 10½d.) in piecework basis time rates; addition to piece rates raised from 33½ to 37½ per cent.*
Electrical Contracting.	England and Wales and Northern Ireland.	Pay period covered by 3rd pay day in Apr.	Youths 18 and under 21 years ..	Cost-of-living (war) addition increased by ½d. an hour (2½d. to 2½d.).
Gas Supply	United Kingdom ..	Pay week with pay-day falling in week beginning 27 Mar.	Day workers, pieceworkers and shift workers, except those whose wages are determined by special arrangements or by movements in other industries.	Total war wage advances for male workers 18 years and over increased by 1d. an hour (19s. 5d. to 23s. 4d. a week of 47 hours) in the case of day workers and by 8d. a shift (19s. 9d. to 23s. 9d. a week of 6 shifts) in the case of shift workers, with an additional increase of 8d. a shift for shift workers engaged in connection with gas production and proportionate increases for pieceworkers.‡ Increases varying in amount according to area granted to male workers under 18 years and to female workers.
Electricity Supply.	United Kingdom ..	1st pay period following 28 Apr.	Men, women and juveniles, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 1d. an hour (5d. to 6d.) in war bonus for men and for women doing men's work (after 6 months' probation) with proportional increases for other women, youths, boys and girls.¶
Railway Service.	Great Britain ..	17 Apr.	Wages staff engaged in the manipulation of traffic.¶	Increases of 5s. a week in war advance for men and women 20 years and over and of 2s. 6d. for male and female juniors.
	do.	do.	Salaried staff and staff paid salary-equivalent rates, including station masters, agents, clerks, supervisory and technical staffs.	Increases of £13 a year or 5s. a week for men 18 years and over, of £6 10s. or 2s. 6d. for male juniors, of 5s. a week for women 18 years and over, and of 2s. 6d. for female juniors.
Railway Electricity Generating.	Great Britain ..	17 Apr.	Men, women and juvenile workers employed in main line railway companies' electricity generating stations and sub-stations and on high tension cables between them, excluding electrical fitters, etc., engaged on installation work.	Increases of 5s. a week in war advance for men and women 21 years and over, and of proportionate amounts for younger workers.

* These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details are contained in the confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

† In the summary on page 65 of last month's issue of this GAZETTE, the increases in rates of wages for women and girls employed in the sackhouse in the flour milling industry were incorrectly shown as applying to Great Britain, excluding London.

‡ Journeymen and journeywomen, other males aged 21 and over and other females aged 19 and over.

§ These increases were the result of a decision of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Gas Industry.

¶ These increases were the result of an award of the Industrial Court. The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the National and District Councils for the Electricity Supply Industry.

¶ The workers concerned are those comprised within the "conciliation staff" and include workers in the locomotive department, such as drivers, motormen, firemen, cleaners and certain locomotive shed grades; all the traffic grades, e.g., guards, shunters, signalmen and station staff, goods department grades such as goods porters, checkers, cranemen, etc.; dock porters and dock cranemen, and certain staff aloft such as dredgers and tugboat staff; permanentway men, signalmen and telegraph staff, and also the staff employed on canals.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Road Haulage (Goods).	Great Britain ..	24 Apr.	Drivers, except those mentioned below, mates (all ages) on steam wagons in the London Area, foremen, removal packers and porters 21 years and over employed in furniture warehousing and removing, statutory attendants under 18 years, other road haulage workers 18 years and over, and female workers of the same classes (after 39 weeks' employment).	Statutory minimum rates raised by 2s. 6d. a week.*
	do. ..	do.	Drivers under 18 years of age of vehicles with carrying capacity of 20 cwt. or less in the London area or 30 cwt. or less elsewhere, other road haulage workers under 18 years, and female workers of the same classes (after 39 weeks' employment).	Statutory minimum rates raised by 2s. a week.*
	Metropolitan Area of London.	do.	Horse drivers, assistant horse keepers, stablemen and vanguards.	Increases of 2s. 6d. a week for adults and of 2s. for youths under 18 years of age employed as vanguards. Rates after change: drivers—one-horse 81s., two-horse 85s., three-horse 87s., four-horse 91s., 25 cwt. light singles 80s., 50 cwt. light pairs 84s.; assistant horse keepers and stablemen 81s.; vanguards—26s. 9d. at under 15 years rising to 38s. 9d. at 17 and under 18.
	Liverpool, Bootle, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	do.	Drivers, etc., of mechanically propelled vehicles employed on local haulage work, within a radius of 10 miles from Liverpool and Birkenhead Town Halls.	Increase of 2s. 6d. a week of 48 hours for men in permanent employment, with increases of 1d. to 6d. in daily rates for casual workers. Rates after change for permanent men: drivers 77s. to 93s., according to class and carrying capacity of vehicle, secondmen 83s., stand trailermen 86s., trailermen 79s.
	do. ..	do.	Drivers, etc., of mechanically propelled vehicles employed on journey work, outside above radius.	Increase of 2s. 6d. a week of 48 hours for men in permanent employment. Rates after change: drivers 75s. 6d. to 93s., according to class and carrying capacity of vehicle, secondmen 80s. Casual workers are paid in accordance with the current Order of the Road Haulage Central Wages Board.
	do. ..	do.	Carters	Increases of 2s. 6d. a week of 48 hours for seniors and 2s. for juniors in permanent employment, with increases of 5d. and 4d., respectively, in daily rates for casual workers. Rates after change for seniors in permanent employment: one-horse drivers 80s., teamsmen 86s.
	Bristol ..	do.	Drivers of vehicles operating under "C" licences, and horse carmen.	Increases of 2s. 6d. a week for men and youths 18 years and over and of 2s. for younger workers. Rates after change for men: drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles 75s. 6d. to 93s., according to carrying capacity or gross laden weight of vehicle; statutory attendants and mates 79s.; one-horse drivers 82s., two-horse drivers 86s. 6d., horse keepers 84s., stable and foragemen 82s.
Local Authority Services.	Northern Ireland ..	6 Apr.	Horse carters and stablemen (spelled men) employed by the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board.	Increase of 4d. a day for employment on Monday to Friday and decrease of 2d. on Saturday, making a net increase of 1s. 6d. for a full week. Rate after change: 14s. 3d. a day Monday to Friday, 11s. Saturday, or 82s. 3d. for a full week's work.
	England and Wales	1 Apr.	Administrative, professional, technical and clerical staffs.	Bonus increased by 1s. 6d. a week for adult male and female officers whose normal remuneration, inclusive of bonus, does not exceed £500 a year, by 6s. for adult male officers and 2s. 6d. for adult female officers whose normal remuneration, exclusive of bonus, exceeds £500 but does not exceed £700 a year, and by 9d. for junior male and female officers (under 21 years). Bonus after change: adult officers whose normal remuneration, exclusive of bonus, does not exceed £700 a year—males 19s. a week, females 15s. 6d.; adult male and female officers whose normal remuneration, exclusive of bonus, exceeds £700 a year £33 16s. a year; junior officers—males 9s. 6d., females 7s. 9d.†
	Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire (various local authorities).‡	do.	Manual workers employed in non-trading services.	Supplementary war-time increase granted of 2d. an hour. Minimum rate after change: base rate 1s. 3d. an hour, plus 15s. a week war wage, plus 3d. an hour total supplementary war-time increase.
Retail Furniture and Furnishing, etc., Trades.	England and Wales	3 Apr.	Branch managers, branch manageresses, male and female shop assistants, central warehouse staff, van salesmen, cashiers and clerks and male workers in other occupations (including porters but excluding craftsmen, mechanics, productive staff and transport workers) employed in the retail furnishing and allied trades.	Increases of 4s. a week for men, youths and boys and of 3s. for women and girls in the minimum rates of remuneration fixed by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Retail Furnishing and Allied Trades (including ironmongery and turnery, china and glass, hardware, electrical goods, cycle and accessories, sports goods, radio, oils, paints and wallpaper trades).
Wholesale Grocery and Provisions Trade.	England and Wales	Pay day in week beginning 24 Apr.	Warehouse workers, vanguards and mates employed in the distribution of groceries and provisions other than by retail.	Increases of 4s. a week for men, youths and boys and of 3s. for women and girls in the minimum rates of remuneration fixed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Wholesale Grocery and Provision Trade (England and Wales).
Warehousing, Cold Storage, etc.	Bristol ..	24 Apr.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of 5s. 6d. a week for men, of 3s. 8d. for youths 18 and under 21 years and of 2s. 9d. for boys. Rates after change: general and tobacco warehousemen (permanent and temporary employees), other than those employed by the Port of Bristol Authority, 88s.; cold store workers—warehousemen, plant men 89s., enginemmen 92s.; youths and boys 31s. at 14 years rising to 67s. 8d. at 20.
Coal Distribution.	Leeds and district and Halifax and district.	1st pay day following 1 Apr.	Horse drivers and drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles.	Increase of 1s. 6d. a week in minimum rates for horse drivers. Rates after change: one-horse drivers 75s., two-horse drivers 80s. Revised scale of minimum rates adopted for drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles ranging from 75s. a week on vehicles with a carrying capacity up to and including 30 cwt. to 86s. on vehicles with a carrying capacity exceeding 6 tons up to and including 12 tons gross laden weight.§
	Huddersfield and district.	1st pay day following 1 Apr.	Horse drivers and drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles.	Minimum rates adopted for horse drivers of 75s. a week on one-horse vehicles and 80s. on two-horse vehicles. Revised scale of minimum rates adopted for drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles ranging from 75s. a week on vehicles with a carrying capacity up to and including 30 cwt., to 86s. on vehicles with a carrying capacity exceeding 6 tons up to and including 12 tons gross laden weight.§
	Cheshire ..	24 Apr.	Drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles and attendants (carriers-off and fillers).	Increases of 2s. 6d. a week in minimum rates for workers 18 years and over and of 2s. for those under 18. Rates after change at 18 years and over: drivers 74s. 6d. to 86s., according to carrying capacity of vehicle, attendants (carriers-off and fillers) 68s. 6d.

* These increases took effect as the result of an Order of the Minister of Labour and National Service, giving effect to the proposals of the Road Haulage Central Wages Board and applying to road haulage workers employed on motor goods vehicles operated under "A" or "B" licences or defence permits. The Order also upgraded certain parishes in the Rural District of Plympton St. Mary.

† These increases were agreed upon by the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services and are subject to endorsement by the Provincial Councils. Officers in hospitals or institutions who receive free apartments and rations in addition to salary are entitled to one-half and those who receive free apartments or free rations in addition to salary to two-thirds of the appropriate bonus. Officers in receipt of emoluments are entitled to the full bonus when the emolument consists of a house only, five-sixths bonus when it consists of house with light, heat and water and three-quarters bonus when it consists of house with light, heat and water and two meals daily. The new rates of bonus are not to involve a reduction in bonus for any officer. Officers whose normal salaries exceed £700 a year are not to receive as total remuneration less than the amount payable to an officer whose normal annual salary is £700, i.e., £749 8s. a year.

‡ The authorities affected are those affiliated to the Joint Wages Boards of Local Authorities in Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire.

§ The adoption of the revised minimum rates involved increases in rates of wages in some cases and decreases in some others; but it was provided that workpeople who were in receipt of higher rates of wages than those applicable to them under the revised scale were to continue to receive such higher rates whilst retaining their previous positions.

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), a bonus became payable, in respect of the four weeks ended 18th March, of 1s. 9d. a shift for adult workers in Leicestershire. This bonus is payable for a period of four weeks, the first payment being made on the pay-day in the week ended 15th April.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st May, 1944.

Increase since July, 1914	Food	All Items
Change since 1st April, 1944	68%	100%
Index Points	nil	nil
Per cent.	nil	nil

FOOD.

There was little change, on average, in the retail prices of food during April.

For the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics, the following Table compares the average prices at 1st May, 1944, with the corresponding prices at 1st April, 1944, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ½d., at—			Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st May, 1944, compared with	
	1st May, 1944.	1st April, 1944.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st April, 1944.	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	..	29
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 9	0 9	0 8½	..	9
Tea	2 10	2 10	2 4	..	21
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 4	0 4	0 3	..	32
Milk .. per quart	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	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 1½	0 1½	—	..	1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 6½	0 6½	0 6½	..	6

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st April, 1944, and 1st May, 1944, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	1st April, 1944.	1st May, 1944.
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	173
Flour	26	63	63
Bread	42	55	55
Tea	52	85	85
Sugar (granulated) ..	46	94	94
Milk	92	154	154
Butter—			
Fresh	13	37	37
Salt	7	41	41
Cheese	16	51	51
Margarine	—8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)	58	60	60
Potatoes	33	41	41
All above articles (Weighted Average on July, 1914, basis)	38	68	68

On the basis of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the average level of retail prices, at 1st May, 1944, of the articles of food specified was about 68 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, about 22 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939, and approximately the same as at 1st April, 1944.

* 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.

† This figure is an average calculated from the prices of various brands of margarine on sale at 1st September, 1939.

‡ Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st May and 1st April, 1944, 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 May was about the same as at 1st April, 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 slight rise, on the average, in the level of prices at 1st May as compared with a month earlier. For men's suits and overcoats there was a rise of between one-half and one per cent. in the average level of prices; for the remaining groups of items included in the figures, *viz.*, woollen materials, woollen underclothing and hosiery, cotton materials and cotton hosiery, and boots and shoes, there was very little change in the average level of prices between 1st April and 1st May. 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 May the average level of prices was about 65 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 level of prices of coal and of gas at 1st May showed little change as compared with a month earlier. Prices of coal averaged about 37 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 166 per cent. above the level of July, 1914: prices of gas averaged about 29 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 May showed little change as compared with 1st April, being about 38 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 152 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards *other items** included in these statistics, there were relatively few changes in prices during April. In the group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st May was about the same as at 1st April, 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 May, 1944, is approximately 100 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, the same figure as at 1st April, 1944, as compared with 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average percentage increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, *no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or readjustments in consumption and expenditure since the outbreak of the war.*

The rise of 45 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 29 per cent. Of these 45 points, about 4½ points represent the effect of the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches; and approximately three-fourths of a point is due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.

SUMMARY TABLE : ALL ITEMS.

Average Percentage Increase at the beginning of each month 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	66	66	62	61	60	61	63	64	65	67	67
1930 ..	66	64	61	57	55	54	55	57	57	56	57	55
1931 ..	53	52	50	47	47	45	47	45	45	45	46	48
1932 ..	47	47	46	44	43	42	43	41	41	43	43	43
1933 ..	42	41	39	37	36	36	38	39	41	41	43	43
1934 ..	42	41	40	39	37	38	41	42	43	43	44	44
1935 ..	43	42	41	39	39	40	43	43	43	45	47	47
1936 ..	47	47	46	44	44	44	46	46	47	48	51	51
1937 ..	51	51	51	51	52	52	55	55	55	58	60	60
1938 ..	59	57	56	54	56	55	59	56	56	55	56	56
1939 ..	55	55	53	53	53	53	56	55	55	65	69	73
1940 ..	74	77	79	78	80	81	87	85	87	89	92	95
1941 ..	96	97	97	98	100	100	99	99	99	99	100	101
1942 ..	100	100	100	99	100	99	100	101	100	100	100	100
1943 ..	99	99	99	98	99	98	100	99	98	99	99	99
1944 ..	99	100	100	100	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation," is obtainable, price 3d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses shown on page 88 of this GAZETTE.

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department* as beginning in April, was 148. In addition, 35 stoppages which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 183 stoppages, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at about 207,000, and the aggregate number of working days lost at those establishments, during April, is estimated at nearly 720,000.

In the 148 stoppages which began during April, more than 34,000 workpeople were directly involved and nearly 4,000 were indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In the 35 stoppages which began before April, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, the total number of workpeople involved during April, either directly or indirectly, was about 169,000.

Of all the stoppages of work through industrial disputes known to have been in progress at some time in April, the coal mining industry accounted for 98, involving more than 140,000 workpeople and resulting in an aggregate loss of nearly 490,000 working days.

In the following Table an analysis is given, by groups of industries, of all disputes involving stoppages of work in the United Kingdom during April:—

Industry Group.	Number of Stoppages in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Stoppages in progress in Month.	Aggregate number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Coal Mining ..	12	86	98	142,200	488,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	17	38	55	55,500	211,000
Transport ..	2	5	7	6,500	11,000
Other Industries ..	4	19	23	2,800	9,000
Total, April, 1944* ..	35	148	183	207,000	719,000
Total, March, 1944* ..	23	309	332	318,600	1,601,000
Total, April, 1943* ..	11	147	158	36,100	73,000

Duration.—Of 178 stoppages of work, owing to disputes, which came to an end during April, 79, directly involving 17,200 workpeople, lasted not more than one day; 43, directly involving 9,200 workpeople, lasted two days; 13, directly involving 2,400 workpeople, lasted three days; 25, directly involving 15,500 workpeople, lasted four to six days; and 18, directly involving 154,700 workpeople, lasted over six days.

Causes.—Of the 148 disputes, leading to stoppages of work beginning in April, 17, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, and 67, directly involving 12,800 workpeople, on other wage questions; 3, directly involving 200 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 10, directly involving 2,900 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 47, directly involving 12,800 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 4, directly involving 1,600 workpeople, on other questions.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1944 AND 1943.*

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of all stoppages of work through industrial disputes in the first four months of 1944 and in the corresponding months of 1943:—

Industry Group.	January to April, 1944.			January to April, 1943.		
	Number of Stoppages beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Stoppages in progress.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress.	Number of Stoppages beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Stoppages in progress.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress.
Coal Mining ..	499	408,900†	2,121,000	226	55,600†	118,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	9	2,200	10,000	5	1,100	2,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	9	500	1,000	13	500	2,000
Engineering ..	119	74,800	321,000	101	35,000	64,000
Shipbuilding ..	90	27,600	281,000	55	8,800	33,000
Other Metal ..	66	7,400	33,000	46	6,500	21,000
Textile ..	13	2,000	4,000	9	1,200	2,000
Clothing ..	15	1,500	2,000	6	400	1,000
Building, etc. ..	26	2,900	4,000	24	4,500	11,000
Transport ..	33	17,300	38,000	23	9,200	24,000
Other Industries ..	33	5,200	12,000	17	1,900	5,000
Total ..	912	550,300†	2,827,000	525	124,700†	283,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING APRIL.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of workpeople involved.		Date when Stoppage		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly.†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:— Colliery workpeople—Yorkshire ..	120,000§		§	§	Dissatisfaction at the inclusion of 3s. 6d. a week, in respect of "home coal" allowance, in the minimum wage payable under the award of the National Reference Tribunal for the Coal Mining Industry.	Agreement reached, on 25th and 27th March, providing that no deductions on account of home coal should be made from the wages of men not receiving an allowance of home coal, and that for those receiving the allowance the deduction of 3s. 6d. a week should be reduced to 2s. a week. Work was finally resumed on these terms.
Miners, enginemen and mechanics— South Shields (one colliery).	1,464	137	17 April||	22 April	Objection by deputy overmen to the duty of carrying powder boxes and first-aid boxes in the mine.	Work resumed unconditionally.
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE:— Steel melters, millmen, etc., engin- eers, electricians, bricklayers, etc.— near Glasgow (one firm).	910	380	31 Mar.¶	22 April	Demand that non-union workpeople should be discharged before trade union workpeople when, owing to a change in shift system, a number of workpeople became redundant.	Work resumed on conditions in operation prior to the stoppage, to permit of negotiations.
SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING:— Fitters and other workers employed in shipyard—Belfast (one firm).	20,000		25 Feb.**	10 April	For an increase in the wages of time workers to 3s. an hour and, subsequently, in protest against the imprisonment of shop stewards for having participated in an illegal strike.	Agreement reached providing for the introduction of a piecework system, calculated to yield, on an average, not less than 27½ per cent. on a new basic rate of 69s. 9d. a week. The imprisoned shop stewards were released on bail, pending appeal.
ENGINEERING:— Engineering, aircraft, etc., opera- tives—Belfast.	16,000		16 Mar.**	11 April	In sympathy with the workpeople involved in the above stoppage and, subsequently, in protest against the imprisonment of the shop stewards referred to above.	
Engineering operatives—Warwick- shire (one firm).	2,810	..	30 Mar.	4 April	Dispute respecting a piecework price.	Work resumed and question referred to an arbitrator, whose award increased the price offered by employers.
ROAD TRANSPORT:— Trolley bus, tram and omnibus drivers and conductors—London.	4,400	..	15 April 19 April	16 April 22 April	Objection to the introduction of new summer duty schedules, which were alleged to involve excessively long spread-over of working hours and a general speeding-up of working conditions.	Work resumed on the advice of trade union officials, to permit of negotia- tions.

* Stoppages 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 number of working days lost exceeded 100. 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 in 1944 was approximately 325,000 and in 1943, 42,000. For all industries combined the corresponding *net* totals were approximately 463,000 and 108,000, 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.

§ There were stoppages at a large number of collieries, beginning at different dates between 14th March and the first week in April, and lasting for varying periods at different pits. In some cases work was resumed after a stoppage of only a few days, but there were large numbers of workpeople on strike in the last week of March and at the beginning of April. The majority of these returned to work during the first week of April, and the remainder in the following week (after the Easter holidays).

|| The stoppage began on the night shift of 16th–17th April.

¶ The stoppage began on the night shift of 30th–31st March.

** A considerable proportion of the workpeople involved did not cease work until 4th April.

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 the United Kingdom in April† was 160, as compared with 207‡ in the previous month and with 182‡ in April, 1943. Details for separate industries are given below :—

MINES AND QUARRIES.		Factories—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts :		Paper, Printing, etc.	2
Underground	44	Rubber Trades . . . . .	..
Surface	5	Gas Works	1
Metalliferous Mines	2	Electrical Stations . . . . .	..
Quarries	4	Other Industries	2
TOTAL,			
MINES AND QUARRIES	55	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER	
		SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES	
		ACT, 1937.	
Factories.		Docks, Wharves, Quays	
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pot-		and Ships	6
tery and Glass	2	Building Operations	9
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	5	Works of Engineering	
Metal Extracting and		Construction . . . . .	..
Refining	1	Warehouses	1
Metal Conversion and			
Founding (including		TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT	83
Rolling Mills and Tube			
Making)	8		
Engineering, Locomotive		RAILWAY SERVICE.	
Building, Boilermaking,		Brakesmen, Goods Guards . . . . .	..
etc.	7	Engine Drivers, Motor-	
Railway and Tramway		men	2
Carriages, Motor and		Firemen	2
other Vehicles and Air-		Guards (Passenger) . . . . .	..
craft Manufacture	7	Labourers	5
Shipbuilding	12	Mechanics . . . . .	..
Other Metal Trades	3	Permanent Way Men	8
Cotton	4	Porters	3
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy	1	Shunters	2
Other Textile Manu-		Other Grades . . . . .	..
facture . . . . .	..	Contractors' Servants . . . . .	..
Textile Printing, Bleach-			
ing and Dyeing . . . . .	..	TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	22
Tanning, Currying, etc. . . . .	..	
Food and Drink	6	Total (excluding Seamen)	160
General Woodwork and			
Furniture	6		

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The Table below shows the number of cases§ and deaths§, in the United Kingdom, reported during April under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926 :—

I. Cases.		I. Cases—continued.	
LEAD POISONING.		EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	
Among Operatives		(SKIN CANCER).	
engaged in :		Pitch	7
Smelting of Metals . . . . .	..	Tar	6
Shipbreaking . . . . .	..	Paraffin . . . . .	..
Other Contact with		Oil	1
Molten Lead	2	TOTAL	14
White and Red Lead			
Works . . . . .	..	CHROME ULCERATION.	
Vitreous Enamelling . . . . .	..	Manufacture of Bichro-	
Electric Accumulator		mates . . . . .	..
Works . . . . .	..	Dyeing and Finishing	1
Paint and Colour Works . . . . .	..	Chrome Tanning . . . . .	..
Shipbuilding . . . . .	..	Chromium Plating	2
Other Industries . . . . .	..	Other Industries	7
Painting of Buildings . . . . .	..	TOTAL	10
TOTAL	2	Total Cases	27
OTHER POISONING.			
Aniline		II. Deaths.	
	1	NIL.	

* 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 29th April, 1944, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 1st April, 1944, and the 4 weeks ended 1st May, 1943.

‡ 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.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

FAILURE TO FENCE DANGEROUS MACHINERY—EMPLOYERS' DEFENCE TO CLAIM FOR DAMAGES THAT INJURIES TO A FEMALE OPERATOR WERE CAUSED BY HER FAILURE TO WEAR THE REGULATION CAP.

A fourteen-year-old girl employed in a factory sustained injuries as a result of her hair becoming entangled in a rapidly revolving spindle with a serrated edge on a machine at which she was working. An action was brought on her behalf against her employers claiming damages for negligence and for breach of statutory duty. The employers admitted that in breach of section 14 of the Factories Act, 1937, they had failed in their obligation securely to fence the machine, but pleaded that they were not liable for the girl's injuries on the ground that these were caused by her own contributory negligence; the contributory negligence alleged being her failure to wear a cap and her meddling with the machine whilst it was in motion.

Mr. Justice Humphreys rejected the defences raised by the employers and gave judgment in favour of the plaintiff. His Lordship said that the fact that the girl at the time of the injury was only fourteen years of age was a very material fact upon the question of liability. She had admitted in evidence that she had been provided with a cap in order that she might wear it, but said she was not given any orders to do so. The defendants had produced a small typewritten note telling female operators that they must wear the regulation cap, but there had been no evidence as to where the note was to be found, whether it was handed to the employees or whether they were expected to go and read it. The girl had stated in evidence, said His Lordship, that she had only one cap and that after wearing it for five weeks she took it home on a Saturday for her mother to wash. It was not dry enough for her to wear on the Monday, and it was on this Monday that the accident happened. His Lordship said that evidence had been given on behalf of the defendants that on the day of the accident a foreman who had seen the girl without a cap had instructed her to go and see the forewoman. The learned Judge said that he could not accept this evidence as being proved at all. This allegation had not been put to the girl in cross examination and the defendants had not asked for leave to recall her about it.

His Lordship found on the evidence that the girl herself was not in any way to blame so far as the cap was concerned. Although she herself admitted she was unwise in working without the cap for once, that was very far from proof that she had been guilty of such negligence as could be said to be regarded as a substantial cause of the accident. With regard to the other matters alleged against the girl, His Lordship said that when the machine went wrong she unwisely attempted to attend to it herself instead of merely stopping it and waiting for the foreman. Nevertheless, he was satisfied that it was the employers' negligence and not the girl's which substantially caused this injury.—*Brister and Another v. British Bath Company Ltd.* High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division, 25th February, 1944.

SERVANT INJURED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF A FELLOW SERVANT—QUESTION WHETHER THE OPERATION OF THE ESSENTIAL WORK ORDERS PREVENTS THE APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF COMMON EMPLOYMENT.

Two men employed as repairers in a coalmine sustained fatal injuries as a result of an accident which occurred during the course of their employment. The undertaking in which the men were employed was scheduled under the Essential Work Orders. The daughter of one of the deceased workmen and the widow of the other brought an action against the colliery company by whom the men had been employed claiming damages for the deaths of their father and husband respectively, which they alleged were due to the negligence or breach of statutory duty of the defendants, their servants or agents. Mr. Justice Singleton held that there was no breach of statutory duty; that the deaths were caused by the negligence of a fellow employee; and that therefore the defence of common employment succeeded. The learned Judge also held that neither of the deceased had been guilty of contributory negligence. The action was dismissed. The plaintiffs appealed and contended that the doctrine of common employment could not arise in the case of any employment to which the Essential Work Orders applied in as much as in such a case there was no longer freedom of contract between master and servant.

The Court of Appeal by a majority, Lords Justices Goddard and du Parc (Lord Justice Scott dissenting) dismissed the plaintiffs' appeal. Lord Justice Goddard in delivering the judgment of himself and Lord Justice du Parc said that in the present case the workmen had not been directed to the particular employment but had been in the service of the defendants for many years and had never applied to leave it. That, in their Lordships' opinion, was immaterial. The suggested reason for saying that the doctrine of common employment did not apply was equally applicable to the man who was ordered to work for a particular employer and to one who being in the service of an employer could not leave without permission. Lord Justice Goddard said it was perfectly true that it had been said in more than one of the older cases on the subject that if a workman finds or thinks that he is exposed to risks from rash or unskilled fellow servants he can leave the employment; but, in their Lordships' view, that was only an attempt to make appear reasonable a doctrine which most

lawyers regarded as irrational. The doctrine could be excluded by nothing less than an express agreement.

Their Lordships thought that it would be possible in this case to escape from the rule as to common employment only if it could be held that the Essential Work Order destroyed the contract of service. In their Lordships' opinion it was impossible so to hold. The Order imposed certain conditions and restrictions on the contract. It was an offence for a man to refuse to enter into a contract of service with an employer to whom he was directed or for an employer to refuse to employ a man whom he was directed to employ. Equally it was an offence for a man to leave scheduled employment or, with certain exceptions, for an employer to discharge him without the permission of a National Service Officer. But once a workman was working for an employer he must in their Lordships' opinion be considered as working under a contract of service, and the ordinary terms of such a contract must apply thereto, except insofar as they were abrogated by the Order.

Lord Justice Goddard stated that the doctrine of common employment was a part of the law relating to the vicarious liability of a master for the acts of his servant. While he was liable for injuries caused by the negligence of his servant he was not liable if the injured person was a fellow servant, provided the employment was one which involved necessarily and naturally the exposure of one to the risk of negligence in another. The reasons justifying the vicarious liability of a master to others for the negligent act of his servant were that the injury might be deemed to be caused either by the want of care in choosing competent servants or in the superintendence or control of their work. This presumption or rule was just as irrefutable as that of common employment. If it were held that the doctrine of common employment no longer applied because the Essential Work Order restricted or even destroyed freedom of contract, then their Lordships did not see why the vicarious responsibility of an employer to third parties should not also be ended. The employer could say, perhaps with absolute truth, that had he been left free he would never have engaged the particular servant who had proved to be negligent or unskilled or would have got rid of him before he had committed the particular act of negligence.

Lord Justice Scott in his dissenting judgment said it seemed to him wrong that the action should be dismissed because the two deceased workmen were in "common employment" with the very man whose orders they were bound to obey.—*Alexander v. Tredegar Iron and Coal Company Limited*. Court of Appeal, 17th March, 1944.

Factories Act, 1937.

DRAFT ELECTRICITY (Factories Act) SPECIAL REGULATIONS, 1944.

In pursuance of Section 129 of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Second Schedule to that Act, the Minister of Labour and National Service gave notice on 28th April, 1944, that he proposes to make Special Regulations under Section 60 of the Act amending the Regulations made by the Secretary of State on the 23rd December, 1908, under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as to the generation, transformation, distribution and use of electrical energy in factories and other places to which the provisions of Section 79 of the Act of 1901 applied. The proposed amending regulations, which may be cited as the draft Electricity (Factories Act) Special Regulations, 1944,* would extend the scope of the code of regulations in question, in view of the fact that the scope of Section 60 of the Act of 1937 is wider than the scope of Section 79 of the Act of 1901, and would amend Regulation 18(d) of the earlier code, the drafting of which has been found defective.

Any objection to the draft Special Regulations by or on behalf of persons affected must be sent to the Minister on or before the first day of June, 1944. Every objection must be in writing and state (a) the specific grounds of objection; and (b) the omissions, additions or modifications asked for. Objections may be addressed to The Secretary, Ministry of Labour and National Service, 8, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices shown are net; those in brackets include postage.]

FOOD CONSUMPTION.—*Food Consumption Levels in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom*. Report of a Special Joint Committee set up by the Combined Food Board. Price 2s. (2s. 2d.).

MOBILISATION OF MAN-POWER.—*Man-Power: The Story of Britain's Mobilisation for War*. Ministry of Information. Price 9d. (11d.).—See page 74 of this GAZETTE.

NATIONAL SERVICE.—*Selected Decisions given by the Umpire during January and February, 1944, 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. 1/1944. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 2d. (3d.).

TEACHERS.—*Supply, Recruitment and Training of Teachers and Youth Leaders*. Report of the Committee appointed by the President of the Board of Education. April, 1944. Price 2s. (2s. 3d.).

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.—*Unemployment Fund Accounts, 1942, showing the Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March, 1943; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon*. H.C. 56, Session 1943-1944. Price 2d. (3d.).—See page 77 of this GAZETTE.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—*Memorandum on the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1925-1943*. March, 1944. Home Office. Price 3d. (4d.).—See page 77 of this GAZETTE.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During April, 1944, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued fourteen awards,* Nos. 534 to 547. One of these awards is summarised below; the other awards related to cases affecting individual employers.

Award No. 534 (3rd April).—*Parties*: Members of Associations federated with the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and members of the National Union of Scalemakers employed by them as service adjusters. *Claim*: For a modification in the grade rates for service adjusters engaged on repairs or contracts which are provided in the existing joint agreements, by relating such rates to the rates for skilled general engineering maintenance fitters instead of, as at present, to those for skilled general engineering fitters. *Award*: The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

During April, 1944, the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued one award, No. 319, which is summarised below.

Award No. 319 (21st April).—*Parties*: Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., Belfast, and certain of their employees. *Claim*: For an increase of 10s. per week on the existing allowance of 4s. per week payable to platers' helpers on furnace work. *Award*: The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established, and they awarded accordingly.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During April, 1944, the Industrial Court issued five awards, Nos. 1957 to 1961. One of these is summarised below; the other awards related to cases affecting individual undertakings.

Award No. 1961 (28th April).—*Parties*: The Trade Unions' Side and the Employers' Side of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry. *Claim*: For an increase in wages of 2d. per hour for all employees covered by the agreements of the National and District Councils for the Electricity Supply Industry. *Award*: The Court awarded an increase of 1d. an hour.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During April, 1944, four awards were issued by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Two of the awards are summarised below; the other two awards related to individual undertakings.

Parties: United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders and the Grimsby Ship Repairers' Association. *Claim*: To decide a claim that a lieu rate paid to members of the Society in the Hull District shall be paid to members of the Society employed at Grimsby on repair work to vessels other than fishing vessels on occasions when the items of work undertaken are not piece priced. *Award*: The Arbitrator in his award issued on 17th April detailed the conditions applicable to the payment of piece-work prices and lieu rates.

Parties: Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators on the one hand, and the Hull Ship Labour Contractors' Association on the other hand. *Claim*: To determine the wages and working conditions of workpeople employed by members of the Hull Ship Labour Contractors' Association on various operations as from and including 1st April, 1944. *Award*: In his award dated 17th April, the Arbitrator attached a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement reached between the parties on all points, the new Agreement to commence as and from 24th April, 1944.

CIVIL SERVICE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

During April, 1944, the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal issued one award No. 80* relating to a claim for travelling allowances to bailiffs in the County Courts Branch of the Lord Chancellor's Department. This claim was the subject of Award No. 79† and was again brought to the Tribunal under the original reference for a decision on merits. The Tribunal awarded in favour of the claim and granted certain specified allowances.

* See footnote * on page 88.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1944, page 55.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.**NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.**

During April, 1944, proposals to vary minimum rates of wages for all classes of male and female workers in the trades concerned were issued as shown below :—

Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal P.(34), dated 11th April, 1944.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales).—Proposal M.D.(39), dated 24th April, 1944.

Further information concerning 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.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

During April, 1944, Orders* confirming variations of minimum rates of wages for all classes of male and female workers in the trades concerned were made as follows :—

Keg and Drum Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order K.D.(28), dated 21st April, 1944; effective from 3rd May, 1944.

Paper Box Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.B.(31), dated 5th April, 1944; effective from 13th April, 1944.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.B.S.(43), dated 12th April, 1944; effective from 17th April, 1944.

* 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.

ADVERTISEMENTS.**STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.**

The undermentioned Orders relating to matters with which the Ministry of Labour and National Service are concerned, either directly or indirectly, have recently been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders*. The price of each Order,* unless otherwise indicated, is 1d. net (2d. post free).

Order in Council amending Regulation 30 of the Defence (Agriculture and Fisheries) Regulations, 1939 (S.R. & O. 1944, No. 327).—This Order, made on 24th March, 1944, amends the above-mentioned Regulation 30 (which prescribes conditions for the employment of children in agricultural work) so as to provide (i) that a child shall not be employed in any agricultural work involving heavy strain, and in particular shall not be employed in extracting sugar beet crops from the ground, and (ii) that no child shall be employed in any agricultural work under the control of a gang-master as defined by the Agricultural Gangs Act, 1867.

The Factories (Testing of Aircraft Engines, Carburettors and Other Accessories) Order, 1944, dated April 25, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 60 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939 (S.R. & O. 1944, No. 495. 2d. net (3d. post free)).—See page 74.

The Patent Fuel Manufacture (Health and Welfare) Order, 1944, dated April 27, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 60 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. (S.R. & O. 1944, No. 521).—See page 74.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS**BOLT ADAPTERS**

**LINDSAY
PATENT**
Will fit any bolt

**RIGID
FIXING
WITHOUT
DRILLING**

Apply for catalogues for departmental use

HENRY LINDSAY LTD., QUEEN'S ROAD, BRADFORD
Grams: LINDSAY, Phone BFD. Phone: BFD. 5657 (2 lines)



656

**BOLT
ADAPTERS**
Despatch from stock

**USING
ANY
ORDINARY
BOLTS**

SURGICAL DRESSINGS

**All Kinds of
SURGICAL DRESSINGS.**

Established 1839.

ROBINSON & SONS LTD.,

Wheat Bridge Mills, **CHESTERFIELD**

and King's Bourne House,

229-231 High Holborn, **LONDON, W.C.1**

Telephone No. 210. Telegraphic Address "Staglint, Chesterfield"

JIGS, TOOLS, ETC.

**SAMUEL GILL & SONS
(ENGINEERS) LTD.**

Designers and Manufacturers of Jigs, Tools,
Fixtures, Gauges and Special Machines

LYTHALLS LANE, COVENTRY

Tel. Cov. 88605/6.

Air Ministry Authority 707713/37

TOWELS AND DUSTERS**TURKISH TOWELS**

(WHITE, GREY & FANCY).

BATH BLANKETS, TERRY CLOTHS, DUSTERS, ROLLERINGS,
HONEYCOMB TOWELS, PLAIN and FANCY BATH and DRESSING
GOWN CLOTHS.

WM. R. LEE LTD. Hooley Bridge Mills,
HEYWOOD

and 21 YORK STREET, MANCHESTER.

EYELETS

BODILL, PARKER (1922) LTD.

Great Hampton Row
BIRMINGHAM 19

Manufacturers of
**BRASS SPUR
TEETH
GROMMETS**



**BRASS EYELETS
and RINGS
VENTILATOR
EYELETS**

Telephone: CENTral 6643-4

WEBBING

WEBBING AND EQUIPMENT CO., LTD.

Telephone :
BURY 253

Chesham Works,
BURY, LANCs.

Telegrams :
WEBQUIP, BURY

**YOUR WEBBING REQUIREMENTS
FOR GOVERNMENT WORK**

Manufacturers of Webbing, Ammunition Container
Harness Sets, and Equipment of all Types

LONDON: PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2; 39-41 King Street, Manchester 2; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast; or through any bookseller

Annual Subscription, 7s. 6d. net, post free.