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SPECIAL ARTICLES, REVIEWS, ETC.

PRODUCTION CHANGES AND EMPLOYMENT.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RELEASE AND RE-ABSORPTION OF REDUNDANT WORKERS.

A statement has recently been issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service with reference to misapprehensions which have appeared to exist regarding displacements of labour caused by changes in munitions production.

Some disturbances of employment cannot be entirely avoided when production programmes are changed to meet changed strategic needs. At the same time the supply of labour in general remains, and is likely to remain, substantially below the numbers required for essential work, and while some discontinuity of employment may be inevitable in the factories, industries or areas directly affected by changes in war requirements, there is, in general, no reason to anticipate any real difficulty in absorbing in employment displaced war workers. The modification of programmes is not a new phenomenon. It is a process which has taken place from time to time during the progress of the war. The situation which is now arising is therefore not new in kind, though the scope of the changes may be wider than those which have previously been made. The Ministry of Labour and National Service, in dealing with the resultant "redundancies" or "releases" of labour, is pursuing the policy and practice hitherto followed, subject to one new departure, *viz.*, that henceforth workers who are released from work to which they had previously been directed and which was remote from their homes will, so far as practicable, be re-transferred to work of national importance nearer their homes.

The scheme, which can be, as yet, only on a very small scale, has been discussed with both sides of industry and has their agreement.

Where workers become redundant as a result of changes in programmes or slowing down of contracts, the Ministry of Labour will apply an order of release under which workers who have been away from home for three years or more and want to go back to work at home, will be the first to be discharged after men wanted for the Services. In the case of those with special skill, return home will be dependent on important work, in which their skill can be used, being available in their home area.

After the release of this priority class, which has a special claim to return home, the Ministry will select for release those workers who are needed for priority vacancies in important war production and services essential to the life of the community. Where possible, workers will be allowed to return to their old employment, but this can only be done subject to the requirements of war production, which must remain paramount. Subject to the same over-riding consideration, workers who, although they have not been away for three years, have their homes in areas which by now are extremely short of labour, will be allowed to return home to work. Should there still be redundancy after these releases, other releases will be arranged in accordance with current practices, *e.g.*, as determined by industrial agreements.

In arranging these releases the Ministry of Labour will seek the co-operation of employers and workers and, so far as possible, will seek volunteers for the jobs which require to be filled, as has been the practice in similar cases in the past. Regard will, of course, be paid to the need for leaving the employer with a balanced labour force adequate for his remaining production.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.

The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the Year 1943,* which has recently been published, contains a general review of the work of the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service during that year, together with sectional reports on industrial health, personnel management and welfare supervision, and works canteens.

The Report states that the year under review has been a period of stabilisation and detailed adjustment of our available man-power to meet changes in production. In particular, this has meant a further transfer of women to the more dangerous munitions industries, with a slight increase in the total number of accidents to women. The recruitment of the country's man-power had been so thorough up to the end of 1942 that practically the only source of new, as distinct from transferred, labour remaining available was that of part-time women. These women are doing excellent work and fitting well into industrial conditions in all types of factories. Having regard to the increased numbers of women employed, the number of women in supervisory positions is still small, but increasing numbers of women shop stewards are taking their share in the working of factory committees, to the benefit of all concerned.

From many districts there is evidence that the industrial changes of the war period will react strongly on conditions and standards in the older staple industries. Many of their workers have had experience of conditions in the newer factories and will not readily accept a return to the congested workrooms and poor standards of amenities which have been common in many of these older industries. These industries, it is stated, recognise the need for improvement, and discussions between the Factory Department and the accredited representatives of both sides are proceeding on the means of overcoming the technical difficulties that stand in the way.

Noteworthy events in the history of the Factory Department to which the Report refers were the Industrial Health Conference, convened by the Minister of Labour and National Service in April, 1943, and the appointment of an Industrial Health Advisory Committee (see below under the heading *Industrial Health*).

Regarding plans that are being considered in some quarters for the construction on bombed sites or elsewhere of what might be termed communal factory buildings, the Chief Inspector states that this development in post-war planning may lead to a revolution in the conditions of certain industries. This is a development of the "tenement" factory on better lines, the idea being to build blocks of well-designed rooms of convenient sizes with good facilities for heating, ventilation, lighting, cleaning maintenance, etc., that can be let off to the smaller type of factory occupier who, in the past, has often been driven by economic necessity into property unsuitable for factory purposes. Such blocks, devoted to the cleaner types of trades, may go some way towards easing the transport problems of large industrial towns and also towards solving problems not only of trades which have hitherto been kept back economically and in welfare standards through bad premises, but also modern trades in light engineering components and the like.

The principal features of the Report which relate to individual aspects of the work of the Factory Department are set out below under their respective headings.

Accident Prevention.—For the first time in any year since 1938 the total number of accidents reported showed a decrease in the year under review, and the decrease in the number of fatalities, which commenced in the previous year has been maintained. The position in 1943 compared with previous years is shown in the following Table:—

Reportable Accidents.

Year	Fatal Accidents.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on previous year.	Non-fatal Accidents.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on previous year.
		Per cent.		Per cent.
1938	944	—	179,159	—
1939	1,104	+17	192,371	+ 7
1940	1,372	+24	230,607	+20
1941	1,646	+20	269,652	+17
1942	1,363	—17	313,267	+16
1943	1,220	—10·5	309,924	—1·1

As compared with the figures for 1942 those for 1943 show decreases of 143, or 10·5 per cent., in the case of fatal accidents and 3,343, or 1·1 per cent., in the case of non-fatal accidents. It is difficult, the Report states, to disentangle the precise causes of the reduction in accidents and the difficulty is especially great without figures of man-hours worked. Reports from the districts show, however, that in almost all cases the fall off was greater in the later months of the year, when the hours of employment were being widely reduced, and this may be one of the main causes of the decrease in accidents. Another cause appears to be the fact that the increase in the number of workers employed in factories in 1943 is small compared with the previous year, and while there has been much transfer of labour, and often to a more dangerous industry, the transferred workers have soon settled down to the new job because of their experience in other factory work.

Notwithstanding the decline in the total number of reportable

accidents the number of accidents to adult women again shows an increase, amounting to 1,821. In the following Table detailed figures are given showing the numbers of reportable accidents to adult women in some of the industry groups that are the main accident producers:—

Accidents to Women in certain Groups of Industries.

Industry Group.	1938	1942	1943
Metal extracting, conversion, foundry, etc. ..	489	6,824	7,766
Engineering work (other than machinery making)	897	7,415	8,348
Machinery making	650	24,907	23,435
Light metal trades	907	2,671	2,999
Aircraft	43	4,735	6,612
General Woodwork	148	1,215	1,492

During the year under review the chief experience of women has been a transfer to the principal armament and munitions industries from those with a lower accident risk. Nevertheless, although the total number of accidents to adult women shows an increase, it is estimated that there has been a fall of about three per thousand in the accident rate of women employed in those munitions industries which are the chief sources of accidents to women.

In the Chief Inspector's Report for 1942, special attention was drawn to accidents due to hair becoming entangled with moving machinery. These accidents, the present Report states, continue in spite of a great improvement in the fencing of the more dangerous machines, following a special drive by Inspectors, and emphasis is laid on the fact that the wearing of a cap does not provide an adequate safeguard; what is needed is the fencing of the machine.

With regard to the incidence of accidents, the Report states that it is still clear that the main hazards of industry are carried by men, for whom the accident rate per thousand employed is, as nearly as can be estimated, still almost double the rate for women. In the case of boys and girls the rate is about the same as last year, and in order to secure a reduction, particularly in the relatively high rate for boys, emphasis is laid on the importance of the provision by managements of training and supervision, which is so far confined to a relatively small number of works.

Attention is again drawn in the Report to the need for the reduction of accidents due to causes other than power driven machinery; these accounted for 83·3 per cent. of all accidents in 1943, and in order to secure the necessary reduction the establishment of safety organisations within factories is urged, as the best line of attack.

Hours of Employment.—Regarding hours of work, the Report points out that, while long hours are still being worked in some factories vital to the war, the general tendency during the year has been towards the restriction of the working time. This is confirmed by enquiries carried out by the Ministry of Labour and National Service into average weekly hours and earnings in the principal industries at July, 1943 and January, 1944.* There is a greater appreciation of the fact that production is not in direct ratio to the hours worked. On the other hand, however, some difficulty is still experienced in securing a reduction of working hours in cases where bonus earnings are high and the hours actually put in at the factory affect wages. This is particularly the case as regards Sunday work, but all reports show a large reduction even in this.

Throughout 1943 the work of controlling the hours of employment of women and young persons proceeded on the lines described in recent Annual Reports. One additional General Order† was made, its purpose being to facilitate the shift working of women in electricity generating stations. The number of such Orders in force was thus increased to four, and at the end of the year 23,427 factories were working under these Orders; in addition 1,605 factories were dealt with by individual Orders from Headquarters, so that the total number of factories working under emergency permission was 25,032, representing an increase of 4,435 during the year.

Towards the end of the year a representative Committee of both sides of industry emphasised that there should be no departure from the hours laid down in the Factories Act for young persons, except in cases of proved necessity on work of urgent national importance. The Committee recommended that where, owing to war circumstances, production must be kept at a high level and the extension of statutory working hours was shown to be necessary, hours up to, but never exceeding, 48 a week might be allowed for young persons under 16 years of age; for those aged 16 to 18 years the maximum recommended was 52 hours, with an extension up to not more than 55 hours in exceptional cases. During the early months of 1944, Factory Inspectors have been engaged in bringing emergency authorisations into line with these recommendations.

Special Investigations and Negotiations.—War-time has increased the "special" tasks of Factory Inspectors in many directions. An old risk rises in a new guise; a substitute material suddenly proves poisonous; or a new machine gives rise to unexpected hazards. Much of the work done in this connection is of a secret character and cannot be revealed until after the war. To show the variety of ground covered in this connection, however, the Report mentions risks to health and safety in connection with radio-active substances and X-rays,

* See the issues of this GAZETTE for February and August, 1944.

† S. R. & O. 1943, No. 187. See the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1943, page 23.

magnesium, aluminium, leaded petrol, patent fuel, flax, steel castings, welding, and drop forging.

Attention is also called to dangers in connection with lifting of heavy weights in the fighting services and by Civil Defence Rescue Parties; dangers of explosion in the manufacture of potato flour, in grain drying and in the manufacture of ferromanganese; dangers connected with solvents used in the manufacture of self-sealing tanks for aircraft; and risks attending the laying of pitchmastic floors.

Heating, Lighting and Ventilation.—In almost all districts the number of complaints about inadequate heating showed a marked reduction, attributable in part to the mild weather. In the larger and better organised factories the need for fuel economy led to attempts to improve the efficiency of heating, but in many factories economy was effected simply by cutting down the heating.

With regard to ventilation, the Report states that there is little doubt that workers are steadily becoming more conscious of the quality of ventilation and more alive to its benefits, and in many districts complaints relating to ventilation amounted to one-quarter or even one-third of all complaints received. It is evident that "black-out" arrangements are still a major cause of poor ventilation and, in particular, of the consciousness of poor ventilation. Various means of improving ventilation are suggested in the Report, and the use of "natural" as distinct from "mechanical" ventilation is particularly urged. With regard to the latter it is pointed out that general ventilation by fans is still too frequently regarded by ventilating engineers and others as an acceptable method for removing dust or fumes; where these are present the law requires them to be removed at the point of origin.

On the subject of lighting the Report refers to the striking improvement that has taken place during the war. Progress in the larger factories has, however, been more rapid than in the medium and small-size factories and special attention was given during the year to these latter factories. The efficiency of good installations is frequently impaired by inadequate maintenance, and during the year the signs of an improvement in maintenance which were noted last year have not been sustained.

Washing Accommodation.—Progress continues to be made in the installation of washing accommodation, though the rate is slow and varies in different parts of the country. This slow rate of progress is ascribed by the Report primarily to the lack of material and labour; but in the older industries the idea still persists that while good provision must be made for women none is necessary for men. On the part of management the idea is deep-rooted that washing accommodation is not appreciated and used by the majority of the workers and in some cases is misused or even destroyed. Reports from many parts of the country show that this idea is true to a considerable extent, and the Report suggests that the main hope for remedying this situation lies in the education of the younger generation.

Industrial Health.—In a chapter on Industrial Health, the Senior Medical Inspector points out that at the present time it is more than ever essential that there should be no hindrance to the war effort through failure in the application of the principles of industrial health. The anticipation, assessment and prevention of an occupational risk to health, he states, have not yet been accorded facilities for study and research commensurate with the national needs; and much more co-ordination of existing resources, and the provision of new facilities for instruction and research, are required.

The Report refers to the Conference on Industrial Health* convened in April, 1943, by the Minister of Labour and National Service and to the appointment by the Minister at the same time of the Industrial Health Advisory Committee† which has considered many matters of general importance on which effective action has been taken on the advice of the Committee.

In addition to the Advisory Panel on Dermatitis in Industry, which was mentioned in the Report for 1942, the Minister has also appointed two other Advisory Panels, one to deal with ophthalmological matters and the other with radiological matters in relation to industrial health. It is emphasised, however, that the effective functioning of the specialised machinery of industrial health depends on the supply of persons professionally equipped and adequately trained for the purpose, but at present essential work is slowed down because of the acute shortage of such persons, and the medical work of the Factory Department is itself handicapped by the shortage of suitable recruits.

Information is given in some detail as to the cases of industrial poisoning and disease which occurred during the year under review, and special attention is given to the effect of radio-active substances and X-rays in industry and also to the use of ethyl petrol in industrial processes. It is stated that during 1943 695 cases of gassing came to the Department's notice, compared with 776 in 1942, and only 184 in 1939; the numbers of deaths included in the foregoing figures were 27 in 1943, 25 in 1942, and 11 in 1939. The number of cases of dermatitis notified voluntarily in 1943 was 8,926, compared with 8,802 in 1942.

* See the issues of this GAZETTE for March, 1943 (page 37), and June, 1943 (page 77).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1943 (page 36).

A Table given in the Report shows that the number of fatal cases of silicosis investigated by the Department since 1929 was 801, while a further 859 fatal cases of silicosis with tuberculosis have been investigated; in the case of asbestosis the figure was 118, and for asbestosis with tuberculosis 62.

The work of medical supervision in factories was seriously limited during the year under review by the shortage of doctors and nurses. The Report states that at the end of 1943 there were 174 doctors exercising full-time medical supervision in 205 factories and 744 doctors attending part-time in 1,150 factories. The position as regards nurses was complicated by the requirements of the Forces and other Services, but in August, 1943, there were about 8,400 nurses employed in industrial nursing, of whom approximately one-half were State Registered. Great advances were made in medical supervision in dock areas, and important services in the Manchester, Liverpool and Clydeside areas came into operation during the year. Special mention is made in the Report of the extension of medical services in Royal Ordnance Factories.

Personnel Management and Welfare Supervision.—The Report reviews the progress made in this subject since the introduction of the Factories (Medical and Welfare Services) Order, 1940*, which enables the Chief Inspector of Factories to direct individual firms to appoint supervisory officers for the purpose of supervising the welfare of the persons employed in the factory. Such powers have been used only in sixteen cases, but the Order has been of great assistance as indicating the importance which the Ministry attaches to the subject. In January, 1944, there were 4,774 factories, each employing more than 250 workpeople, which would probably come within the scope of the Order; 3,395 of these employed officers concerned with personnel and welfare matters, to the number of 5,478. According to information provided by the Factory Inspectors, personnel relationships are considered satisfactory in about 70 per cent. of the factories, and definitely unsatisfactory in about 5 per cent.; in the remainder they can be described as indifferent.

One of the most important reasons for such unsatisfactory features as exist is the shortage of trained and experienced Personnel Managers and Welfare Supervisors, and the consequent employment of persons untrained or unsuited to their work. Among the various measures taken to overcome the training difficulty, mention is made of the steps taken by the Ministry in co-operation with the Institute of Labour Management and other bodies to provide short-term training courses. The various measures, although of great assistance, have, however, failed to compensate for the lack of training of pre-war standard and the experience that helps to make a first-class Personnel Manager. Moreover, there is still a shortage of candidates for the highest posts in the profession.

Other reasons for unsatisfactory personnel relationships are (i) failure to secure good organisation of the Personnel Department; (ii) unsatisfactory position of the Personnel Manager in the hierarchy of management—in about half of the factories he has not normally direct access to the Directorate; (iii) insufficient opportunities afforded to the Personnel Manager for making personal contacts with employees by reason of inadequate provision of assistance for clerical and office work; and (iv) failure to maintain physical welfare facilities on a proper basis.

The Report gives examples of the work done by the Personnel Manager in factories and points to cases in which great improvements in the atmosphere of the factory have followed the appointment of Personnel Managers and Welfare Supervisors.

Canteens.—The Report states that steady progress was made during 1943 in the development of canteens. The main emphasis was not on providing new canteens but on improving those already in existence. The Factories (Canteens) Order, 1943,† extended the legal requirements regarding canteens to cover the larger factories connected rather with civilian needs than with the manufacture of munitions, and at the same time strengthened the legal position in relation to the standard of services maintained.

The total number of factories with canteens in December, 1943, was 10,577, compared with 8,481 a year earlier; for docks the figures were 176 and 160, and for building sites, 782 and 868, respectively. During the year there was an increase of 37.7 per cent. in the number of factories which, although employing less than 250 persons, had installed canteens. These canteens were often in unsatisfactory premises, but in many cases they served a higher proportion of the workers than some of the very large modern canteens.

The Report mentions the general efforts now being made to give better balanced menus with wider variety of choice and to retain the essential content of food by suitable methods of cooking; much attention was also being given to the provision of attractive snack services. An increasing number of firms were adopting measures to attract young persons to take full cooked meals in the canteen, and in many cases the charge to persons below a certain age was substantially reduced. An improvement was noted in night meals, both as regards quality and cooking, but there was a lack of variety and interest in meals at night, which was partly due to the shortage of properly trained night cooks. Canteens for day workers have also been hampered by the shortage of labour and by the poor quality of such labour as is available; moreover the acute shortage of suitable trained and experienced cook supervisors and managers is a disturbing factor.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1940 (pages 213 and 238).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1943 (page 48).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (INCREASE OF BENEFIT) ACT, 1944.

Provision for increases in the rates of Unemployment Insurance benefit has been made by the above-mentioned Act,* which received the Royal Assent on 26th October, 1944.

By the new Act the weekly rates of unemployment benefit under the General Scheme are increased by 4s. in the case of men and single women and in the case of married women where the woman is wholly or mainly maintaining her invalid husband or is living apart from, and unable to obtain financial assistance from, her husband. In the case of other married women the increase is 2s. The increases in the weekly rates of benefit under the Agricultural Scheme for men and women are 4s. and 3s. respectively. Under both Schemes the increases in the case of young men, young women, boys and girls aged 17, are 3s., and in the case of boys and girls aged 16 the increases are 1s. The Act also raises the weekly rate of benefit in respect of each dependent child by 1s., and in respect of a wife or other adult dependant by 6s. under the General Scheme and by 5s. under the Agricultural Scheme. The maximum of the weekly amount of benefit which can be received under the Agricultural Scheme is raised from 41s. to 54s.

The revised weekly rates of benefit and dependants' allowances, including the increases provided for in the Act, are set out in the following Table:—

	General Scheme.		Agricultural Scheme.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
<i>Benefit.</i>				
Men aged 21 and over	24	0	22	0
Unmarried women aged 21 and over, and married women of those ages who satisfy either of the conditions mentioned in the text above	22	0	18	0
Other married women aged 21 and over ..	20	0		
Young men aged 18 and under 21	19	0	18	0
Young women aged 18 and under 21	17	0	15	0
Boys aged 17 and under 18	12	0	10	6
Girls aged 17 and under 18	10	6	9	0
Boys aged 16 and under 17	7	0	6	0
Girls aged 16 and under 17	6	0	5	0
<i>Dependants' Allowances.</i>				
For first or second dependent child	5	0	5	0
For each other dependent child	4	0	4	0
For adult dependant	16	0	14	0
Maximum weekly benefit (including dependants' allowances) payable under the Agricultural Scheme	—		54	0

In accordance with the rates set out above, a married man with a wife and two children, for example, will receive 50s. instead of 38s. a week under the General Scheme and 46s. instead of 35s. a week under the Agricultural Scheme.

The Explanatory and Financial Memorandum accompanying the Bill stated that estimates of unemployment in the period following the cessation of hostilities in Europe must necessarily be entirely speculative, and it is not possible to forecast with any degree of accuracy the effect of the increases on the finances of the Unemployment Fund. If, however, unemployment on the average does not exceed about 8 per cent. during the interim period between the application of the new rates and the introduction of a Social Insurance Scheme, the increases can be met out of contribution income at existing rates of contributions.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (INCREASE OF BENEFIT) ACT, 1944 (COMMENCEMENT) ORDER, 1944.

The Act referred to above contained a clause providing that it shall come into operation on such day as the Minister of Labour and National Service shall appoint.

By the above-mentioned Order† the Minister of Labour and National Service has specified 2nd November, 1944, as the appointed day for the Act to come into operation. Accordingly, the increased rates of benefit authorised by the Act have effect as from that date, under both the General and the Agricultural Schemes.

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT ACT.

POSITION OF PERSONS SERVING IN THE MERCHANT NAVY.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service and the Ministry of War Transport have jointly issued the following statement:—

"Numerous references have been made in the Press recently to the position of the Merchant Navy officer and man in relation to the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, and considerable misgiving appears to have been raised in the minds of those now serving in the Merchant Navy, who resent any implication that their service has been less important than that of the Armed Forces.

"It is fully appreciated that the Merchant Navy has played a foremost part in the war from its very outbreak and that in very many cases they have had to defend their ships against enemy attack, but throughout they have remained (as they themselves wished) a civilian service, working under conditions of employment and receiving civilian rates of pay fixed by their own industrial organisation—the National Maritime Board, which is fully representative of the owners, officers and men.

"The Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act applies only to those in the Armed Forces, the corresponding women's Services, and those who were enrolled in a Civil Defence Force under the National Service Acts. These have been in receipt of service rates of pay or their equivalent and, moreover, their jobs will necessarily terminate at the end of hostilities. Special arrangements had, therefore, to be made to ensure that they were, so far as possible, reinstated in their old jobs. This problem does not, however, arise in the Merchant Navy, and it was not, therefore, necessary to make special arrangements for them in the Act."

DISABLED PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRAINING AND RESETTLEMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS.

By the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944,* provision was made, *inter alia*, for the vocational training and industrial rehabilitation of disabled persons and, as reported in the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1944 (page 122), the relevant sections of the Act were brought into operation on 15th August, 1944. Under the Interim Scheme for the Training and Resettlement of Disabled Persons, which was established as a war measure in 1941, arrangements of the kind contemplated by the Act already existed on a provisional basis, and these arrangements, modified in certain limited respects so as to bring the scheme into closer conformity with the provisions of the Act, have now been placed on a permanent footing. Full particulars of the arrangements as now in operation have been set out in a leaflet (P.L. 162/1944) recently issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, superseding the earlier relevant leaflet (P.L. 93/1944 (Revised)). A full account of the arrangements described in this latter leaflet was given on page 58 of the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1944, and that account may be read as a review of the present leaflet, subject to the following amplifications and modifications.

The scheme applies to men and women, whether civilians or Service personnel, but, if necessary, preference in allocation to courses of training and industrial rehabilitation will be given to men who have served whole-time in the Armed Forces of the Crown or the Mercantile Marine and to women who have served whole-time in certain specified women's Services. This preference is not limited to those who have served in the present war, but extends to service at any time, whether or not the disability occurred during the service. Foreign nationals now in Great Britain who, since the beginning of the present war, have served in the British or Allied Armed Forces or Mercantile Marine or have undertaken work of national importance in Great Britain for a period of twelve months, are eligible for consideration under the arrangements described in the leaflet, provided that they intend to remain in Great Britain or are unable to return to their own countries.

As regards the maintenance allowances payable to disabled persons in training who are living in lodgings, the maximum amount of the additional allowance in respect of the cost of lodgings is increased from 25s. to 30s. a week.

Copies of the new leaflet and any further information about the arrangements for the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled persons can be obtained from any Appointments Office or Local Office of the Ministry.

ESSENTIAL WORK (DOCK LABOUR) ORDER, 1944.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has made the above-mentioned Order,† amending in certain respects the Essential Work (Dock Labour) Order, 1943, particulars of which were given on page 111 of the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1943.

The main purpose of the Order is to ensure that men reinstated in the employment of the National Dock Labour Corporation under the provisions of the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944, shall be registered as port transport workers and that, during the period for which they have reinstatement rights, any appeals they make against the termination of their employment or dismissal for serious misconduct by the Corporation shall be dealt with by a Reinstatement Committee set up under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, and not by the usual Appeals Tribunals which operate under Dock Labour Schemes.

The Order also amends the provisions of the Essential Work (Dock Labour) Order, 1943, relating to compliance by port transport workers with lawful and reasonable orders given to them by the employers to whom they have been allocated or sent. The large majority of port transport workers employed by port transport employers are so allocated or sent, but this has never been the case as regards a small minority who were weekly workers in a port transport undertaking before any dock labour scheme came into being. By the new Order the disciplinary provisions in question have been amended so as to cover these weekly workers and place them in the same position as the rest of the port transport workers.

The Order came into force on 30th October, 1944.

* See the issues of this GAZETTE for December, 1943, pages 163-4, and March, 1944, page 47.

† S.R. & O. 1944, No. 1205. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

* 7 & 8 Geo. 6.c. 42. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

† S.R. & O. 1944, No. 1225. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

CATERING WAGES COMMISSION.

PROPOSED NEW BOARD.

The Catering Wages Commission have given notice of their intention to recommend to the Minister of Labour and National Service the establishment of a Wages Board in respect of workers employed in Great Britain in licensed residential establishments, licensed restaurants and railway refreshment establishments, and in staff hostels and staff canteens for the workers at those establishments.

For the purpose of this proposal a licensed residential establishment means an hotel, inn, boarding house, guest house, hostel or similar establishment, including a holiday camp, or a club, which either contains four or more rooms ordinarily available as sleeping accommodation for guests or lodgers or sleeping accommodation for not less than eight guests or lodgers if there are less than four rooms, and at which it is lawful for intoxicating liquor to be sold or supplied. The term includes the hotel, boarding house or similar establishment with sleeping accommodation as described above at which intoxicating liquor can be supplied lawfully because part of the premises is habitually used for the purposes of a registered club. It also includes a workers' hostel which is provided by an employer for workers not employed in a catering undertaking, and at which intoxicating liquor can lawfully be sold or supplied.

A licensed restaurant is a restaurant, dining room, café, buffet or similar place at which it is lawful to sell intoxicating liquor, or to supply it in the case of a restaurant, dining room, or buffet at a club.

A railway refreshment establishment is any place of refreshment situated at a railway station and carried on by a Railway Company.

The workers concerned are those engaged in the preparation or service of food or drink or the provision of living accommodation or work incidental to these, and those associated with the places or establishments referred to, including transport, office and stores workers.

Certain exclusions from the scope of the proposed Wages Board are mentioned. These refer to catering workers in hospitals, schools and colleges, theatres and music halls where catering is carried on by the management, undertakings carried on directly by the Crown or a Local Authority, industrial or staff canteens covered by the Wages Board (Industrial and Staff Canteen Undertakings) Order, 1944, and workers in catering contracting businesses and central catering establishments to which reference was made in a Notice regarding another proposed Wages Board which was published in the London and Edinburgh Gazettes on 26th September, 1944.

Workers in a licensed restaurant are excluded from the Board now proposed, if the restaurant is on premises where the main activity is the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption otherwise than with meals supplied on the premises.

Under the provisions of the Catering Wages Act, 1943, the Commission are required to publish a Notice stating the terms of any proposed recommendation regarding a Wages Board and stating that they will consider any representations which may be received within a specified period before the recommendation is finally made to the Minister of Labour and National Service. The Commission will consider representations in writing with regard to the proposed recommendation referred to above which are received by them on or before Wednesday, 13th December, 1944, at the offices of the Commission at 1, Bryanston Square, London, W.1.

SAFETY IN MINES.

REPORT OF THE SAFETY IN MINES RESEARCH BOARD FOR 1943.

The Safety in Mines Research Board, the body appointed by the Minister of Fuel and Power to plan and carry out the work of research into the causes of mining dangers and the means for preventing such dangers, have recently published their Twenty-second Annual Report,* covering the year 1943.

The short war-time Report, which was submitted to the Minister, reviews in detail the research work of the Board during 1943, under the following headings corresponding to the main divisions of the work:—coal-dust explosions; firedamp explosions; electrical researches; mining explosives; falls of ground; haulage; and wire ropes. It also indicates that there was a revival of interest in safety instruction early in the year under review and many mining schools and colleges began to call for a greatly increased supply of aids, such as lantern slides and cinema films, for use in training new entrants to the industry. Later in the year considerably increased assistance was given by the Board in connection with the training centres set up by the Ministry of Labour and National Service for men directed to the mines.

Appendices to the Report contain (i) a statement of the accounts of the Board for the year ended 31st March, 1944; (ii) a list of reports published during 1943 on the researches carried out under the Board; and (iii) a list of films and lantern slides which are available for loan free of charge to any teacher, mining official or other responsible person interested in safety instruction in mines or in the general dissemination of safety principles and the results of research.

* Twenty-second Annual Report of the Safety in Mines Research Board, 1943. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (1s. 1d. post free).

COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

STATISTICAL DIGEST: SECOND QUARTER OF 1944.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power have issued a Statistical Digest* relating to the coal mining industry in the second quarter of 1944, in continuation of a similar Digest previously published† covering the period from 1938 to the first quarter of 1944.

The quantity of saleable coal produced in the second quarter of 1944 is provisionally given in the Digest as 46,422,000 tons. The average number of wage-earners on the colliery books was 710,000; the average number of wage-earners in effective employment (*i.e.*, excluding those wage-earners who were absent for the whole of any week from whatever cause) was 651,500; the average output per wage-earner in the quarter was 65.4 tons‡; and the average output of saleable coal per manshift worked by all wage-earners was 1.01 tons.‡ Disputes during the quarter caused a loss of 423,300 manshifts and 587,400 tons of saleable coal. Recognised holidays, accidents, breakdowns and repairs to machinery, transport difficulties, etc., brought the total of manshifts lost from causes other than absenteeism to 2,857,000, and the loss of output to 3,633,900 tons. The average percentage of shifts lost during the second quarter that could have been worked, excluding shifts lost through work not being available owing to recognised holidays, disputes, etc., was 12.7. An analysis of the total number of shifts lost shows that 5.3 per cent. was due to voluntary absenteeism (*i.e.*, absence for which no satisfactory reason was given) and 7.4 per cent. to involuntary absenteeism. For workers at the coal face the percentage of absenteeism was 15.5, for other underground workers 13.0, and for surface workers 7.6.

The Digest contains a statistical summary of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry during the first quarter of 1944, based partly upon returns made for the purpose of wages ascertainties for certain districts and partly upon other returns supplied by individual colliery owners. The particulars relate to undertakings which produce about 97 per cent. of the total quantity of saleable coal raised during the period. The net costs during that quarter, after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal and refunds from the coal charges levy, amounted to £62,500,876, equivalent to 29s. 11.55d. per ton, of which 22s. 0.31d. represented wages costs. The proceeds of commercial disposals amounted to £64,436,496, equivalent to 30s. 10.68d. per ton. There was thus a credit balance of £1,935,620 or 11.13d. per ton.

The following Table shows the average cash earnings per wage-earner, and the average value of allowances in kind, during the first quarter of 1944:—

District.	Cash Earnings.		Value of Allowances in Kind.	
	Per manshift worked.	Per week.	Per manshift worked.	Per week.
	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland	19 2.32	5 0 10	1 9.35	9 4
Durham	18 7.65	5 0 0	1 6.61	8 4
Yorkshire	20 9.86	5 2 8	0 8.48	3 5
North Derbyshire	22 1.01	5 16 2	0 7.22	3 2
Nottinghamshire	24 10.37	6 8 11	0 7.67	3 4
South Derbyshire	23 8.99	6 13 6	0 5.36	2 6
Leicestershire	25 10.11	7 5 5	0 5.86	2 9
Cannock Chase	18 8.16	4 16 11	0 7.86	3 5
Warwickshire	23 2.54	5 19 0	0 8.74	3 9
Lancs. and Cheshire	20 0.86	5 7 7	0 0.46	2 1
North Staffs.	21 0.10	5 3 5	0 2.17	0 11
S. Wales and Mon.	19 1.61	4 14 10	0 7.79	3 3
Cumberland	20 4.45	5 10 9	—	—
North Wales	18 11.71	5 7 3	0 6.91	3 3
S. Staffs. and Worcs.	18 6.97	5 0 7	0 9.96	4 6
Shropshire	19 6.77	5 4 6	0 10.17	4 6
Forest of Dean	19 4.31	5 6 11	0 7.05	3 2
Bristol and Somerset	17 2.04	4 14 0	0 8.35	3 9
Kent	21 10.87	5 7 9	0 8.77	3 7
Scotland	19 7.25	5 11 3	0 2.27	1 1
Great Britain	20 3.58	5 5 9	0 8.74	3 10

REPAIRS TO WAR-DAMAGED HOUSES.

APPLICATION OF ESSENTIAL WORK ORDER.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has scheduled under the Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, with effect from 18th October, 1944, the work on repairs to war-damaged houses from time to time being carried out in the London Civil Defence region on behalf of local authorities on sites in that region. The effect of this is that men engaged on this work cannot leave or, save for serious misconduct, be discharged without the permission of a National Service Officer, and that the guaranteed weekly wage provisions of the Order will apply.

* Statistical Digest, Second Quarter, 1944. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (5d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1944, page 109.

‡ Provisional figure.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The seventy-sixth Annual Trades Union Congress was held at Blackpool on 16th October, 1944, and the four following days. The President was Mr. Ebby Edwards, Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the Statistical Statement compiled by the General Council, was 730. The number of organisations represented was 190 and the approximate membership represented was 6,642,000, including 1,361,000 female members. The total membership showed an increase of about 618,000 over the total membership represented at the previous year's Congress.

The following Table, extracted from the Statistical Statements relating to the 1944 and 1943 Annual Congresses, shows for each of seventeen trade groups the numbers of unions and of delegates, and the affiliated membership of the unions.

Trade Group.	1944 Congress.			1943 Congress.		
	No. of Unions.	No. of Delegates.	Member-ship.	No. of Unions.	No. of Delegates.	Member-ship.
Mining and Quarrying	5	125	627,944	5	117	625,144
Railways	3	41	560,835	3	31	544,343
Transport (other than Railways) ..	10	84	1,191,457	9	92	904,012
Shipbuilding ..	4	10	125,309	4	10	124,667
Engineering, Foundry and Vehicle Building ..	31	70	1,215,147	30	70	1,000,808
Iron and Steel and Minor Metal Trades	20	29	173,454	19	40	180,350
Building, Woodworking and Furnishing	20	43	437,549	20	43	414,461
Printing and Paper	14	40	186,084	15	41	184,908
Cotton	8	33	143,229	52	72	142,987
Textiles (other than Cotton)	19	31	90,987	18	28	90,840
Clothing	8	20	130,412	8	20	133,693
Leather and Boot and Shoe ..	6	18	108,192	6	18	110,681
Glass, Pottery, Chemicals, Food, etc.	19	52	455,557	18	46	410,370
Agriculture ..	1	12	87,100	1	12	71,100
Public Employees	5	29	211,206	5	29	205,406
Non-manual Workers	13	32	165,111	13	31	153,482
General Workers ..	4	61	732,744	4	60	727,159
Totals	190	730	6,642,317	230	760	6,024,411

In the General Council's report it is explained that the reduction in the number of affiliated unions in 1944 is not due to secessions, but results from the fact that, in the cotton industry, only the central fee-paying organisations are included as affiliated bodies in the totals for 1944, whereas various district associations were formerly included in the totals in addition to the central organisations.

Among the resolutions adopted by the Congress was one approving proposals made in an interim report of the General Council on the subject of post-war reconstruction. This report urged the immediate transfer to public ownership and control of the vital industries of transport and fuel and power, and set out the Council's views on the necessity for a planned economy involving state-control over a wide economic and industrial field. The resolution also asserted the necessity of retaining and strengthening Government controls, with the participation of the trade unions, in regard to finance, raw materials, prices, and the safeguarding of labour conditions, in order to overcome the problems of transition from war to a peace economy.

A resolution was adopted approving the regulation of wages in the post-war period by voluntary agreements, and calling for the legalised enforcement, if required, of agreements relating to minimum standards of wages and conditions of employment made by Joint Industrial Councils and similar bodies, and for an extension of the powers of Trade Boards. A report was approved dealing with trade union structure and closer unity, and including proposals calculated to accelerate the processes of amalgamation, federation, and joint working.

The Government's social insurance plan was welcomed in a report thereon by the General Council. A resolution was passed urging the provision of an industrial medical service within the projected national health service.

Questions concerning the treatment of Germany after the war were discussed and an emergency resolution, affirming that the German people cannot be absolved of all responsibility for crimes committed during the war and setting out the views of the trade unions regarding restitution and the essentials of a just peace, was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Other subjects which were discussed by the Congress included the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927, equal pay for equal work, the forty-hour week, holidays with pay, joint production committees, cartels, the entertainment industry, housing, India, the International Labour Organisation and the peace settlement.

The Congress was addressed by representatives of the Labour Party, the Co-operative Union, the American Federation of Labour, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the U.S.S.R., the International Federation of Trade Unions and the French Council of Resistance.

Mr. G. A. Isaacs, M.P., Secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants and a member of the General Council of the Congress for many years, was elected Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming year.

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS.

TRADE UNIONS.

The total membership (including members overseas) of trade unions in the United Kingdom at the end of 1943* was nearly 8,100,000, showing an increase of about 290,000, or 3.7 per cent., as compared with the end of the previous year.

These figures have been compiled by the Ministry of Labour and National Service from data supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for Northern Ireland in respect of trade unions registered under the Trade Unions Acts, and from returns supplied direct to the Ministry by unregistered organisations. They relate to all organisations of employees—including those of salaried and professional workers, as well as those of manual wage earners—which are known to include among their functions that of negotiating with employers with the object of regulating the conditions of employment of their members. The figures given cover the total membership—including members in branches overseas—of all such organisations, so far as known to the Department, whose head offices are situated in Great Britain and Northern Ireland; on the other hand, organisations having their head offices elsewhere are wholly excluded. Members serving with H.M. Forces are included in the totals.

Number of Unions in 1943 in comparison with 1942.

On the basis indicated above, the total number of trade unions known to have been in existence in the United Kingdom at the end of 1943 was 972, as compared with 978 at the end of 1942. Six unions, with a total membership of 300 at the end of 1942, were reported as having been dissolved in 1943; while 10 unions, with an aggregate membership of 2,300 at the end of 1942, ceased to exist as separate units during 1943 in consequence of amalgamations with other unions. On the other hand 10 new unions were formed in 1943, with an aggregate membership of 4,900. The total of 972 unions at the end of 1943 included 20 whose headquarters were in Northern Ireland.

Membership in 1943 in comparison with 1942.

At the end of 1943 the total membership of all trade unions included in the statistics was approximately 8,088,000, as compared with 7,798,000 at the end of 1942, showing an increase of 290,000, or 3.7 per cent. The number of male members at the end of 1943 was 6,218,000, showing an increase of 97,000, or 1.6 per cent., as compared with the previous year, and the number of female members was 1,870,000, an increase of 193,000, or 11.5 per cent.

The total of 8,088,000 included 33,000 members in branches in Éire and 86,000 in other overseas branches of certain unions. Excluding the members of these overseas branches, the total membership in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (inclusive of all members serving with H.M. Forces) was about 7,969,000 at the end of 1943, as compared with 7,696,000 at the end of 1942; of these totals, the membership in Northern Ireland accounted for 137,000 and 129,000, respectively.

The largest increases in membership during 1943 occurred in the unions in the engineering and metal group of industries, the increases being particularly marked in the case of female members.

There is some duplication in the total membership given above, since persons who are members of more than one union are counted more than once in the totals. The extent of this duplication is not known exactly, but it is estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000. Included in this total are some workers who have transferred from one industry to another during the war and who have become members of trade unions catering for their new occupations while retaining membership of the unions to which they belonged before the war.

Size of Unions.

In the following Table the unions are grouped according to their total memberships at the end of 1943:—

Number of Members.	Number of Unions.	Total Membership.	Percentages of	
			Total Number of all Unions.	Total Membership of all Unions.
Under 100	279	13,000	28.7	0.2
100 and under 500 ..	272	66,000	28.0	0.8
500 " " 1,000 ..	97	69,000	10.0	0.9
1,000 " " 2,500 ..	101	158,000	10.4	1.9
2,500 " " 5,000 ..	80	288,000	8.2	3.6
5,000 " " 10,000 ..	54	371,000	5.6	4.6
10,000 " " 15,000 ..	24	294,000	2.5	3.6
15,000 " " 25,000 ..	16	305,000	1.6	3.8
25,000 " " 50,000 ..	22	789,000	2.3	9.7
50,000 " " 100,000 ..	11	873,000	1.1	10.8
100,000 or more	16	4,862,000	1.6	60.1
Totals	972	8,088,000	100.0	100.0

* All figures for 1943, given in this article, are provisional and subject to slight revision. The figures previously published in respect of earlier years have been revised, as necessary, in accordance with the latest information. The sub-division of the total membership into males and females is not exact, as estimates have been made for some trade unions which are unable to state precisely the numbers of males and of females among their members.

It will be seen from the Table that three-fifths of the total membership of trade unions at the end of 1943 was accounted for by 16 unions which each had a membership of 100,000 or more. Another one-fifth of the aggregate membership was made up by 33 unions each having between 25,000 and 100,000 members. In contrast, 648 unions, or two-thirds of the total number, each had a membership of less than 1,000, and together represented less than 2 per cent. of the total membership of all unions.

Totals for 1929-1943.

The following Table shows the total numbers of unions and their aggregate membership at the end of each of the past fifteen years:—

Year.	Number of Trade Unions at end of Year.	Membership at end of Year.			Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on Membership of previous Year.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
		Thousands.	Thousands.	Thousands.	Per cent.
1929 ..	1,133	4,056	802	4,858	+ 1.1
1930 ..	1,121	4,049	793	4,842	— 0.3
1931 ..	1,108	3,859	765	4,624	— 4.5
1932 ..	1,081	3,698	746	4,444	— 3.9
1933 ..	1,081	3,661	731	4,392	— 1.2
1934 ..	1,063	3,854	736	4,590	+ 4.5
1935 ..	1,049	4,106	761	4,867	+ 6.0
1936 ..	1,036	4,495	800	5,295	+ 8.8
1937 ..	1,032	4,947	895	5,842	+ 10.3
1938 ..	1,024	5,127	926	6,053	+ 3.6
1939 ..	1,008	5,258	973	6,231	+ 2.9
1940 ..	990	5,463	1,082	6,545	+ 5.0
1941 ..	984	5,723	1,374	7,097	+ 8.4
1942 ..	978	6,121	1,677	7,798	+ 9.9
1943 ..	972	6,218	1,870	8,088	+ 3.7

The total membership at the end of 1943, viz., about 8,088,000, compares with 8,348,000 at the end of 1920—the year in which trade union membership reached its highest point—and with 4,135,000 at the end of 1913.

FEDERATIONS OF TRADE UNIONS.

At the end of 1943 the number of federations of trade unions in the United Kingdom was 56, with an approximate gross total membership of 3,100,000. The corresponding figures for a year earlier were 57 and 2,970,000, respectively.

In many instances trade unions, or branches of trade unions, are affiliated to more than one federation, and a large number of trade union members, therefore, are counted more than once in the gross membership figures given above. If the actual or estimated federated membership of each federated trade union be counted once only, irrespective of the number of federations to which the trade union is affiliated, the total net federated membership was approximately 2,635,000 at the end of 1943, compared with 2,559,000 at the end of 1942. The number of unions which were affiliated to one or more trade union federations, in respect of either the whole or a part of their membership, was 500 at the end of 1943, as compared with 515 at the end of 1942.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES IN ÉIRE.

A non-contributory scheme of family allowances has been introduced in Éire by the Children's Allowances Act dated 23rd February, 1944. It is estimated that 150,000 families will benefit, that 340,000 children will qualify for an allowance, and that the cost of the scheme in a full year will be £2,250,000. There is no means test; but, as an offset to the benefit accruing to the taxpayer, the income tax allowance in respect of each child for whom a children's allowance is paid will be reduced by £20. The main provisions of the Act are as follows.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce is responsible for the administration of the Act, and for this purpose is required to divide the State into regions and to determine the first payment period and its duration for each district; subsequent payment periods are to be of 26 weeks' duration. The Minister is authorised to make regulations generally for putting the Act into effect, and to prescribe procedure in connection with its operation.

Allowances are payable to persons resident in a particular region on the qualifying date who are either Irish citizens or for two years immediately preceding the qualifying date were residents of Éire, and on this date are maintaining three or more children under 16 years of age. The allowances are at the rate of 2s. 6d. a week for each child in excess of two in a family. The circumstances of each family, with respect to eligibility for the receipt of allowances, are to be determined every six months, and payments are to be made for the following half-year on that basis irrespective of changes in the family. After each determination, books of vouchers payable weekly at the Post Office will be issued to the heads of families.

Each claim for an allowance must be investigated and reported on by an investigation officer appointed for the purpose. The claims are decided by "deciding officers," but appeals against the award or decision may be referred to a panel of referees, appointed by the Minister for Finance. The claims may also be referred by the deciding officers to the panel of referees if they think proper, instead of being determined by the officers themselves. An award or decision may, moreover, be revised at any time and from time to time by the deciding officers, if fresh facts are subsequently brought to their notice.

The allowances are inalienable, and are to be excluded in the assessment of damages under the Fatal Accidents Acts and

compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. They are also to be excluded in reckoning means for the purposes of the Old Age Pensions Acts, Unemployment Assistance Acts, Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Acts, or of any abatement provisions in legislation relating to superannuation or pensions.

All expenses incurred in the administration of the Act, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Minister of Finance, will be paid out of moneys provided by the Parliament of Éire.

NATIONAL SERVICE ACTS, 1939-42.

FURTHER REGISTRATION OF MEN.

Young men born between 1st January, 1927, and 31st March, 1927, both dates inclusive, are required to register under the National Service Acts, 1939 to 1942, on 2nd December, 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.

REGISTRATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS.

Further registrations of young persons subject to the Registration of Boys and Girls Order, 1941, took place on 28th October and 25th November, 1944, in accordance with standing arrangements under which such registrations are normally held on the last Saturday of each month to cover boys and girls attaining the age of 16 since the date of the previous registration.

Subject to the exemptions specified in the Order, the obligation to register on 28th October applied to all British boys and girls resident in Great Britain who were born between 1st October, 1928, and 28th October, 1928, both dates inclusive. The registration on 25th November covered (i) boys and girls born between 29th October, 1928, and 25th November, 1928, both dates inclusive, and (ii) boys and girls born between 26th November, 1926, and 28th October, 1928, both dates inclusive, who, for whatever reason (including absence from Great Britain), had not registered on the dates already prescribed under the Order.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER, 1944.

The Table below gives an analysis of the numbers of persons recorded as unemployed in Great Britain at 16th October, 1944. The figures on the lines marked (a) exclude men classified as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women classified as unsuitable for normal full-time employment; those on the lines marked (b) show the number of men and women in these two categories.

	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) 42,244	1,094	12,146	700	56,184
Non-claimants ..	(b) 15,644	—	204	—	15,848
	(a) 3,579	5,123	2,313	4,749	15,764
	(b) 1,401	—	33	—	1,434
Total—Insured Persons on Registers ..	(a) 45,823	6,217	14,459	5,449	71,948
	(b) 17,045	—	237	—	17,282
2. Uninsured Persons:					
Applicants for Unemployment Allowances ..	(a) 401	2	381	6	790
Persons not applying for Allowances ..	(b) 369	—	126	—	495
	(a) 1,218	2,852	1,244	3,018	8,332
	(b) 605	—	48	—	653
Total—Uninsured on Registers ..	(a) 1,619	2,854	1,625	3,024	9,122
	(b) 974	—	174	—	1,148
GRAND TOTAL ON REGISTERS ..	(a) 47,442	9,071	16,084	8,473	81,070
	(b) 18,019	—	411	—	18,430
INSURED PERSONS CLAIMING BENEFIT UNDER SPECIAL SCHEMES ..					
	167	2	93	5	267
INSURED PERSONS WITH BOOKS IN TWO MONTHS FILE† ..					
	3,388	1,768	5,685	1,989	12,830

* The 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 "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 persons whose books were in the file had not registered at an Employment Exchange during the past two months, and action was taken to ensure that the books of such persons should be removed from the file before the statistics for subsequent dates were compiled. This action resulted in a marked reduction in the number of books in the file, and in these circumstances the figures for January, 1944, and later dates are not comparable with those for October, 1943, or earlier dates. 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 184.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER.

The number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 16th October (exclusive of 18,019 men who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 55,230; 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 500; and those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 783. As compared with 17th July, the numbers wholly unemployed showed an increase of 11,152, those temporarily suspended from work showed an increase of 216, and unemployed casual workers showed an increase of 113.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 16th October were 24,005 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 411, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 529 temporarily stopped, and 23 unemployed casual workers. As compared with 17th July, the numbers wholly unemployed showed an increase of 6,178, and those temporarily stopped showed an increase of 214. There was no change in the number of unemployed casual workers.

The number of applicants for unemployment benefit or allowances included in the foregoing totals for 16th October was 56,974, as compared with 42,516 at 17th July, 1944, and 47,829 at 18th October, 1943.

The numbers registered as unemployed* at 16th October, 1944, are analysed below:—

	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	Unemployed Casual Workers.
Great Britain.			
Men	46,168	492	782
Boys	9,062	8	1
Women	15,589	472	23
Girls	8,416	57	—
Total	79,235	1,029	806
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with:			
17th July, 1944	+17,330	+430	+113
18th October, 1943	+6,982	+297	—145
United Kingdom.			
Men	52,806	664	1,597
Boys	9,508	14	1
Women	18,760	998	41
Girls	8,866	78	—
Total	89,940	1,754	1,639
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with:			
17th July, 1944	+16,379	—757	—173
18th October, 1943	+7,314	+85	—596

The numbers of unemployed persons* on the registers at 16th October, 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	4,732	1,669	2,424	1,555	10,380
Eastern	1,207	240	430	264	2,141
Southern	1,000	294	349	307	1,950
South Western	1,857	182	548	192	2,779
Midlands	1,795	581	373	455	3,204
North Midlands	1,355	149	298	192	1,994
North Eastern	3,596	494	1,084	432	5,606
North Western	6,210	1,551	1,633	1,256	10,650
Northern	5,596	1,399	2,275	1,434	10,704
Scotland	11,617	1,455	4,189	1,230	18,491
Wales	7,203	1,048	1,986	1,099	11,336
Great Britain	46,168	9,062	15,589	8,416	79,235
Northern Ireland	6,638	446	3,171	450	10,705
United Kingdom	52,806	9,508	18,760	8,866	89,940
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.†					
London and South-Eastern	143	—	44	—	187
Eastern	31	—	17	—	48
Southern	1	—	—	—	1
South Western	112	—	13	1	126
Midlands	89	—	4	—	93
North Midlands	15	—	2	—	17
North Eastern	67	—	77	22	166
North Western	204	—	59	6	269
Northern	279	3	102	26	410
Scotland	267	5	174	1	447
Wales	66	1	3	1	71
Great Britain	1,274	9	495	57	1,835
Northern Ireland	987	6	544	21	1,558
United Kingdom	2,261	15	1,039	78	3,393

* The figures are exclusive of 18,019 men classified as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and 411 women unsuitable for normal full-time employment.

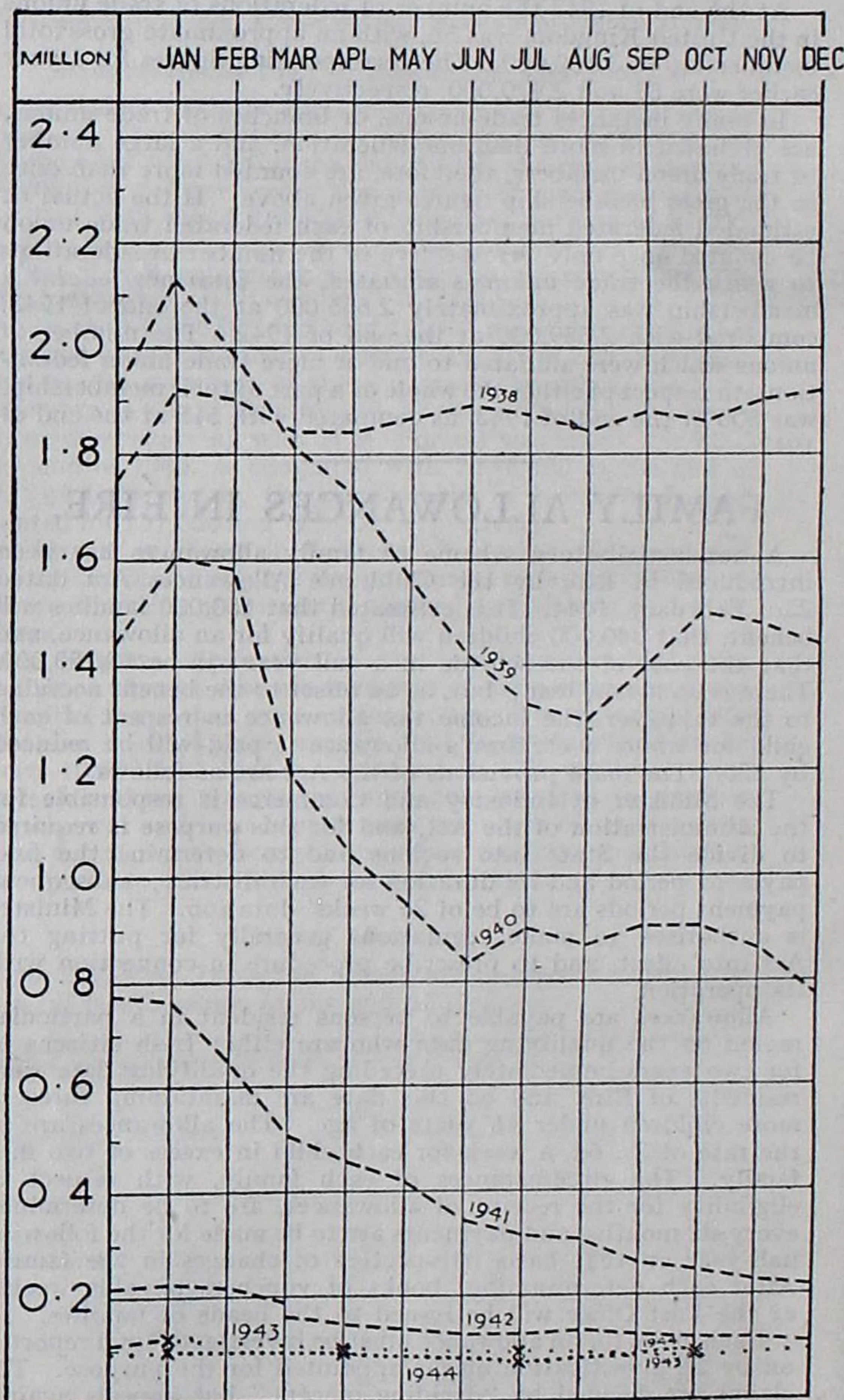
† The total numbers of unemployed casual workers included are shown in the previous Table in this column.

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 October, 1942.

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.						
12 October 1942. ..	50,661	10,108	25,273	9,975	96,017	110,712
18 January 1943. ..	48,055	10,279	25,935	9,439	93,708	112,671
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 1944. ..	40,042	8,416	15,546	8,249	72,253	82,626
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
17 July	36,407	7,671	11,037	6,790	61,905	73,561
16 October	46,168	9,062	15,589	8,416	79,235	89,940
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.						
12 October 1942. ..	4,097	6	926	34	5,063	8,090
18 January 1943. ..	3,366	9	1,784	150	5,309	8,340
12 April	2,614	8	641	59	3,322	5,433
19 July	1,697	18	405	9	2,129	4,989
18 October 1944. ..	1,346	5	328	4	1,683	3,904
17 January	1,360	1	926	76	2,363	4,701
17 April	1,237	2	343	16	1,598	4,369
17 July	944	10	333	5	1,292	4,323
16 October	1,274	9	495	57	1,835	3,393

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. 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND, HOURS OF LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during October resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £30,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 200,000 workpeople, and in a small decrease in the wages of about 5,000 workpeople.

The principal industries in which wage rates were increased during October included the milk distributive trade, the retail meat trade, asbestos manufacture, electrical contracting, and general waste materials reclamation. There were also increases in the rates of wages of considerable numbers of County Council roadmen, and in those of women and girls employed in electrical cable making.

In the milk distributive trade in England and Wales, the Trade Board minimum time rates were raised by 5s. a week for men, 4s. a week for women and 3s. or 2s. a week for juvenile workers. In the retail meat trade in England and Wales, the minimum rates were raised, generally by 4s. a week for men and 2s. or 4s. a week for women. Men and women employed in asbestos manufacture were granted an addition of 1d. an hour on minimum rates. The cost-of-living addition to wages for men in the employment of electrical contractors in England and Wales and Northern Ireland was raised by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour and the basic rates in the lower paid districts were increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour. In the general waste materials reclamation trade, the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were

raised by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour for men and women and by 1d. or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour for younger workers. The war bonus of roadmen employed by County Councils in England and Wales was increased by 3s. 6d. a week. In electrical cable making there were increases of 1s. 6d. a week for women and of 3s. a week in the starting rates for girls. Other groups of workpeople whose rates of wages were advanced during the month included men, youths and boys in the silica and moulding sands industry, women and girls engaged in road vehicle repairing and the motor vehicle retail trade, textile makers-up, packers, etc., at Manchester, and workpeople employed in retail bespoke tailoring and shirt making in Northern Ireland.

The only decreases reported during October affected blast-furnace workers and iron puddlers, etc., in the West of Scotland and iron ore miners and limestone quarry workers in Cumberland, whose wages fluctuate in accordance with sliding scales based upon the official cost-of-living index figure.

Of the estimated increase of £30,000, about £17,000 was the result of arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including £2,000 under cost-of-living sliding scales operated by such bodies); £5,000 took effect under arbitration awards; and nearly all the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workers or their representatives.

Hours of Labour.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING OCTOBER.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Mining and Quarrying.	Cumberland	30 Oct.	Iron-ore miners	<i>Cost-of-living bonus decreased† at the rate of 0·7d. a shift for men and youths 18 years and over, and of 0·55d. for boys (calculated to the nearest halfpenny). Cost-of-living bonus after change for 6 shifts worked: men and youths 13s. 11d., boys 6s. 11½d.</i>
	West Cumberland ..	do.	Limestone quarry workers ..	<i>Flat-rate addition to wages, previously granted, decreased† by 1d. a shift (2s. 2d. to 2s. 1d.) for men and youths 18 years and over and by ½d. (1s. 1d. to 1s. 0½d.) for boys.†</i>
Silica and Moulding Sands.	Great Britain ..	Pay day in week beginning 2 Oct.	Men, youths and boys ..	Basic minimum rate for men raised from 1s. 5½d. to 1s. 6d. an hour; increase of ½d. an hour for workers with differential grades of skill whose rates were previously based on the minimum basic rate of 1s. 5½d.; increases of 2s. a week (48 hours) in minimum rates for youths 18 and under 21 years and of 1s. for boys.
Coke Manufacture, Heavy Chemical, etc., Manufacture.	Durham	1 Oct.	Cokemen and by-product workers ..	Increase of 4 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 94 per cent. above the basis rates.||
	Great Britain (certain firms).¶	11 Sept.	Engineering, etc., tradesmen ..	Increase of ½d. an hour or 2s. a week (47 hours) in standard rate and of ¼d. or 2s. 11d. in war supplement. Standard rate and war supplement after change: standard rate 88s. 2d. a week, war supplement 20s. 1d.**
		do.	Building tradesmen, coopers, wheelwrights and wagon repairers.	Increase of ½d. an hour in standard time rates, and of ¼d. in war supplement. Rates after change: chemical plumbers 1s. 11d., other building tradesmen, coopers, wheelwrights and wagon repairers 1s. 10d., plus 5½d. an hour war supplement in each case.††
Cement Manufacture.	North Kent and South Essex (certain firms).	18 Sept.	Workpeople in engineering occupations.	Additional war bonus granted of 1d. an hour for men and ½d. for apprentices and female workers. War bonus after change for men 25s. 9d. a week (47 hours).
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	West of Scotland ..	Pay period beginning nearest 1 Nov.	Workpeople employed at certain blastfurnaces, excluding those engaged on maintenance work.	<i>Flat-rate addition to wages, previously granted, decreased† by 1d. a shift (3s. 6d. to 3s. 5d.) for men, with usual proportions for youths and boys, by 1d. (2s. 2d. to 2s. 1d.) for women 21 and over, and by 0·5d. (1s. 1d. to 1s. 0·5d.) for girls.</i>
	West of Scotland ..	Pay period beginning 30 Oct.	Workpeople employed at iron puddling forges and mills and sheet mills.	<i>Flat-rate addition to wages, previously granted, decreased† by 1·4d. a shift (3s. 8·8d. to 3s. 7·4d.) for men, by 1·05d. (2s. 9·6d. to 2s. 8·55d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, by 0·7d. (1s. 10·4d. to 1s. 9·7d.) for boys, by 0·8d. (1s. 11·2d. to 1s. 10·4d.) for women 21 and over, and by 0·4d. (11·6d. to 11·2d.) for girls. (The additional war bonuses of 5s. a week for men and married youths and of 2s. 6d. for other youths and boys remained unchanged.)</i>
Road Vehicle Repairing, etc.	United Kingdom ..	1st full pay period after 7 Oct.	Women and girls in public repair workshops of the road vehicle repairing industry and in the motor vehicle retail and repairing trade.	Increases of 1½d. an hour or 6s. a week in basic minimum rate for women 21 years and over and in minimum rates for girls 18 and under 21, and of ½d. an hour for girls under 18. Rates after change: women—basic minimum rate 1s. 2½d. an hour or 57s. a week (48 hours), girls—4½d. an hour or 17s. 5d. a week (44 hours) at 14, rising to 1s. 1½d. an hour or 53s. a week (48 hours) at 20 and under 21.††
Malleable Ironfounding.	Walsall	1st full pay period after 5 Oct.	Women and girls	Increases of 6s. a week in inclusive minimum time rates for women 21 years and over and of 2s. to 8s. for younger workers. Piece work prices to be such as will enable adult workers of average ability to earn at least 27½ per cent. above a basis rate of 37s. a week, plus bonus of 14s., instead of 25 per cent. above a basis rate of 25s., plus bonus of 22s., as previously. Inclusive minimum time rates after change: 20s. a week (47 hours) at 14 years rising to 56s. at 21 and over.

* The particulars of numbers affected by changes in rates of wages and working hours, and of the amount of change in weekly wages and hours of labour, exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural workers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect either of short time or of overtime.

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

‡ Additional war bonus, previously granted, of 3s. a shift worked for men and youths and of 1s. 6d. for boys, remained unchanged.

§ No increase was granted to men employed at undertakings in which the basic minimum rate for men was already 1s. 6d. an hour or more.

|| This increase took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in accordance with a sliding scale based upon the selling price of coke. Flat-rate advances, previously granted in addition to basis rates and percentages, remained unchanged (flat-rate bonus of 1s. a shift for persons 18 years and over, and of 6d. for those under 18, and flat-rate increases of 2s. 6d. a shift for persons 21 and over, and of 9d. to 2s. 3d., according to age, for those under 21).

¶ These increases applied to workers employed by firms (other than the metal group) which are constituent firms of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., including workers employed in the lime works at Buxton and Colwyn Bay.

** The standard rate is applicable to fitters, turners, blacksmiths, electricians, etc.; patternmakers, template makers and boilermakers receive 105 per cent of the standard rate and machine men 100, 95, 85 or 75 per cent., according to occupation. In addition to the war supplement, rates are subject to augmentation under the Company's discretionary grading scheme.

†† These increases were agreed upon in October and made retrospective to the date shown. The rates quoted are subject to augmentation under the Company's discretionary grading scheme.

‡‡ Female workers employed in public repair workshops who show individual merit are to receive, over and above the minimum wage rates, reasonable merit increments in keeping with the principle that a female worker in comparison with a male worker should receive equal pay for equal work and ability. To be eligible for such increment, a woman need not necessarily be able to undertake all male semi-skilled or skilled work. Female workers employed in the motor vehicle retail and repairing trade are to receive rates higher than the minimum rates in accordance with their individual merit and ability.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Shuttle Making	Lancashire and Yorkshire.	1st pay day in Oct.	Shuttle-makers	Increase* of 2 per cent. on basis rates. Minimum daywork rate after change for journeymen, 1s. an hour plus 92 per cent. (1s. 11 04d.)
			Shuttle-makers' apprentices	Increase* of 2 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 92 per cent. above basis piece rates and 74.5 per cent. above basis time rates.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	3rd pay day in Oct.	Women and girls employed as time-workers and pieceworkers.	Increase of 1s. 6d. a week for women 18 years and over. Service bonus for girls 16 and under 18 years of 1s., 2s. and 3s. a week, previously paid after 2, 4 and 6 months' service respectively, discontinued for the period of the war and replaced by an addition of 3s. a week at commencement of service. Rates after change for women, 54s. 6d., 56s. 6d., 58s. 6d., according to class of occupation. Cost-of-living (war) addition increased by ½d. an hour (5½d. to 6d.) for men, the rate for workpeople under 21 years remaining unchanged.†
Asbestos Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	1 Oct.	Plumber jointers and plumber jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable making industry. Men and women	Further flat-rate addition of 1d. an hour to minimum rates for men and for women 18 years and over, to be independent of changes caused by fluctuations in the cost-of-living figure. Minimum rates after change for unskilled workers: men 1s. 5½d., women 11½d., plus total flat-rate addition of 2d. an hour in each case.
Textile Narrow Fabrics Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	Pay day in week beginning 9 Oct.	Men, women, youths, boys and girls employed in the tape and light web section.	Increases of 6s. 6d. a week (48 hours) in minimum time rates for men, of 11s., 8s., and 4s. 6d., for women at 18, 19 and 20 years and over, respectively, of 3s. to 6s. 6d. for youths and boys and of 4s. to 10s. for girls; and increase of 4s. 6d. (41s. to 45s. 6d.) in piecework basic rate for female workers.‡ Minimum time rates after change: men, youths and boys 22s., at 14 years rising to 75s. at 21 and over; women and girls 20s., at 14 rising to 47s. at 18 and over.
Textile Making-up and Packing.	Manchester	1st pay day in Oct.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Cost-of-living bonus increased* by 10d. a week (18s. 9d. to 19s. 7d.) for men, by 6d. (11s. 3d. to 11s. 9d.) for women 18 years and over, by 2d. to 7d. for youths and boys and by 2d. to 4d. for girls.
Retail Bespoke Tailoring.	Northern Ireland ..	16 Oct.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Further increase of 7½ per cent. on general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates, and general minimum piece rates fixed in May and September, 1943, making the total addition 12½ per cent., or at the rate of 2s. 6d. in the £.§
Shirtmaking	Northern Ireland ..	23 Oct.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for special or measure cutters, pattern cutters or pattern takers and other cutters 22 years and over, with not less than 5 years' experience after 19 years of age, and in piecework basis time rates for cutters 22 and over with not less than 5 years' experience in shirt-cutting, other than special or measure cutters, of 6s. a week (48 hours) for other workers 22 and over, and of 3s. to 5s., according to age, for other workers under 22.¶
			Women and girls	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers other than learners and in piecework basis time rates for out-workers and other workers and of 3s. or 4s. a week (48 hours), according to age at commencing employment and period of service, for learners; Increases of varying amounts in general minimum piece rates for out-workers.¶
Millsawing	Bo'ness, Grangemouth and South Alloa.	1st pay period following 9 Oct.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed in pitwood yards.	Increases of 1d. an hour for men and women 19 years and over and of ½d. for youths, boys and girls. Rates after change at 19 and over include: men—single bench sawyers 96s. a week (48 hours), double bench sawyers and saw sharpeners 93s., drawers off and mill and motor crosscutters 88s., mill loaders and tallymen 87s., labourers 86s.; women 51s. (women to receive men's rate if employed as sawyers or drawers-off).||
Building	Eastern Counties (lower-rated districts).	4 Oct.	Craftsmen and labourers	Increases of ½d. to 2d. an hour for craftsmen and of ½d. to 1½d. for labourers, resulting from the transfer of districts in which the standard rates were 1s. 9½d. an hour for craftsmen and 1s. 5d. for labourers, or less, to grades with higher standard rates. Standard rates after change, for craftsmen and labourers respectively: Billericay 1s. 11d., 1s. 6½d.; Leighton Buzzard, Royston and Much Hadham 1s. 10½d., 1s. 5½d.; other districts 1s. 10d., 1s. 5½d. Cost-of-living (war) addition increased* by ½d. an hour (5½d. to 6d.).
Electrical Contracting.	England and Wales and Northern Ireland.	3rd pay day in Oct.	Men and women 21 years and over	Increases of ½d. an hour in basic rates for skilled electricians and men and women in receipt of skilled electricians' rates, resulting from the transfer of districts in Grade B2 (basic rate 1s. 7½d. an hour) to Grade B (1s. 8½d.) and the raising of the basic rate for districts in Grade C from 1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.; with increases of proportional amounts for other men and women, and youths and boys.¶
	England and Wales (certain districts) and Northern Ireland.	do.	Men and women 21 years and over and youths and boys, other than indentured apprentices.	Extra war emergency bonus of 4s. a week granted for a period of six months.**
Road Passenger Transport.	Northern Ireland ..	1 Oct.	Omnibus conductors employed by the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board.	Rates adopted of 30 per cent. at 14 years of the agreed adult rates which are to operate from the first pay day in December, 1944 (81s. a week in the London area and 75s. in the provinces), rising to 90 per cent. at 20 and under 21.††
Inland Waterways.	England	1st pay day in Oct.	Youths and boys, working ashore or engaged on maintenance work.	War bonus increased by 3s. 6d. a week (4s. to 7s. 6d.).‡‡
Local Authority Services.	England and Wales ..	1st full pay period following 2 Oct.	Roadmen employed by County Councils.	

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

† This change took effect in accordance with an agreement whereby changes in wage rates are governed by wage movements in the electrical contracting industry.

‡ Piecework rates for female workers are to continue to be the same for all ages and so arranged that the minimum average wage of all adult pieceworkers in each class shall be not less than 25 per cent. above the piecework basic rate in the case of warpers and weavers and not less than 20 per cent. above that rate in the case of other 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.

|| These increases were the result of an award of the Industrial Court.

¶ The following are the districts included in the three grades or zones into which England and Wales and Northern Ireland are divided under the national agreement for the electrical contracting industry, together with the current rates of wages for skilled electricians in each grade:—GRADE A.—London—a radius of 12 miles from Charing Cross; and Watford. Basic rate 1s. 10½d. an hour plus cost-of-living (war) addition of 6d. an hour. GRADE B.—The counties of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cumberland, Derbyshire, Durham, Essex (outside London), Flintshire—north of the River Dee, Glamorganshire (with the town of Llanelli), Hertfordshire (outside London), Huntingdonshire, Kent (outside London)—north of a line drawn from Woldingham (Surrey) to Sittingbourne on the east (including Sittingbourne but not including the Isle of Sheppey), Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex (outside London), Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey (outside London)—north of a straight line drawn from Sandhurst on the west to Woldingham on the east (including both these places), Warwickshire, Westmorland, Worcestershire—north of a straight line drawn from the county boundary at Far Forest on the west to Astwood Bank on the east (including the places named and Stourport), and Yorkshire. Bristol and the surrounding district, starting at Avonmouth, thence following the coastline to Severn Beach, crossing to Pilning, and following around to Patchway, Winterbourne, Downend, Mangotsfield, Warmley, Bitton, Keynasham, Whitechurch, Dundry, Barrow Gurney, Flax Bourton, Failand, Portbury, Portishead and the coast (including the places named). Northern Ireland. Basic rate 1s. 8½d. an hour plus 6d. an hour cost-of-living (war) addition. GRADE C.—The counties of Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Kent (except such areas as are included in Grades A and B above), Shropshire, Somersetshire (excluding Bristol and district as defined under Grade B above), Surrey (except such areas as are included in Grades A and B above), Sussex, Wiltshire and Worcestershire (except such areas as are included under Grade B above). Wales (except such areas as are included under Grade B above). Isle of Man. Basic rate 1s. 7½d. an hour plus 6d. an hour cost-of-living (war) addition. In the Mersey area, within a radius of 10 miles of the Liverpool Landing Stage and including also Runcorn, St. Helens and Widnes, an additional 1d. an hour is payable in lieu of travelling-time, making a total hourly rate of 2s. 3½d.

** This increase was the result of an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland).

†† These rates were agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Inland Waterway Industry, subject to the maintenance of local agreements providing for higher rates in respect of youths who are required to undertake and who satisfactorily perform adult duties, and to the retention for present employees of more favourable rates now in operation.

‡‡ This increase was the result of an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
General Waste Materials Reclamation.	Great Britain ..	4 Oct.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men in all sections of the trade and of 1d. for youths 17½ and under 21 years and of ½d. for boys in all sections other than the scrap metal section.*
			Women and girls	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for women 18 years and over, of 1d. for girls 17½ and under 18 and of ½d. for younger girls; and increase of 1½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for women and girls (all ages).*
Retail Meat Distribution.	England and Wales ..	Pay day in week beginning 1 Oct.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls in general butchers' shops.	Increases of 5s. a week in minimum rates of remuneration for managers and manageresses, of 4s. for male shop assistants and cashiers 21 years and over and of 2s. for those under 21, of 4s. for women and girls mainly engaged in cutting and acting as general butchers' assistants and of 2s. for women and girls employed as shop assistants and cashiers.†
			Men, youths and boys in pork butchers' shops employed as cutters, salesmen and/or in making-up.	Increases of 4s. a week in minimum rates of remuneration for workpeople 21 years and over and of 2s. for those under 21.†
Milk Distribution, etc.	England and Wales ..	13 Oct.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases of 5s. a week in Trade Board general minimum time rates for men 21 years and over, of 4s. for women 21 and over, of 3s. for male and female workers 18 and under 21 and of 2s. for younger workers.‡
		do.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed at undertakings scheduled under the Essential Work Order.	Increases of 5s. a week in agreed minimum rates for men 21 years and over, of 4s. for women 21 and over, of 3s. for male and female workers 18 and under 21 and of 2s. for younger workers, and increase of 1s. in the agreed minimum fixed payments to be made, in lieu of overtime payments, to rota men, roundsmen and roundswomen who are paid commission and who are required to work on the 7th or rest day in the week.

* These increases took effect under an Order under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Order of the Minister of Labour and National Service, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office. At undertakings scheduled under the Essential Work Order, increases in minimum rates of 2s. a week for men, of 3s. a week for women 18 years and over and of proportional amounts for youths, boys and girls took effect in September under agreement between the employers' association and the trade unions.

† These increases were awarded by an Independent Chairman appointed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Retail Meat Trade.

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

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 October† was 143, as compared with 169‡ in the previous month and with 191‡ in October, 1943.

MINES AND QUARRIES.†	Factories— <i>continued.</i>
Under Coal Mines Acts :	Paper, Printing, etc. .. 2
Underground 46	Gas Works 1
Surface 5	Electrical Stations 1
Metalliferous Mines	
Quarries 2	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER
	SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES
TOTAL, MINES AND QUARRIES 53	Act, 1937.
	Docks, Wharves, Quays
FACTORIES.	and Ships 7
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pot-	Building Operations .. 6
tery and Glass 1	Works of Engineering
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc. 2	Construction 3
Metal Extracting and	Warehouses 2
Refining 2	TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT 73
Metal Conversion and	
Founding (including	RAILWAY SERVICE.
Rolling Mills and Tube	Brakesmen, Goods Guards 2
Making) 11	Engine Drivers, Motor-
Engineering, Locomotive	men
Building, Boilermaking	Firemen 1
etc. 14	Guards (Passenger)
Railway and Tramway	Labourers
Carriages, Motor and	Mechanics 4
other Vehicles and Air-	Permanent Way Men .. 3
craft Manufacture .. 5	Porters
Shipbuilding 3	Shunters 1
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy .. 3	Other Grades 5
Other Textile Manu-	Contractors' Servants .. 1
facture 1	TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE 17
Tanning, Currying, etc. .. 1	
Food and Drink 5	Total (excluding Seamen) 143
General Woodwork and	
Furniture 3	

* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.

† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 28th October, 1944, in comparison with the 4 weeks ended 30th September, 1944, and the 4 weeks ended 30th October, 1943.

‡ Revised figure.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

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

I. Cases.	I. Cases— <i>continued.</i>
LEAD POISONING.	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION
Among Operatives	(SKIN CANCER).
engaged in:	Pitch 4
Smelting of Metals	Tar 10
Plumbing and Soldering 1	Oil 7
Shipbreaking	TOTAL 21
Printing	
Other Contact with	CHROME ULCERATION.
Molten Lead	Dyeing and Finishing .. 1
White and Red Lead	Chrome Tanning 1
Works	Chromium Plating 2
Pottery	Other Industries 3
Vitreous Enamelling	TOTAL 7
Electric Accumulator	Total Cases 35
Works	
Paint and Colour Works 1	
Coach and Car Painting ..	II. Deaths.
Shipbuilding	ANTHRAX.
Paint used in other	Handling and Sorting of
Industries 1	Hides and Skins 1
Painting of Buildings	
TOTAL 3	
	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION
OTHER POISONING.	(SKIN CANCER).
Aniline 1	Pitch 1
	Oil 3
ANTHRAX.	TOTAL 4
Handling of Horsehair .. 1	Total Deaths 5
Handling and Sorting of	
Hides and Skins 2	
TOTAL 3	

* 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.

TRADE DISPUTES IN OCTOBER.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work*, reported to the Department as beginning in October, was 208. In addition, 17 stoppages which began before October were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 225 stoppages, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at about 61,000, and the aggregate number of working days lost at those establishments during October is estimated at 233,000.

In the 208 stoppages which began during October, nearly 43,000 workpeople were directly involved and over 12,000 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 17 stoppages which began before October, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, the total number of workpeople involved during October, either directly or indirectly, was about 6,000.

Of all the stoppages of work through industrial disputes known to have been in progress at some time in October, the coal mining industry accounted for 99, involving over 32,000 workpeople and resulting in an aggregate loss of 106,000 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 October :—

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	5	94	99	32,300	106,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	9	72	81	20,900	86,000
Textile	2	7	9	1,200	11,000
Transport	1	14	15	4,400	26,000
Other Industries ..	..	21	21	2,700	4,000
Total, October, 1944 ..	17	208	225	61,500	233,000
Total, September, 1944 ..	11	197	208	51,800	189,000
Total, October, 1943 ..	20	157	177	70,300	160,000

Duration.—Of 204 stoppages of work, owing to disputes, which came to an end during October, 82, directly involving 15,400 workpeople, lasted not more than one day; 50, directly involving 7,900 workpeople, lasted two days; 26, directly involving

5,300 workpeople, lasted three days; 30, directly involving 5,600 workpeople, lasted four to six days; and 16, directly involving 8,700 workpeople, lasted over six days.

Causes.—Of the 208 disputes, leading to stoppages of work which began in October, 23, directly involving 4,600 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 8, directly involving 900 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 78, directly involving 15,700 workpeople, on other wage questions; 4, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 26, directly involving 4,400 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 58, directly involving 10,500 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements, and 7, directly involving 2,700 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. Four stoppages, directly involving 2,800 workpeople, were in support of workers involved in other disputes.

TOTALS FOR JANUARY-OCTOBER, 1944 AND 1943.

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

Industry Group.	January to October, 1944.			January to October, 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.
Fishing and Agriculture ..	6	700	2,000	5	1,800	14,000
Coal Mining ..	1,064	542,400†	2,429,000	664	224,500†	600,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	21	3,400	13,000	14	1,600	3,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	22	1,600	4,000	27	1,100	4,000
Engineering ..	213	116,200	566,000	232	88,600	286,000
Shipbuilding ..	168	36,000	326,000	162	27,800	117,000
Other Metal ..	126	14,500	58,000	114	17,000	52,000
Textile ..	38	4,600	29,000	41	5,000	15,000
Clothing ..	26	2,500	4,000	18	1,900	3,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	7	800	3,000	14	8,400	26,000
Building ..	41	4,800	7,000	62	11,800	23,000
Transport ..	63	23,400	73,000	60	51,800	166,000
Other Industries ..	52	7,100	13,000	33	2,900	5,000
Total ..	1,847	758,000†	3,527,000	1,446	444,200†	1,314,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING OCTOBER.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Stoppage		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:— Colliery workpeople—Barnborough, Yorks (one colliery).	1,300	200	29 Sept.	12 Oct.	Claim that afternoon shift workers should receive the "Porter" minimum wage after working five shifts in a week, plus payment for any further shifts worked in the same week.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Deputies and other colliery workpeople—County Durham (certain collieries).	1,500	7,500	4 Oct.§	14 Oct.	Dissatisfaction with a decision of the District Conciliation Board, rejecting a claim for increased wages.	Work resumed to permit of further negotiations.
Colliery workpeople—near Glasgow (one colliery).	300	..	9 Oct.	23 Oct.	Dispute respecting payment for coal left in colliery at weekends.	Work resumed.
Colliery workpeople—Eastern Dumbartonshire and West Stirlingshire (certain collieries).	2,000	..	10 Oct.||	21 Oct.	In sympathy with the workpeople involved in the above dispute.	
ENGINEERING:— Engineering operatives—Glasgow (one firm).	2,300	..	29 Aug.	21 Oct.	For the dismissal of a fitter, who, it was alleged, had not served a recognised apprenticeship; and, subsequently, demand for an increase in wages for premium bonus workers and for payment of an output bonus to timeworkers.	Fitter in question left firm on 1st September and secured other employment. Workers eventually resumed work to permit of settlement of other claims by constitutional procedure.
Engineering operatives — North West England (one firm).	2,000	..	23 Oct.	4 Nov.	Dispute respecting the interpretation of National Arbitration Award No. 326 relating to the wages of men in the Engineering Industry.	Work resumed to permit of negotiations.
SHIPBUILDING:— Shipbuilding operatives—Walker-on-Tyne (one firm).	500	..	16 Oct.	..	Against the employment of unskilled labour on certain work, which, it was claimed, should only be performed by skilled workers.	No settlement reported.
COTTON SPINNING:— Cardroom, ringroom and other operatives employed in cotton spinning—Rochdale (one firm).	170	210	14 Sept.	18 Nov.	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Work resumed.
TRANSPORT:— Dock workers—Newcastle-on-Tyne	590	..	20 Sept.	28 Oct.	Refusal to remove the hatch covers of a ship in accordance with the terms of an agreement which had been negotiated between the employers and the workpeople's trade union representatives.	Work resumed on the terms of the agreement.

* Stoppages of work due to disputes not connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour are excluded from the statistics. In addition, stoppages involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, are also omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100. The figures 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 350,000, and in 1943, 150,000. For all industries combined the corresponding net totals were approximately 550,000 and 340,000 respectively.

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

§ The stoppage began at a number of collieries on 4th October, and subsequently extended.

|| The stoppage began at two collieries on this date. Further stoppages occurred on 16th and 17th October.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st November, 1944.

Rise since July, 1914	.. ..	Food	68%	All Items	101%
Change since 30th September, 1944	{ Index Points .. Nil				Nil
	{ Per cent. .. Nil				Nil

FOOD.

Retail prices of food at 1st November showed little change, on average, as compared with those at 30th September. There was a slight rise in the average price of milk (due to higher prices in many areas in Scotland), but a slight fall in the average price of potatoes.

For the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics, the following Table compares the average prices at 1st November, 1944, with the corresponding prices at 30th September, 1944, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ d., at—			Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st Nov., 1944, compared with	
	1st Nov., 1944.	30th Sept., 1944.	1st Sept., 1939.	30th Sept., 1944.	1st Sept., 1939.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	11
Thin Flank ..	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	27
Beef, Chilled or Frozen					
Ribs	1 1	1 1	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	35
Thin Flank ..	0 6	0 6	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	23
Mutton, British—					
Legs	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	13
Breast	0 8	0 8	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	1 0	1 0	0 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	16
Breast	0 4	0 4	0 4	..	..
Bacon*	1 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 3	..	50
Fish	—	—	—	..	27
Flour .. per 6 lb.	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	29
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 9	0 9	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	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 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	33
Butter—					
Fresh	1 8	1 8	1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	21
Salt	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	31
Cheese	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	30
Margarine—					
Special	0 9	0 9	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	12
Standard	0 5	0 5	0 5	..	..
Eggs (fresh)† .. each	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	+	..	1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 7	0 7	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	—2	7

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 30th September, 1944, and 1st November, 1944, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	30th Sept., 1944.	1st Nov., 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	174	174
Flour	26	63	63
Bread	42	56	56
Tea	52	85	85
Sugar (granulated) ..	46	93	93
Milk	92	154	156
Butter—			
Fresh	13	37	37
Salt	7	41	41
Cheese	16	51	51
Margarine	—8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)	58	60	60
Potatoes	33	45	43
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 November, 1944, of the articles of food specified was about 68 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, and about 22 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939.

* 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 November and 30th September, 1944, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for small eggs (in category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 2d.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

The average level of working-class *rents* (including rates) at 1st November was about the same as at 30th September, 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 very slight rise in the average level of prices of men's suits and overcoats, and of boots and shoes during October. For the remaining groups of items included in the figures, *viz.*, woollen materials, woollen underclothing and hosiery, and cotton materials and cotton hosiery, there was little change in the average level of prices between 30th September and 1st November. 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 November the average level of prices was about 67 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 245 to 250 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group, the average levels of retail prices of coal and of gas at 1st November were about the same as a month earlier. Prices of coal averaged about 46 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 183 per cent. above the level of July, 1914: prices of gas averaged about 32 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 105 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 November showed little change as compared with 30th September, being about 45 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 164 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards *other items** included in these statistics, there were relatively few changes in prices during October. In the group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st November was about the same as at 30th September, 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 November, 1944, is approximately **101 per cent. over the level of July, 1914**, the same figure as at 30th September, 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 46 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 30 per cent. Of these 46 points, about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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	65	66	62	61	60	61	63	64	65	67	67
1930 ..	66	64	61	57	55	54	55	57	57	56	57	55
1931 ..	53	52	50	47	47	45	47	45	45	45	46	48
1932 ..	47	47	46	44	43	42	43	41	41	43	43	43
1933 ..	42	41	39	37	36	36	38	39	41	41	43	43
1934 ..	42	41	40	39	37	38	41	42	43	43	44	44
1935 ..	43	42	41	39	39	40	43	43	43	45	47	47
1936 ..	47	47	46	44	44	44	46	46	47	48	51	51
1937 ..	51	51	51	51	52	52	55	55	55	58	60	60
1938 ..	59	57	56	54	56	55	59	56	56	55	56	56
1939 ..	55	55	53	53	53	53	56	55	55	65	69	73
1940 ..	74	77	79	78	80	81	87	85	87	89	92	95
1941 ..	96	97	97	98	100	100	99	99	99	99	100	101
1942 ..	100	100	100	99	100	99	100	101	100	100	100	100
1943 ..	99	99	99	98	99	98	100	99	98	99	99	99
1944 ..	99	100	100	100	100	100	101	102	102	101	101	..

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

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.

CANADA.

At 1st August, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure showed a decline of 0.1 per cent. below the figure for 3rd July, and a rise of 18 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939. For food alone the index figure at 1st August, 1944, was 0.4 per cent. lower than that for the previous month and 32.3 per cent. above the figure for 1st September, 1939.

INDIA.

In July, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure for the working classes in Bombay showed a rise of 2.1 per cent. over the figure for the previous month and of 129.5 per cent. over that for mid-July to mid-August, 1939. For food alone the index figure for July was 3.4 per cent. higher than the figure for the previous month and 141.1 per cent. above the level of mid-July to mid-August, 1939.

PALESTINE.

In July, 1944, according to the new combined series of index figures, based on prices in Arab and Jewish markets in three principal towns, the cost-of-living was 144 per cent. above the level of the pre-war period; the corresponding figure for June, 1944, was 138.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

In August, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure (unadjusted for seasonal movements) showed a rise of 0.2 per cent. over the figure for July, 1944. For food alone the index figure in August, 1944, was 0.8 per cent. lower than that for July, 1944. Compared with the figures for August, 1939, the all items index figure for August, 1944, showed a rise of 23.5 per cent., the corresponding increase in the index figure for food alone being 20.7 per cent.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

In August, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.9 per cent. below the figure for the previous month and 28.3 per cent. above the level of August, 1939. For food alone the index figure in August, 1944, was 2.3 per cent. lower than that for the previous month and 37.3 per cent. above the level of August, 1939.

ICELAND.

At 1st September, 1944, the official index figure of the cost-of-living in Reykjavik was 2.3 per cent. above that for the previous month and 169.3 per cent. above the figure for 1st September, 1939. For food alone the index figure for 1st September, 1944, was 4 per cent. above that for 1st August, 1944, and 238.6 per cent. above that for 1st September, 1939.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The number of civilians in employment in industries other than agriculture and domestic service in August, 1944, is estimated by the United States Department of Labour to have been approximately 38,771,000. This is 0.1 per cent. higher than the figure for July, 1944, but 2.7 per cent. lower than that for August, 1943. The number of wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries in August, 1944, is estimated to have been 0.6 per cent. higher than in July, 1944, but 7.1 per cent. lower than in August, 1943; it was 58.7 per cent. above the average for the year 1939.

The United States Bureau of the Census estimate that the total number of unemployed persons in the United States in August, 1944, was approximately 840,000, compared with 1,000,000 in July, 1944, and with 1,070,000 in August, 1943.

AUSTRALIA.

According to information received by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the number of persons employed in factories in April, 1944, was 0.7 per cent. lower than in March, 1944, and 2.4 per cent. lower than in April, 1943. The figure for March, 1944, was 0.1 per cent. higher than the revised figure for February.

CANADA.

According to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from over 14,700 employers, the total number of workpeople in employment at 1st August, 1944, in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service was 0.6 per cent. higher than at 1st July, 1944, 0.7 per cent. lower than at 1st August, 1943, and 84.6 per cent. above the average number for the year 1926; the figure for July, 1944, was 1.7 per cent. higher than that for June, 1944. The number of

persons employed in manufacturing industries at 1st August, 1944, was 0.4 per cent. lower than the figure for the previous month and 1.2 per cent. lower than that for a year earlier.

Returns rendered by trade unions with a total membership of nearly 416,000 showed that the percentage rate of unemployment among their members at the beginning of July, 1944, was 0.3, compared with 0.9 at the beginning of April, 1944, and 0.6 at the beginning of July, 1943.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Returns received by the Office of Census and Statistics indicate that in July, 1944, the number of workpeople employed in manufacturing establishments generally and in mining and transport was 0.3 per cent. higher than in June, 1944, and 2.8 per cent. higher than in July, 1943.

ÉIRE.

The number of persons on the live register of Employment Exchanges at 28th October, 1944, was 57,623, compared with 46,180 at 30th September, 1944. This increase is officially ascribed to the return to the registers, on the termination of the First and Second Employment Periods, 1944, of certain classes of persons residing in rural areas. At 30th October, 1943, the number on the live register was 61,910; this total is directly comparable with the figure for 28th October, 1944.

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 August, 1944, was slightly higher than in July. The index number (based on the figure for September, 1939, as 100) was 93 in August, 1944, compared with 92 (revised figure) in July, 1944, and 90 in August, 1943.

Preliminary information received from trade unions with a total membership of nearly 780,000 showed that 2.8 per cent. of their members were unemployed at 31st July, 1944, compared with 3.2 per cent. at 30th June, 1944, and 3.9 per cent. at 31st July, 1943.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

ESSENTIAL WORK ORDERS—QUESTION WHETHER THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF A LIMITED COMPANY IS A "SPECIFIED PERSON."

The Broadway Engineering Co., Ltd., duly passed on 14th April, 1944, a resolution removing from their office as directors, five persons including the managing director, Mr. Otto Sputz. Mr. Sputz instituted proceedings in the High Court claiming an injunction to restrain the company from acting upon this resolution, which he contended was invalid. The grounds of this contention were that Mr. Sputz claimed to be a specified person within the meaning of the Essential Work (General Provisions) (No. 2) Order, 1942, and that therefore the company should have obtained the written permission of a National Service Officer before terminating his employment.

Article 2 (1) of this Order provides as respects an undertaking engaged on essential work that where the Minister is satisfied as to the matters therein prescribed "he may enter the name of the undertaking in a schedule of undertakings to be kept by him as respects any persons employed in the undertaking or any class or description of such persons (hereinafter in this Order referred to as 'specified persons') and shall serve upon the person carrying on the undertaking a certificate that the undertaking is a scheduled undertaking in respect of the specified persons." Article 2 (4) of the Order provides that there shall not be included among the specified persons certain persons whose employment in the opinion of the Minister ordinarily involves not more than 30 hours' service weekly.

The company owned two works, one at S. and the other at D., each of which had been separately scheduled by the Minister. One scheduling certificate was in respect of: "All persons employed in the above-named company's undertaking at S." The other, which gave the address of the undertaking at D., was in respect of: "All persons employed at the above address by the undertaking named."

The plaintiff's motion for an injunction came before Mr. Justice Uthwatt, by whom it was refused. His Lordship said he imagined that Mr. Sputz never worked 30 hours a week at either of the works but he proposed to assume in his favour that he was not excluded by reason of the provisions of Article 2 (4) of the Order. That left open the question whether Mr. Sputz was "employed at the above address by the undertaking named" or, to use the other form, whether he was "employed in the above-named company's undertaking at S."—whether he came within either of those descriptions at all. The learned Judge said that the plaintiff's claim was based upon the fact that he was the managing director. Whatever meaning was given to "persons employed," whether it was to include persons on the management side as well as persons on the works side, his Lordship was clear that when you got a man in the position of managing director of a company, and its sole managing director, you could not predicate of him that he was a person "employed at the above address by the undertaking named." He was not employed at any address. His Lordship said that the whole Order was directed to describing persons, the

conditions of whose employment required that they should carry out their work at a particular place and who would in fact carry out that requirement. Locality was an essential part of the description contained in the Order made by the Minister.—*Sputz v. Broadway Engineering Co. Ltd.*, High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, 19th May, 1944.

LOSS OF THE "THETIS"—CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES BY THE WIDOWS OF WORKMEN LOST IN DIVING TRIALS.

The issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1943, contains at page 174 a report of actions claiming damages for negligence brought by the widows of two workmen lost in the submarine "Thetis" which, when on her diving trials on 1st June, 1939, struck the bottom and could not be lifted until all the 103 men aboard, with the exception of four, had perished. The first defendants to each of the actions were Cammell Laird & Co. Ltd., who built the vessel under a contract with the Admiralty and from whose shipyard the "Thetis" set out on the day of the accident with a view to performing her diving trials. The fourth defendants were the Wailles Dove Bitumastic Co. Ltd. (referred to as "the Bitumastic Company"), a firm which specialised in the production of a particular kind of bitumastic enamel suitable for application to metal surfaces which could be exposed to sea water.

The cause of the accident arose from the painting of a torpedo tube with bitumastic paint. This tube was provided with a test-cock which had become blocked with paint, so that no water could pass from it. The result was that the tube was thought to be empty when, in fact, it was full of water. The painting of the torpedo tube had been carried out by the Bitumastic Company under a sub-contract with Cammell Lairds. Mr. Justice Wrottesley who tried the actions found that the painting of the torpedo tube had been done in a slovenly manner and that the negligence of the painter employed by the Bitumastic Company had led directly to the disaster in which the husbands of the two plaintiffs had lost their lives.

Mr. Justice Wrottesley held that the Bitumastic Company were not, however, under any contractual or other liability to the two deceased. His Lordship also held that the cause of the disaster was the negligent failure of Cammell Lairds to detect and put right the defect which was instrumental in bringing about the disaster and he awarded judgment against them. The claims against the other defendants, namely the Bitumastic Company, Matilda Ann Hambrook (the legal personal representative of Leading Seaman Hambrook), Lieut. Frederick Greville Woods and Sybil Bolus (the legal personal representative of Lieut. Commander Bolus who once the vessel was embarked, took charge and was the captain of the ship), were dismissed and Cammell Lairds were ordered to pay the costs of all the other defendants.

There were now two appeals to the Court of Appeal, one by Cammell Lairds who appealed against the judgment so far as it went against them, and the other by the plaintiffs who asked for judgment against the defendants Mrs. Hambrook, Lieut. Woods and the Bitumastic Company. The plaintiffs no longer alleged that Lieut. Commander Bolus was negligent. The Court of Appeal (Lord Greene—Master of the Rolls—and Lord Justices Goddard and du Parcq) allowed the appeal of Cammell Lairds. The appeals of the plaintiffs were dismissed as against Mrs. Hambrook and the Bitumastic Company but were allowed as against Lieut. Woods.

The Court of Appeal held that, despite the negligence of Cammell Lairds in not detecting the obstruction to the test-cock, the claim against them could not succeed because their negligence in that respect was not the cause of the accident. They held that the disaster was due to the negligence of Lieut. Woods in relying on the test-cock for a purpose for which he knew, or ought to have known, that it was never intended, viz., as affording evidence as to the position of the bow cap, and on an occasion when it was his duty to see that the proper steps were taken to ensure that the bow cap was shut. This reliance on the test-cock was an independent mental act of Lieut. Woods interposed between the negligence of Cammell Lairds and the accident itself. The misuse of the test-cock by Lieut. Woods and his accompanying failure to see that the lever was in the closed position could not be ignored so as to fix responsibility for the accident on Cammell Lairds. The Court felt constrained to hold that Lieut. Woods was guilty of negligence and that he had failed to give the proper order to Hambrook to put the lever in the closed position.

The Master of the Rolls said that no one could deplore more than he the necessity of this conclusion. Lieut. Woods showed himself to be a most gallant officer, but, by a momentary lapse from the high level of skill and care which no doubt he had always shown on other occasions, he did, in his Lordship's opinion, render himself liable to the plaintiffs in these actions. His Lordship thought that Lieut. Woods was in some degree the victim of circumstances and he could not help sympathising with him.

The Court were of the opinion that the charge of negligence against Hambrook had not been made out.—*Duncan v. Cammell Laird and Co. Ltd and Others*; *Craven v. Same*. Court of Appeal. 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 24th and 25th May and 7th July, 1944.

FACTORIES ACT—FAILURE TO FENCE DANGEROUS MACHINERY.

This was an appeal by way of case stated brought by one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Factories against the dismissal by the Justices at Redditch of an information preferred against the occupiers of a factory. The case arose in consequence of injuries sustained by a boy of 15 whilst operating a power press which was used in cutting off the ends of springs. Although an implement was provided for the purpose the boy put his fingers in the machine to remove some small pieces of wire. In reaching forward he lost his balance and his foot slipped on to the starting pedal of the machine, with the result that the upper tool descended and crushed the top of his left forefinger. There was a safety catch on the press and if the boy had put this on before putting his fingers in the press it could not have been operated.

The information laid against the occupiers of the factory alleged a contravention of section 14 (1) of the Factories Act, 1937, in that a certain dangerous part of machinery in the said factory, to wit, the tools of a certain power press, was not securely fenced and that in consequence of such contravention the boy had suffered bodily injury whereby the said occupiers were liable to a penalty in accordance with section 133 of the said Act. Section 14 (1) of the Act reads as follows: "Every dangerous part of any machinery, other than prime movers and transmission machinery, shall be securely fenced unless it is in such a position or of such construction as to be as safe to every person employed or working on the premises as it would be if securely fenced: Provided that, in so far as the safety of a dangerous part of any machinery cannot by reason of the nature of the operation be secured by means of a fixed guard, the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed to have been complied with if a device is provided which automatically prevents the operator from coming into contact with that part."

On the hearing before the justices it was contended by the defendants that the tools were securely fenced; that the fences were adequate and could not have been improved upon; that the fences used were the only type practicable in view of the use to which the machine was being put; and that the injury sustained by the boy was not due to the tools not being securely fenced but to his deliberate failure to make use of the clearing tool provided and negligently using his hand instead. The justices, being of the opinion that the machine was securely fenced in the best known method at the time having regard to the work it had to do, dismissed the information.

The Divisional Court (Lord Caldecote—the Lord Chief Justice—and Mr. Justices Humphreys and Birkett) unanimously allowed the inspector's appeal and ordered that the case should be remitted to the magistrates with an expression of the Court's opinion that they should find the offence proved. The Lord Chief Justice thought that the finding of the justices must be read as meaning that the machine was fenced as securely as anybody knew how to fence it having regard to the fact that it had to do the work for which it was designed; and that in the opinion of the justices it could not be fenced more securely than it was fenced if it had to work at all. His Lordship said that for some time past a question had arisen as to whether secure fencing must be provided if the result was to make the machine useless either commercially or mechanically for the purpose for which it was designed.

In the case of *Davies v. Thomas Owen & Co. Ltd.* which came before the Courts in 1919 the late Mr. Justice Salter had said: "The workman is entitled to have secure fencing in fact, and the findings of the jury show that this machine was not securely fenced. The observations of the jury to the effect that secure fencing is commercially and mechanically impracticable are irrelevant, and I think that the plaintiff has proved a breach of a statutory duty and damage caused to him thereby." The Lord Chief Justice said that the Court of Appeal had held (apart from cases, of which this was not one, where the absolute provisions of the section had been modified by regulations) that this was a correct statement of the law and it was therefore binding on the Court. The evidence in the present case clearly showed that the fencing was not sufficient to prevent injury. Machinery must be securely fenced and the justices, in finding that it was securely fenced for the purposes for which it was used, had arrived at a decision which was irrelevant for the purposes of the case. His Lordship said he could not help observing that this emphasis upon the absolute nature of the provision contained in section 14 might have the effect of hampering the use of machines but that consideration ought not to weigh with the Court.

Mr. Justice Humphreys said that the Section provided that "every dangerous part of any machinery . . . shall be securely fenced." It did not say that a dangerous machine is to be fenced as securely as possible or only so far as will leave it commercially or mechanically usable. The justices had made the mistake of thinking that where the owner or occupier of a factory had done all that ingenuity or science enabled him to do in the interests of his workmen in fencing a particular machine, assuming that the machine had got to do the work which it was constructed to do, he had done all that the law required.—*Dennistoun v. Charles E. Greenhill Limited*. Divisional Court. 12th October, 1944.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During October, 1944, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued twelve awards, Nos. 640 to 651. One of these awards is summarised below; the other awards related to cases affecting individual employers.

Award No. 640 (2nd October).—Parties: Local Authorities represented by the Employers' Side of the National Joint Council for County Council Roadmen and members of the Trade Unions constituting the Employees' Side of the Council in the employment of the above-mentioned employers. *Claim:* For an increase of 8s. a week in the existing war bonus. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded an increase of 3s. 6d. a week in the existing war bonus of 4s. a week.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued thirteen awards, Nos. 372-384. Four of these awards are summarised below; the others related to cases affecting individual undertakings.

Award No. 372 (22nd September).—Parties: The Bank of Ireland, Belfast Banking Company Ltd., the Hibernian Bank Ltd., Munster & Leinster Bank Ltd., the National Bank Ltd., Northern Bank Ltd., Provincial Bank of Ireland Ltd., Ulster Bank Ltd., and certain employees of the several banks. *Claim:* For certain adjustments in rates of bonus and scale of salaries and other conditions of employment. *Award:* In lieu of the bonus payments hitherto applicable, the following rates of bonus shall be payable on the basic salaries of all permanent officials, male and female: a bonus ranging from 30 per cent. on basic salaries not exceeding £200 per annum to 10 per cent. on basic salaries exceeding £600 per annum. Particulars of the claim and of the Tribunal's findings are set out in full in the Award.

Award No. 373 (25th September).—Parties: The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland and certain persons employed by the Ministry. *Claim:* For payment of a war bonus of 21s. per week to slaughtermen employed in the abattoirs at Belfast, Bangor, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Banbridge, Coleraine, Londonderry, Lurgan, Larne, Newry and Newtownards. *Award:* The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established and awarded accordingly.

Award No. 375 (11th October).—Parties: The members of the Merchant Tailors' Association of Northern Ireland and certain employees of the member firms. *Claim:* For six additional days' holidays with pay. *Award:* That Easter Monday, Easter Tuesday, 12th July, 13th July, Christmas Day and Boxing Day shall be observed as paid holidays and shall not be reckoned as forming part of any holidays with pay to which a worker may otherwise be entitled by virtue of a direction given by the Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland), under the Holidays with Pay Act (Northern Ireland), 1938.

Award No. 382 (19th October).—Parties: The Northern Ireland Road Transport Board and certain employees of the Board. *Claim:* For an increase of 9s. per week in the wages of conductors. *Award:* An extra war emergency bonus of 4s. per week shall be paid for a period of six months from 1st October, 1944.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During October, 1944, the Industrial Court issued three awards, Nos. 1984-1986. One of these is summarised below; the others related to individual undertakings.

Award No. 1984 (9th October).—Parties: National Union of General and Municipal Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union on the one hand, and the Pitwood Association of Scotland. *Claim:* For an increase of 1½d. per hour on existing time rates. *Award:* The Court awarded an increase of 1d. per hour for men and women, and ¾d. an hour for youths, boys and girls.

ERRATUM.

Admiralty Industrial Council: Trade Union Side and Official Side.—In the penultimate line of the first column on page 159 of the September, 1944, issue of this GAZETTE the period specified in the award of the Industrial Court as the period during which process workers employed at a Propellant Factory should receive their existing rate of pay after transfer, for any reason other than their own default, to work carrying a lower rate of pay, should have been shown as *one* week after the date of transfer (not two weeks, as printed).

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During October, 1944, four awards were issued by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Two of the cases concerned were reported under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders, 1940-1942. All of the awards related to individual undertakings.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During October, 1944, proposals to vary minimum rates of wages in the trades concerned were issued as shown below:—

Pin, Hook and Eye and Snap Fastener Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal O. (29), dated 6th October, 1944.

Cotton Waste Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal C.W. (36), dated 24th October, 1944.

Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.F. (N. 20), dated 10th October, 1944.

Readymade and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.T.R.W. (N. 23), dated 24th October, 1944.

Further information concerning any of the proposals listed above may be obtained by persons engaged in the respective trades from the Secretary of the Board concerned at Ebury Bridge House, Ebury Bridge Road, London, S.W.1., for Boards in Great Britain, or at Tyrone House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, for Boards in Northern Ireland.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

During October, 1944, Orders* confirming variations of minimum rates of wages in the trades concerned were made as follows:—

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order I. (40), dated 28th October, 1944; effective from 13th November, 1944.

Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order R.M. (41), dated 27th October, 1944; effective from 8th November, 1944.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order S. (27), dated 27th October, 1944; effective from 8th November, 1944.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.T.R.B. (52), dated 6th October, 1944; effective from 16th October, 1944.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.S. (30), dated 16th October, 1944; effective from 23rd October, 1944.

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* is 1d. net (2d. post free).

The Reinstatement in Civil Employment (Isle of Man) Order, 1944, made on 28th September, 1944, under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1129).—This Order provides that the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944, particulars of which were given in the issues of this GAZETTE for January, 1944 (pages 1-2) and April, 1944 (page 59), shall extend to the Isle of Man, subject to specified modifications and adaptations, mainly of an administrative character.

The Essential Work (Dock Labour) Order, 1944, dated October 20, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1205).—See summary on page 180.

The Unemployment Insurance (Increase of Benefit) Act, 1944 (Commencement) Order, 1944, dated October 26, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Unemployment Insurance (Increase of Benefit) Act, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1225).—See page 180.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.*

(NOTE.—The prices shown are net; those in brackets include postage.)

COAL MINING INDUSTRY.—*Statistical Digest—Second Quarter, 1944 (in continuation of Statistical Digest from 1938)*. Cmd. 6538. Ministry of Fuel and Power. Price 4d. (5d.).—See page 181 of this GAZETTE.

FACTORIES.—*Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the Year 1943*. Cmd. 6563. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 1s. (1s. 2d.).—See page 178 of this GAZETTE.

NURSES' SALARIES.—*Nurses' Salaries Committee: Further Recommendations and Points of Interpretation*. Nurses S.C. Notes No. 4. Ministry of Health. Price 2d. (3d.).

SAFETY IN MINES.—*Twenty-second Annual Report of the Safety in Mines Research Board, 1943*. Ministry of Fuel and Power. Price 1s. (1s. 1d.).—See page 181 of this GAZETTE.

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

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