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SPECIAL ARTICLES, REVIEWS, ETC.

FACTORIES ACTS.

PROPOSED WOODWORKING (AMENDMENT OF SCOPE) SPECIAL REGULATIONS, 1945.

In pursuance of the statutory procedure under the Factories Act, 1937, the Minister of Labour and National Service has given notice in the London Gazette that he proposes to make certain Special Regulations under the Act, amending the present Woodworking Machinery Regulations. Copies of the draft amending Regulations,* entitled the Woodworking (Amendment of Scope) Special Regulations, can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the last page of this GAZETTE, or through any bookseller.

The present Regulations were made in 1922 (and amended in 1927) under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and applied to factories and other places within the scope of Section 79 of that Act. The object of the Regulations now proposed is to make the code apply to factories and other places within the scope of the corresponding Section (Section 60) of the Factories Act, 1937, and thus to bring the scope of the Regulations into line with the scope of the 1937 Act. The main practical effect will be to apply the Regulations (if a "woodworking machine" as defined in the Regulations is used) to the sites of those building operations or works of engineering construction to which the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, would not have applied.

It is proposed at the same time to take the opportunity of formally revoking Regulation 14 of the Woodworking Machinery Regulations, 1922, which has, since March, 1924, in effect been superseded by Regulation 13.

Any objection to the draft Regulations by or on behalf of persons affected must be sent to the Minister of Labour and National Service not later than 10th May, 1945. Every such objection must be in writing and state (a) the specific grounds of objection; and (b) the omissions, additions, or modifications asked for, and should be addressed to the Secretary, the Ministry of Labour and National Service, 8, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

COMMITTEE ON DOUBLE DAY-SHIFT WORKING.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has appointed a Committee "to enquire into the economic need for and the social consequences of the double day-shift system in manufacturing industry and the changes in the existing law that would be necessary to facilitate its wider adoption, and to make recommendations."

The double-day shift system was practised in a variety of industries in this country before the war, but not to a great extent. It affords a means of combining the running of plant for a longer period with relatively shorter hours for the individual workers. The question whether the extension of the system should be encouraged is a matter of considerable importance from the point of view of the development of British industry after the war, and the Committee has been set up to examine the subject in its various aspects.

The Chairman of the Committee is Professor J. L. Brierly, O.B.E., M.A., D.C.L., LL.M. The other members are Bailie William Elger, J.P.; Miss Dorothy Elliott, O.B.E.; W. Hope Pilcher, Esq.; H. L. Johnson, Esq.; Andrew Naesmith, Esq., O.B.E.; J. R. Pheazey, Esq.; Professor J. A. Ryle, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.; and Miss Barbara Ward.

The Secretary is Mr. D. C. Barnes of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, to whom communications should be addressed at 8, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

NATIONAL SERVICE ACTS.

CALL-UP OF MEN AND WOMEN: STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF LABOUR.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 12th April, the Minister of Labour and National Service stated that, as from 1st May, 1945, it was not proposed to call up any more men born in 1914 or earlier, except in so far as they might be required to meet the demands of the Forces for tradesmen or specialists, or for other special reasons.

In reply to a further question, the Minister stated that no women had been called up for a considerable time.

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

RELEASE AND RESETTLEMENT OF MEMBERS OF H.M. FORCES.

EXPLANATORY BOOKLET.

In the course of the debate in the House of Commons on 15th November, 1944, on the White Paper relating to "Re-allocation of Man-Power between the Armed Forces and Civilian Employment during any Interim Period between the Defeat of Germany and the Defeat of Japan,"* the Minister of Labour and National Service undertook that a booklet would be given to all men and women in the Services, which would set out not only the plan of release but the rights they will have in respect of resettlement, reinstatement, re-training, pensions, etc.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service, with the co-operation of the three Service Departments, have now completed the compilation and production of the booklet, entitled "Release and Resettlement," and copies are in process of distribution. The first consignment is on its way to the Forces in the most distant theatres of war and other consignments will be despatched daily until a copy has been made available for every man and woman in the Services, including, so far as means of communication will allow, prisoners of war in enemy hands and internees in neutral countries.

The nature and purpose of the booklet are indicated by the Introduction, which reads as follows:—

"When Germany is defeated many men and women will be released from the Forces and in this booklet you can read how these releases are to be made in what is called the interim period from then until the final Cease Fire. There can be no general demobilisation until Japan also has been beaten. There must be no break in our efforts until then.

"Whether or not you are due for early release, the Government want you to know what your rights are and what is being done to help you in getting back into civilian life. You will find it all in the chapters of this booklet. They have been written as clearly and simply as possible but some chapters may be more difficult to read than others. That is because some matters must be stated precisely and fully—you must be in no doubt about your position.

"One thing more—if you are not due for early release you can be sure that your rights will be safeguarded. All the help and advice described here will be waiting for you when you return."

In the notes below, a brief outline is given of the contents of the booklet. Some particulars are also given of the facilities that are being made available for the provision of information and advice regarding the arrangements described, and of the machinery and organisation which is being developed for their application. Some information concerning the more important of these arrangements has, from time to time, been published in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

CONTENTS OF THE BOOKLET.

The first two chapters of the booklet are devoted to the plans for release from the Forces and the conditions of release as set out in the White Paper referred to above. The next two chapters call attention to the local services set up by the Ministry of Labour and National Service throughout the country to assist ex-servicemen and women (as well as men and women released from civilian war work) with advice and help in facing the manifold problems of resettlement: first, the Resettlement Advice Offices (*see below*) to be established in all towns of any size, which will give information and guidance to the enquirer upon any problems he may take to them, or will at least put him on the right road for getting expert advice or help; second, the Employment Exchanges which, in addition to helping men and women to get employment, will take an active share in the application of many parts of the special resettlement plans; third, the Appointments Offices, which will render similar service to men and women seeking higher appointments than those usually dealt with by the Employment Exchanges. Chapter V deals with the rights to reinstatement in civil employment enforceable under the Act which came into operation on 1st August, 1944. It indicates the persons to whom the Act applies, what are the obligations upon employers, how claimants should make application for their rights, and how they may appeal against alleged denial of those rights, and it also elucidates the difficult question of priority for reinstatement where the discharge of another worker may be involved.

In Chapters VI and VII, particulars are given of the scheme for the resumption of apprenticeships which have been interrupted by war service and of the general scheme for the provision of industrial training. The "Further Education and Training Scheme" is dealt with in Chapter VIII, and in Chapter IX an outline is given of the scheme for the provision of resettlement grants to assist those who left businesses of their own when joining the Forces and will need help to get going again. The next chapter gives such advice as it is possible to give at the present time to any who may wish to settle in the Dominions when the war is over.

Chapter XI is addressed to men and women who are disabled and need special assistance in their return to civil life. It sets out the purposes of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, which provides for the continuance and development of existing arrangements for the rehabilitation and training of disabled persons, and will also provide, when in full operation, for the registration of disabled persons, the employment of a quota of such persons by all employers of twenty or more

workers, and special arrangements for the "sheltered" employment of those who are so seriously disabled as to need it.

Pending the bringing into operation of the new National Insurance Scheme, information is given in Chapter XII as to the position of ex-servicemen and women in relation to the existing health, pensions and unemployment insurance and assistance systems. Disablement pensions form the subject of the last of the main chapters; and short notes on the position, so far as the resettlement plans are concerned, of men and women who came from Northern Ireland or Éire complete the booklet.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE.

Steps are being taken to bring the booklet to the notice of Service men and women through Fleet Orders, the Army newspapers and the R.A.F. Journal, as well as by broadcast in the General Forces programmes, and facilities are being provided for enabling men and women in the Forces to obtain information and advice about particular points arising out of the schemes described in the booklet. The Ministry of Labour and National Service is sending fifteen of its officers, specially chosen and trained for the purpose, to tour the various theatres of war, including the Pacific, the Middle East, India and Burma as well as Europe, in order to explain the resettlement plans to men and women still in the Forces. The Army Bureau of Current Affairs is issuing a "Discussion Bulletin" to serve as a guide for officers conducting A.B.C.A. sessions on resettlement and to equip them for dealing with questions on details of the plans. For the Navy, Resettlement Information Officers have been nominated in all vessels of the Fleet of any size, to tell officers and ratings about their position and rights after release from the Service.

A series of vocational films is being produced, under the general guidance of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, by the Ministry of Information and the Department of Army Kinematography, to show men and women while still in the Forces some of the industries and occupations which they may choose to enter on their release. Three leaflets entitled "For Your Guidance" are being produced jointly by the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the three Service Departments—one leaflet for each Service—to tell men and women when they actually leave the Dispersal Centres how to proceed to deal with certain matters which will need their immediate attention in connection with their return to civil life. The leaflets will contain information on Service matters, *e.g.*, pay, uniform, medical attention during leave, and also on such points as the obtaining of civilian ration cards, etc. They will also deal with employment matters, and will contain a summary of the resettlement facilities described in the "Release and Resettlement" booklet.

Finally, attention may be drawn again to the Resettlement Advice Service which is the subject of Chapter III of the booklet. As reported in the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1944, Resettlement Advice Offices are to be established in every town in which there is an Employment Exchange. A few will be opened very shortly, and it is anticipated that 360 will be completed and opened by the beginning of June. Most of the smaller Local Offices (Employment Offices and Branch Employment Offices) of the Ministry of Labour and National Service will collaborate with the Resettlement Advice Offices in the towns where their parent Exchanges are situated, so that about 1,000 offices in all will take part in the new Service.

MACHINERY AND ORGANISATION.

Although the arrangements outlined in "Release and Resettlement" may be described collectively as "plans," some of them are well past the stages of planning and experiment, and are ready for development and adjustment to meet new conditions and needs. The following paragraphs indicate how interim schemes already in operation for some time past are being adapted to resettlement requirements, and what has been done to pave the way for bringing new schemes into operation.

Vocational Training.—Training for manual grades in industry, both in Government training establishments and in industry itself, received a tremendous impetus during the war. From now onward the main emphasis will be on training for trades and occupations which will be most in demand for reconstruction and peace-time work. The facilities provided by the Centres are, therefore, being adapted and at the same time expanded to cope with increased claims. Existing Centres are to be enlarged and new Centres will be established as necessary.

Employers' organisations and trade unions in individual industries have been consulted, and they have co-operated in working out the details, including the syllabus for each course. Over fifty industries have been approached. Among those with which the consultations are complete or at an advanced stage are building, civil engineering, agriculture, retail distribution, commercial and clerical business, pottery, furniture, baking, most of the trades using leather, and bespoke tailoring. In addition, consultations are proceeding with a view to the setting up of special Government Training Centres for the cotton industry.

The schemes of training worked out for the various industries vary considerably. In some, the new entrants will complete their training in a Government Training Centre or Technical College and will go into the industry as fully skilled craftsmen. In others, they will take the course in a Government Training Centre or Technical College, but will complete training over a fixed short period with an employer at a wage slightly less

* Cmd. 6548. See the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1944.

than the fully skilled rate. In other industries, training will be given throughout by employers, who are being encouraged and helped to organise their own training schemes in their own workshops for their own incoming workers.

Interrupted Apprenticeship.—The joint bodies representing organisations of employers and trade unions in the industries in which apprentices are employed have been invited to prepare schemes appropriate to the circumstances of their respective industries. Up to the present, nearly fifty industries have had the matter under active consideration and, for about a score of these industries, schemes are in an advanced stage of preparation; in the following industries, schemes have been completed or are near completion: building, engineering, flour milling, motor vehicle repairing, pottery and shipbuilding.

Training for Professional Careers.—Up to date, about 850 awards have been made under the "Further Education and Training Scheme" by the Departments responsible for its application. A revised leaflet on the scheme has been prepared, and will be made available to members of the Forces everywhere by the three Service Departments. In this leaflet it will be made known that, in suitable cases, awards may be made in circumstances not specifically included among those listed in the booklet, namely, where persons not prevented from returning to their previous career may desire to qualify for a profession on a higher plane, provided it is clear from their war record that they have shown or developed capabilities which would justify the expenditure of public money for the purpose.

Appointments Office Services.—It is intended, with the co-operation of employers, to build up and maintain a "Register of Opportunities of Employment" in higher appointments which will be open to young ex-Service men and women whose qualifications are potential rather than documented. The machinery for the compilation of this Register is now in operation.

Disabled Persons.—During the past four years, 11,903 disabled persons (11,655 men and 248 women) have entered training classes. Of these, 10,008 (9,798 men and 210 women) have passed through courses in normal engineering classes, in special classes in Government Training Centres, Technical Colleges, etc., or in special classes at residential centres; the remaining 1,895 (1,857 men and 38 women) were still in training on 10th March, 1945. With very few exceptions all those who have passed through training have been satisfactorily settled in employment.

The occupations for which training could or can be given under the scheme are not limited to those connected with munitions work. They include, for example: bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and other building trades, commercial subjects (shorthand, typewriting, etc.), gardening, watch and clock repairing, radio work, tailoring and a number of other occupations which will be of value under post-war as well as war conditions and will provide a reasonable prospect of earning a livelihood in employment or in a small business run by the trainee himself.

Plans are being made to develop and extend the training facilities to other trades to meet whatever demands may be made on the existing services for the training of the disabled. Every effort is now being made to allocate trainees promptly to suitable classes, although it will be appreciated that problems concerning the supply of new equipment, suitable workshop accommodation and other factors, sometimes make it difficult to achieve this.

Much of the preliminary work has also been put in hand for bringing into operation the sections of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act which have still to be brought into force, including those which provide for the registration of disabled persons and the compulsory employment of a quota of persons so registered by all employers of twenty or more workers. These provisions of the Act will be made operative as soon as need for their application arises.

As reported in the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1945, a National Advisory Council has been set up under the chairmanship of Lord Ridley; among its members are representatives of employers and workers and men and women who have seen war service, including some who are themselves disabled. The Council has already held several meetings. Arrangements are being made for the setting up later of District Advisory Committees, whose impartial opinion and advice will be at the disposal of the Department in carrying out the Act. Steps are also being taken with a view to giving effect to the provisions of the Act relating to "sheltered" employment for the severely disabled.

Reinstatement in Civil Employment.—In the first eight months (approximately) of the operation of the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act—from 1st August, 1944, to 26th March, 1945—Reinstatement Committees dealt with claims by 96 persons that their rights under the Act were denied to them. In 62 of the 96 cases decided, the decision was that default had been made by the former employer under the Act. The Committees made orders as follows:—(i) In 40 cases the former employer was ordered to make work available to the applicants; (ii) in 6 cases the former employer was ordered to pay the applicant a sum by way of compensation for loss suffered or likely to be suffered by reason of the default; (iii) in 16 cases the former employer was ordered to make work available and also to pay the applicant compensation. In the remaining 34 cases, the Committees made no order against the employers concerned.

During the same period, the Umpire or Deputy Umpire appointed under the Act decided 12 cases where appeal had been brought from decisions of Reinstatement Committees.

During the period under review the total number of men and women discharged from the Forces was several thousands. Some of these, no doubt, have taken employment in war work technically by direction of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, in which case their rights to claim reinstatement are "in cold storage." It would appear, nevertheless, that up to the present the volume of "litigation" arising out of the Act is not large. If that is so, it may be deduced that, so far, the purpose of the Act has been achieved without friction, and this may perhaps be regarded as an augury for its smooth operation when, presently, the number of claims to reinstatement is greatly increased.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

FINANCIAL CONDITION AT END OF 1944.

The Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee have presented to the Minister of Labour and National Service their Twelfth Report on the General Account and their Ninth Report on the Agricultural Account, relating to 31st December, 1944.* These Reports, like those relating to the end of 1942 and 1943, have been confined to simple statements of the financial condition of the Fund. In drawing attention to this the Committee refer to the Regulations† made by the Minister of Labour and National Service in January, 1943, which relieved the Committee of certain obligations with regard to the matters to be dealt with in their Reports, and they point out that the reasons which prompted the Regulations are reinforced this year by the prospect of the absorption of unemployment insurance in a new comprehensive system of national insurance. The Committee refer to the Government's proposals contained in the White Paper on Social Insurance‡ and outline briefly the effects of these proposals on the structure of the existing unemployment insurance scheme. Details of the General Account and the Agricultural Account are given in an Appendix to the Report.

General Account.

The receipts for the calendar year 1944 amounted to nearly £76 million, of which over £70½ million represented insurance contributions by employers, employed persons and the State, and over £5½ million was interest on investments. As compared with 1943, contributions from employers and employed persons showed a decrease of nearly £2 million. This difference is the net result of opposing factors—the withdrawal of men and women from industry into the Forces, normal wastage and the substitution of uninsured part-time workers for insured whole-time workers, on the one hand, tended to a decrease, and the influx of new insured entrants into industry, on the other hand, tended to an increase. The expenditure was over £5½ million, of which nearly £3 million was for unemployment benefit, the remainder being for administrative expenses and minor items. Income during the year thus exceeded expenditure by over £70½ million. The balance at the end of 1944 was £295 million, as compared with £224½ million at the end of 1943.

Agricultural Account.

The receipts amounted to £1,624,795 and expenditure to £248,485. Income accordingly exceeded expenditure by £1,376,310. The balance at the end of 1944 was £8,854,071, compared with £7,477,761 at the end of 1943.

The balances on these Accounts have been invested by the National Debt Commissioners, as they accumulated, mainly in National War Bonds.

Expenditure on Unemployment Benefit, 1938 to 1944.

The Committee include in their Report a Table setting out the expenditure on benefit in each of the years 1938 to 1944, as shown below:—

Year.	General Account.	Agricultural Account.	Total.
	£000	£000	£000
1938	51,662	742	52,404
1939	40,690	831	41,521
1940	25,894	635	26,529
1941	8,874	294	9,168
1942	3,708	166	3,874
1943	2,709	86	2,795
1944	2,889	64	2,953

The Committee state that the increase in expenditure on benefit in the General Account is due in the main to the increase of benefit rates under the Unemployment Insurance (Increase of Benefit) Act, 1944.§ The decrease in the case of the Agricultural Scheme is mainly due to the lower rate of unemployment in 1944, partially offset by the increase of benefit rates under the 1944 Act.

* H.C. 58 of Session 1944-45. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1943, page 25.

‡ Cmd. 6550. See the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1944, page 162.

§ See the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1944, page 180.

WAGES BOARD FOR LICENSED NON-RESIDENTIAL CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

WAGES BOARD (LICENSED NON-RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT) ORDER, 1945.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has made an Order* establishing a Wages Board in respect of workers employed either

- (i) in licensed non-residential establishments, or
- (ii) in connection with the provision of food or drink or living accommodation provided wholly or mainly for the workers employed in such establishments.

The Order is based on a recommendation received by the Minister from the Catering Wages Commission, and the Minister has published a Report submitted to him by the Commission with their recommendation (*see below*).

For the purposes of the Order, a licensed non-residential establishment means:—

- (1) a public house, inn, hotel or other premises which does not contain four or more bedrooms ordinarily available for guests or lodgers or sleeping accommodation for eight or more guests or lodgers, being an establishment, at which it is lawful for intoxicating liquor to be sold for consumption on the premises or to be supplied for consumption on the premises by reason of the fact that part of the premises is habitually used for the purposes of a registered club;
- (2) a club which does not contain four or more bedrooms ordinarily available for guests or lodgers or sleeping accommodation for eight or more guests or lodgers, at which it is lawful for intoxicating liquor to be supplied for consumption on the premises;

but does not include any such establishment or club if the main business is the supply of food or drink for immediate consumption in a restaurant, dining room, café, etc.

The workers covered by the Order are those engaged for the purpose of such activities as are carried out at a non-residential establishment as defined above in connection with the preparation and service of food or drink; work incidental to such preparation and service; work connected with the provision of living accommodation; work in connection with any retail sale of goods; transport work; work at any office, store, warehouse, garage, stable, etc.; or any other work performed in or about a licensed non-residential establishment, including work in connection with any service or amenity provided in or about such establishment.

Exclusions from the scope of the Wages Board relate to transport workers and office staff not wholly or mainly employed in a catering undertaking; workers employed in the provision of food or drink in theatres, music-halls or similar places of entertainment; workers employed in railway trains; workers employed at a railway refreshment establishment now covered by the Wages Board (Licensed Residential Establishment and Licensed Restaurant) Order, 1945†; workers employed in Crown and Local Authority undertakings; and workers covered by the Industrial and Staff Canteen Undertakings Wages Board‡ which has already been constituted.

REPORT BY CATERING WAGES COMMISSION.

In their Report§ submitted to the Minister with their recommendation for the establishment of the Wages Board particulars of which are given above, the Catering Wages Commission state that they found in existence no joint voluntary machinery of general application for regulating the remuneration and conditions of employment of the workers concerned, and they reached the unanimous view that machinery for the regulation of these matters would be in the general interest. This view was accepted by the organisations both of employers and workers concerned.

The Commission point out that, as in the case of all their Wages Board recommendations, they had to consider lines of demarcation very carefully, and in this connection they refer to the problems presented by the public house which merges into something else because a certain amount of sleeping accommodation is available, and by the public house which merges into something else because of the provision of meals. The Commission state that in this matter they have followed the same line of demarcation in the present recommendation as in the case of their recommendation for a Wages Board for Licensed Residential Establishments and Licensed Restaurants,† which they proposed should cover licensed establishments with four or more bedrooms and licensed establishments with a restaurant or dining room where these constitute the main catering business.

The Report states that the Commission received representations from a number of organisations, which were taken into account before they made their final recommendation to the Minister. The Commission's views on these representations are set out in the Report.

The Commission estimate that the number of establishments within the scope of the Wages Board may be of the order of 70,000–80,000, of which at least 10,000 are clubs.

* S.R. & O. 1945, No. 334. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1945, page 44.

‡ See the issues of this GAZETTE for March, 1944, page 47, and September, 1944, page 148.

§ Catering Wages Act, 1943: Report of the Catering Wages Commission on their Recommendation for the Establishment of a Wages Board for Licensed Non-Residential Establishments. Cmd. 6612. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. post free).

WAGES COUNCILS ACT, 1945.

The Wages Councils Bill received the Royal Assent on 28th March. A summary of the provisions of the Bill as presented to Parliament was given in the December issue of this GAZETTE. A few amendments have been embodied in the Act.* The provision that remuneration payable under Wages Regulation Orders might be subject to deductions in respect of any statutory superannuation or provident fund has been extended to include deductions made at the written request of the worker either for the purpose of a superannuation scheme or a thrift scheme or for any purpose in the carrying out of which the employer has no beneficial financial interest, and deductions made within the terms of Section 1, 2 or 3 of the Truck Act, 1896. It was proposed in the Bill that there should be a transitional period of five years during which the war-time provisions of Part III of the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Order, 1940, were to be continued, with minor modifications, after Part III of the Order had ceased to have effect; the Act provides that the transitional period is not to be extended beyond 31st December, 1950, unless Parliament otherwise determines. It was also proposed that the obligation to observe these provisions during the transitional period was not to apply in respect of workpeople whose remuneration was fixed under specified statutes; to these statutes have been added the Education Act, 1944, and the Education (Scotland) Acts, 1872 to 1942. The remaining amendments were generally of a minor character.

SUPERANNUATION SCHEME FOR NURSES.

The Report† of a Joint Superannuation Sub-Committee appointed by the Nurses and Midwives Salaries Committees for England and Scotland has recently been published. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee were to advise as to the best method of securing uniformity of superannuation and interchangeability of pension rights for nurses (including assistant nurses) and midwives. The Report, which is specially concerned with nurses employed in local authority hospitals and in voluntary hospitals and recognised voluntary institutions, has been endorsed by the Nurses and Midwives Salaries Committees and submitted for the consideration of the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Report describes the two main types of scheme in operation for providing superannuation payments to nurses, *viz.*, the Federated Superannuation Scheme applicable to nurses and hospital officers in voluntary hospitals, adoption of which is optional on the part of the hospital authorities, and the statutory Local Government Superannuation Scheme for nurses and other employees of local authorities, the adoption of which is compulsory upon all local authorities. It also discusses alternative methods of securing adequacy, uniformity and interchangeability of pension rights.

The Sub-Committee recommend that nurses and midwives in the service of local authorities should remain subject to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. For those in the salaried employment of voluntary hospitals and approved organisations in which the Rushcliffe and Taylor scales of salary have been adopted, it is recommended that a Central Fund should be established under the management of a statutory body representative of the interests concerned. Interchangeability of pension rights would be secured by arrangements for the payment of transfer values between the new Central Fund and the existing local authority funds. Entrance to the Central Fund should be compulsory upon all nurses and midwives over 18 years of age in the salaried service of organisations to which the Fund would apply, with the exception of nurses who are existing contributors under the Federated Superannuation Scheme and who elect to remain therein, and nurses who, owing to age, would be unable to complete the qualifying period of contributory service before their retirement. All salaried service since joining the Federated Superannuation Scheme would rank as contributory service.

It is suggested that the Fund should be built up by contributions of six per cent. of the total of salary and emoluments to be paid by the nurse, and of not more than 12 per cent. to be paid by the employer. The minimum qualification for a pension should be ten years of contributory service. The pension should be based on the average salary and emoluments of the last five years of service and should be at the rate of one-sixtieth of this average for every year of contributory service, subject to a total maximum of forty-sixtieths. Pensions payable in cases of permanent incapacity should be on a basis similar to that of superannuation pensions, with a minimum of twenty-sixtieths of average salary and emoluments and subject to a qualifying period of ten years' contributory service.

The Sub-Committee made no recommendations as regards the superannuation of nurses in industrial employment, nurses employed in private nursing homes and maternity homes, or private nurses, while the terms of reference did not extend to the superannuation of mental nurses, or of nurses in the Services of the Crown.

* 8 & 9 Geo. 6 Ch.17. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free).

† Nurses and Midwives Salaries Committees, England and Scotland. Report of the Joint Superannuation Sub-Committee on Superannuation of Nurses and Midwives. Cmd. 6603. H.M. Stationery Office, price 9d. net (11d. post free).

COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

REPORT OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Report* of a Technical Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister of Fuel and Power in September, 1944, has recently been published. The terms of reference of the Committee were "to examine the present technique of coal production from coal face to wagon, and to advise what technical changes are necessary in order to bring the industry to a state of full technical efficiency."

The Report falls into two parts. In the first a description is given of technical developments in the British coal mining industry up to 1939, and of recent developments in the Ruhr, Holland, Poland and in the United States. This is followed by a comparison between the position in Britain and in certain other countries. The natural, financial, structural, technical and psychological conditions in the various countries are compared, and the Committee conclude that in Britain the natural conditions of the industry are greatly inferior to those of the United States, but are comparable with those of the Ruhr and Holland and therefore afford no explanation of the much lower output per man-shift obtained in Britain. Amongst other conclusions are the facts that there has been no properly organised training of entrants into the British coal mining industry, and, with certain exceptions, there has been a lack of co-operation between the mineworkers and employers.

The second part of the Report is concerned with matters of a technical nature, including systems of mining, methods of winning coal, power-loading, the support of workings underground, transport of men underground, mine ventilation, underground lighting, the supply and use of power underground, shaft-winding and associated problems, surface lay-out and equipment, maintenance of machinery and provision of workshops, the national coal resources, and planning for production. These matters are considered in detail by the Committee and form the subject of various conclusions and recommendations. In their general observations and recommendations on planning for production the Committee state that a vast programme of reconstruction of existing mines and the sinking of a number of new ones is required, and that the thorough reorganisation of the industry requires the examination of the problems on a coalfield basis, rather than mine by mine; they also recommend that double-shift working should be practised at both new and reconstructed mines, and they point out that there is a strong case on technical grounds alone for the adoption of the five-day working week of eight hours per shift for underground workers.

The Committee also consider in the second part of the Report the question of training and education and the problems of the relations between employers and workpeople in the mining industry. In future, they state, training will have to be more systematic and comprehensive, and a more elaborate organisation will be necessary. For the purposes of their examination of the nature of the training and organisation required they divide the subject into four broad categories, *viz.*, (a) preliminary training of new entrants, (b) general underground training, (c) specialised training, and (d) the training and further education of officials. Among their various recommendations concerning these matters the Committee urge that preliminary training for new entrants should be as broad-based as possible, that the establishment of special training faces for general underground training should be pressed on, that there should be an apprenticeship system for the training of electricians, mechanics and other tradesmen, and that the arrangements for the training of officials should make provision (i) for enabling suitable mineworkers to work their way up and to acquire the personal as well as the technical qualifications necessary for an official, and (ii) for attracting into mining engineering, as a profession, young men of ability from all classes of society and from all parts of the country.

On the subject of labour relations, the Committee draw attention to the difficult, yet urgent, problem of securing full co-operation between the employers and the workmen, and for the purposes of the investigation of this problem they proceed to examine what the mineworker is entitled to get from the industry and what the industry is entitled to get from the mineworker. The rights of the mineworker, they consider, may be summarised as (i) proper initial training; (ii) suitable facilities for further education and advancement; (iii) explanation by the management of new methods of work and plans of development; (iv) a general wages level for underground mineworkers at least as high as in other industries demanding an equal degree of skill and effort; (v) better use of the machinery for the rapid redress of grievances; (vi) security of employment; (vii) the exercise by the management of proper care for his safety and health. On the other hand, the fundamental duties of the mineworker are (i) to give a full and fair day's work; (ii) to accept proper discipline at the mine; (iii) to abandon lightning strikes; (iv) to be ready to reconsider, and where necessary to renounce, coalfield customs detrimental to the efficient working of the industry; (v) to co-operate fully with the management to raise productivity.

In conclusion, the Committee state that, if the thorough reorganisation of the industry which they recommend is to be carried through, the establishment of a central authority is essential; such an authority, endowed by Parliament with

really effective powers, would have the duty of ensuring that the industry is merged into units of such sizes as would provide the maximum advantages of planned production, of stimulating the preparation and execution of the broad plans of reorganisation made by these units, and of conserving the coal resources of the country. To the employer and the mining engineer falls the task of rebuilding the industry on the most modern lines. The workmen and their leaders must combine with the mining engineer to raise productivity to the highest level; and they must accept the need for a high standard of workmanship and for the other measures required to increase the efficiency of the industry. They must recognise, the Committee say, that the existing level of wages cannot be maintained without a large increase in output per manshift for all employed, and that the industry, rebuilt in the way the Committee have suggested, cannot be expected to provide employment for as many unskilled men as at present.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1944.

A "Provisional Statement of Number of Deaths by Accidents at Mines and Quarries in Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during 1944"* has been issued by the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

The Statement shows that, in all, 674 persons were killed by accidents which occurred during the year 1944 at mines under the Coal Mines Act, metalliferous mines and quarries in Great Britain and the Isle of Man. The corresponding figures for 1943 and 1942 were 778 and 946, respectively. The total number of deaths caused by accidents in 1944 at mines under the Coal Mines Act, was 621, and of these 334 resulted from falls of ground.

HIGH EARNINGS IN INDUSTRY.

REPORT BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

The Select Committee on National Expenditure have presented a Report† stating that their attention has on several occasions been drawn to instances of abnormally high payments made to men and women engaged on work for which skill of an exceptional character is not essential. The Report contains details of unusually high payments made to dockers and to certain workpeople employed in two aircraft factories.

The Committee state that abnormal payments of this kind are most likely to result when piece-rates for a new job have to be fixed without previous experience of that job. They accept the view that a policy of high earnings for extra effort resulting in high output is the correct one; but they point out that as mistakes in rate-fixing will inevitably occur, it is important that there should be a procedure which will ensure the correction of such mistakes with the least possible delay. While they do not claim, for the purpose of the present Report, to have made an exhaustive examination of the general problem of wages, and the negotiating machinery associated therewith, in relation to public expenditure, they conclude that the effects of the individual cases of abnormally high payments described in their Report appear to warrant the following observations:

(i) If piece-rates have to be fixed before production starts, they should be provisional only and understood to be subject to review after a fair flow of work and material has been secured and there has been actual experience of the particular job.

(ii) Under the existing practice, revision of piece-work rates affecting Government contracts under war conditions has depended on the initiative either of employers or employees. This appears neither to provide sufficient safeguards to secure the efficient expenditure of public money nor to create an atmosphere conducive to impartial consideration.

(iii) The Committee consider that, in cases of the kind described in their Report, the Government Department concerned should take the initiative in asking for a review of rates.

(iv) Both parties to a dispute must assist in reaching an agreement by speedy use of the machinery of negotiation; but, whatever machinery is devised, it can only work satisfactorily if there is a clear recognition on the part of the negotiators of the necessity for keeping under consideration national interests and the efficient expenditure of public funds, and if, where agreements are reached, they are loyally observed by all concerned on both sides.

REGISTRATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS.

A further registration of young persons subject to the Registration of Boys and Girls Order, 1941, took place on 28th April, 1945. Subject to the exemptions specified in the Order, the obligation to register on this date applied to all British boys and girls resident in England and Wales or Scotland, who were born between 25th February, 1929, and 28th April, 1929, both dates inclusive.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

† Third Report from the Select Committee on National Expenditure, Session 1944-5 H.C. 65. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. post free).

* Coal Mining: Report of the Technical Advisory Committee: Cmd. 6610. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (1s. 2d. post free).

SICKNESS ABSENCE AMONG WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

REPORT BY THE INDUSTRIAL HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD.

In a recently published Report, entitled "A Study of Certified Sickness Absence among Women in Industry,"* the results are given of an investigation carried out by the Industrial Health Research Board of the Medical Research Council.

In a preface to their Report, the Board point out that until recently the problems of health and disease in women have attracted less interest and attention than other, less important, causes of absence from work. There appears to be a tendency to regard ill-health which cannot be attributed to the nature of the work as unavoidable, although there is evidence that some factories have a considerably higher rate of sickness absence than others engaged on similar work. On the basis of records relating to the latter half of 1942 the Board undertook a detailed enquiry, the general aim of which was to ascertain the amount, nature, distribution and causes of sickness absence in fairly representative groups of female workers, and to relate the findings to such factors as age, length of service, civil state and type of work. The Report sets out the results of this enquiry.

The Report states that the information collected was restricted to certified sickness absence of two or more days in factories where the methods of recording were known to be reasonably accurate and complete; the amount of time actually lost through sickness is, therefore, likely to be under-estimated, but the exclusion of uncertified sickness absence, which may or may not be genuine, should increase the reliability of the results. The main results of the enquiry are based on the records, covering the latter half of 1942, of a random sample of 4,542 women employed in five munition factories with an average total number employed of 24,468. The general trends of the results obtained from the five factory groups were found to be very similar, and they have been combined and averaged so as to form a single group; the figures may thus be regarded as representative of about 20,000 women employed on varied types of work in widely different parts of the country.

In order to provide a background to the results of the enquiry, the Report gives some general information regarding absence during 1942 and 1943, based on the records at five large factories (other than those to which the detailed enquiry relates) employing 33,500 women. This indicates that, as a whole, the absence figures for each of the two years showed the same general trend except for a sharp rise in the last two months of 1943 owing to an influenza epidemic. The total absenteeism in 1942 and 1943 was 14.7 per cent. and 15.0 per cent. respectively. Absences due to sickness and accidents accounted for more than half the total time lost; the percentage of time lost through these causes was 7.7 in 1942 and 8.2 in 1943, the slight increase in 1943 being due entirely to the numerous cases of influenza in the last two months.

As stated above, the main results of the detailed enquiry carried out by the Board are based on the sickness records of 4,542 women, of whom 2,545 were married and 1,997 were single. They show that for every 100 women in the sample there were on average 84.2 cases of sickness absence in the last six months of 1942. This does not mean that 84.2 per cent. of the women were absent from sickness, since some were absent more than once. The corresponding figures for married and single women were 98.2 and 66.3 respectively. Absences among married women were thus approximately 48 per cent. more frequent than among single women. Diseases of the respiratory system were responsible for the greatest number of absences, and of these almost two-thirds were due to colds and influenza. These causes, together with "nerves" and "fatigue," accounted for nearly half of the total number of absences. The average number of cases of sickness absence rose from the beginning of July until the latter part of September; there was a subsequent decline, but a sharp increase occurred at the end of the year.

The average number of days of sickness per worker in the period of six months covered by the enquiry was 14.45 or 7.8 per cent. of the total number of days in the period. The figures for married and single women were 17.45 and 10.57 respectively. The sickness absences of married women exceeded that of single women by 65 per cent.; as this is higher than the corresponding difference between the number of cases of sickness, it follows that the absences of married women were not only more numerous but were also longer than those of single women.

The average length of the individual absences was 17.1 days and was about 12 per cent. longer for married than for single women. The results show that the shortest absences were relatively most frequent in the respiratory group and the longest were most numerous in the "fatigue" group.

The percentage of women who had no sickness absence in the period of six months was 45.3; the corresponding figures for married and single women were 38.4 and 54.0, respectively. A further 25 per cent. were absent for not more than two weeks. An analysis of the cases of long sickness absence shows that 14.4 per cent. of the women had single absences of more than 28 days, but the figure was much higher for married than for single women. The percentage of married women who had long absences tended to decrease as age increased, but single women showed the opposite tendency. Women who had been employed since the early stages of the war had the largest proportion of absences.

In order to complete the picture of sickness absence the Report gives some particulars about women discharged during the period for reasons of ill-health; such persons were excluded from the general results of the enquiry. About 2.5 per cent. of the total number employed at the five factories were discharged on medical grounds during the period; the rate of discharge was much higher for married than for single women. The enquiry showed that "nerves" and "fatigue" were by far the most frequent causes of discharge, especially among married women. It is estimated that the exclusion of women discharged on health grounds lowered the rate of absence due to sickness by about 1.0 per cent.

An analysis by age of the number of workers included in the sample showed that nearly four-fifths of the single women were under 30, but that only two-fifths of the married women were below that age. The frequency of sickness absence increased up to the age group 25-30 and then began to decrease, very slowly at first but more quickly afterwards. It is clear from the results of the enquiry, the Report points out, that, age for age, married women were absent much more frequently than single women. Since the type and conditions of work were the same for both married and single women, it follows that the higher frequency of sickness absence amongst the former was due to the additional strain and stresses of married life. The average number of days of sickness per worker in the various age groups showed successive increases to a maximum of about 16½ in the age groups 30-49 years, but there was a marked decrease in the age group 50-59 years. The average length of the sickness absence was lowest both for married and single women in the 25-29 age group. The results of the enquiry suggest that one of the reasons for the decrease in the number of cases of sickness absence above the age of 30 was the increased length of the absences above that age, and that the decrease in the number of days of sickness in the age group 25-29 was due to shorter and not to fewer absences. Nearly one-third of the married women discharged as medically unfit during the period were over 40 years of age, while three-fifths of the single women discharged were under 25.

The women included in the enquiry were mainly engaged on production, examining and clerical work; the results show that production workers lost a little more time than the examiners, but both these groups lost much more time than the clerical workers. The available figures of shift working suggest that absenteeism among women on a permanent day shift was less than among women on a multiple shift system.

In discussing the results of the enquiry, the Report draws attention to the psychological and physiological effects of the break-up of family life caused by the absence of husbands and sons in the Forces, and in some cases by the evacuation of children; there is evidence, the Report states, that the dislocation of normal married life, due to the war, is particularly noticeable among the younger married women.

In conclusion, the Report expresses the view that the results of the enquiry should help to emphasise the importance of sickness records as a necessary foundation for any sound system of dealing with industrial diseases.

"CEASE FIRE" HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

An announcement concerning the arrangements for a holiday on the cessation of hostilities with Germany has recently been made by H.M. Government.

The announcement states that, in view of the development of the war against Germany, the Government recognise that industry will be looking for a lead regarding the arrangements for a holiday on the cessation of hostilities. The war with Japan will still be on and our Forces in the Far East will continue to be engaged in stern and bitter fighting. All our energies will still be required in the successful prosecution of that struggle. The end of the German war will nevertheless mark a stage in the long and arduous fight in which we have been engaged and there will be general rejoicing that victory has crowned our efforts against Germany.

So far as Government factories and Government service are concerned, therefore, it has been decided that the day of the announcement of the European "Cease Fire," irrespective of the hour upon which the announcement is made, together with the day immediately following shall be regarded as days of paid holiday. The Government suggest that it would be appropriate that all schools should also grant holidays for those two days.

The Government consider that, in addition, there will probably be a desire throughout industry to give expression to the feeling of common effort that has carried us through the strenuous years of the war by setting aside, at a date to be determined according to local circumstances, a day of holiday at individual factories. Workers in Government factories and establishments will, therefore, be given an additional day of paid holiday at some later date, to be determined according to the local circumstances of each factory or establishment.

It is necessary, the Government point out, that workers in essential services or engaged on essential maintenance work must, in the national interest, be prepared to carry on as required. Special compensatory arrangements will, of course, be necessary in their case. This applies particularly to those engaged in the supply of gas and electricity, in the maintenance of valuable and important plant, in essential farming operations, in food distribution and in the operation of vital transport.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net (10d. post free).

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL INSURANCE.

ORDERS RESPECTING TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.

By the Ministry of National Insurance Act, 1944,* provision was made, except as regards certain specified powers or duties, for the functions of the Minister of Labour and National Service in regard to unemployment insurance and assistance to be transferred at some later date to the Minister of National Insurance. Effect has now been given to this provision by the Ministry of National Insurance (Unemployment Insurance and Assistance) Order, 1945,† made by His Majesty on 21st March, 1945. In accordance with this Order the functions of the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1935 to 1944 (except those relating to courses of instruction, the exercise of certain powers by Education Authorities and the promotion of employment), and under the Unemployment Assistance Acts, 1934 to 1940, were transferred to the Minister of National Insurance as from 1st April, 1945. The latter, however, may make arrangements with the Minister of Labour and National Service for securing that any of the transferred functions shall be performed on his behalf by the Minister of Labour and National Service.

Provision is also made by the Order for specified enactments, regulations, rules and orders relating to unemployment insurance and assistance to have effect subject to various specified amendments necessitated by the transfer of competence effected by the Order.

By the Minister of National Insurance (Health Insurance and Pensions) Order, 1945,‡ and the Minister of National Insurance (Workmen's Compensation) Order, 1945§, respectively, the functions of the Minister of Health (or, in Scotland, the Secretary of State) with respect to national health insurance (except as regards the administration of medical benefit), widows', orphans' and old age pensions and supplementary pensions, and the functions of the Secretary of State for Home Affairs with respect to workmen's compensation have also been transferred to the Minister of National Insurance. Both Orders were made on 21st March and came into operation on 1st April, 1945.

JOINT WORKS COMMITTEES IN FRANCE.

By an Order dated 22nd February, 1945, the French Provisional Government has made compulsory the setting up of Joint Works Committees (*Comités d'entreprises*) in all commercial and industrial undertakings employing at least 100 persons. The Ministers of Labour and Industrial Production will determine by Decree the conditions under which homeworkers are to be included within the scope of the Order and they, and other interested Ministries, may, by Decree, prescribe the setting up of Committees in undertakings employing less than 100 workers, and in Government Departments, the liberal professions, etc. Each committee will consist of the head of the undertaking or his representative, who will preside at all meetings, and from five to eight workers' representatives elected by the workers from lists drawn up by the most representative trade unions for each class of worker. The number of workers' representatives serving on the committees will vary with the number of persons employed in the undertaking and will be chosen from the different grades of workers employed.

Workers of either sex of French nationality aged 18 years and over have the right to vote for representatives on the committees, if they have worked for at least twelve months in the undertaking and have not incurred certain legal penalties. Workers with the right to vote are eligible for election to the committees, if they are able to read and write, have reached the age of twenty-five, have worked in the undertaking for at least twenty-four months (twelve months during the first three years for which the Order is in force), do not stand in specified degrees of relationship to the head of the undertaking, and have not been deprived of their trade union functions under Orders dated 27th July and 27th September, 1944. Elections are by ballot.

Members of the committees hold office for three years and are eligible for re-election. Provision is made for the election of deputy members. The head of the undertaking must allow committee members and deputy members the time necessary for the performance of their functions, up to fifteen hours a month. Such time must be paid for. Penalties are provided for heads of undertakings deliberately placing obstacles in the way of the free election of committees or of their regular functioning.

The Committees, which will meet at least once a month, will co-operate with the management, in a consultative capacity, in the improvement of the general working and living conditions of the staff, exclusive of wages. They will be responsible, under conditions to be fixed by Decree, for the management of all social welfare schemes set up in the undertaking for the benefit of the workers or of their families. They will act in a consultative capacity concerning all matters relating to the economic administration of the undertaking, and will have the right of submitting proposals calculated to increase production or of

making suggestions regarding general organisation. Certain information regarding the organisation, management and general progress of the undertaking must be made available to the committees, and at least once a year they must be provided by the head of the undertaking with a general progress report and a statement of future plans.

If the undertaking concerned is a joint stock company or if it employs more than 500 persons, the committees must be informed of the profits realised by the concern and may make suggestions regarding their expenditure. In the case of limited liability companies, the committees must be provided, before the general meeting of shareholders, with a copy of the profit and loss account, the annual balance sheet, the auditors' report and any other documents prepared for circulation at the general shareholders' meeting. One of the auditors must be selected by the shareholders' meeting from a list drawn up by the Joint Works Committee, which is entitled to receive full information relative to the financial position of the undertaking and whose observations thereon must be submitted to the shareholders at the same time as the directors' report. Members of Joint Works Committees are bound to observe secrecy on all matters of a confidential nature of which they are informed in the course of their duties.

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA.

In Canada, under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1942, a person accepted for service in the Armed Forces is entitled, on the termination of that service, to be reinstated in his former employment under conditions not less favourable than those that would have been applicable to him had he remained in that employment. Applications for reinstatement must, in general, be made within three months after discharge from the Forces, or within four months if the discharge takes place overseas. Regulations have now been issued by Order in Council dated 11th January, 1945, reinforcing the provisions of this Act. The new regulations are primarily designed to meet a number of difficulties that have arisen in the interpretation of the Act and in the application of its provisions to circumstances that were not contemplated at the time it was passed. In particular, they place men who have left their employment on call-up for military service, but who are later rejected by the Army, on the same footing as ex-service men; they safeguard the statutory right of reinstatement in cases where, for various reasons, resumption of the former employment is delayed; and they define the rights of reinstated persons in matters relating to pay, status and other conditions of employment. Provision is also made for the appointment of Reinstatement Officers to assist in administration and enforcement.

For persons in need of recuperation, the regulations extend by an additional six months the period within which, under the provisions of the Act, reinstatement must be claimed. If, on discharge from the Armed Forces, persons are directed into other employment by a National Selective Service Officer, the prescribed period for claiming reinstatement will not begin until the termination of that employment. A person originally employed in a branch undertaking in which he cannot reasonably be reinstated must be reinstated in another branch, provided such transference is reasonably practicable and not inconsistent with the practice and policy of the employer. As regards conditions of employment, the regulations provide that, in certain cases, for the purpose of fixing the pay, holidays and status of persons reinstated under the Act, service in the Armed Forces is deemed to be time spent in the service of the employer; they provide further that, in the granting of wage increases that are conditional on the acquisition of higher qualifications, due regard must be had to skill, experience and training acquired in the Forces.

FOOD CONTROL.

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES.

The maximum retail prices of certain varieties of fish, mainly the coarser varieties, were reduced from 8th April, as a result of a new Order made by the Minister of Food; from the same date the maximum retail prices of some kinds of fish, when sold in the form of fillets, were increased, the definition of "fillet" being somewhat amended. Other recent Orders of the Minister of Food have been concerned with the maximum retail prices of dripping, of home-produced canned fish, of certain types of canned vegetables, and of coffee and coffee mixtures when sold pre-packed in certain types of containers: the Order relating to coffee also reduced the minimum proportion of pure coffee required to be present in coffee mixtures from 66½ per cent. to 51 per cent.

FOOD RATIONING.

Changes in the rationing of cheese and of preserves came into operation on 1st April. The ordinary ration of cheese was reduced from 3 to 2 ounces a week, but there were no reductions in the special rations to seamen and to certain other classes of consumers. The preserves ration was amended so as to permit consumers to acquire 2 lb. of marmalade or 1 lb. of other preserves or 1 lb. of sugar with each preserves coupon; from the same date the option of acquiring preserves, in lieu of sugar, with the sugar coupon was withdrawn.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1944, page 198.

† S.R. & O. 1945, No. 317. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. post free).

‡ S.R. & O. 1945, No. 316. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free).

§ S.R. & O. 1945, No. 318. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

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

Rates of Wages.

The principal group of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages during March consisted of agricultural workers in England and Wales. As a result of Orders made by the Agricultural Wages Board, the statutory minimum time rate for men employed as ordinary agricultural workers was raised from 65s. to 70s. a week, and the higher rates in operation in certain districts for men engaged in tending animals and in other specialised occupations were raised by 5s. a week. No increases were granted in the case of women and juvenile workers engaged on time work. The Orders also made provision that, in all districts, agricultural workers should receive not less than the minimum time rate for all time spent on piece work.

Other industries and services in which wage rates were increased during March included road haulage of goods, rope, twine and net manufacture, sack and bag manufacture, cloth hat and cap manufacture, laundering, the seedcrushing, compound food and provender industry, and road vehicle body-building and repair.

The statutory minimum rates of wages of the majority of workers employed in the road haulage of goods were raised by 4s. a week in all areas of Great Britain, and those of certain workpeople under 18 years of age by 2s. 6d. a week. In the rope, twine and net industry, the minimum time rates of wages and the piece work basis time rates for piece workers, fixed for men and women under the Trade Boards Acts, were raised by 1d. an hour. For workpeople employed in sack and bag manufacture in undertakings scheduled under the Essential Work (General Provisions) Order, minimum rates of wages were agreed upon, in excess of the current Trade Board statutory minimum rates for the industry. In the cloth hat and cap

industry there were increases, by agreement, of 1½d. and 1½d. an hour in the rates of men and women, respectively. The Trade Board minimum time rates for laundry workers were raised by 1½d. an hour in the case of men and women and by smaller amounts in the case of juveniles. Men and women employed in seed crushing and compound food and provender manufacture were granted an increase of 4s. a week. In the road vehicle body-building and repairing industry there were increases of ½d., 1d. or 1½d. an hour, according to occupation and class of work, in the minimum rates of men, other than those engaged on specified types of work.

In those industries (excluding agriculture) for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department,* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during March resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £36,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 200,000 workpeople. No decreases in rates of wages were reported during the month. Of the aggregate increase of £36,000, about £27,000 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; £4,000 took effect under arbitration awards; and most of the remainder was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Hours of Labour.

For men, youths and boys employed in agriculture in Gloucestershire, the hours in respect of which the statutory weekly minimum rates of wages are payable were fixed at 50 throughout the year instead of 48 during the winter months and 52 during the rest of the year. No other important changes in working hours were reported during March.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Agriculture	England and Wales..	4 Mar.	Men, 21 years and over, employed on time work. Men, women and juvenile workers employed on piece work.	Increases of 5s. a week in minimum rates for workers other than part-time and casual workers, and of 1d. an hour for part-time and casual workers.† Minimum rates of wages fixed on a time basis, so that the wages of pieceworkers shall not be less than those applicable if the time spent on piece work had been employment at the minimum rates for time work.†
Brick, etc., Manufacture.	England and Wales (certain districts).‡	Pay day in week beginning 5 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the making of building bricks (other than glazed bricks, stock bricks, Fletton bricks and sand-lime and concrete bricks), roofing and flooring tiles (unglazed), terra cotta (unglazed), chimney pots and finials.	War advances increased by 1d. an hour for men, by 3s. a week (48 hours) for youths 18 and under 21 years and women 18 and over, and by 2s. for boys and girls. Minimum rates after change, inclusive of war advances: men—Eastern, South-Eastern, Southern, and certain districts of the South-Western Counties of England, kiln firemen and boilerfiremen (working on a shift basis) 16s. 11½d. a shift of 10½ hours, 13s. 9d. a shift of 8 hours, excavator drivers 1s. 8½d. an hour, boilerfiremen (power steam) 1s. 7½d.; elsewhere, kiln firemen and boilerfiremen (working on a shift basis) 13s. 9d. a shift of 8 hours, shot firers 1s. 8½d. an hour, getters 1s. 8½d., fillers 1s. 7½d., panmen and mill feeders 1s. 7½d., wheelers and setters 1s. 8d., wheelers (only) 1s. 7d., setters (only) 1s. 8½d., wheelers and drawers 1s. 7½d.; all areas, labourers 1s. 6½d.: youths and boys, all areas, 23s. 6d. a week at 14 rising to 59s. 6d. at 20: women and girls (employed on women's and girls' work), all areas, 30s. at 16 rising to 46s. at 18 and over: plus good time keeping bonus of 3s. a week for men, 2s. for youths and women and 1s. 6d. for boys and girls.
Glue and Gelatine Manufacture.	Great Britain (certain firms).	1st full pay week after 8 Mar.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases of ½d. an hour for men and women, and of ¼d. for youths boys and girls.
Engineering	Doncaster district ..	Beginning of first full pay period following 16 Mar.	Skilled fitters	Basic rate (exclusive of war bonus) fixed at 68s. a week of 47 hours.§
Pressed Felt Manufacture.	Rossendale Valley (certain firms).	31 Mar.	Men, women and juveniles	Increases || of 3d. a week for men and of 2d. for women and juveniles. Minimum rates after change: men 80s. 2d., youths and boys 33s. 2d. at 14 years rising to 59s. 8d. at 20; women 18 and over—felt production processes 62s. 2d., cutting and stitching 55s. 4d.; girls 23s. 8d. at 14 rising to 31s. 7d. at 17.
Rope, Twine and Net Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	21 Mar.	Workpeople paid at time rates ..	Increases of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men 21 years or over and for women 18 years or over and of ½d. to 1d. for younger workers.¶
			Workpeople paid at piece rates ..	Increases of 1d. an hour in piece work basis time rates and of varying amounts in general minimum piece rates.¶
	Northern Ireland ..	21 Mar.	Workpeople paid at time rates:— Men, youths and boys	Increases of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men and of ½d. to 1d., according to age and occupation, for youths and boys.¶
			Women and girls	Increases of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for women 18 years or over and of ½d. or ¾d. for girls (¾d. for doffers irrespective of age).¶
			Workpeople paid at piece rates ..	Increase of 1d. an hour in piece work basis time rates for men 21 years or over and for women 18 years or over (¾d. for doffers irrespective of age).¶
Sack and Bag Manufacture.	England and Wales ..	23 Feb.**	Workpeople employed at undertakings scheduled under the Essential Work (General Provisions) Order.	Rates of pay fixed, for a normal working week not exceeding 48 hours, as follows: men, youths and boys—6½d. at 15 years rising to 1s. 7½d. at 21 and over; women and girls—6½d. at 15 rising to 1s. 0½d. at 18 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.

† These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages Regulation Acts. (See this GAZETTE for March, page 45).

‡ The increases applied to building brick, etc., undertakings affiliated to the National Joint Industrial Council for the Clay Industries and the Southern Counties Brick and Tile Joint Industrial Council, the districts affected including the Northern, Eastern, South-Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties of England, and North and South Wales.

§ This rate was fixed by an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal. A war bonus of 25s. 6d. is payable in addition to the basic rate.

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

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

** These rates were agreed on 13th March and made retrospective to the date shown. Where higher rates were already in operation they were not to be prejudiced by the terms of the Agreement. The new rates represent increases on the current minimum time rates fixed for the industry under the Trade Boards Acts of approximately 2½d. an hour for men, ½d. to 2½d. an hour, according to age, for youths and boys, 1½d. an hour for women 18 years and over and ¾d. an hour for girls of 17.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Cloth Hat and Cap Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	1st pay day after 5 Mar.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 1½d. an hour for adult male workers, of 1½d. for adult female workers, of ½d., 1d. or 1½d., according to age, for male learners and of ½d. or 1d., according to period of service, for female learners.*
Laundering	Great Britain ..	2 Mar.	Men, youths and boys : Other than transport workers ..	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men and of 1d. or ½d., according to age, for youths and boys. Rates after change : 6d. at under 15 years rising to 1s. 7½d. at 21 or over (after 12 months' experience).†
			Transport workers	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for drivers 21 years or over, of 1d. for drivers under 21, and of 1d. or ½d., according to age, for vanguards. Rates after change include : drivers 21 or over 1s. 7½d., vanguards 18 or over 1s.†
	do. ..	do.	Women and girls, excluding those employed as wartime substitutes for male workers.	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for women 19 years or over and in guaranteed time rates for piece workers 19 or over, of 1d., ½d. or ¾d., according to age, for girls, and of 1½d. in piece work basis time rates. Rates† after change (for other than emergency or casual workers) : general minimum time rates 5½d. at under 15 rising to 1s. 0½d. at 20 or over (after 12 months' experience); piece work basis time rate 1s. 2½d.†
	do. ..	do.	Women and girls employed as wartime substitutes for male workers.	Increases of 1½d., 1d. or ½d. an hour, according to age or work performed, in general minimum time rates. Rates after change include : female workers who perform in full the duties actually or normally undertaken by adult male workers 1s. 7½d. an hour.† War supplements increased by 4s. a week for men (22s. to 26s.) and for women 18 years and over (15s. to 19s.) and by proportional amounts for juveniles.||
Seed Crushing, Compound Food and Provender Manufacture, Furniture Manufacture, etc.	Great Britain (various districts).	1st regular pay day in Mar.‡	Men, women and juveniles	Basic minimum time rates agreed for men and for women 19 years and over, as follows : journeymen engaged on productive processes 1s. 7½d., packers 1s. 4½d., labourers 1s. 3d.; women polishers, upholstery sewers and sewing machinists 11d.¶¶
	Northumberland, County Durham and Yorkshire.	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture, renovation or repair of furniture and furnishings.	Basic minimum time rates agreed upon for men and for women 19 years and over : journeymen on productive processes—Liverpool district (within a 10-mile radius from Liverpool Landing Stage) 1s. 8d. an hour, Manchester district (within a 15-mile radius from Manchester Town Hall) and Wigan 1s. 7½d., elsewhere 1s. 7d.; packers (men)—all districts 1s. 4½d.; labourers (men)—Manchester district and Wigan 1s. 3½d., elsewhere 1s. 3d.; glass bevellers, silverers, cutters, packers, etc.—Manchester district and Wigan 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 8½d., according to occupation; women polishers, upholsterers, sewers and sewing machinists—Manchester district and Wigan 11½d., elsewhere 11d.¶¶¶
	Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Flint, Denbigh, Caernarvon, Merioneth, Montgomery and Anglesey.	do.	do.	Basic minimum time rates agreed upon for men and for women 19 years and over : journeymen on productive processes 1s. 7d. an hour, packers (men) 1s. 4½d., labourers (men) 1s. 3d.; women polishers, sewers and sewing machinists 11d.¶¶¶
	Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Kent, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Surrey and Sussex, excluding area within 20 miles from Charing Cross, London.	do.	do.	
Vehicle Building (Automobile Bodies, Carriages, Carts, etc.).	England, Wales and Northern Ireland.	1st pay week beginning on or after 1 Mar.	Men, apprentices and other youths and boys, and women whose rates are related to those of men, employed in the manufacture and/or repair of road vehicles (except on private car bodywork of the highest class and on buses, coaches and other vehicles licensed to carry passengers).	Increases of ½d., 1d. or 1½d. an hour, according to occupation and class of work, in minimum rates for men and of proportional amounts for apprentices and other youths and boys and for women whose rates are related to those of men. Minimum rates after change, for men : bodymakers, wheelwrights, coach joiners and finishers, smiths, painters, trimmers, mounters, general machinists and sawyers 1s. 7½d.; coach fitters 1s. 6½d.; vicemen 1s. 5d.; hammermen or strikers, brush hands and cellulose polishers 1s. 3½d.; labourers 1s. 3d.; plus 6½d. an hour war bonus in each case. The excess rates of ½d. an hour for men employed within the London Area and of 1d. for leading or charge hands, spindle and four-cutter hands remain unchanged.
Monumental Masonry.	Aberdeen, Boddam and Peterhead.	1 Mar.	Monumental masons, cutters, polishers, etc., employed in granite yards.	Increase of 1d. an hour. Rates after change include : granite cutters, scabblers and toolsmiths 2s. 2d., granite polishers 2s. 1d.
	Dalbeattie	do.	do.	Increase of 1d. an hour. Rates after change include : granite cutters 2s. 2d., polishers 2s. 1d.
	Edinburgh	do.	do.	Increase of 1d. an hour. Rates after change include : monumental masons 2s. 3d., polishers 2s. 2d.
	Glasgow	do.	do.	Increase of 1d. an hour. Rates after change include : cutters, turners and scabblers 2s. 3d., polishers, bedsetters and sawmen 2s. 2d.
Road Haulage (Goods).	Great Britain ..	19 Mar.	Drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles, except those mentioned below, mates (all ages) on steam wagons in the London area, foremen, removal packers and porters 21 years and over employed in furniture warehousing and removing, statutory attendants under 18 years, and other road haulage workers 18 years and over.	Statutory minimum rates raised by 4s. a week. Rates after change, at 21 years and over, include : drivers—London area 83s. to 101s. §§ according to carrying capacity of vehicle, elsewhere 72s. to 97s., according to carrying capacity or gross laden weight and locality; mates on steam wagons in the London area 88s.; furniture warehousing and removing—foremen 81s. 6d. to 91s., according to locality, removal packers 78s. 6d. to 86s., porters 75s. 6d. to 84s.; other road haulage workers 75s. to 86s. ||||
	do.	do.	Drivers under 18 years of mechanically propelled vehicles with a carrying capacity of 1 ton or less in the London area and 30 cwt. or less elsewhere, and other road haulage workers 18 and under not specified above.	Statutory minimum rates raised by 2s. 6d. a week. Rates after change : drivers—London area 50s. 6d., elsewhere 45s. 6d., 48s., 50s. 6d., according to locality; other road haulage workers—London area 29s. 3d. to 41s. 3d., according to age, elsewhere 26s. to 40s., according to age and locality. ||||

* These increases were arranged by agreement between the Wholesale Cloth Hat and Cap Manufacturers' Association and the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, and were payable to all workers irrespective of earnings, except in cases where employers were already paying the amount of the increases.

† These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour and National Service, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office. The rates of wages fixed by agreement for workpeople employed at laundries scheduled under the Essential Work (General Provisions) Order (see this GAZETTE for March, 1944, page 51) remained unchanged.

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

§ In respect of the preceding week.

|| These increases were awarded by an Independent Chairman of the National Joint Council for the industry, who subsequently ruled that the increase of 4s. a week applied to women drawing women's wages and that women paid on the basis of men's wages were to continue to receive their share of the men's wages and bonus as before.

¶ The rates shown are supplemented by the current war bonuses and supplementary war bonuses, which amount to 6d. an hour in the case of journeymen on time work and smaller amounts in the case of other workpeople. Apprentices and other junior workers are to be paid the current minimum time rates fixed for the industry under the Trade Boards Acts, plus any addition approved and ordered by the parties to the agreement. Workpeople employed on systems of payment by results are to receive not less than the wages to which they would have been entitled at the appropriate district minimum time rates.

¶¶ The rates relate to a normal working week of 46½ hours on munition woodwork and 44 hours on other work in Yorkshire (excluding Middlesbrough, Hull and Sheffield), 46½ hours in Sheffield, 44 hours in Northumberland and County Durham (excluding Sunderland and Spennymoor) and Middlesbrough, and 47 hours elsewhere. Supplements are payable of not less than ½d. an hour to charge hands and of 1d. to carvers, fourcutters and spindle hands in Yorkshire (excluding Middlesbrough, Hull and Sheffield), and a tool allowance of ½d. an hour to woodworkers and machinists in Northumberland and County Durham and Middlesbrough.

¶¶¶ The rates relate to a normal working week of 47 hours in the carpet section and 44 hours in other sections in the Liverpool district, and of 46½ hours in all other districts. In addition, tool money of 2s. a week or 4d. a day is payable to woodworkers in the Liverpool district and 2d. a day to cabinet makers, chair makers and carvers in the Manchester district and Wigan.

§§ In the London area the rates are higher by 1s. a week in the case of drivers 21 years and over of vehicles of specified types, with a carrying capacity of 1 ton or over, who were employed as drivers on 8th June, 1932, and have remained in the service of the same employer.

|||| These increases took effect as a result of an Order of the Minister of Labour and National Service giving effect to the proposals of the Road Haulage Central Wages Board and applying to road haulage workers employed on motor goods vehicles operated under "A" or "B" licences or defence permits. Additional increases took effect in Penarth Urban District owing to the transference of the area from a lower to a higher rated grade. Female workers receive during the first 13 weeks of employment in the trade 80 per cent. of the statutory remuneration applicable, during the following 26 weeks 90 per cent., and thereafter the full rate.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Road Haulage (Goods) <i>(continued)</i> .	London Area ..	19 Mar.	Horse drivers, assistant horse keepers, stablemen and vanguards.	Increases of 4s. a week for adults and of 2s. 6d. for youths under 18 years of age employed as vanguards. Rates after change: drivers—one-horse 85s., two-horse 89s., three-horse 91s., four-horse 95s., 25 cwt. light singles 84s., 50 cwt. light pairs 88s., assistant horse keepers and stablemen 85s.; vanguards—29s. 3d. at under 15 years rising to 41s. 3d., at 17 and under 18.
	Liverpool, Bootle, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	do.	Drivers, etc., of mechanically propelled vehicles employed on local haulage work (within a radius of 10 miles from Liverpool and Birkenhead Town Halls).	Increases of 4s. a week (48 hours) for men in permanent employment and of varying daily amounts for casual workers. Rates after change, for permanent men: drivers 81s. to 97s., according to class or gross laden weight of vehicle, secondmen 87s., stand trailer-men 90s., trailer-men 83s.
	do. ..	do.	Drivers, etc., of mechanically propelled vehicles employed on journey work (outside above radius).	Increase of 4s. a week (48 hours) for men in permanent employment. Rates after change: drivers 79s. 6d. to 97s., according to class or gross laden weight of vehicle, secondmen 84s. (Casual workers are paid in accordance with the current Order under the Road Haulage Wages Act.)
	do. ..	do.	Carters	Increases of 4s. a week of 48 hours for seniors and 2s. 6d. for juniors in permanent employment, and of varying daily amounts for casual workers. Rates after change, for permanent workers: seniors—one-horse drivers 84s., teamsmen 90s.; juniors—45s. 6d. or 52s., according to type of vehicle or district.
	Bradford and District	do.	Drivers of mechanical vehicles, operating under "C" licences, horse drivers and other workers employed in road haulage (goods).	Increases of 6s. a week for drivers and of 5s. 6d. for other workers. Minimum rates after change include: drivers over 21 years of age of delivery vans with a carrying capacity not exceeding 25 cwt. 76s. 6d., drivers (all ages) of vehicles with carrying capacity up to and including 2 tons 82s. 6d., over 2 tons up to and including 5 tons 87s. 6d., over 5 tons up to and including 12 tons gross laden weight 90s.; one-horse drivers 81s., two-horse 86s.; yardmen, dropmen, fillers and carriers-off 51s. at 19 years rising to 76s. at 21 and over.
	Sheffield ..	do.	Horse carters	Increases of 4s. a week for workers 18 years of age and over and of 2s. 6d. for younger workers. Rates after change, for adults—one-horse drivers 80s., two-horse 85s.
	Bristol ..	do.	Drivers of vehicles operating under "C" licences, horse carmen, etc.	Increases of 4s. a week for workers 18 years and over and of 2s. 6d. for younger workers. Rates after change, for workers 18 years and over: drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles 79s. 6d. to 97s., according to carrying capacity or gross laden weight of vehicle, statutory attendants and mates 83s.; one-horse drivers, 86s., two-horse drivers 90s. 6d., horsekeepers 88s., stablemen and foragemen 86s.
	Scotland ..	19 Mar. or 1st pay day thereafter	Horse carters employed by general contractors.	Increases of 4s. a week for adult workers and of 2s. 6d. for juniors. Rates after change include: one-horse carters 87s., two-horse carters 93s.*
	Northern Ireland ..	12 Mar.	Drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles, assistants, loaders, checkers, porters, youths and boys employed in connection with freight services by the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board.	War addition increased by 3s. a week for men and by 4d. to 2s. 7d. for youths and boys. Rates after change, inclusive of war addition: men—drivers of vehicles with a carrying capacity of 2 tons and under, Belfast and Londonderry 81s. 6d., other districts 74s. 6d.; over 2 tons 89s. 6d., 80s. 6d.; assistants on lorries 80s. 6d., 67s. 6d.; checkers 81s.,† 67s. 6d.; porters 71s.,† 62s. 6d.; loaders (Belfast Quay) 82s. 6d.; youths and boys—assistants, Belfast and Londonderry 23s. 3d. at 14 years rising to 56s. 6d. at 20; assistants and vanguards in other districts and parcel messengers in Belfast 15s. 2d. to 54s. 6d.; parcels messengers in provincial towns 12s. 8d. at 14 rising to 31s. 3d. at 18.
	do. ..	do.	Horse carters and stablemen employed by the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board.	Increase of 6d. a day or 3s. a week. Rates after change: drivers of monkey wagons 89s. 6d. a week, spellmen 85s. 3d. (14s. 9d. a day Monday to Friday; 11s. 6d. Saturday), carters 80s. 6d. (14s.; 10s. 6d.), stablemen, in stables where there are 15 to 25 horses, 80s. 6d. (minimum).‡
Coal Distribution.	Bradford and district	19 Mar.	Drivers of horse-drawn and mechanical vehicles, dropmen, yardmen, fillers and carriers-off.	Increases of 6s. a week for drivers and of 5s. 6d. for other workers.
	Halifax and district	do.	do.	Increase of 6s. a week.
	Heavy Woollen District.§	do.	do.	Increase of 6s. a week for drivers; increases of 9s. for yardmen, dropmen, fillers and carriers-off 21 years and over and of 7s. 6d. for those under 21.
	Huddersfield and district.	do.	Drivers (full-time) of "C" licensed mechanical vehicles, yardmen, fillers, etc.	Increases of 6s. to 9s. 6d. a week for mechanical drivers and of 8s. for yardmen, fillers, etc.; rates fixed for youths and boys. Rates after change, for a working week of 48 hours exclusive of meal-times but inclusive of garage duties: drivers of vehicles with carrying capacity of 30 cwt. or less 50s. 6d. at under 18 years rising to 84s. 6d. at 21 and over; drivers (all ages) of vehicles with carrying capacity of over 30 cwt. and up to and including 2 tons 84s. 6d., over 2 and up to and including 3½ tons 89s. 6d., over 3½ tons 92s.; yardmen, fillers, etc., 54s. at 18 rising to 79s. at 21 and over; bag salesmen (full-time) 4s. a week extra, inclusive of bonuses, etc.||
	Sheffield and district	do.	Drivers of horse-drawn and mechanical vehicles, yardmen, fillers and carriers-off.	Increase of 6s. a week for drivers; revised rates adopted for yardmen, fillers and carriers-off, resulting in increases of 9s. 6d. a week for men and 2s. 6d. to 8s., according to age, for youths and boys.
	Oldham and district	do.	Drivers of horse-drawn and mechanical vehicles, fillers, etc.	Increases of 4s. a week for workers 18 years of age and over and 2s. 6d. for those under 18.
	Cheshire ..	do.	Drivers of mechanical vehicles, permanent attendants, etc.	Increases of 4s. a week for workers 18 years and over and of 2s. for younger workers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MARCH.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Agriculture	Gloucestershire ..	4 Mar.	Men, youths and boys ..	Hours in respect of which the weekly minimum rates are payable fixed at 50 throughout the year instead of 48 during the winter months (November to February) and 52 during the rest of the year.¶

* In the County of Angus, excluding Dundee, the rates are 2s. a week less.

† The rates for checkers and porters in Belfast and Londonderry became operative from 4th December, 1944, as the result of direct negotiations between the parties.

‡ In stables with less than 15 horses and where drivers do stable duty, a levy of 4s. per horse per week is to be paid and divided equally among the drivers employed. Carters and assistant stablemen are to be paid 5s. for each Sunday they are called upon to do stable work.

§ Including the following towns: Batley, Birstall, Cleckheaton, Dewsbury, Gomersal, Heckmondwike, Liversedge, Mirfield and Ossett.

|| These rates were agreed upon on 19th January, to take effect as from the operative date of the next Order to be issued under the Road Haulage Wages Act. The agreement was to be without prejudice to any agreements providing for higher rates; systems of bonus on tonnage or output were to be permissible, subject to non-infringement of the provisions of the agreement.

¶ This change took effect under an Order issued under the Agricultural Wages Regulation Acts.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 3rd April, 1945.*

Rise since July, 1914	.. .. .	Food	68%	All Items	102%
Change since 1st	Index Points	..	nil	..	nil
March, 1945	Per cent.	..	nil	..	nil

FOOD.

Retail prices of food at 3rd April showed little change, on average, as compared with those at 1st March.

For the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics, the following Table compares the average prices at 3rd April, 1945, with the corresponding prices at 1st March, 1945, 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 3rd April, 1945, compared with—	
	3rd April, 1945.	1st Mar., 1945.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Mar., 1945.	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 3	1 3	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	30
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 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	32
Butter—					
Fresh	1 8	1 8	1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	21
Salt	—	—	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	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	—	..	..
Eggs (fresh)§ .. each	0 2	0 2	—	..	1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	7

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st March, 1945, and 3rd April, 1945, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Mar., 1945.	3rd April, 1945.
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	64	64
Bread	42	55	56
Tea	52	85	85
Sugar (granulated) ..	46	93	93
Milk	92	154	154
Butter—			
Fresh	13	37	37
Salt	7	41	41
Cheese	16	51	51
Margarine	—8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)	58	60	60
Potatoes	33	42	42
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 3rd April, 1945, 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.

* As 1st April was a Sunday, and as 31st March and 2nd April were observed as public holidays in most of the towns covered, the statistics relate to 3rd April.

† 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 3rd April and 1st March, 1945, 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 3rd April was about the same as at 1st March, 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*, the changes in retail prices during March were relatively small. 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 3rd April 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 level of retail prices of coal at 3rd April was about 47 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 185 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 184 per cent. at 1st March, 1945. The average price of gas at 3rd April was about the same as a month earlier, being about 35 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 108 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There were no appreciable changes during the month in the prices of lamp oil, candles, or matches. For the fuel and light group as a whole the index figure at 3rd April was about 46 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 166 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards *other items** included in these statistics, there were relatively few changes in prices during March. In the group as a whole the average level of prices at 3rd April was about the same as a month earlier, 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 3rd April, 1945, is approximately **102 per cent. over the level of July, 1914**, the same figure as at 1st March, 1945, 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 47 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 30 per cent. Of these 47 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	101
1945 ..	102	102	102	102	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation," is obtainable, price 2d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses shown on page 72 of this GAZETTE.

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work*, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 165. In addition, 29 stoppages which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 194 stoppages, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at nearly 74,000. The aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during March, is estimated at about 400,000.

Of the stoppages of work through industrial disputes known to have been in progress at some time in March, the coal mining industry accounted for 84, involving about 32,000 workpeople and resulting in an aggregate loss of 214,000 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 March:—

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	4	80	84	32,000	214,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	21	55	76	22,300	84,000
Transport	1	13	14	16,800	93,000
Other Industries ..	3	17	20	2,500	7,000
Total, March, 1945 ..	29	165	194	73,600	398,000
Total, February, 1945 ..	14	157	171	27,400	60,000
Total, March, 1944 ..	23	310	333	313,300	1,601,000

In the 165 stoppages which began during March, nearly 52,000 workpeople were directly involved and over 18,000 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 29 stoppages which began before March, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, the total number of workpeople involved during March, either directly or indirectly, was nearly 4,000.

Duration.—Of 177 stoppages of work, owing to disputes, which came to an end during March, 69, directly involving 9,100 workpeople, lasted not more than one day; 33, directly involving 7,900 workpeople, lasted two days; 19, directly involving

3,900 workpeople, lasted three days; 26, directly involving 6,700 workpeople, lasted four to six days; and 30, directly involving 21,200 workpeople, lasted over six days.

Causes.—Of the 165 disputes leading to stoppages of work which began in March, 25, directly involving 5,500 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 3, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 43, directly involving 11,900 workpeople, on other wage questions; 4, directly involving 2,800 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 26, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 55, directly involving 18,800 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 6, directly involving 700 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. Three stoppages, directly involving 900 workpeople, were in support of workers involved in other disputes.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1945 AND 1944.

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of all stoppages of work* through industrial disputes in the first three months of 1945 and in the corresponding months of 1944:—

Industry Group.	January to March, 1945.			January to March, 1944.		
	Number of Stoppages beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Stoppages in progress.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress.	Number of Stoppages beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Stoppages in progress.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress.
Coal Mining	256	62,100†	278,000	417	383,700†	1,635,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	3	400	1,000	9	2,200	10,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	6	600	3,000	7	400	1,000
Engineering	71	29,700	110,000	101	54,600	221,000
Shipbuilding	46	6,700	43,000	81	13,600	194,000
Other Metal	41	4,800	17,000	51	5,900	10,000
Textile	11	700	1,000	9	1,400	1,000
Clothing	4	700	1,000	14	1,500	2,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ..	5	500	1,000	3	700	1,000
Building, etc.	6	1,000	1,000	25	2,800	4,000
Transport	29	21,000	102,000	28	11,900	26,000
Other Industries ..	20	800	4,000	19	2,600	5,000
Total	498	129,000†	562,000	764	481,300†	2,110,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MARCH.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Stoppage		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:—						
Firemen, deputies, shotfirers and other colliery workpeople—Scotland	1,400	14,700	1 Mar.	29 Mar.	Demand by firemen, deputies and shotfirers for a wage increase of 3s. 6d. a day.	Work resumed to permit negotiations to proceed.
Colliery workpeople—South Shields (one colliery).	1,260	30	9 Mar.§	10 Mar.	In support of a number of packers who were dissatisfied with their earnings.	Work resumed unconditionally.
ENGINEERING:—						
Engineering operatives—Birmingham (one firm).	2,260	..	7 Mar.	17 Mar.||	Dissatisfaction with management's proposed scheme for adjusting piece work rates, following the consolidation of bonus and basic rates under National Arbitration Tribunal Award No. 326 for the Engineering Industry.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials to permit of settlement of dispute through normal negotiating machinery.
Engineering operatives employed in aircraft manufacture—Lancashire and Cheshire (one firm).	9,200¶	..	23 Mar.	6 April	Dissatisfaction with piecework rates and demand for the abolition of piecework and for the substitution of a guaranteed bonus of 100 per cent. on basic time rates.	Work resumed on day rates pending negotiations.
Engineering operatives—near Birmingham (one firm).	4,360	..	23 Mar.	30 Mar.	In sympathy with a labourer who had been discharged for serious misconduct, and dissatisfaction with a reduction of 5 per cent. in output bonus.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
TRANSPORT:—						
Stevedores and dockers—London	10,000**	200	1 Mar.**	8 Mar.	Objection to the transfer of the place of proof of attendance inside the Royal Docks and to disciplinary measures which had been taken to deal with absenteeism.	Work resumed on the advice of trade union officials and on the understanding that an official inquiry would be made into workpeople's grievances. A Board of Inquiry was subsequently appointed.
Dockers—Tilbury	770	..	6 Mar.	7 Mar.	In sympathy with the workpeople involved in the above dispute.	Work resumed.
Bus drivers, conductors and maintenance staff—Durham County and Tyneside (four firms).	2,130	..	10 Mar.	23 Mar.	Dissatisfaction with proposed new running schedules.	Work resumed on the advice of trade union officials and on the terms of the new schedules, to permit of negotiations.

* 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 1945 was approximately 40,000 and in the corresponding period in 1944 was approximately 310,000. For all industries combined the corresponding *net* totals were approximately 100,000 and 410,000, 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 on the night shift of 8th–9th March.

|| Work was resumed on 13th March, but, following a breakdown of the negotiations, the stoppage began again on the afternoon of 14th March.

¶ Except during the last two or three days of the stoppage, the maximum number of workpeople involved was about 5,000.

** Some 500 workpeople ceased work at the Royal Docks on the morning of 1st March and the number involved there, and at other London docks, increased during that day to about 3,600 and by 6th March to about 10,000.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen,* whose death from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in the United Kingdom in March† was 152, as compared with 175‡ in the previous month and with 205‡ in March, 1944. Details for separate industries are given below :—

MINES AND QUARRIES.†		Factories—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts :		Paper, Printing, etc.	2
Underground	42	Rubber Trades . . . . .	..
Surface	4	Gas Works	2
Metalliferous Mines . . . . .	..	Electrical Stations	4
Quarries	3	Other Industries	2
TOTAL,		WORKS AND PLACES UNDER	
MINES AND QUARRIES	49	ss. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES	
		Act, 1937.	
Factories.		Docks, Wharves, Quays	
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pot-		and Ships	5
tery and Glass	3	Building Operations	8
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	2	Works of Engineering	
Metal Extracting and		Construction . . . . .	..
Refining . . . . .	..	Warehouses	2
Metal Conversion and		TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT	86
Founding (including			
Rolling Mills and Tube		RAILWAY SERVICE.	
Making)	11	Brakesmen, Goods Guards	1
Engineering, Locomotive		Engine Drivers, Motor-	
Building, Boilermaking,		men	2
etc.	13	Firemen . . . . .	..
Railway and Tramway		Guards (Passenger) . . . . .	..
Carriages, Motor and		Labourers . . . . .	..
other Vehicles and Air-		Mechanics . . . . .	..
craft Manufacture	4	Permanent Way Men	6
Shipbuilding	7	Porters . . . . .	..
Other Metal Trades	3	Shunters	1
Cotton . . . . .	..	Other Grades	5
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy..	3	Contractors' Servants	2
Other Textile Manu-		TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	17
facture.. . . .	3		
Textile Printing, Bleach-		Total (excluding Seamen)	152
ing and Dyeing	1		
Tanning, Currying, etc...	..		
Food and Drink	7		
General Woodwork and			
Furniture	4		

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

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

I. Cases.		I. Cases—continued.	
LEAD POISONING.||		EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	
Among Operatives		(SKIN CANCER).	
engaged in :		Pitch	12
Smelting of Metals . . . . .	..	Tar	11
Plumbing and Soldering . . . . .	..	Oil	4
Shipbreaking . . . . .	..	TOTAL	27
Printing . . . . .	..	
Other Contact with		CHROME ULCERATION.	
Molten Lead . . . . .	..	Manufacture of Bichro-	
White and Red Lead		mates	2
Works . . . . .	..	Dyeing and Finishing	1
Pottery . . . . .	..	Chrome Tanning . . . . .	..
Vitreous Enamelling . . . . .	..	Chromium Plating	4
Electric Accumulator		Other Industries	2
Works	2	TOTAL	9
Paint and Colour Works	1	Total Cases	42
Coach and Car Painting . . . . .	..	
Shipbuilding . . . . .	..	
Painting of Buildings..	..		
TOTAL	3		
		II. Deaths.	
OTHER POISONING.		LEAD POISONING.	
Aniline	2	Electric Accumulator	
Toxic Anaemia	1	Works	1
TOTAL	3	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	
		(SKIN CANCER).	
		Oil	1
		Total, Deaths	2

* 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 31st March, 1945, in comparison with the 4 weeks ended 3rd March, 1945, and the 5 weeks ended 1st April, 1944.

‡ Revised figure.

§ Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether or not they have been included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

|| In addition one case of lead poisoning was reported amongst plumbers not employed in factories.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

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

	Thirteen weeks ended		
	31st March, 1945.	30th Dec., 1944.	25th March, 1944.
	£	£	£
(1) General Account.			
Contributions received from :—			
Employers	5,807,000	5,536,000	5,915,000
Employed persons	5,806,000	5,536,000	5,914,000
Exchequer	5,828,000	5,535,000	5,917,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	3,247,000	138,000	2,303,000
Total Income	20,688,000	16,745,000	20,049,000
Benefit†	1,294,000	1,028,000	635,000
Cost of Administration	724,000	705,000	466,000
Miscellaneous Payments	65,000	72,000	68,000
Total Expenditure	2,083,000	1,805,000	1,169,000
(2) Agricultural Account.			
Contributions received from :—			
Employers	115,000	91,000	102,000
Employed persons	115,000	91,000	102,000
Exchequer	115,000	91,000	102,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	96,000	6,000	81,000
Total Income	441,000	279,000	387,000
Benefit†	60,000	8,000	46,000
Cost of Administration	43,000	33,000	39,000
Miscellaneous Payments..	—	1,000	1,000
Total Expenditure	103,000	42,000	86,000

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

For the period of thirteen weeks ended 31st March, 1945, expenditure on unemployment allowances at Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and of the Assistance Board‡ (excluding the cost of administration) amounted approximately to £509,000. During the thirteen weeks ended 30th December, 1944, the corresponding expenditure was £520,000, and during the thirteen weeks ended 25th March, 1944, £500,000†.

Comparison of the figures for the December quarter of 1944 and the March quarter of 1945 with those for earlier periods is affected by the Unemployment Assistance (Determination of Need and Assessment of Needs) Regulations, 1943, which did not become operative until 17th January, 1944. Particulars of these Regulations were given on pages 2 and 3 of the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1944.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The number of civilians in employment in industries other than agriculture and domestic service in December, 1944, is estimated by the United States Department of Labor to have been approximately 38,901,000. This is 1.4 per cent. higher than the figure for November, 1944, but 3.2 per cent. lower than that for December, 1943; it is 28.2 per cent. higher than the average for the year 1939. The number of wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries in December, 1944, is estimated to have been 0.5 per cent. higher than in November, 1944, but 8.9 per cent. lower than in December, 1943; it was 54.3 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 of America in December, 1944, was approximately 680,000, the same as in November, 1944, compared with 890,000 in December, 1943.

AUSTRALIA.

According to information received by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the number of persons employed in factories in September, 1944, was 0.2 per cent. lower than in August, 1944, and 2.6 per cent. lower than in September, 1943.

CANADA.

According to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from about 15,000 employers in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, the total number of workpeople in employment at 1st December in the establishments covered by the returns was 1.1 per cent. higher than at 1st November, 1944, 2.5 per cent. lower than at 1st December, 1943, and 85.7 per cent. above the average number for the year 1926. The figure for November, 1944, was 0.3 per cent. higher than that for October, 1944.

* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C.17 of Session 1943-44 for the period ended 31st March, 1944).

† Comparison of the figures for the quarters shown is affected by the Unemployment Insurance (Increase of Benefit) Act, 1944, which came into operation on 2nd November, 1944.

‡ For periods before the thirteen weeks ended 30th December, 1944, payments at offices of the Assistance Board were not included in the statements of expenditure on Unemployment Allowances, published at quarterly intervals in this GAZETTE, which related to payments made at local offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The figures now given for the period ended 25th March, 1944, have been revised to include payments of unemployment allowances made at offices of the Assistance Board.

Returns rendered by trade unions with a total membership of over 409,000 showed that the percentage rate of unemployment among their members at the beginning of January, 1945, was 0.6, compared with 0.3 at the beginning of October, 1944, and 0.8 at the beginning of January, 1944.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Returns received by the Office of Census and Statistics indicate that in November, 1944, the number of workpeople employed in manufacturing establishments generally and in mining and transport was 0.1 per cent. lower than in October, 1944, but 2.6 per cent. higher than in November, 1943.

ÉIRE.

The number of unemployed persons on the live register of Employment Exchanges at 24th March, 1945, was 68,127, compared with 77,013 at 24th February, 1945. The decrease between the two dates is stated to be due partly to the operation of an Order made under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1933, restricting during the period 7th March, 1945, to 23rd October, 1945, the eligibility for unemployment assistance of a particular class of persons living in rural areas. At 25th March, 1944, the number of persons on the live register was 67,227; this total is comparable with the figure for 24th March, 1945.

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 December, 1944, was slightly lower than in November. The index number (based on the figure for September, 1939, as 100) was 95 in December, 1944, compared with 97 in November, 1944, 96 in October, 1944, and 90 in December, 1943.

Preliminary information received from trade unions with a total membership of nearly 790,000 showed that 4.1 per cent. of their members were unemployed at 30th November, 1944, compared with 3.3 per cent. at 31st October, 1944, 2.9 per cent. at 30th September, 1944, and 5.8 per cent. at 30th November, 1943.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

In the following paragraphs a summary is given of the latest information contained in official publications received since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, relating to changes in retail prices and the cost of living in overseas countries.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

At mid-January, 1945, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.1 per cent. higher than the figure for mid-December and 28.9 per cent. above that for mid-August, 1939, as compared with 28.8 per cent. at mid-December, 1944. For food alone the index figure for mid-January, 1945, showed a fall of 0.1 per cent. below the level of the previous month and a rise of 46.8 per cent. above the level of mid-August, 1939, compared with 47.0 per cent. at mid-December, 1944.

CANADA.

At 2nd January, 1945, the official cost-of-living index figure showed a rise of 0.1 per cent. over the figure for 1st December, 1944, and of 17.7 per cent. over that for 1st September, 1939. For food alone the index figure for 2nd January, 1945, was 0.1 per cent. lower than that for the previous month but 31.0 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

In December, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.2 per cent. higher than that for November, 1944, and 32.0 per cent. above the level of August, 1939. For food alone the index figure in December, 1944, was 0.2 per cent. higher than that for the previous month and 41.9 per cent. above the level of August, 1939.

ÉIRE.

At mid-February, 1945, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.3 per cent. below that for mid-November, 1944, and 70.5 per cent. above the level of mid-August, 1939. For food alone the index figure showed a fall of 0.4 per cent. below the figure for mid-November, 1944, but a rise of 66.5 per cent. above the level of mid-August, 1939.

INDIA.

In December, 1944, the official cost-of-living index figure for the working classes in Bombay was 2.5 per cent. lower than the figure for November, 1944, and 124.8 per cent. above the level of mid-July to mid-August, 1939. For food alone the index figure for December, 1944, was 3.6 per cent. lower than that for the previous month and 138.4 per cent. above the level of mid-July to mid-August, 1939.

CEYLON.

In November, 1944, the official figure in the revised series of index numbers showing changes in the working class cost of living in Colombo Town was 110 (November, 1942=100), as compared with 111 in October, 1944. Linked with the earlier series of index numbers the figure for November, 1944, showed a rise of 102 per cent. over the level of the base period November, 1938, to April, 1939.

NEW ZEALAND.

At 15th December, 1944, the official war-time price index (adjusted for normal seasonal movements) was 0.1 per cent. higher than the figure for 15th September, 1944, and 0.4 per cent. above the level of 15th December, 1942, (the base date for the war-time index).

PALESTINE.

In November, 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 remained unchanged, compared with the previous month, at a level of 148 per cent. above that of the pre-war period.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

In January, 1945, the official cost-of-living index figure showed a rise of 0.9 per cent. above that for December, 1944, and of 25.0 per cent. above the level of August, 1939. For food alone the index figure in January, 1945, was 2.6 per cent. higher than that for December, 1944, and 25.1 per cent. above the level of August, 1939.

ICELAND.

At 1st February, 1945, the official cost-of-living index figure in Reykjavik showed no change as compared with the figure for January, 1945, and a rise of 171.3 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939. For food alone the index figure at 1st February, 1945, was 0.3 per cent. lower than that for 1st January, 1945, and 236.6 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939, as compared with 237.6 per cent. at 1st January, 1945.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937—WOODWORKING MACHINERY—OBLIGATION TO FENCE CIRCULAR SAW.

This action arose out of an accident at a factory as a result of which the plaintiff, a girl then aged 19, was injured whilst working at a circular saw. The fourth finger of her right hand came into contact with the saw and a piece of it was nearly cut off. The plaintiff brought an action for damages against her employers, alleging that the personal injuries sustained by her were due to a breach by them of regulation 10 (c) of the Woodworking Machinery Regulations, 1922, which prescribes the type of guard to be used for circular saws and provides that: "The guard shall extend from the top of the riving knife to a point as low as practicable at the cutting edge of the saw."

At the time of the accident the plaintiff had been employed in the defendants' factory for some two years. The circular saw was mounted through a slot in a movable table which had on it a cross-bar against which the wood to be cut was held and the cross-bar was some 2½ inches high. The plaintiff was cutting chair legs to reduce them to a particular length. Each of these legs was seven-eighths of an inch thick. She had to cut two at a time, one being placed on top of the other. She held them against the cross-bar and pushed the table forward until the two pieces which had to be cut came into contact with the circular saw. The lower edge of the guard had been fixed so that it was 2¼ inches above the surface of the table. As the two pieces of wood being cut were together 1½ inches high, the result was that there was a space of half an inch between the bottom of the guard and the wood which had to be cut.

Mr. Justice Asquith, who tried the action, was of the opinion that in relation to an object 1½ inches high it was not an extravagant clearance to fix the guard 2¼ inches above the surface of the table. In his view regulation 10 (c) had been substantially complied with and he therefore dismissed the plaintiff's action. She now appealed to the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Goddard and Lords Justices MacKinnon and du Parcq) allowed the plaintiff's appeal and entered judgment for her for £267 10s. and costs. Lord Goddard said that the reason why the guard was adjusted as it was, was because the cross-bar was higher than the two pieces of wood which were being cut and provision had to be made to enable the guard to clear the cross-bar. It was, however, said His Lordship, quite possible either to have used a less high cross-bar or to have "scooped out" a place so that the guard, in clearing the two pieces of wood which were being cut, would also clear the cross-bar. Lord Goddard said that admittedly there was a clearance left of half an inch and it seemed to him to be reasonably clear that the guard was not as low as was practicable. His Lordship said that Mr. Justice Asquith had considered whether there was an extravagant clearance, whereas what the regulation required was that the guard should be fixed as low as practicable. It spoke for itself that the guard was not fixed as low as practicable. If there was some particular reason why the guard could not be fixed lower the defendants should have called expert evidence to show why it could not.

Lord Justice MacKinnon said that the question was whether it was practicable to diminish the half-inch clearance between the bottom of the guard and the top of the wood which was being cut. It seemed to him that it was quite practicable and that being so, he thought there was a breach, though a venial one, of the regulations.—*Lee v. Nursery Furnishings, Ltd.* Court of Appeal, 12th February, 1945.

HIRE OF SERVANT BY ONE MASTER TO ANOTHER— QUESTION AS TO WHICH MASTER RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVANT'S NEGLIGENCE.

In two cases recently argued before the Court of Appeal a workman in the regular service of one employer had been temporarily hired to another employer. The plaintiff in each case had been injured by the negligence of the workman so transferred and the question was whether the regular employers or the temporary employers were liable for the workman's negligence. As the two cases raised substantially the same issues the Court of Appeal heard the arguments in both cases before deciding either.

In the first case the plaintiff Dowd was employed by Rea Ltd. (referred to as Rea) who had a contract to unload some frozen meat from a ship at Liverpool and load it into vans. For the purpose of carrying out this work they required more bogies and drivers than they had available at the moment and W. H. Boase & Co. Ltd. (referred to as Boase), a firm in the same line of business, arranged to supply Rea with such bogies and drivers as they required. It thus came about that a driver named Davies, who had been for 16 years in the regular employ of Boase, was driving a bogy belonging to Boase and assisting Rea's men in loading meat into the vans.

During the course of this work Dowd sustained injuries as a result of Davies's negligence and he brought an action for damages against both Rea and Boase. Mr. Justice Stable, who tried the action at Liverpool Assizes, held that at the time of the accident Rea were the employers of the negligent workman, Davies, and that as Dowd himself was employed by Rea he was thus in common employment with Davies. Mr. Justice Stable therefore dismissed the action. Dowd appealed and contended that Boase, the regular employers of Davies, were still Davies's employers at the time of the accident.

In the second case, McFarlane, a registered checker employed by a company named James Dowie & Co., was employed in checking goods being loaded into a ship at Liverpool. Whilst so engaged he was injured as a result of the negligence of a mobile crane driver named Newall. The loading was being carried out by a firm of stevedores, Coggins & Griffiths (Liverpool) Ltd. (referred to as Coggins). Newall's regular employers were the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (referred to as the Board) and the crane was the property of the Board. The crane together with the driver had been hired by the Board to Coggins. McFarlane brought an action against both the Board and Coggins. No question of common employment arose, the contest being between the Board, the regular employers of Newall, and the hirers, Coggins. Mr. Justice Croom-Johnson, who heard McFarlane's action, also at Liverpool Assizes, held that the Board were still McFarlane's employers at the time of the accident. He awarded McFarlane £247 damages against the Board, who now appealed.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justices Scott, du Parc and Morton) allowed the appeal in Dowd's case and entered judgment against Boase for the sum of £548 6s. 4d. The Court dismissed the appeal of the Board in McFarlane's case. Lord Justice Morton, who delivered the judgment of the Court, said that it was clearly established that if the regular employers of a workman wanted to contend that they were not his "employers" at the time when his negligence in performing his duties caused an accident, the burden was on them to prove this. The burden on the regular employers was particularly difficult to discharge in cases where the workman who caused the accident was driving a vehicle belonging to them, of which he was in sole charge, and which he alone was allowed to drive.

Lord Justice Morton referred to the following test laid down by the Court of Appeal in a case heard in 1943. "In the doing of the negligent act was the workman exercising the discretion given him by his general employer, or was he obeying (or discharging) a specific order of the party for whom, on his employer's direction, he was using the vehicle or other instrument." His Lordship said that applying this test the Court felt no doubt that in each of the cases before them the driver in the doing of the negligent act was exercising his own discretion as driver—a discretion which had been vested in him by his regular employers when he was sent out with the vehicle—and he made a mistake with which the hirers had nothing to do.—*Dowd v. W. H. Boase and Co. Ltd.*; *McFarlane v. Coggins and Griffiths (Liverpool) Ltd.* Court of Appeal, 9th February, 1945.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During March, 1945, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued ten awards,* Nos. 697-706. One of these awards is summarised below; the others related to individual employers.

Award No. 699 (16th March).—*Parties:* Members of the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association and members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union in their employment. *Claim:* That the rate of 68s. per week be recognised by the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association as the district basic rate in the Doncaster district for all skilled workers outside railway shops. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that the district basic rate in the Doncaster district for skilled fitters should be 68s. per week of 47 hours.

* See footnote on page 72.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

During March, 1945, the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued eleven awards, Nos. 420-430. Two of these awards are summarised below.

Awards No. 423 and No. 424 (9th March).—*Parties:* (1) Joseph Rank Ltd.; (2) W. & R. Barnett Ltd., Yorkshire House, Belfast, and R. & H. Hall Ltd., 93 Ann Street, Belfast; and certain employees of the firms. *Claim:* For specified increases in wages and for other changes affecting working conditions. *Award:* The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established and awarded accordingly. They recommended, however, that when tonnage rates are paid the supplementary payment of 3s. per man per day provided in the Agreements relating to Wages (War Supplement) made between the parties and dated 28th October, 1942, should be increased to 4s. per man per day in accordance with the firms' offers made on 9th November, 1944, and that the said Agreements should be revised accordingly; and the Tribunal further recommended that this change, if adopted, should be operative as from the said 9th November, 1944.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During March, 1945, the Industrial Court issued three awards, Nos. 2005-2007. These awards are summarised below.

Award No. 2005 (8th March).—*Parties:* Chargemen's Association (H.M. Dockyards) and the Admiralty. *Claim:* That all existing rates of charge pay and increments be increased by 50 per cent. for all Chargemen of Trades, Minor and Titular Grades, Skilled Labourers and Labourers employed in the Royal Dockyards and other Admiralty establishments where dockyard rates are paid, and that an additional nine days leave with pay annually be granted to all chargemen. *Award:* The Court awarded that the existing rates of charge pay should not be disturbed, and as regards annual leave that no change should be made save in the case of Chargemen of Labourers, whose annual leave should be increased to 12 days per annum.

Award No. 2006 (8th March).—*Parties:* Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments—Trade Union Side and Official Side. *Claim:* That the scale of charge pay for chargemen in H.M. Dockyards be increased as follows:—Chargemen of Trades: from 15s. weekly (rising by annual increments of 1s. to 24s.) to 21s. weekly (rising by annual increments of 2s. to 35s.); Chargemen of Skilled Labourers: from 12s. weekly (rising by annual increments of 1s. to 21s.) to 18s. weekly (rising by annual increments of 2s. to 32s.); Chargemen of Labourers: from 10s. weekly to 15s. weekly. *Award:* The Court awarded that the existing rates of charge pay should not be disturbed.

Award No. 2007 (21st March).—*Parties:* National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry—Trade Union Side and Employers' Side. *Claim:* That the present war bonus of 6d. per hour be increased to 8d. per hour. *Award:* The Court awarded that no change should be made.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During March, 1945, six awards were issued by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, of which one related to a dispute reported under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders, 1940-1944. All of the awards related to individual undertakings.

In addition, independent Chairmen were appointed in two cases, under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to deal with differences between (a) the two Sides of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Seed Crushing Compound and Provender Manufacturing Industries, and (b) the British Film Producers' Association and the Association of Cine-Technicians. In each case the parties were unable to reach agreement and a decision was made by the Independent Chairman.

COURT OF INQUIRY.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has appointed Mr. F. A. Sellers, K.C., as a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, "to inquire into the circumstances of the difference between the National Union of Railwaymen and the Boilermakers' Society in connection with the up-grading of members of the National Union of Railwaymen employed at the Stratford Loco Works and to report thereon."

ROAD HAULAGE WAGES ACTS.

During March, 1945, an Order (R.H.18) was made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Part I of the Road Haulage Wages Act, 1938, as amended by the Trade Boards and Road Haulage Wages (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1940, and the Holidays with Pay Act, 1938, giving effect to proposals of the Road Haulage Central Wages Board for amending in certain respects the remuneration to be paid to road haulage workers employed on motor goods vehicles operated under "A" or "B" licences or defence permits. A summary of the effect of the Order, which came into force on 19th March, 1945, is given on page 65 of this GAZETTE.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During March, 1945, proposals to vary minimum rates of wages in the trades concerned were issued as shown below:—

Women's Dressmaking and Light Clothing Trade Board (Scotland).—Proposal W.D.S. (33), dated 2nd March, 1945.

Corset Trade Board.—Proposal K. (23), dated 9th March, 1945.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal W.M. (37), dated 9th March, 1945.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal D. (79), dated 12th March, 1945.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal M. (56), dated 20th March, 1945.

Keg and Drum Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal K.D. (29), dated 23rd March, 1945.

Baking Trade Board (England and Wales).—Proposals N. (7), Y.L. (13), L.C. (7), M. (8), S.W. (8), Y.L. (14), E. (8), S.E. (8) and W.M. (8), dated 27th March, 1945.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.A. (N.19), dated 20th March, 1945.

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 the Board in Northern Ireland.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

During March, 1945, Orders* confirming the variations of minimum rates of wages in the trades concerned were made as follows:—

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order R. (81) and R. (82), dated 8th March, 1945; effective from 21st March, 1945.

Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order F.H. (54), dated 22nd March, 1945; effective from 2nd April, 1945.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.R. (44), dated 14th March, 1945; effective from 21st March, 1945.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

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

The Ministry of National Insurance (Health Insurance and Pensions) Order, 1945 (S.R. & O. 1945, No. 316; price 6d. net (7d. post free)); *The Ministry of National Insurance (Unemployment Insurance and Assistance) Order, 1945* (S.R. & O. 1945, No. 317; price 2d. net (3d. post free)); and *The Ministry of National Insurance (Workmen's Compensation) Order, 1945* (S.R. & O. 1945, No. 318).—These Orders were made by His Majesty in Council on 21st March, 1945, under the Ministry of National Insurance Act, 1944.—See page 63.

The Wages Board (Licensed Non-Residential Establishment) Order, 1945 (S.R. & O. 1945, No. 334), dated March 22, 1945, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Catering Wages Act, 1943.—See page 60.

The Unemployment Insurance (Emergency Powers) (Amendment) Regulations, 1945 (S.R. & O. 1945, No. 338).—Section 96 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, provides that, subject to certain conditions, soldiers, seamen, marines and airmen may receive on discharge from their respective Services a free credit of one unemployment insurance contribution for each week of service. The Unemployment Insurance (Emergency Powers) (Amendment) (No. 5) Regulations, 1942, which were reviewed in the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1943 (page 9), extended the list of persons to whom this provision applies, and the present Regulations, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 23rd March, 1945, further extend the list to cover certain nurses in specified nursing Services and certain officers in the Royal Indian Navy.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.*

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

CATERING INDUSTRY.—Report of the Catering Wages Commission on their Recommendation for the Establishment of a Wages Board for Licensed Non-Residential Establishments. Cmd. 6612. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 2d. (3d.).—See page 60.

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH.—A Study of Certified Sickness Absence among Women in Industry. Medical Research Council: Industrial Health Research Board Report No. 86. Price 9d. (10d.).—See page 62.

MINING.—(i) Report of the Technical Advisory Committee on Coal Mining. Cmd. 6610. Ministry of Fuel and Power. Price 1s. (1s. 2d.).—See page 61. (ii) *Provisional Statement of Number of Deaths by Accidents at Mines and Quarries in Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1944.* Ministry of Fuel and Power. Price 1d. (2d.).—See page 61.

NURSES' AND MIDWIVES' SUPERANNUATION.—Nurses and Midwives Salaries Committees (England and Scotland): Report of the Joint Superannuation Sub-Committee on Superannuation of Nurses and Midwives. Cmd. 6603. Ministry of Health and Department of Health for Scotland. Price 9d. (11d.).—See page 60.

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.—Selected Decisions given by the Umpire in respect of Applications under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944. R.E. Code 1. Pamphlets Nos. 10 and 11. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 1d. each (2d.).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee: Reports on the Financial Condition of the Unemployment Fund on 31st December, 1944. H.C.58 of Session 1944-45. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 2d. (3d.).—See page 59.

WAGES POLICY.—Select Committee on National Expenditure. Third Report (Session 1944-45): Instances of High Earnings. H.C.65. Price 2d. (3d.).—See page 61.

* 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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