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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during August, apart from temporary fluctuations at the holiday periods, showed little change in total volume.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 11,800,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 11·7 at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 11·7 at 23rd July, 1928, and 9·3 at 22nd August, 1927.

The percentage wholly unemployed at 20th August was 8·3, as compared with 8·1 at 23rd July; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 3·4, as compared with 3·6. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 27th August, 1928, was approximately 1,367,000, of whom 1,055,000 were men and 232,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 30th July, 1928, it was 1,354,000, of whom 1,058,000 were men and 223,000 were women; and at 29th August, 1927, it was 1,076,000, of whom 845,000 were men and 161,000 were women.

In the coal-mining industry there was a slight improvement, which reduced the number of workpeople temporarily suspended from their employment; and there were also reductions in the numbers unemployed in the tinsplate, tube, linen, carpet, and confectionery industries, and in canal, dock, harbour, etc. service. On the other hand, there were increases in unemployment in a number of industries, including constructional and motor engineering, pottery manufacture, public works contracting, the cotton industry, and most of the clothing trades.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during August resulted in a reduction of over £47,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 573,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £145 in those of 5,800 workpeople.

The reduction indicated by the above figures was mainly due to the operation of the agreements made between the principal railway companies in Great Britain and the various trade unions concerned, under which a temporary deduction of 2½ per cent. was to be made from the earnings of the majority of railway employees of all grades. Workpeople whose wages were increased during the month included iron miners and blastfurnacemen in North Lincolnshire, machine calico printers, and silk dyers and finishers at Macclesfield.

During the eight completed months of 1928 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics are compiled have resulted in net increases of nearly £17,400 in the weekly full-time wages of 201,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £167,500 in those of 1,680,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1927 there were net increases of £30,600 in the weekly full-time wages of over 287,500 workpeople, and net reductions of £319,000 in those of 1,709,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 65 per cent. above that of July, 1914. This figure is the same as that for a month ago and a year ago. For food alone the corresponding percentage for 1st September was 56, as compared with 56 a month ago and 57 a year ago.

The principal movements in prices between 1st August and 1st September were reductions in the prices of flour, bread and potatoes, and advances in those of eggs and butter.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and, accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

For further particulars and details of the statistics for 1st September reference should be made to the article on page 325 of this issue.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August, was 12. In addition, 8 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in August (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 5,400, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during August was about 23,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 21,600 workpeople involved and 227,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 19,000 workpeople involved and 169,000 days lost in August, 1927.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first eight months of 1928 was about 1,188,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 103,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1927 were 954,000 days and 87,000 workpeople respectively.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE DEPRESSED AREAS: THE PRIME MINISTER'S APPEAL.

THE Report of the Industrial Transference Board* repeatedly emphasises the importance of securing the co-operation of employers generally in relieving the unemployment now existing, particularly among miners, in the depressed areas. The following, among many similar expressions in the Report, may be quoted:—

"The transfer of men to districts not enjoying immunity from unemployment, but bearing a relatively lighter load, is the essential and immediate aim; and the search for openings of employment must extend to the length and breath of the land."

"The problem of unemployment in the depressed industries is one which can only be solved *if the whole community realises its existence and consciously resolves to grapple with it.*"

"Active co-operation is required from all individuals who are in a position to offer work. Apart from private employment there are, it is estimated, some 120,000 employers of labour who normally employ more than five workers. If only even half of these would give employment to one man or two men from the depressed areas, a real step would have been taken towards a solution."

The same appeal was strongly urged by the Prime Minister in his speech in the House of Commons, during the debate on unemployment which took place on 24th July. He said:—

"I want to make an appeal, not only to the employers of labour in this country, but to all the people in this country whom my voice may reach I appeal for this help—immediate, practical, sustained, with nothing spectacular. This can be done inch by inch, in accumulations of offers of work. . . . I hope that employers, large and small, will do their best to provide employment; and that, just as they found employment after the War for the wounded and the ex-Service men, so to-day they will find employment for men who are strong, able, and willing to work, and whose wound is in their spirit."

The Prime Minister has now addressed an individual letter of appeal to employers in the following terms:—

10, Downing Street, S.W. 1.
August, 1928.

Dear Sir,

You will no doubt have noticed the Press references to the Report of the Industrial Transference Board dealing with the conditions of severe unemployment in the depressed areas, and with the steps that can be taken to transfer the men to other work in other areas. The Report shows that, while the Government can help to some extent by providing—as they are doing—training and travelling facilities, the main contribution to the solution of the problem lies in a widespread response by employers to the suggestion that each one who can should offer employment to as many men and boys as possible from these areas, even if in some cases the number can only amount to one or two.

On behalf of the Government I have since made an appeal in the House of Commons to employers on these lines, and I now venture to ask for the practical support of your firm. I feel confident that it is unnecessary for me to emphasise to you the importance, both from the national and the local point of view, of doing everything possible to effect the transfer of these men. At the same time the experience of a number of employers (including representative employers who attach the greatest importance to efficiency in their workpeople) who have taken on some of these men shows that they are willing and capable workmen.

If, as I hope may be the case, I can count both upon your sympathy and your practical help, I shall be glad to arrange for a representative of the Ministry of Labour to come and discuss the matter with you if you will sign and return the attached notice.†

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY BALDWIN.

The Ministry of Labour have dispatched copies of this appeal to some 150,000 employers; and in connection therewith they have pointed out that the hardships which befall men from the depressed areas, who on their own initiative set out in search for work, can be mitigated if transfers are carried out through the Employment Exchanges. Employers are therefore asked to make known to the nearest Exchange any openings which they can offer. It is not only a question of immediate vacancies, but a promise to remember the appeal when labour is required, and to give the Employment Exchanges the opportunity of bringing suitable labour from the hard-hit areas. In suitable places the Exchanges will advance the travelling expenses of men from the depressed areas, and also the cost of removing their families and household effects; advances towards the cost of separately maintaining families for short periods while awaiting transfer may also be granted when necessary.

Further details of the scheme of transfer will be furnished by representatives of the Ministry of Labour to those employers who, in response to the Prime Minister's appeal for sympathy and help, communicate with their local Employment Exchange on receipt of his letter.

* Cmd. 3156. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net. A review of the Report appeared in last month's issue of this GAZETTE, page 276.
† The notice (not re-printed) is addressed to the manager of the Employment Exchange, acknowledging the receipt of the appeal, and asking for an appointment.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE 60th Annual Trades Union Congress was held at Swansea on 3rd September and the five following days. The President was Alderman Ben Turner, Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the Statistical Statement compiled by the General Council, was 619; the number of organisations affiliated to the Congress (including those organisations, with a membership of about 33,000, which did not appoint delegates) was 160,* with a membership of approximately 3,815,000, excluding the membership of the National Union of Seamen, which was expelled in the course of the Congress. In the following Table these figures are analysed by groups of unions (the classification adopted being that used by this Department for its annual statistics of membership of trade unions), and corresponding figures are given for 1927:—

Group of Organisations.	1927.			1928.		
	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.
Agriculture	1	4	30,000	1	4	30,000
Mining and Quarrying	8	166	830,355	7	150	751,111
Metals, Machines, Conveyances, etc.	44	86	549,329	45	84	514,095
Textile	29*	101	423,251	28*	96	410,667
Clothing	8	29	162,288	8	31	160,350
Woodworking and Furniture	7	10	56,408	8	13	56,512
Paper, Printing, etc.	12	22	95,277	12	27	135,072
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.	9	29	299,564	9	29	289,659
Food, Pottery, and Other Manufacturing Industries	13	15	47,202	12	14	44,950
Railway Service	3	25	433,803	3	26	423,806
Other Transport	5	52	417,142	4	54	356,321
Commerce and Finance	8	24	164,652	8	24	168,559
Government	13	21	167,916	6	9	29,688
Entertainments and Miscellaneous	6	8	35,189	7	7	36,392
General Labour	2	54	451,618	2	51	407,660
TOTALS	168*	646	4,163,994	160*	619	3,814,842

The decrease in the number of trade union members represented affected most of the groups of organisations, especially the Government group, unions of Post Office workers and others having been obliged to withdraw from representation at the Congress in consequence of the operation of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927. The "other transport" group was reduced by the non-representation of the National Union of Seamen. The paper, printing, etc., group, on the other hand, showed an increase owing to the re-affiliation of the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers. In the remaining groups of organisations there were no important changes in constitution, but most groups showed some decline in membership, especially mining and quarrying, general labour, and metals, machines, conveyances, etc.

The Chairman in his opening address reviewed the progress of the movement historically, and touched upon the principal question which would come before Congress, relating to the recent conferences of the General Council with a group of employers.†

The principal business of the Congress was the consideration of the General Council's Report (a comprehensive statement running to over 200 pages, covering their work for the past twelve months), and 67 resolutions, with 14 amendments, which had been submitted by the trade unions affiliated. In addition, there was one resolution submitted by the General Council itself. Of the 67 resolutions, 35 related to subjects dealt with by the General Council in their Report, and were taken in conjunction with the part of the Report with which they dealt. Thus, five resolutions related to the industrial conferences of the General Council with certain employers; twenty-two pages of the Report were devoted to this matter. The attitude of the General Council to the question of co-operation with employers was set out as follows:—

"Broadly speaking, there were three possible lines of policy open to the Trade Union Movement. The first was to say, frankly, that the unions will do everything possible to bring the industrial machine to a standstill. . . . The second course was one of standing aside and telling employers to get on with their own job, while the unions would pursue the policy of fighting sectionally for improvements. The third course is for the Trade Union Movement to say boldly that, not only is it concerned with the prosperity of industry, but that it is going to have a voice as to the way industry is carried on, so that it can influence the new developments that are taking place. The ultimate policy of the movement can find more use for an efficient industry than for a derelict one, and the unions can use their power to promote and guide the scientific reorganisation of industry as well as to obtain material advantages from the reorganisation.

"Faced with the situation that now prevails in this country, the Council has taken the view that the third course was the only one it was possible to take if the Trade Union Movement was to endure as a living, constructive force. That policy affords the best hope of raising the status, security and standard of living of the workers whom the Council represents. At all events, a very grave responsibility would have been taken by anyone who refused to consider the possibilities

* In some of the textile trades not only are amalgamated associations represented as such, but the branch associations of which they consist send separate delegates. These branch associations have not been reckoned as separate organisations.

† See the issues of this GAZETTE for February, April and July, 1928.

of such a course, or who neglected to take any opportunity that offered of pursuing it."

An acceptance of the Report meant endorsement of the General Council's action and a continuance of the conferences with employers. The acceptance was moved by the Secretary of the Congress, who reviewed the action taken by the General Council and urged that a continuance of that action was in line with intelligent trade union development. Apart from the five resolutions on the agenda relating to this matter, an amendment was submitted by the Amalgamated Engineering Union. The amendment questioned the authority of the General Council to engage in such a conference, and proposed that the matter be remitted to the executives of the respective trade unions for decision; the conferences meanwhile to be suspended. The debate was taken on the proposal for acceptance of the Report and this amendment, and occupied practically the whole of one day. The opposition to the acceptance of the Report on its merits was voiced by the Secretary of the Miners' Federation, who made it clear that he was speaking as an individual delegate and not as a representative of his Federation. He was followed by the President of the Miners' Federation, who spoke for his organisation and supported the acceptance of the Report. The decision was taken on a card vote, and resulted in 3,075,000 for the acceptance of the Report and 566,000 against, after the amendment had been defeated by 2,921,000 to 768,000.

Two resolutions and three amendments dealing with the dangers of disruption were put down for consideration. The debate was taken on that submitted by the Railway Clerks' Association, which was as follows:—

"That this Congress, believing that the best interests of the workers can only be served by solidarity and unity of purpose, policy and action, instructs the General Council to institute an inquiry into the proceedings and methods of disruptive elements within the Trade Union Movement (whether such elements manifest themselves amongst the unions or within the General Council itself), and to submit a report, with recommendations, to the affiliated organisations."

After debate, this was carried.

A resolution calling upon the General Council to appoint a reorganisation commission to formulate suggestions for the speedy reorganisation of the trade union movement was, after an amendment had been defeated, carried on a card vote by 1,864,000 to 1,231,000.

Four resolutions and two amendments had been submitted on the question of Unemployment Insurance. These were grouped together as a composite resolution and carried. The composite resolution demanded (i) an increase in the State contribution, so as to allow of a payment of not less than 20s. a week to workers 18 years of age and over, with 10s. a week for wife or other adult dependant, and 5s. a week for each child; young persons 16 to 18 years of age to receive 15s. a week, and 10s. for those under 16; (ii) the insurability of young persons at the school leaving age; (iii) the cessation of continual changes in administration which necessitate continual alterations in trade union rules, and a modification of restrictive conditions so as to allow any trade union to pay State unemployment benefit; (iv) that no applicant should be disqualified except for refusal of an offer of suitable employment; and (v) a modification of the trade dispute disqualification.

A further resolution on unemployment, which urged "His Majesty's Government to make the relief of unemployment a national charge, and pending action in this direction, to remove the restrictive conditions expressed in the Unemployment Grants Committee's Circular letter dated 15th December, 1925, with respect to the issue of unemployment relief works grants to Local Authorities," was strongly supported and carried.

A number of resolutions were carried relating to workmen's compensation, with special reference to (i) the wages paid to men on their return to work on recovering after an accident, (ii) the position of panel doctors and of medical referees, and (iii) the application of the Workmen's Compensation Acts to artificial silk workers.

A resolution upon the Washington Hours Convention was moved as follows:—

"That this Congress requests the Joint National Committee to place the questions of ratification of the Hours of Labour Convention, 1919, and repeal of the Mines Eight Hours Act, in the fore-front of the Labour Party Programme at the next General Election, and to pledge the Labour Party if returned to power to repeal the Mines Eight Hours Act, and to ratify the Washington Convention,"

and after being strongly supported, was carried unanimously.

At attempt to reconstruct the Anglo-Russian Joint Advisory Council was moved by Mr. Brownlie, of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and supported by the Furnishing Trades Association and the Brass and Metal Mechanics, but was strongly opposed by the General Council and defeated.

An important resolution submitted by the National Union of General and Municipal Workers sought a declaration from the Congress that the method of the automatic adjustment of wages upon a sliding-scale basis in accordance with the cost-of-living figure should be abolished. This was opposed by the National Union of Railwaymen and defeated.

A composite resolution as follows was submitted by the Transport and General Workers' Union and carried unanimously:—

"This Congress declares that the lack of effective public control and regulation of the transport services makes for waste and inefficiency, and produces conditions which are inimical to the public interest and against the welfare of the workers in these services.

"This Congress, recognising that an efficient transport system is of vital importance to the community, demands that the Government shall give this matter immediate consideration,

and take action to establish effective public control, regulation, and co-ordination of all transport facilities.

"It further demands that the Minister of Transport should be empowered to establish national and area transport authorities; to require the compulsory registration of all transport undertakers; to enforce upon all transport undertakers compulsory insurance against accident risks, this insurance to be undertaken by a Government Department, either Road Fund or Post Office, the necessary premiums for insurance to be collected as an addition to the annual tax on vehicles, motor or otherwise; and, further, to impose such other regulations as may be necessary to ensure the greater safety and welfare of the public."

The one resolution from the General Council sought an addition to the Standing Orders, the object being to give the General Council authority to deal with any union whose activities are detrimental to the interests of the trade union movement. This was carried unanimously. Action in this connection was taken against the National Union of Seamen because of their support of the Miners' Industrial Non-Political Union.

A resolution was carried authorising the General Council to appoint a Committee of Inquiry, to consider and report on a policy of nationalisation of the engineering industry, with workers' control.

A resolution was carried declaring "that the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity should be directly owned and controlled by the State."

A resolution calling for the repeal of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927, was carried.

Other resolutions dealt with the composition of the General Council; the financial and working conditions in the artificial silk industry; extension of housing programme and demolition of slum areas; public contracts and trade union labour; extension of scope of the National Health Insurance Acts; and a large number of other subjects. A resolution permitting Trades Councils to send delegates to the Congress was lost. The debate on a resolution to give legislative force to national agreements entered into by Joint Industrial Councils was terminated by the moving of the previous question.

The election of the General Council resulted in Mr. Wolstencroft, of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, taking the place of Mr. Purcell, of the Furnishing Trades Association, who had resigned. Mr. Gibson, of the National Asylum Workers' Union, took the place of Mr. Bradley, of the Firemen's Trade Union. Mr. Holmes, of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, took the place of Mr. Walker, resigned.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT (SCOTLAND).

IN accordance with a recommendation of the Committee on Education and Industry in Scotland, of which the Rt. Hon. Lord Salvesen, P.C., K.C., was Chairman, the Minister of Labour has appointed a National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment for Scotland. The terms of reference of the Council are "to examine and discuss matters arising out of the Salvesen Committee's Report (First Part)* and allied questions, and to advise the Minister thereon."

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Elgin, C.M.G., has consented to act as Chairman of the Council, the members of which are as follows:—

Representing the Association of Education Authorities in Scotland: Bailie P. H. Allan, M.V.O., J.P.; Sir Henry S. Keith; Mr. C. W. Sleight; Mr. Bertram Talbot.

Representing the Educational Institute of Scotland: Miss A. C. Maclarty, F.E.I.S.; Mr. G. McLay, J.P., F.E.I.S.

Representing the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations: Mr. A. L. Ayre, O.B.E., J.P.; Sir W. Henderson, C.B., LL.D.; Mr. J. R. Richmond, C.B.E.

Representing the Scottish Trades Union Congress General Council: Mr. W. Elger, J.P.; Miss B. Jobson; Councillor J. Nairn.

Representing the Glasgow Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment: Sir Robert Wilson, D.L., J.P.

Representing the Advisory Committees for Juvenile Employment in Scotland: Miss M. G. Cowan, O.B.E., M.A.; Mr. D. J. MacDonald, J.P., M.I.M.E., M.I.C.E.; Mr. P. McGee, J.P.

Representing the Ministry of Labour: Mr. J. M. Cramond, O.B.E.; Mr. J. A. Dale, C.B.E.

The Secretary of the Council is Major E. J. M. Harvey, M.B.E., Ministry of Labour Divisional Office for Scotland, 44, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

COMMITTEE ON THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a Committee "to consider and report what additions to the factory inspectorate are required, whether any changes in its organisation are desirable, and what other measures, if any, can be taken to enable the Factory Department to discharge adequately its existing duties and the further duties foreshadowed by the Government's Factory Bill of 1926."

The members of the Committee are:—Lieut.-Col. Sir Vivian Henderson, M.P. (*Chairman*); Sir Gerald Bellhouse, C.B.E.; Mr. R. R. Bannatyne, C.B.; Mr. Kenneth Lee, LL.D.; Miss H. Martindale, O.B.E.; and Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P.

The secretary of the Committee is Mr. L. N. Blake Odgers (Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1), to whom all communications should be addressed.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net. A review of this Report appeared in the March, 1927, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 91-2.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED AND WAGES IN THE RAILWAY SERVICE.

THE annual Return* prepared by the Ministry of Transport relating to numbers employed and wages in the railway service in Great Britain has recently been published. The Return has been compiled to relate to the week ended 10th March, 1928. The details given in the Return include the total number of persons employed by the railway companies and the numbers employed in each of the principal grades in the specified week, with corresponding figures for the week ended 30th April, 1927. A comparison is also given of the average wages and average weekly earnings of selected grades at the same dates, and the rates of wages are given for many grades other than mechanics and artisans.

Numbers employed.—The total number of persons employed† in each of the past 8 years was as shown below:—

March, 1921 ...	735,870	March, 1925 ...	702,062
" 1922 ...	676,802	" 1926 ...	689,264
" 1923 ...	681,778	April, 1927† ...	683,077
" 1924 ...	700,573	March, 1928 ...	677,148

The numbers include all persons in the service of the companies in the specified weeks, except staff not directly employed by the companies (e.g., staff employed by contractors). The figures comprise the number of staff receiving salaries or wages for the full week, combined with an equivalent number of full-time workers in cases where employees were paid for less than the complete week.

The numbers employed in some of the principal grades in March, 1928, and April, 1927, were as shown below:—

Grade.	Week ended 10th March, 1928.		Week ended 30th April, 1927.	
	Adults.	Juniors.	Adults.	Juniors.
MALES:—				
Carters and vanguards ...	18,702	4,472	18,732	4,530
Checkers ...	10,500	6	10,714	3
Engine cleaners ...	8,944	1,650	7,470	2,347
Engine drivers and motormen ...	37,546	...	38,553	...
Firemen and assistant motormen ...	35,425	2	36,288	2
Guards, goods and passenger ...	24,479	3	24,853	1
Labourers ...	27,989	1,142	27,447	1,224
Locomotive shed staff (except labourers) ...	10,350	230	10,852	271
Officers and clerical staff ...	72,085	2,030	72,550	2,824
Permanent-way men... ..	64,140	149	61,708	132
Porters, goods and passenger ...	38,541	5,072	40,907	5,109
Shop and artisan staff (excluding supervisory staff, labourers and watchmen) ...	100,341	13,329	101,582	13,260
Shunters ...	18,075	...	18,231	...
Signalmen ...	28,195	...	28,309	...
Supervisory staff ...	14,580	...	14,583	...
Other grades (excluding ancillary businesses) ...	72,564	8,341	73,514	7,796
Staff employed in ancillary businesses:				
Dock and quay staff ...	15,045	281	15,739	236
Others ...	17,170	1,910	17,427	1,796
TOTAL—MALES ...	614,671	38,617	619,459	39,531
FEMALES:				
Clerical and technical staff ...	8,990	1,035	8,942	985
Office cleaners and charwomen ...	3,262	...	3,407	...
Other grades (excluding those in ancillary businesses) ...	4,139	361	4,144	441
Staff employed in ancillary businesses (hotels, refreshment rooms, laundries, etc.) ...	5,793	280	5,924	244
TOTAL—FEMALES ...	22,184	1,676	22,417	1,670
GRAND TOTAL ...	636,855	40,293	641,876	41,201

The numbers of males employed in each of the principal departments in March, 1928, were as follows:—

Department.	Adults.	Juniors.
Officers, clerical and supervising staff ...	97,319	2,111
Traffic department ...	113,264	8,031
Goods and cartage staff ...	58,849	7,534
Permanent-way section (conciliation grades) ...	64,085	148
Locomotive, carriage and wagon department ...	109,843	3,499
Shop and artisan staff ...	122,443	14,315
Other departments (excluding ancillary businesses) ...	16,653	788
Staff in ancillary businesses (docks, hotels, refreshment rooms, etc.) ...	32,215	2,191

For the purpose of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the classification of adults and juniors is based on the numbers receiving adult and junior rates respectively.

The total numbers employed by the four principal railways were: London, Midland and Scottish, 262,878; London and North Eastern, 200,517; Great Western, 110,591; and Southern, 73,005.

Wages.—The average weekly earnings of certain sections of the male adult staff are shown by the Return to have been as follows:—

* "Railway Companies (Staff)." H.M. Stationery Office; price, 2s. net.
† Excluding railway employees of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., who numbered 1,461 in March, 1928.
‡ In 1927 the particulars were made to relate to the week ended 30th April, in order to avoid the abnormal conditions which prevailed during the period of suspension of the guaranteed week.

in the case of salaried workers the average weekly earnings are calculated on the basis of 6/313ths of the annual amount:—

	Week ended	
	10th March, 1928.	30th April, 1927.
Staff entered at salaried rates:—		
Clerical, supervisory, etc., staff (excluding officers and staff entered under ancillary businesses) ...	s. d. 91 8	s. d. 91 1
Staff entered at wage rates (excluding staff entered under ancillary businesses):—		
Conciliation staff ...	66 2	67 2
Shop and artisan staff ...	70 5	69 7

The average weekly wage, and the average weekly earnings, of adult males, in certain of the principal grades at March, 1928, and April, 1927, are summarised in the following Table. The average wage, in the case of staff embraced by conciliation agreements, is computed from the basic rate, plus bonus additions, if any, under sliding scale, and in the case of other staff (e.g., mechanics and artisans) from the basic rate, plus the war wage. The average earnings represent salaries or wages, residual bonus (if any), wage, piece-work earnings, tonnage bonus, payments for overtime Sunday duty and night duty, commuted allowances, and any other payments for work performed, but exclude compensation allowance travelling and out-of-pocket expenses, meal and lodging allowances.

Class.	Week ended 10th March, 1928.		Week ended 30th April, 1927.	
	Average weekly salary or wage.	Average weekly earnings.	Average weekly salary or wage.	Average weekly earnings.
Carriage cleaners ...	s. d. 46 4	s. d. 54 5	s. d. 48 4	s. d. 56 4
Carters ...	50 8	57 2	52 5	58 5
Checkers ...	54 6	59 3	54 8	58 10
Engine cleaners ...	47 8	52 4	47 9	53 4
Engine drivers and motormen ...	88 3	102 7	87 9	103 5
Firemen and assistant motormen ...	67 7	77 10	66 9	78 2
Guards ...	64 10	73 5	64 8	74 1
Permanent-way gangers ...	53 3	60 8	55 1	61 6
undermen ...	47 7	55 11	49 9	56 10
Porters (goods staff) ...	47 10	51 11	49 11	53 3
" grade 2 (traffic dept.) ...	43 8	48 0	45 7	50 3
" parcel ...	50 0	54 11	50 11	56 0
Shunters, class 1 ...	65 0	71 4	65 0	71 6
" 3 ...	55 0	60 5	55 0	60 6
Signalmen ...	58 11	68 0	59 4	69 3
Ticket collectors, Class 1... ..	58 1	65 5	58 1	65 11
" 2... ..	53 9	59 5	54 0	59 7
Mechanics and artisans:—				
Erectors, fitters and turners (loco, carriage and wagon dept.) ...	63 2	81 7	62 10	79 8
Carriage and wagon builders and repairers ...	59 7	80 9	59 4	79 3
Machinists and machinemmen (loco, carriage and wagon dept.) ...	55 4	73 5	55 4	73 3
Smiths (loco, carriage and wagon dept.) ...	64 3	81 6	64 2	80 9
Labourers (loco, carriage and wagon dept.) ...	45 10	57 9	45 9	57 7
Labourers (civil engineering) ...	46 5	54 6	46 5	53 0

HOUSING IN 1927-28.

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

ACCORDING to the Ninth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health,* the total number of houses completed in England and Wales during the year ended 31st March, 1928, excluding those built for rehousing purposes in connection with slum clearance schemes, was 238,914, an increase of over 21,000 as compared with 1926-27. The following Table shows the number of houses built in England and Wales during the last five years, distinguishing those built with and without State assistance:—

Year ended 31st March.	Built by private enterprise.		Built by Local Authorities with State Assistance.	Total.
	With State Assistance.	Without State Assistance.		
1924	4,311	67,546	14,353	86,210
1925	47,045	69,220	20,624	136,889
1926	62,769	66,439	44,218	173,426
1927	79,686	63,850	74,093	217,629
1928	74,548	60,332	104,034	238,914

The total number of houses built since the Armistice up to 31st March, 1928, was 1,105,000†; of which 724,000 were built with State assistance, and 381,000† without State assistance. Of the 381,000 houses built without State assistance, approximately 274,000 were of not more than £26 rateable value (or £35 in the Metropolitan Police District).

It is stated in the Report that, owing to the reduction in the rates of Exchequer grant for houses completed after 30th September, 1927, there was an acceleration in the completion before 1st October of

* Cmd. 3185. H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. net.
† Including an estimate of 30,000 for the number of houses built without State assistance between the Armistice and October, 1922, for which exact figures are not available.

houses on which work would ordinarily have extended later. This was followed by a quieter period; but a marked recovery afterwards took place, and at the end of March, 1928, the number of houses building under the 1923 and 1924 subsidy schemes had risen to 55,258.

The total amount of Exchequer subsidy paid during the year 1927-28 was £9,540,966; and the estimates for the year 1928-29 contain provision for £10,665,000 in respect of housing subsidies. The total payments of Exchequer subsidy in respect of housing since the War have been £63,534,657.

Under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, applications for assistance had been made to the Local Authorities in respect of 1,072 houses; and assistance had been promised in respect of 334 houses, up to 31st March last, to the amount of £25,313 by way of grant, and of £2,760 by way of loan.

Prices.—Attention is drawn in the Report to the remarkable drop in the prices of houses included in Local Authorities' contracts since the announcement, in the last quarter of 1926, of the reduction in the rate of Exchequer grant. The following Table shows the quarterly average prices of houses included in contracts let by, or in direct labour schemes of, Local Authorities during the last three years:—

Quarter ended—			Parlour Houses.	Non-Parlour Houses.
			£	£
June, 1925	...	...	491	439
September, 1925	...	...	504	443
December, 1925	...	...	497	444
March, 1926	...	...	492	442
June, 1926	...	...	497	435
September, 1926	...	...	501	443
December, 1926	...	...	513	448
March, 1927	...	...	490	425
June, 1927	...	...	477	412
September, 1927	...	...	483	403
December, 1927	...	...	453	407
March, 1928	...	...	437	368

Rents.—At 31st March, 1928, the average rent (excluding rates, &c.) for all types of houses erected under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, was 9s. 5d. a week, the same figure as at 31st March, 1927.

Assistance by way of Loans.—Apart from the grant of subsidies, assistance continued to be given by Local Authorities in the promotion of house building by way of loan, mostly under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, or under Section 92 (1) (a) of the Housing Act of 1925. The total amount of loans sanctioned and advances made for the promotion of the purchase and construction of houses during the year 1927-8 was £12,455,672. This compares with £15,471,531 in 1926-7, and with £14,287,495 in 1925-6.

II.—SCOTLAND.

According to the Ninth Annual Report of the Scottish Board of Health,* the number of houses completed by Local Authorities and by private enterprise under the various schemes of State assistance during the year 1927 was 19,048. In addition, 1,110 houses were completed under the steel houses scheme, which is being carried out on behalf of the Government; and 1,502 houses of a working-class type were erected by private enterprise without any form of assistance. The total number of houses of a working-class type completed during the year was thus 21,660, as against 14,930 in 1926. It is stated in the Report that the 1927 figure is probably the largest number of houses ever built in Scotland in any one year, and that there are good grounds for hoping that the output of the current year will not fall below that of 1927.

The total number of houses completed under the various State-assisted schemes, since these schemes began in 1919, and up to the end of 1927, was 69,966. This includes 2,228 steel houses under the Government scheme, but does not include any houses built by private enterprise without any assistance. There is still, however, according to the Report, a large shortage of houses to be overcome; but it is believed that in a number of districts the really acute shortage is past, and that the urgent need now in these districts is rather to concentrate on the provision of houses to replace existing occupied houses that are unfit for habitation. In some areas also (particularly in the mining districts, where there may be some reduction in the number of men employed), the Local Authorities may have to revise their estimate of needs.

The number of workpeople employed on local authorities' housing schemes reached its maximum in July, 1927, when 13,146 were so employed. The number showed a slight tendency to diminish in the later months, but the total each month was uniformly in excess of the total for the corresponding month in 1926. It is stated that the rate of building, and the number of tradesmen in other occupations that can be employed, are governed by the number of plasterers and of slaters available.

The additional number of apprentices recruited for all trades under the Building Industry Committee's apprenticeship scheme rose from 297 in 1926 to 950 last year. On 31st December, 1927, the number of skilled men engaged on subsidised housing contracts of local authorities was 6,051, and the number of apprentices 2,294. These figures show that the stipulated number of apprentices required under the scheme (not less than one apprentice to every three building trade craftsmen employed) was more than observed. The present activity in the building trades in Scotland, and the prospects of employment therein, are doubtless attracting lads to the trades in increasing numbers.

* Cmd. 3112. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6s. 6d. net.

POOR-LAW RELIEF IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Second Quarter of Year 1928.

A STATEMENT* has been issued by the Ministry of Health showing the number of persons† in receipt of poor-law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in June, 1928, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons included.

The decrease recorded during the first quarter of the year was maintained in each week throughout the second quarter, with three exceptions, following the Easter and the Whitsuntide holidays. The total number of persons‡ in receipt of poor-law relief (domiciliary and institutional) in England and Wales at the end of June, 1928, was 1,088,000, equivalent to 277 per 10,000 of the estimated population. This compares with 1,183,000 at the end of March, 1928; with 1,171,000 in June, 1927; and with 618,000 in June, 1914.

These totals include large numbers who would ordinarily be employed; nearly all the relief given to these persons is domiciliary. The total number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief on the last Saturday in June, 1928, was 871,000, as compared with 956,000 at the end of March, 1928, a decrease of 85,000, or 8.9 per cent. The corresponding total at the end of June, 1927, was 955,000.

The following Table gives comparative figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales for the months of February and May, 1928, and of May, 1927; the figures represent averages of the numbers in receipt of relief on each Saturday of the respective months:—

Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.†	England and Wales.	
	Numbers.	Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population.
1. (a)—Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...	84,000	21
(b)—Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	222,000	56
2. Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange, and their dependants ...	31,000	8
3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants...	97,000	25
4. Totals of above three classes:—		
May, 1928 ...	434,000	110
February, 1928 ...	495,000	126
May, 1927 ...	489,000	125
5. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief‡:—		
May, 1928 ...	475,000	121
February, 1928 ...	479,000	122
May, 1927 ...	466,000	119
6. Totals (all persons in receipt of domiciliary relief)‡:—		
May, 1928 ...	909,000	231
February, 1928 ...	974,000	248
May, 1927 ...	955,000	244

It will be seen that the average number of persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation who were in receipt of domiciliary relief in May, 1928 (including dependants), was 434,000. This total included 114,000 men, 101,000 women, and 219,000 children; as compared with 132,000 men, 117,000 women, and 246,000 children in February, 1928.

The total number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief in 105 poor-law unions that are mainly agricultural or pastoral (excluding five unions in which coal mining is an important industry) was only 16,000 at the end of June, 1928; and the average number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in these 105 unions during the four weeks ended May, 1928, who were returned as being ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, or as being the wives and dependent children of such persons, was only 900.

FIRE PROTECTION IN FACTORIES.

THE Home Office have issued a pamphlet§ describing various appliances and arrangements which have been found useful for fire protection in factories and other large buildings.

The pamphlet is divided into three parts, dealing respectively with (i) extinguishing appliances, (ii) fire organisation, and (iii) records. Extinguishing appliances are dealt with under three heads:—(a) "first-aid appliances," i.e., the smaller extinguishers of various types; (b) "reinforcing first-aid appliances," which include appliances similar in type to some of the first-aid appliances, but more powerful, and also larger extinguishers of the wheeled type and other fire-fighting appliances; and (c) pumping appliances, hydrants, &c., which generally need to be handled by trained firemen: sprinklers, drenchers, and automatic fire alarms are also dealt with under this head.

The fire organisation section deals with fire drills, methods of rescue, etc.; and the records section with the keeping of full particulars as to tests and inspections of fire appliances, fire drills, etc., besides, of course, entries regarding actual outbreaks of fire.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net.

† Excluding lunatics in county and borough asylums, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals, totalling to approximately 125,000.

‡ Excluding persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only.

§ Fire Protection in Factories: Safety Pamphlet No. 13. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS: CHIEF INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Annual Report of H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1927 has recently been published.*

In a general survey of industry during the year, it is stated that the majority of the industries in the country appear to have been steadily recovering from the disastrous results of the coal-mining dispute in 1926 and the abnormal conditions which have prevailed during recent years. The reports received indicate, however, a great variation in the activities of different trades, marked depression in some, including the iron and steel, tinplate, cotton, cutlery, heavy linen, and glass bottle industries, coinciding with briskness in others, notably the electrical trades and the artificial silk industry.

The tendency to remove growing businesses from the more densely populated areas of London to the outlying suburbs and the home counties continues, and a similar movement is taking place in Birmingham. The development of industry in and around London and in the South East of England generally, to which attention was drawn in last year's Report, also continues. There is again evidence of the disappearance of the small country establishments; the saddler, blacksmith, village tailor, dressmaker, and milliner all steadily going out of business. This decline is most apparent in East Anglia and in the rural areas of Wales, but even in London the small employer is finding great difficulty in competing with larger establishments, and a number of men who formerly employed others have reverted to the position of employees.

The number of registered factories† has again risen slightly, from 145,411 to 147,501, and the number of registered workshops† has dropped from 121,861 to 117,066. This change in the relative proportion of factories and workshops has been going on now for many years. During the last 20 years factories have increased by almost 40 per cent., while workshops have fallen by 26 per cent., the fall having taken place in the dressmaking, tailoring, boot-making, laundry, and baking industries. An increase in the number of factories is specially noticeable amongst hosiery works, indiarubber works (both of which have trebled in number during the period under review), and in the food group, including butter, cheese, condensed milk, and margarine.

Accidents.—The following Table shows the number of accidents reported during 1926 and 1927:—

Industry.	All Accidents (fatal and non-fatal).		Fatal Accidents.	
	1927.	1926.	1927.	1926.
Textile—				
Cotton...	9,297	8,374	38	22
Wool, worsted and shoddy ...	3,019	2,743	9	25
Other textile industries ...	2,164	1,985	13	7
Non-textile—				
Conversion of metals (including rolling mills and tube making) ...	19,368	13,447	83	46
Founding of metals ...	9,913	9,655	27	32
Light metal trades ...	6,932	6,778	15	15
Machine making ...	7,867	7,396	18	15
Railway and tramway carriages, motor and other vehicles ...	12,007	10,582	33	29
Shipbuilding ...	11,450	7,003	92	55
Locomotive building ...	3,949	3,835	8	6
Engine (not loco.) building, transmission machinery ...	3,176	2,938	16	13
Boiler making, constructional engineering ...	4,668	3,961	33	19
Electrical engineering ...	3,637	3,419	14	4
Clay, stone and cement ...	4,060	3,776	37	35
General woodwork ...	5,190	5,213	35	26
Chemicals, paints, colours and varnish, animal charcoal and glue making ...	3,838	3,218	41	33
Food and drink trades ...	7,729	7,933	39	39
Other non-textile industries ...	26,969	26,789	181	145
Docks and Warehouses, Buildings and Railways, under Sections 104-106 of the Factory Act, 1901 ...	11,741	10,848	241	240
Totals ...	156,974	139,963	973	806

Summarised by age and sex, the accidents of the year 1927 were distributed as shown in the following Table:—

	All Accidents.	Fatal Accidents.
Adults—		
Male ...	119,457	885
Female ...	12,468	17
Young Persons—		
Male ...	19,099	62
Female ...	5,950	9
All Ages—		
Male ...	138,556	947
Female ...	18,418	26
Totals ...	156,974	973

It will be seen that the number of accidents reported during 1927 showed an increase over that of 1926. The year 1926, however, was abnormal, owing to the dislocation caused by the

* Cmd. 3144. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net.
† "Factories" are equipped with mechanical power; "workshops" are not so equipped.

coal dispute, and the casualties were correspondingly reduced; 1927 shows a return to more normal conditions. The largest number of fatal accidents occurred in building construction (120), shipbuilding (92), and docks (88). Falls either of articles on the person, or of the person from a height, accounted for a large proportion of these fatal accidents.

The subject of *accident prevention* is dealt with at length in the Report: a summary of this section of the Report appears elsewhere in this issue of the GAZETTE (see page 319). A chapter in the Report deals with the Home Office Industrial Museum, an account of which was given in the January, 1928, issue of this GAZETTE.

Industrial Diseases, and Poisoning.—The following Table shows the number of cases of industrial poisoning or disease notifiable under Section 73 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, or under Section 3 of the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, during the years 1926 and 1927:—

Disease.	Cases.		Deaths.	
	1927.	1926.	1927.	1926.
Lead poisoning:				
In factories ...	249	242	14	28
In painting of buildings ...	98	90	21	18
Phosphorus poisoning ...	...	...	...	...
Arsenical poisoning ...	3	5	1	3
Mercurial poisoning ...	3	4	2	1
Carbon bisulphide poisoning ...	...	1	...	...
Aniline poisoning ...	38	33	1	1
Chronic benzene poisoning ...	...	1	...	...
Toxic jaundice ...	3	2	...	...
Epitheliomatous ulceration ...	174	187	49	49
Chrome ulceration ...	65	55	...	...
Anthrax ...	31	38	2	3
Totals ...	664	658	90	103

Cases of lead poisoning show a small increase in 1927 as compared with 1926, but both years show a very great reduction as compared with 1900, when 1,058 cases of lead poisoning were reported. The reduction has been especially noticeable in white and red lead works and in pottery, where the figures for 1900 and for 1927 were 377 and 21, and 210 and 14, respectively.

The Senior Medical Inspector expresses the opinion that the general health of the workers has improved during the past few years. He suggests that "summer time," by enabling the workers to take advantage of the recreational facilities now provided by many employers, has been not the least among the factors which have contributed to this improvement. There can be no doubt, he thinks, that the arrangements for welfare now made by many firms benefit the health of their employees, and he regrets that there is still a tendency to limit the application of "welfare" to female employees.

Welfare.—The Bakehouses Welfare Order came into force on 1st May, 1927, and the Biscuit Factories Welfare Order on 1st December. Both are directed to the supply of washing facilities, etc., with a view to the prevention of dermatitis. The Bakehouses Order has been generally well observed in the larger bakehouses, particularly in the towns; but there has been some difficulty in securing its observance in the smaller bakehouses, particularly in the rural areas. A Sack Cleaning and Repairing Order also came into force during the year.

Three Welfare Orders for the fish curing industry are now in force, applying respectively to (i) Scotland, (ii) Norfolk and Suffolk, and (iii) the rest of England and Wales. The working of the Order has been on the whole very satisfactory, in view of the fluctuations in trade and of the constant shifting of the fish-curing stations.

In voluntary welfare work there is reported to have been steady progress, and an account is given in the Report of many interesting developments. One scheme, described in the Report, is run entirely by the workers: there is no paid welfare worker. There is a canteen, sports clubs, a dramatic club, and a system of sickness benefit.

Hours of Work, etc.—It is stated in the Report that the 48-hour week remains the basic week, but that at busy seasons hours of 52 to 54 weekly are sometimes worked. In a few instances even longer hours, up to the legal maximum of 55½ in textile and 60 in non-textile works, obtain. The reports indicate that hours in excess of 48 are more frequently found in the Midlands and the South than in the North, where the depression in the textile trades continues and affects adversely other industries catering for textile workers. It is stated that in bakehouses, particularly, employment in excess of 48 hours continues, in some cases up to a total of more than 70 hours weekly.

The practice, well established in the Midland towns, of allowing from 1½ to 1¾ hours for the midday meal, to enable workers to go home, appears to be extending south. The opposite tendency is found, however, where workers are living away from the towns. In one area with a large number of works to which the workers have to travel, it is usual to allow only half-an-hour in the middle of the day; this permits of a later start in the morning or an earlier finish in the evening.

The five-day week maintains its popularity, and there is a slight increase in the number of factories working on this system. In Birmingham, in factories in which labour is drawn from the Black Country, it is specially convenient, since it is not necessary to make the long journey on Saturdays. In the Reading district additional firms are trying this method of working. In a large engineering works in North-East London, where the five-day week is in force, output has been at least maintained, if not increased, and neither employers nor workers have any desire to revert to the six-day week.

Two-Shift System.—A large number of Orders under the Act of 1920, permitting the employment of women and young persons in two day-shifts, are in force, and have proved useful and beneficial both to employers and to workers. Such Orders can only be issued in response to a joint application from employers and workers, and this proviso has been a real safeguard. If the workers, for any reason, are opposed to the two-shift system, they have only to refuse to sign the joint application, and the matter drops: this has actually happened in several cases. The Orders may be broadly classed in two groups: (i) Those required to tide over periods of emergency (breakdown of machinery, a fire, departments temporarily out of balance, etc.); and (ii) where the Orders are in regular operation as a permanent method of working. Special inquiries show that, on the whole, the conditions under which the Orders are granted are well observed, and that very few serious irregularities have been found. It is observed that shifts appear to flourish in mining areas, where the homes are organised to meet the needs of shift workers, and to be unpopular in places where they disorganise the domestic arrangements.

Certificates of Fitness.—The number of young persons between 14 and 16 years of age examined for certificates of fitness in 1927 was 60,891, an increase of more than 10 per cent. over 1926. The number of rejections was 9,518, and the number of certificates granted under conditions or advice, 9,791. Of the rejections, 3,262 were for non-production of certificate or other evidence of age, and a further 873 for other non-medical reasons: the rejections for medical reasons numbered only 5,383, a smaller number than in 1926, in spite of the increase in the number examined. Several certifying surgeons, in forwarding their reports, commented on the improvement in the physique of young persons presenting themselves for examination.

THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE Chief Inspector of Factories remarks, in his Annual Report for 1927,* that the subject of accident prevention is receiving much attention at the present time; and a long section of the Report is devoted to the developments that are taking place in this direction.

In view of the slow progress of the safety movement on voluntary lines, the Home Secretary issued, in May, 1927, a draft Safety in Factories Order, applicable to the iron and steel trade, to the heavier side of the engineering industry, to iron foundries in which more than 50 persons are employed, and to shipbuilding.† The draft Order was accompanied, however, by a covering letter addressed to the principal employers' associations, stating that, if the employers of any of the industries concerned were ready to adopt voluntarily effective safety schemes on approved lines, the Home Secretary would be prepared to postpone the issue of the Order, so far as that industry was concerned.

It is stated in the Report that assurances have been received from the following employers' associations that they would take up the matter energetically with their members:—the Scottish Tube Makers' Association, the National Light Castings Ironfounders' Association, the Railway Companies' Association, the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, and the National Federation of Vehicle Trades. A start has already been made in carrying these assurances into effect. Thus, in Lincolnshire, Accident Prevention Committees have been formed in each of the constituent works of the Lincolnshire Iron Masters' Association.

Interest in the Order has been shown in many individual works. It is stated in the Report, however, that there is some evidence that the workers are not, in all cases, brought in to take their full share in the work. "This is much to be regretted, and it is extremely doubtful whether good results can ever be obtained unless the interest of the workers is secured by bringing their representatives in to serve on the Committees."

Safety work has been taken up by the Tinplate Manufacturers Association in South Wales; and a scheme has been put into force at nearly all the 80 factories connected with that association, covering almost the whole of the tinplate and much of the steel sheet-rolling trade of South Wales. The scheme provides for the holding at each works of a monthly Safety meeting of foremen and managers, the keeping of standard accident statistics, and joint membership of the National "Safety First" Association. At the monthly meetings, every accident during the previous month which caused time to be lost is considered, and any possible action to prevent recurrence is decided upon.

The action taken in the tinplate trade has stimulated interest in the safety movement generally in South Wales. Two important firms have improved their existing organisation, and others have started general Safety work. Three large steel-making and sheet-rolling works, employing between them over 9,000 workers, have set up Safety Committees during the year.

A very comprehensive Safety First campaign which has been started in a large factory in the Liverpool district, under the auspices of a young and energetic Safety Organiser, is described in the Report. There is a main Safety First Committee for the whole works, whose chief functions are to investigate accidents, to consider safety suggestions, to make recommendations to the management, and generally to direct Safety First propaganda in the works; sub-committees are also being started in the different departments. Great interest and keenness have been aroused among the workers, and a number of suggestions have been dealt with by the main committee.

Gratifying progress has been made in safety organisation at the docks. The question has been taken up energetically through the Port Labour Committees; Safety Committees have been established

in the London docks, at Liverpool, Manchester, Plymouth, Barry, Dundee, Ayr and Saltcoats, and negotiations are proceeding for organising similar committees at other ports. The movement began with the Port of London Authority: local committees have been established in London in connection with five groups of docks, and at the town warehouses. The duties of the committees are:—

(a) To examine the nature and cause of every accident to the authority's staff or machinery which is notifiable to the Factory Inspector, and where necessary suggest safeguards for the prevention of such accidents.

(b) To investigate complaints as to dangerous working conditions.

(c) To consider the education of workers in "Safety First" principles and commonsense safeguards by "Safety First" propaganda.

(d) Copies of the Minutes of each Committee to be sent through the Superintendents to the Dock and Warehouse Manager and the Staff Manager, who will take any necessary action.

(e) In urgent cases the Superintendent should take action, and seek covering sanction according to the Authority's regulations.

Reference is also made in the Report to the trade conferences which have been held in connection with the flour milling industry, cotton spinning and weaving, the chemical industry, and the newspaper printing trade. In the flour milling industry the work has been taken over by the Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry, who appointed a Factories Committee to investigate and report on the matter. The Committee issued an unanimous report: definite agreement was reached, prescribing a very high standard of safety, on a number of important points, covering the fencing of mill gearing and details of machinery, and safe methods of working, including the question of suitable clothing for persons employed. It is proposed to elect this Committee annually, so that it may be a permanent advisory and consultative committee to consider points arising out of questions affecting the Factory Acts and their application to the milling industry.

The Report sums up the position as follows:—

"There is then this year evidence of very distinct progress. The issue of the Draft Safety in Factories Order has certainly stimulated interest in the question of safety, and there can be no doubt that more employers are giving individual attention to accident prevention. This is evidenced, for example, by the great success which attended the Safety Congress, which was organised jointly by the Home Office and the National Safety First Association. . . . This conference was attended by some 450 delegates, sent by firms and Associations from all parts of the country; and from the remarks that were made afterwards it was quite evident that the discussion had served to bring home what is not yet realised by industry as a whole, how much can be accomplished by organised Safety Work."

CAUSES OF ABSENTEEISM IN COAL MINES.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued a Report on absenteeism in coal mines.* The Report also contains information on such subjects as sickness, labour turnover, and (particularly) the severity and frequency of accidents under various conditions of temperature, etc.

Absenteeism amongst coal miners, whether due to avoidable or to unavoidable causes, is an important economic factor in the industry. As was pointed out by the Coal Commission (1926), the average time lost by absenteeism in the whole of the coal fields of Great Britain amounted in 1924 to the equivalent of about four weeks per year, or 8.5 per cent. of the possible working time. In different districts it varied between the extremes of 11 days and 39 days per year. It has gradually fallen of recent years, but it still involves a serious loss of efficiency, and especially so because of the irregularity of its incidence. It is nearly always greater on Mondays than on other weekdays, and the coal hewers are more prone to absenteeism than the haulage men and other underground men who are dependent on them; whilst the surface workers show the least absenteeism of all. The Coal Commissioners concluded that on an average over half the absenteeism is due to unavoidable causes, such as sickness and accidents; but the relative amounts of avoidable and of unavoidable absenteeism appear to vary a great deal in different districts.

The present study related to a group of ten collieries, all within ten miles of one another, and within a few miles of two large towns. The average depth of the pits at the coal face varied from 616 to 2,269 feet; and the total number of men employed was 18,455 underground, or 22,911 including the surface men. The absenteeism of these miners was studied for periods of 21 months to six years. The conclusions of the investigators must be regarded as tentative, and as put forward with a view to further investigation; and various points to be borne in mind in interpreting the results of the investigation are noted in the Report. Subject to these necessary limitations, the principal conclusions arrived at may be summarised as follows:—

The total absenteeism of the men varies with the depth of the workings. Among coal face workers the time lost at a depth of 650 ft. averaged 13.8 per cent., whilst that at a depth of 2,160 ft. came to 17.0 per cent., or 23 per cent. more. The haulage men and others working underground showed less absenteeism, but a greater variation; for absenteeism in the deepest pits was 46 per cent. greater than in the shallowest pits.

Absenteeism from sickness varies greatly with the underground temperature. A rise of 13 deg. F. in the dry bulb temperature was associated with a 63 per cent. increase of sickness in the coal face

* Cmd. 3144. H.M. Stationery Office: price 2s. 6d. net.

† A notice of this proposed Order appeared in the June, 1927, issue of this GAZETTE, page 243.

* A Study of Absenteeism in a Group of Ten Collieries. Industrial Fatigue Research Board: Report No. 51. H.M. Stationery Office: price 2s. 6d. net.

workers; whilst a rise of 10 deg. was associated with a 74 per cent. increase of sickness in the other underground men. Presumably this influence depends chiefly on the sudden change of temperature experienced by the men on coming to the surface.

Absenteeism from sickness is associated with air velocity, for the average time lost by underground workers, other than those at the coal face, was 85 per cent. greater at a velocity of 260 ft. than at one of 90 ft. This effect of air currents is probably due to the liability of the very lightly clad men to catch chills.

Absenteeism from accidents is likewise related to air velocity. Accidents to underground men, other than those at the coal face, increased steadily at all velocities from 70 ft. per minute upwards, and at a velocity of 264 ft. they were 68 per cent. more numerous than at one of 87 ft.

Accident frequency varies greatly with underground temperature, though accident severity shows but little response, as the effect is confined to minor accidents. In comparison with the number of minor accidents (causing less than 10 days' disablement) which occurred at the lowest temperatures, those occurring at the highest temperatures were 4.3 times more numerous. Accidents causing 10 to 19 days' disablement were, however, only 2.0 times more numerous at the highest temperatures, and those causing 20 to 59 days' disablement were 1.5 times more numerous. Major accidents, causing 60 days or more of disablement, were of almost exactly the same frequency at the highest temperatures as at the lowest ones. The probable explanation of this remarkable differential effect of temperature is discussed in detail in the Report.

There is a close correlation between depth of workings and temperature. Hence it follows that the frequency of accidents is highly correlated with depth. Minor accidents (causing less than 10 days' disablement) were four times more numerous at a depth of 2,200 ft. than at one of 670 ft., whilst major accidents were unaffected.

The accident rate is greatly affected by the thickness of the seam. One seam was found to vary in thickness from 44 to 72 in. at six collieries, and the accidents from falls of coal and side were four times more numerous when the seam was at its thickest than when at its thinnest. This effect was just as marked on major accidents as on minor ones.

The average output of coal per man at the coal face varied in the proportion of 1 to 2 at different pits, and accident frequency varied with output. At pits where output was 50 per cent. greater than in other pits, the minor accidents (causing less than 10 days' disablement) were three times more numerous, but accidents causing 20 or more days of disablement showed no increase.

Accident frequency is related to labour turnover, for minor accidents causing less than 20 days' disablement were three times more numerous at pits where the annual labour turnover was 20 per cent. or more, than at those where it was less than 10 per cent. However, accidents causing over 20 days' disablement were not affected.

Accident rates vary considerably with the age of the men, and reach a minimum at the age of 30 to 39. In comparison with this minimum, coal face workers over 60 years of age showed a 41 per cent. excess in frequency rate, and a 100 per cent. excess in severity rate; whilst the other underground men showed smaller increments.

Accident frequency varies greatly at different hours of the shift, and in coal face men working at high temperatures it reached a maximum in the last full hour of work but one. In those working at low temperatures it did not reach a maximum till the last full hour.

The time lost by "voluntary" absenteeism (*i.e.*, all absenteeism not definitely attributed to sickness and accidents) was found to vary with the distance walked by the men underground, for men who walked 2,800 yards showed 58 per cent. more absenteeism than the men who walked 1,330 yds. It is related to labour turnover, the men at pits with an annual turnover of 27 per cent. showing 24 to 75 per cent. more voluntary absenteeism than those at pits with a turnover of 10 per cent. Again, it is related to the distance of the men's homes from the collieries, men living 2.6 miles away showing 80 per cent. more voluntary absenteeism than those living 1.6 miles away. It is likewise influenced by the proximity of large towns.

Surface workers showed less absenteeism from voluntary causes than underground men, but greater seasonal fluctuations in absenteeism from sickness.

As the result of the inquiry, the investigators call attention to the extraordinary sensitiveness of the miner to his conditions of work. Every change of condition affects, not only voluntary absenteeism, but also time lost by sickness and accidents; hence the best method of reducing absenteeism is to improve the conditions of work. It is probable, for example, that there is a certain narrow range of air movement underground which is associated with a minimum of accidents, and that the accident rate rises if the air velocities are either lower or higher than the limits of the range. The Report comments on the increase in accident and sickness rates when the air velocity is in excess of a moderate figure as unexpected, and suggests that further information on the subject is required. The adverse effect of too rapid air currents is probably due, the investigators think, to the chilling of the over-heated men during their enforced rests; and the disadvantages of improved ventilation in this respect may be counteracted by its advantages in other respects. In any case, there is no question as to the prejudicial effects of an air velocity that is too low, as the investigators found to be the case in many instances.

Similarly, if absenteeism is affected by the excessive distance which has to be walked underground, this could be remedied in many cases by an extension of the system of mechanical transport underground; or if the distance of the men's homes from the colliery is a cause of absenteeism, there can be little doubt that an adequate system of housing in the neighbourhood of the colliery would do much to reduce absenteeism and labour turnover.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR SILICOSIS.

I.—DRAFT SCHEME FOR VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

THE Departmental Committee on Compensation for Industrial Diseases reported, in 1907, that silicosis was a specific trade disease for which employers might properly be required to pay compensation but that, owing to the difficulty of diagnosis of the disease in early stages, its slow development, and other special features, the disease could not well be scheduled under the ordinary provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Acts. They therefore recommended that it should be dealt with under special trade schemes; and power to make such schemes were subsequently obtained in the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Act, 1918, as amended by the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Act of 1924; which Acts are now consolidated in Section 47 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

Under this Section the Home Secretary is authorised to provide by a scheme for the payment of compensation in respect of silicosis or of silicosis accompanied by tuberculosis, in any specified industry or process, or group of industries or processes, involving exposure to silica dust. A scheme may also include certain special principles such as (i) the establishment of a general trade compensation fund to which the employers in the particular industry should be required to subscribe, and out of which the compensation and other expenses under the scheme should be paid; (ii) the periodic medical examination of the workmen, with compulsory suspension from employment of those found to be seriously affected; (iii) the appointment of medical boards to carry out the medical examinations, and to issue the certificates entitling persons to compensation.

At present, only two schemes are in operation, *viz.*, those for the refractories industries (ganister mines and quarries, and factories engaged in the manufacture of silica bricks and similar articles for lining furnaces), and for the metal grinding industries; while a draft scheme for the pottery industry is in preparation. There are, however, various other industries in which the workers are exposed to similar risk, *e.g.*, persons employed in mines in drilling through highly siliceous rock, or in the mining and quarrying of highly siliceous stones otherwise than for the purposes of the refractories industry or in the dressing or carving of such stones, or in crushing, grinding, sieving, mixing, or packing of siliceous materials for various purposes (for example, certain kinds of scouring powder).

In a notice issued by the Home Office it is stated that the Home Secretary regrets that it has not been found possible, as was hoped to bring all the outstanding trades under the Act in a comparatively short time. The negotiations with the employers have been protracted; and, even in the metal grinding and in the pottery industry it has not been possible to secure the co-operation of the employers in a collective scheme, as contemplated in the Act. In these circumstances the Home Secretary now proposes to adopt a simple procedure, and to make a comprehensive scheme, to cover all such industries (other than the refractories, metal grinding, and pottery industries) as are known to expose the workers to the risk of silicosis.

A draft scheme, entitled "The Various Industries (Silicosis) Scheme, 1928," to give effect to this proposal, has been issued in copies of which may be obtained on application to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

The scheme provides for the payment of compensation in case of death or of total disablement; the question of making provision for cases of partial disablement has been held over pending an inquiry which it is proposed to institute at an early date into the medical arrangements for certifying the disease.

Observations in regard to the details of the scheme should be submitted to the Home Secretary in writing before 15th October.

It is also announced that, if the employers in any of the industries concerned represent to the Home Secretary that they would prefer a scheme on the lines of the refractories industries scheme, and are prepared to establish and maintain the compensation fund necessary for the payment of the compensation and other expenses, the Home Secretary would be prepared to postpone the issue of the present scheme so far as that industry is concerned, in order to give an opportunity to work out the details of the alternative scheme.

II.—SILICOSIS IN THE POTTERY INDUSTRY.

The Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Committee, reconstituted by the Home Secretary in June, 1927, have presented their Report.*

The Committee had two draft schemes for the pottery industry under their consideration, one on the lines of the refractories industries scheme, and the other on the lines of the metal grinding industries scheme. The Committee would have preferred the former, but they were informed that the employers would prefer a scheme making each employer individually responsible for his own workpeople. They were, therefore, reluctantly compelled to frame a scheme on lines more nearly approximating to the ordinary provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Acts relating to scheduled industrial diseases.

It is proposed that the scheme should apply, in the manufacture of china, earthenware, sanitary earthenware, electrical ware, or tiles, to any process in or in connection with the milling of flint or other material containing silica for use in potteries; to all processes in or in connection with the manufacture of pottery, up to and including the preparation for glazing; and to polishing, grinding, and tile-slabbings.

The Committee recommend that the compensation provisions should follow, with certain modifications, those in the Metal Grinding Industries Scheme, 1927. A workman certified to be

* Report of the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Committee. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 3d. net.

rtially disabled should be entitled to compensation. They are in favour of a medical board for dealing with silicosis cases, if proper arrangements could be made to meet the expense, by reading the cost over the whole industry.

Part II of the Committee's Report deals with the second part of their terms of reference, viz., what further measures, if any, can be taken for the prevention of silicosis by regulations, etc.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

Pages 336 to 339 detailed statistics are given showing the numbers of insured workpeople in each of 100 groups of industries, and the percentages unemployed in each of these groups at 31st August, 1928.

In the following Table the total numbers of insured workers recorded as wholly unemployed and as temporarily stopped from the service of their employers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 20th August, 1928, are analysed so as to show the proportions of those totals who were classified as belonging to various industry groups:—

Industry Group.	Males.				Females.			
	Number Wholly Unemployed.	Percentage of Total.	Number Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage of Total.	Number Wholly Unemployed.	Percentage of Total.	Number Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage of Total.
Mining ...	2,060	0.3	88	0.0	48	0.0	44	0.0
Quarrying ...	187,119	22.3	117,275	42.5	719	0.5	769	0.6
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products	4,411	0.5	1,157	0.4	145	0.1	14	0.0
Brick, Tile, etc., making...	6,193	0.7	1,920	0.7	659	0.5	305	0.3
pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	2,135	0.3	4,280	1.6	2,256	1.6	6,335	5.3
Wool Textiles ...	4,125	0.5	1,371	0.5	398	0.3	86	0.1
Chemicals, etc. ...	8,714	1.0	2,032	0.7	1,556	1.1	423	0.4
Metalliferous Mining and Metallurgical Manufacture	26,711	3.2	31,859	11.6	689	0.5	364	0.3
Engineering, etc. ...	51,067	6.1	20,633	7.5	1,892	1.3	1,058	0.9
Construction and Repair of Buildings and Structures	21,634	2.6	10,370	3.8	1,548	1.1	676	0.6
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	53,493	6.4	3,088	1.1	136	0.1	31	0.0
Maritime Trades ...	26,097	3.1	11,468	4.2	10,233	7.2	3,238	2.7
Textile Trades ...	29,826	3.6	41,737	15.1	45,727	32.3	75,722	63.4
Leather Goods and Leather Trades...	2,624	0.3	1,055	0.4	998	0.7	404	0.3
Food, Drink and Tobacco	15,123	1.8	11,676	4.2	15,262	10.8	19,797	16.6
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	18,284	2.2	1,348	0.5	10,382	7.3	3,378	2.8
Engineering, Furniture and Woodwork	12,050	1.4	1,310	0.5	1,565	1.1	457	0.4
Printing and Paper Trades...	8,779	1.1	860	0.3	4,759	3.4	1,359	1.1
Building and Construction of Works ...	112,461	13.4	3,479	1.3	158	0.1	15	0.0
Other Manufacturing Industries...	5,309	0.6	1,118	0.4	2,276	1.6	773	0.7
Electricity, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries...	8,704	1.0	331	0.1	94	0.1	6	0.0
Transport and Communication	104,806	12.5	2,782	1.0	789	0.6	80	0.1
Distributive Trades (Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...)	59,546	7.1	2,630	0.9	21,149	14.9	2,431	2.0
Miscellaneous Trades and Services ...	4,293	0.5	51	0.0	553	0.4	18	0.0
Unemployed and Services ...	62,873	7.5	1,927	0.7	17,498	12.4	1,665	1.4
Total Industries and Services ...	838,437	100.0	275,845	100.0	141,489	100.0	119,448	100.0

It will be seen that among males the mining group (of which the principal constituent is coal mining) accounts for 22.3 per cent. of the wholly unemployed and 42.5 per cent. of the temporarily stopped. Next in order of magnitude are building and construction works, with 13.4 per cent. of the wholly unemployed and 1.3 per cent. of the temporarily stopped, and transport and communication with 12.5 per cent. of the wholly unemployed and 1.0 per cent. of the temporarily stopped.

Among males 67.5 per cent. of the wholly unemployed and 0.1 per cent. of the temporarily stopped are accounted for by seven groups of industries, including mining, building and contracting, transport, shipbuilding, engineering, metal manufacture, and the textile industries. These industries include 54.3 per cent. of the male insured population.

Among females, the textile industries account for 32.3 per cent. of the wholly unemployed and 63.4 per cent. of the temporarily stopped, the clothing trades for 10.8 per cent. of the wholly unemployed and 16.6 per cent. of the temporarily stopped; while food, drink and tobacco and the distributive trades together account for 22.2 per cent. of the wholly unemployed and 4.8 per cent. of the temporarily stopped.

These four groups of industries thus represent, among females, 55.3 per cent. of the wholly unemployed and 84.8 per cent. of the temporarily stopped. They include 62.7 per cent. of the female insured population.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT BY DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION COMMISSION.

THE Development and Migration Commission has presented to the Australian Commonwealth Government a Report on Unemployment and Business Stability. The Report indicates that the Commission has studied the available records of unemployment in Australia, reviewed the causes and reputed causes, considered the means of prevention and remedy, and prepared recommendations intended to reduce its severity.

The evidence adduced shows that the mere provision of relief is a remedy both temporary and unsatisfactory. With the increasing development of secondary industries, it is pointed out, the country's business and industrial organisation will become more complex, the dangers of periodic unemployment more acute, and the need for systematic treatment of the problem more urgent.

Statistics dealing with unemployment are incomplete; but the Commonwealth Statistician claims that the percentage results based on trade union returns fairly illustrate the general position. While the total membership of trade unions in Australia is about 850,000, and the estimated number of employees 20 years of age and over in all occupations is 1,534,508, the number of members of the unions that supply returns is slightly more than 400,000. During the first quarter of 1928, 45,638, or 10.7 per cent. of the 400,000, were unemployed, as compared with 8.9 per cent. for the last quarter and 5.9 per cent. for the first quarter of 1927.

The frequent statement that unemployment is due almost entirely to one specific cause, such as excessive imports, immigration, industrial disputes, or the wages system, is not supported by precise data. The Commission examines a number of factors and seeks to define the measure of their respective influence.

Seasonal fluctuations, it is found, affect both the primary and secondary industries. Irregularity of farm work and the absence of suitable accommodation, particularly for married men, deter men from following farm labouring as an occupation, and a poorer class of labour offers as a consequence. In fruit growing, there is a concentration of work in the picking season, and, in the sugar industry, during the cane cutting. The irregular employment of labour in rural industries, the Commission considers, is due partly to the inadequacy of accommodation for permanent employees. A sound scheme for providing homes for married rural workers would advance rural settlement and ensure a regular supply of country labour. A proposal to this end has been made by the Commission, and is being considered by responsible officers of the States. Fluctuations attributable to causes other than the seasons are associated with alternating periods of prosperity and depression, a question upon which an elaborate Report by Professor Copland, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Melbourne University, is presented as an Appendix. The depression in 1927-28 is ascribed to adverse weather conditions, decline in agricultural production, the changing price level, and the adverse trade balance.

It is stated that the numbers of those who make up the labour reserve or excess of labour, during comparatively dull periods, are increased by the disorganised, unsystematic way of filling vacancies, including trade union bureaux, Government-controlled bureaux, privately-controlled bureaux, employers' bureaux, newspaper advertisements, personal application, and recommendations through friends. A preponderance of unskilled labour, while not actually responsible for casual employment, makes it more prevalent. Unemployables in Australia are relatively few, but men become partially unemployable through losing their industry and powers of application during long periods of idleness.

Migration and its effects are examined by the Commission with special care. "What seems to emerge from consideration of the relationship," it is remarked, "is that immigration is not a fundamental cause of unemployment, and that the flow of migration into a country will, to a great extent, automatically adjust itself to the economic conditions of that country." The absorption of new land settlers should increase rather than decrease employment, and the immigration of domestics, boy farm workers, and specially skilled workers for new industries, will generally have the same effect.

Dealing with the wages system, the Commission finds that the assumption that high wages form a major cause of fluctuations in employment, is not borne out by the investigation, as far as it has proceeded, whatever effect the wages system may have on the average amount of employment over a series of years. Although industrial disputes are a serious factor in depriving men of their occupations, it was not found practicable to make an adequate statistical comparison of the amount of unemployment due directly or indirectly to this cause; but unemployment due to economic depression is regarded as much more serious. High taxation, it is considered, limits the field of employment rather than causes fluctuations.

The recommendations are as follows:—

(1) (a) That the functions of the Bureau of Census and Statistics be extended to include the construction of an employment index, and an index number of production; and to provide for the collection of up-to-date statistics on such other matters as would indicate variations in the activity of trade.

(b) That the Commonwealth Government establish facilities for continuous research into business conditions, and into causes of recurring fluctuations known as the business cycle.

(2) That the Commonwealth and State Governments, public undertakings and civic authorities adopt, as a common policy, the principles of planning programmes of public works ahead over terms of years, of regulating expenditure on works within yearly periods, and of placing ahead their orders for stores, and that they confer at regular intervals in order to apply this policy as far as practicable.

(3) That the State Governments be invited to confer regarding the institution of a more uniform system of employment bureaux in each State, and to consider the advisability of steps being taken to license and supervise privately conducted exchanges, and provide for the registration by such exchanges, with the respective Governments, of the requirements of employers and workers.

(4) That the State Governments be invited to arrange for education authorities in their respective States, including secondary and public schools, and universities, to give consideration to the problem of vocational guidance, with a view to ensuring that youths, on leaving school, are guided towards the occupations in which their chances of success are greatest.

(5) That consideration be given by the Commonwealth Bank and the private banks to the advisability of taking whatever steps are possible towards the stabilisation of exchange.

(6) That the measures proposed in Professor Copland's report for developing private business management be placed before representative commercial bodies by the Commonwealth Government for consideration.

(7) That the facilities at the universities of Australia for training business and industrial executives be extended to allow of adequate specialised study of the business cycle, statistical method, and problems of industrial organisation and management.

(8) That the State Governments be invited to consider constituting, in each State, a representative committee to be known as the "Industrial Stability Committee," to study the incidence of seasonal fluctuations and formulate plans for their correction.

(9) That the Home and Territories Department, which is responsible for the administration of "Internal Affairs" for the Commonwealth Government, be authorised to act in liaison between the Commonwealth Government, the State Governments and the Industrial Stability Committees, in the co-ordination of the efforts of the Committees, the formulation of nationwide policy in this regard, and the fostering of concerted action in the various States.

In order that the above scheme may be launched in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, and that the various proposals, in so far as they affect the States and the suggested Industrial Stability Committees, may be fully discussed in regard to details of working, it is recommended that the Prime Minister, with the concurrence of the State Governments, summon a conference, to be held at Canberra, of representatives of the Governments, employers and employees of the respective States.

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

(a) GERMANY.

Iron and Steel Industry.—The dispute in the iron and steel and metal trades, of which an account was given in the last issue of this GAZETTE, has now been settled, and work was resumed on 27th August. After failure of the two parties to reach agreement, the conciliation officer submitted proposals, which were accepted, providing for the points of difference regarding the wages of moulders at the Burger works to be met by the introduction of technical improvements, which would enable increased wages to be earned, and also for the application, as from June of this year, in all works affected by the lock-out, of the agreement previously declared binding.

Textile Industry.—Towards the end of June last, the workers' organisations in the Düren (Rhine) textile industry (mainly woollen goods) gave notice of the termination at the end of July of the wage agreement, and demanded a 15 per cent. increase in the existing wage rates, those in force being 63.5 pfennigs an hour for skilled adult male workers and 34.40 pfennigs for skilled adult female workers. In the ensuing negotiations between the employers and workers no agreement was reached, and about 150 workers at one weaving mill came out on strike. The employers responded by announcing a general lock-out of all textile workers in the Düren area, which became effective on 30th August. Approximately 4,200 workers are involved.

The general and wage agreements for the textile industry (mainly cotton and woollen goods) in the München-Gladbach and Rheydt area have been terminated by the workers with effect as from 15th September. The demands of the workers, numbering approximately 35,000, include a claim for a 15 per cent. wage increase.

(b) POLAND: COAL MINING DISPUTE.

Negotiations have been in progress for several months between the coal owners and the miners in the three Polish coalfields, viz., Upper Silesia, Dombrowa and Cracow, regarding the revision of wages in the coal industry, which employed in September, 1927, about 110,000 workers. The workers' demands having been rejected by the owners, a one-day strike was proclaimed in all Polish coal mines on 25th July, both as a protest strike and as a demonstration that the miners were prepared to order a general strike in the near future if their demands were ignored.

A special Conciliation Committee, which has recently been dealing with the matter, has now rejected the miners' claim for a 30 per cent. general increase, but has awarded increases of 4 per cent. to piece-workers, 6 per cent. to time-workers under 24 years of age, and 9 per cent. to time-workers over that age. The award is applicable from 1st September, 1928, to 28th February, 1929, though fourteen days' notice of termination may be given on the 15th of each month if the cost-of-living figure should rise by 3 per cent. or more after 1st September, 1928.

THE DISPUTE IN THE BITUMINOUS COAL MINING INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE dispute affecting about 200,000 bituminous coal miners employed in the "Central Competitive Field," referred to in the issue of GAZETTE for November, 1927, is apparently entering upon its phase. After a struggle lasting from 1st April, 1927, to July 1928, with varying fortunes in different parts of the affected region the United Mine Workers of America have been compelled to abandon their demand for the retention of the "Jacksonville" wage scale and have authorised their branch unions to negotiate separate district agreements with local associations of mine owners, and get the best terms possible for their members.

The dispute originally affected coal mining, more or less seriously in no less than ten States, viz., Illinois and Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. During the first few months, many individual owners re-opened their mines under temporary agreements, including some in Illinois and Indiana, Iowa, Kansas and Pittsburgh (West Pennsylvania); but, on the other hand, the strike extended to mines of Central Pennsylvania, which at first had not been affected. Prior to 1st October, 1927, attempts were made to re-open some mines in Ohio and Pennsylvania with non-union labour, and legal injunctions were granted to the owners against the union to prevent the latter interfering with these attempts.

The first big move to settle the dispute resulted in temporary agreements being signed, whereby more than one half of the strikers resumed work in Illinois and Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas during the first few days of October, 1927. Under these agreements, the "Jacksonville" wage scale was paid, whilst a Joint Wage Commission, set up under the agreement, endeavoured to reconcile the differences between the parties and to discover a basis for a permanent agreement which was to take effect from 1st April, 1928. At the same time, however, the situation was becoming much more acute in the other affected areas, viz., Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Mine-owners in these States obtained Court protection for the re-opening of mines with non-union labour, and endeavours made by the Secretary of Labor to convene a conference of the owners and men in these areas were unavailing, the owners replying that they were not hampered by the strike, but were mining all the coal they could sell.

During February and March of this year, the Joint Wage Commission held conferences which terminated unsuccessfully, and on 1st April, 1928, the dispute recommenced in the areas covered by the temporary agreements. At this stage, the dispute covered the same area as a year before, with the addition of the Central Pennsylvania field. By the end of April, however, the owners in Illinois and Indiana had practically all signed short term agreements with the Union for a resumption of mining operations, retaining the pre-strike rates of pay; but in all other States operations appeared to have been continued by non-union labour. A press report states that on 2nd September a new four-year agreement was signed in Illinois fixing wage rates at \$6.10 a day and 91 cents a ton for tonnage miners, in place of \$7.50 a day and \$1.08 a ton, the rates in the "Jacksonville" agreement.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ALUMINIUM WARE IN THE UNITED STATES, 1927.

THE United States Bureau of Labour Statistics has published, in the August, 1928, number of the *Monthly Labour Review*, the result of a direct inquiry into the actual earnings and working hours of workers in factories using aluminium, both sheet and cast, in the manufacture, mainly, of pans, kettles, pots and other kitchen utensils and, where made by the same workers in association with aluminium ware, the manufacture of various brass and copper articles, such as ashtrays, ferrules, radio parts, kettles, lamps, etc. The pay-roll of 32 establishments were examined, covering 7,811 workers. The following Table shows average full-time and actual hours and earnings in 1927 in some of the principal occupations:—

Occupation and Sex.	Average Hours.		Average Earnings.		
	Actually worked in one week.	Full-time per week.	Per hour.	Actual in one week.	Full-time per week.
Tool and die makers, male ...	49.9	51.6	Dollars. .755	Dollars. 37.70	Dollars. 38.96
Die, tool and machine setters, male ...	52.5	53.3	.617	32.34	32.89
Draw press operators, male ...	50.4	51.6	.570	28.74	29.41
Punch press operators, female ...	49.3	52.9	.356	17.58	18.83
Bench hands, male ...	51.1	53.2	.502	25.61	26.71
" female ...	52.0	54.4	.349	18.15	18.99
Polishers and buffers, male ...	49.2	51.6	.684	33.64	35.29
Wrappers, female ...	47.7	50.0	.320	15.23	16.00
Packers and craters, male ...	50.5	51.4	.469	23.70	24.11
Labourers, male ...	50.6	52.9	.444	22.49	23.49
All employees, male*	50.5	52.2	.579	29.24	30.22
" female*	49.1	52.6	.355	17.44	18.67

Of the 32 establishments, 15 had some form of extra pay for overtime, usually time and a half, sometimes time and a quarter. In 11 establishments there were bonus systems based on production or long service.

* Including occupations not shown in the Table.

LABOUR DISPUTES ABROAD IN 1927.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for May last, statistics relating to labour disputes involving stoppages of work in 1927 were given for various countries overseas. Similar particulars now available for some other countries are summarised below:—

UNITED STATES.*

During 1927, 734 disputes, involving 349,434 employees, were reported as having commenced in the United States. No statistics of the number of days lost are issued; but it is stated that the average duration of 669 disputes was 24 days, whilst the average number of employees in each of the 734 disputes was 476. The chief causes of disputes were wages, hours, and recognition of unions. Considered from the workers' standpoint, of the 639 disputes which terminated in 1927, 235 were successful, 169 were unsuccessful and 129 ended in a compromise; in 29 cases the workpeople returned to work pending arbitration proceedings; and in the remaining 7 cases the results were not known to the United States Department of Labour.

The number of disputes in 1927 is materially less than for any of the other years since 1916, when the Federal Bureau began to make compilations. From 1916 to 1920, the number of disputes per annum was over 3,000 and the number of workers involved exceeded a million. Since 1920 there has been a steady decline. In 1926 there were 1,035 disputes, 783 of which involved 329,592 workers, with an average of 421 workers and a duration of 25 days per dispute. The most important dispute in 1927 was that of the bituminous coal miners in the "Central Competitive Field," which continued into the present year: see page 322 of the present issue.

AUSTRALIA.†

During 1927, there occurred 441 industrial disputes in Australia, involving 200,757 workpeople, and resulting in a loss of 1,713,581 working days and an estimated loss of £1,676,696 in wages. The corresponding statistics for 1926 are: disputes, 360; workpeople involved, 113,034; working days lost, 1,128,570; estimated loss in wages, £1,107,544.

Of the 441 disputes that occurred in 1927, more than three-quarters (39, or 77 per cent.) were in New South Wales; these disputes affected 148,541 workpeople (74 per cent.) and resulted in a loss of 1,33,963 working days (66 per cent.).

POLAND.‡

The total number of strikes in progress during 1927 was 609, affecting 232,504 workpeople and causing a loss of 2,429,070 working days. The corresponding figures for 1926 were 583 strikes, 143,581 workpeople, and 1,382,133 working days lost. As in the previous year, the chief causes of strikes were questions relating to wages, which accounted for 498 strikes, affecting 200,875 workpeople, and causing a loss of 2,325,131 working days. Strikes numbering 31, affecting 12,210 workpeople, and causing an aggregate loss of 33,866 working days, arose out of questions relating to hours and working conditions; while the reinstatement of discharged workpeople was the object of 34 strikes, which affected 4,582 workpeople, and resulted in a loss of 30,369 working days.

From the point of view of the workpeople, 108 strikes, affecting 3,307 workpeople, were completely successful, while 342 strikes, affecting 179,868 workpeople, were partially successful. The number of unsuccessful strikes was 146, affecting 28,787 workpeople. In the remaining cases (13 strikes, affecting 9,542 workpeople) the results were unknown.

The industry chiefly affected in 1927 was the textile industry, in which 97 strikes occurred, involving 114,365 workpeople and causing a loss of 1,313,860 working days. In the building trades there were 3 strikes, affecting 26,913 workpeople and causing a loss of 422,961 working days; and in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 1 strike, affecting 27,903 workpeople and causing a loss of 226,476 working days.

FINLAND.§

According to statistics published by the Finnish Department for Social Affairs, there were, in 1927, 79 disputes, in which 13,368 workpeople were directly affected, causing a loss of 1,528,182 working days. The principal causes of disputes were wages (44 disputes) and collective agreements (14 disputes). Of the total number of disputes, 33, affecting 9,183 workpeople, resulted in a compromise; 4, affecting 1,005 workpeople, ended in favour of the workpeople; 10, affecting 3,134 workpeople, ended in favour of the employers; while in the remainder the results were unknown or indecisive. The metal and engineering industry was the most seriously affected in 1927. In this industry, 12 disputes were recorded, in which 9,919 workpeople were involved, resulting in an aggregate loss of 1,174,800 working days.

HUNGARY.||

Statistics relating to labour disputes show that, in 1927, there were 81 strikes and 3 lockouts, involving together 24,803 workers and causing a loss of 294,941 working days. In 1926, there occurred 54 strikes and 3 lockouts, affecting 9,618 workers and resulting in an aggregate loss of 52,003 working days. The industries mainly affected by disputes in 1927 were the metal, machine construction and electrical industries. Of the total number of strikes occurring in 1927, 48 were wholly or partially successful from the point of view of the workers, and 33 were unsuccessful.

JAPAN.*

According to a Report of the Japanese Bureau of Social Affairs, a total of 346 strikes occurred during 1927. The number of workpeople directly affected was 43,669, and the aggregate loss in working days 741,232. During the same period there were, in addition, 20 lockouts, affecting 809 workers and involving a loss of 21,715 working days. The industries most seriously affected by disputes, judging by the number of days lost, were the brewery, spinning, shipbuilding and engineering, coal mining, shipping, and pottery industries.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE GERMAN WOODWORKING AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENT INDUSTRIES.

UNDER the regulations issued in pursuance of the Wages Statistics Act, 1922, an inquiry has now been made into wages and hours of labour in the woodworking and musical instrument industries in Germany, on lines similar to the inquiry in the textile industry (the results of which were summarised in the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1928, page 167).

The results of the inquiry, which have been published in the journal† of the Federal Statistical Office, relate to wages and hours in March, 1928. The inquiry was concerned generally with workers over 22 years of age, although, in musical instrument manufacture, a small number of workers under that age, but over 20 years of age, were included. It covered 45,601 workers in 1,481 undertakings, in 130 centres and 29 collective agreement areas. Of the 45,601 workers, 84.8 per cent. were skilled workers, 3.8 per cent. were semi-skilled workers, and 11.4 per cent. were labourers. Women workers to the number of 704 were included only in the musical instrument making section of the inquiry. Both time and pieceworkers were included for skilled and semi-skilled work, but only timeworkers among the labourers. Among the skilled woodworkers, almost two-thirds were timeworkers; while in musical instrument manufacture, on the other hand, most of the workers were on piecework.

Combining the results of the inquiry in both the woodworking and the musical instrument branches, the following Table shows the distribution of the male skilled workers and labourers over 22 years of age according to their total weekly earnings (before deduction of contributions for social insurances, etc.):—

Weekly Earnings in Reichsmarks.‡	Percentage of workers whose weekly earnings, in March, 1928, were as indicated in the first column.		
	Skilled workers over 22 years of age.		Labourers over 22 years of age on timework.
	On timework.	On piecework.	
Up to 37.50 ...	7.8	8.6	31.0
Over 37.50 and up to 40 ...	2.2	2.5	13.5
" 40 " 42.50 ...	3.3	3.4	9.7
" 42.50 " 45 ...	5.5	4.1	10.6
" 45 " 47.50 ...	8.1	5.8	8.7
" 47.50 " 50 ...	8.0	6.9	6.7
" 50 " 52.50 ...	10.8	7.8	7.9
" 52.50 " 55 ...	10.6	8.1	4.7
" 55 " 57.50 ...	9.0	7.5	2.8
" 57.50 " 60 ...	8.0	7.0	1.4
" 60 " 62.50 ...	6.6	6.4	0.9
" 62.50 " 65 ...	5.4	5.3	0.4
" 65 " 67.50 ...	3.9	4.7	0.5
" 67.50 ...	10.8	21.9	1.2
	100	100	100
Number of workers covered by this analysis ...	23,413	14,706	5,198

The Table shows that 21.9 per cent. of the skilled pieceworkers were in receipt of over 67.50 Reichsmarks; this group was made up of 14.2 per cent. who received over 67.50 and up to 80 Reichsmarks, 5.9 per cent. over 80 and up to 100 Reichsmarks and 1.8 per cent. over 100 Reichsmarks. Of the 7.8 per cent. of skilled timeworkers who received 37.50 Reichsmarks or less, 75 per cent. worked a week of 32 hours or less, or, in other words, lost on short time at least two full days a week. Of the labourers, two-thirds received 45 Reichsmarks or less, and one-third 37.50 Reichsmarks or less; but this was chiefly due to the relatively small number of hours worked; of those in the lowest wage group, nearly a third worked less than 40 hours, and about a fifth less than 32 hours.

The following Table shows the distribution of the same workers according to the hours actually worked in the week to which the figures as to earnings, quoted above, relate:—

Occupation.	Number of male workers, over 22 years of age, who worked—					
	Less than 48 hours.		48 hours.		More than 48 hours.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Skilled workers:—						
Timeworkers ...	10,228	43.7	7,909	33.8	5,276	22.5
Pieceworkers ...	7,801	53.1	5,315	36.1	1,590	10.8
Labourers ...	1,975	38.0	1,335	25.7	1,888	36.3
Total ...	20,004	46.2	14,559	33.6	8,754	20.2

* Monthly Labour Review, July, 1928. Washington.

† Compendium of Australian Statistics, July, 1928. Melbourne.

‡ Statystyka Pracy, No. 3, 1928. Warsaw.

§ Social Tidskrift, No. 6, 1928. Helsingfors.

|| Magyar Statisztikai Szemle, July, 1927, and July, 1928. Budapest.

* Shakai Seisaku Jiho, English Supplement, July, 1928. Tokio.

† Wirtschaft und Statistik, No. 15, 1928.

‡ One Reichsmark = 100 Reichspfennigs = about 11.8d. at the par rate of exchange.

The shortest working time was found among the skilled pieceworkers, whose wages depended more on the rate at which they worked than on the number of hours. The longest working time was found among the labourers, part of whose duty it is to make preparations before and to clear up after the work of the day.

The particulars published in *Wirtschaft und Statistik* include details of the earnings and hours in each important town or centre of the woodworking and musical instrument industries. Considerations of space prevent the reproduction of these details; but in the following paragraphs particulars of average wages and hours are given separately for each of the two industries.

Machine Joinery, Cabinet and Furniture Making.—The following Table shows for male workers over 22 years of age the actual average hourly earnings of the grades of workers covered by the inquiry compared with the average hourly minimum time rates fixed by collective agreement for each grade at March, 1928:—

Class of Worker.	Average hourly earnings (exclusive of extra allowances for overtime and of family allowances).	Average hourly time rate, or piecework basis time rate, under collective agreements.	Average percentage increase or decrease of earnings over rates fixed by collective agreements.
Skilled workers on timework	Reichspfennigs. 115.9	Reichspfennigs. 107.0	+ 8.3
Skilled workers on piecework	127.8	117.5	+ 8.8
Semi-skilled workers on timework	94.2	91.9	+ 2.5
Semi-skilled workers on piecework	98.7	98.9	- 0.2
Labourers on timework	89.0	87.6	+ 1.6

The average weekly working hours during the period of the inquiry, taking into consideration extra hours and overtime and losses due to short time, illness, absenteeism, etc., were as follows:—

Skilled workers on timework	... 45.9 hours.
Skilled workers on piecework	... 45.2 "
Semi-skilled workers on timework	... 46.9 "
Semi-skilled workers on piecework	... 44.8 "
Labourers on timework	... 46.4 "

It is remarked that these figures reveal the relatively low degree of employment in the woodworking industry at the time of the inquiry, since no group of workers on the average reached the normal working week of 48 hours (Berlin 46 hours) fixed by collective agreement. The total weekly earnings, including payments for extra hours and overtime, were, on the average, as follows for the same groups of workers:—

Skilled workers on timework	... 53.40 Reichsmarks.
Skilled workers on piecework	... 57.91 "
Semi-skilled workers on timework	... 44.29 "
Semi-skilled workers on piecework	... 44.13 "
Labourers on timework	... 41.48 "

No exact comparison with pre-war wages was possible, as there were no directly comparable pre-war figures; but, on the basis of an inquiry made in November, 1911, by the German Woodworkers' Union, it has been estimated that, after taking into consideration the rise in the cost of living and making deductions for wages tax and social insurance contributions, the average "real" weekly wages in March, 1928, of skilled workers on timework showed an increase of 7 per cent., and of skilled workers on piecework an increase of 8 per cent., over those of November, 1911.

Musical Instrument Manufacture.—The following Table affords a comparison of the actual earnings of workers, generally over 22 years of age, with the corresponding average minimum time rates fixed by collective agreement for each grade of worker:—

Class of Worker.	Average hourly earnings at March, 1928 (exclusive of extra allowances for overtime and of family allowances).		Average percentage increase or decrease of earnings over rates fixed by collective agreements.	
	Timeworkers.	Pieceworkers.	Timeworkers.	Pieceworkers.
Males:	Reichspfennigs.	Reichspfennigs.		
Skilled workers ...	118.5	133.9	+ 11.3	+ 7.3
Semi-skilled workers	90.5	102.3	- 1.0	- 3.4
Labourers	90.5	...	+ 1.7	...
Females:				
Skilled workers ...	77.5	77.9	+ 13.3	- 1.9
Semi-skilled workers	62.4	76.4	- 4.0	+ 2.4

It is stated that the low degree of employment in the musical instrument industry at the time of the inquiry is chiefly responsible for the fact that certain grades of workers, as shown in the Table above, were receiving in average hourly earnings an amount less than the appropriate minimum time rate fixed by collective agreement. For the same reason, the average working week was also below the normal, viz, skilled male timeworkers, 43.5 hours, skilled male pieceworkers, 41.5 hours, and male labourers, 44.4 hours. An estimated comparison of the average "real" weekly wages of male skilled workers on piecework in March, 1928, with those of November, 1913, shows an increase of 5.7 per cent., after making deductions for wages tax and social insurance contributions.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS: A NEW ACT.*

ON 1st September, 1928, a Collective Agreements Act, dated 24th December, 1927, came into operation in the Netherlands. Dutch law relating to collective agreements has hitherto been based on Section 1637 (n) of the Civil Code (repealed by the new Act) which merely defines a collective agreement in terms almost identical with those of the new Act, and provides that any special agreement between an employer and worker which is contrary to the collective agreement in force may be declared null and void at the request of any party to the collective agreement other than the employer concerned. The more important provisions of the new Act may be summarised as follows:—

A collective agreement is defined as an agreement between one or more employers, or one or more employers' organisations possessing legal personality, and one or more workpeople's organisations possessing legal personality and primarily or exclusively concerned with the regulations of conditions of labour. An employers' workers' association may be a party to a collective agreement when its rules expressly provide therefor. Amendments to the rules of an association subsequent to the conclusion of the collective agreement may not affect collective agreements already in force, except with the consent of the other contracting parties. Except otherwise provided in the agreement, a collective agreement applies from the time it comes into force, to individual contracts already existing.

An association which becomes party to a collective agreement is required to do everything in its power to see that its members observe the provisions of the agreement. Nevertheless, the association is not responsible for its individual members unless such responsibility is expressly stipulated in the agreement. The members of an association which has concluded a collective agreement continue to be bound by the agreement even after loss of membership of the association. Liability ceases in this case, however, in the event of the amendment or prolongation of the agreement. The dissolution of an association has no effect on the privileges or obligations arising out of any collective agreement it may have concluded.

All provisions in an individual contract between an employer and a worker which are contrary to the conditions laid down in the collective agreement are null and void. Unless there is a special provision to the contrary in a collective agreement, employers are required to observe its provisions in the case of workers who are not bound by it.

An organisation which has become a party to a collective agreement may claim compensation for any loss to itself or any of its members caused by one of the other contracting parties or any of its members, by actions in conflict with the requirements of the collective agreement. The parties are free to lay down in the collective agreement other provisions regarding damages.

The duration of a collective agreement may not exceed five years. Agreements may be prolonged, on condition that the parties are never bound for a longer period than five consecutive years from the date of the extension.

If a collective agreement contains no provision relating to the period of validity, it is to be considered as having been concluded for one year, and, on expiry, is regarded as renewed for a further period of one year, if no notice of termination has been given.

The period for giving notice to terminate an agreement is fixed at one-twelfth of the period for which it was originally concluded.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE: VACANCY FOR CHIEF OF STATISTICAL SECTION.

THE Director of the International Labour Office (League of Nations) Geneva, announces that a selection will shortly be made to fill the post of Chief of the Statistical Section of that Office.

The post is open to candidates of both sexes in all States which are Members of the International Labour Organisation (including officers at present on the staff of the Office). The salary is 28,000 Swiss francs per annum, rising by annual increments of 1,000 francs to a maximum of 33,000 francs. This salary is subject to modification in accordance with fluctuations in the cost of living at Geneva. At the moment a reduction is made of 2.6 per cent. on this amount. A deduction of 5 per cent. will be made, representing the official contribution to the Staff Provident Fund, the League of Nations making an equal contribution to the Fund. Candidates' age must not be more than 45 or less than 30 on 31st December, 1928. Their state of health must be good.

The qualifications required of candidates include capacity to deal with theoretical or practical economic questions, especially of a statistical character, more particularly in the sphere of labour statistics; capacity to co-ordinate the work and direct the preparation of studies and reports by a group of specialists working on these subjects; and perfect knowledge of one of the official languages of the office (English and French) with a sufficient knowledge of the other. Capacity to read other languages will be taken into account.

Further details, including particulars as to certain documents and information which should accompany an application, and of the general conditions of service, may be obtained from the London Branch of the International Labour Office, 12, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Requests for these particulars should be accompanied by a stamped and addressed foolscap envelope.

* *Staatsblad*, No. 415, and *Maandschrift*, 29th February, 1928. The Hague.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st SEPTEMBER.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	65%
Food only	...	...	56%

FOOD.

BETWEEN 1st August and 1st September there were advances of nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each in the average price of eggs and of about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. in the average price of butter. These advances were, however, counterbalanced by reductions in the prices of bread, flour and potatoes, with the net result that there was practically no change in the general level.

The average increase compared with July, 1914, in the retail prices in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 56 per cent. at both 1st September and 1st August, 1928, as compared with 57 per cent. at 1st September, 1927.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st August and 1st September, 1928:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) at 1st Sept., 1928, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st August, 1928.	1st Sept., 1928.	July, 1914.	1st Aug., 1928.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ...	s. d. 0 10	s. d. 1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	s. d. 1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 8	...
Breast ...	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 5	...
Breast ...	0 4	0 5	0 5	+ 0 1	...
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea ...	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salt ...	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 10	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 8	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese† ...	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 6	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Margarine ...	0 7	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3	– 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of retail prices at the same dates:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st September, 1928, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st Aug., 1928.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs ...	Per cent. 74	Per cent. 70	Per cent. 72	Per cent. 72
Thin Flank ...	40	41	40	41
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	47	44	45	44
Thin Flank ...	12	17	14	13
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	76	78	77	79
Breast ...	56	55	55	56
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	75	68	71	71
Breast ...	24	27	25	25
Bacon (streaky)*	51	47	49	46
Fish ...	117	92	105	102
Flour ...	48	54	51	57
Bread ...	51	53	52	59
Tea ...	53	60	57	58
Sugar (granulated) ...	66	59	62	63
Milk ...	59	68	64	62
Butter—				
Fresh ...	60	65	63	59
Salt ...	56	57	57	54
Cheese† ...	70	70	70	68
Margarine ...	9	4	6	6
Eggs (fresh) ...	87	83	85	49
Potatoes ...	64	50	57	75
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	56	56	56	56

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

† The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st September, 1928, was approximately 51 per cent. Of the total increase about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an *exact* calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st September the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged approximately 120 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the average price of coal at 1st September was between 70 and 75 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 70 per cent. at 1st August. The average price of gas remained the same, *i.e.*, between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st September, as compared with July, 1914, was between 65 and 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st September is, approximately, **65 per cent.*** over the level of July, 1914, the same as at 1st August, 1928, and 1st September, 1927.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1928 as in 1914) is to show the *average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families* (*i.e.*, the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in those families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1918 TO 1928.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1918 to 1928:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items.
(Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

Month.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
Jan. ...	85–90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75	68
Feb. ...	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72	66
Mar. ...	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71	64
April ...	90–95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	65	64
May ...	95–100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	64	64
June ...	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	63	65
July ...	100–105	105–110	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	66	65
Aug. ...	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	64	65
Sept. ...	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	65	65
Oct. ...	115–120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	67	...
Nov. ...	120–125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	69	...
Dec. ...	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	69	...

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during August, apart from temporary fluctuations at the holiday periods, showed little change in total volume. In the coal-mining industry there was a slight improvement, which reduced the number of workpeople temporarily suspended from their employment; and there were also reductions in the numbers unemployed in the tinplate, tube, linen, carpet and confectionery industries, and in canal, dock, harbour, etc., service. On the other hand, there were increases in unemployment in a number of industries, including constructional and motor engineering, pottery manufacture, public works contracting, the cotton industry, and most of the clothing trades.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople numbering approximately 11,800,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 20th August, 1928 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 11·7, as compared with 11·7 at 23rd July, 1928, and 9·3 at 22nd August, 1927. For males alone the percentage at 20th August, 1928, was 13·0, as compared with 13·1 at 23rd July, 1928; for females the corresponding figures were 8·1 and 7·9. The percentage wholly unemployed at 20th August, 1928, was 8·3 as compared with 8·1 at 23rd July, 1928. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 27th August, 1928, was approximately 1,367,000, of whom 1,055,000 were men and 232,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 30th July, 1928, it was 1,354,000, of whom 1,058,000 were men and 223,000 were women; and at 29th August, 1927, it was 1,076,000, of whom 845,000 were men and 161,000 were women.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry employment continued bad; but there was some reduction in the number temporarily stopped. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 25th August, 1928, was 895,068, a decrease of 0·8 per cent. as compared with July; the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 25th August, 1928, was 4·58, as compared with 4·18 in July.

In iron mining employment continued slack. In the shale mines of West Lothian there was a decrease of 0·9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed at the mines from which returns were received compared with July, 1928, and a decrease of 4·6 per cent. compared with August, 1927. At limestone quarries employment continued good in the Clitheroe district, and moderate in the Weardale district. At chalk quarries it was reported as very slack. At the East of Scotland whin cone quarries employment remained moderate. At slate quarries in the North Wales district it was fairly good. At china clay quarries it continued fairly good; at tin mines it improved to good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment continued bad. Of 424 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of August, 1928, was 130, as compared with 131 at the end of July, 1928, and with 165 at the end of August, 1927.

At iron and steel works employment continued bad; short time working was reported from many districts. In the tinplate and steel sheet industry employment continued fair generally, but was affected by holidays. In the week ended 1st September, 529 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at works covered by the returns, as compared with 574 in the week ended 28th July, 1928, and with 456 at the end of August, 1927.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In engineering, employment continued to decline in August, especially in the motor vehicle and constructional engineering sections, and was very slack on the whole. In electrical engineering, however, employment remained fair. In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment remained very bad, and showed little change, on the whole, as compared with the previous month.

In the other metal trades employment continued moderate to fair on the whole. It was fairly good in the nut and bolt, and lock, latch and key trades; fair in the sheet metal, tube, file and hollow-ware trades; moderate in the brasswork, jewellery and plated ware, wire and needle and fishing tackle trades; and slack or bad in the stove and grate, metallic bedstead, cutlery, and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment was much affected by holidays during the month. In some cases, particularly in the American spinning section, the usual week's holiday was extended on account of continued trade depression. Apart from the interruption due to the holidays, employment was slightly worse than in the previous month, particularly in the coarse and plain weaving

departments. The Egyptian spinning section showed a further slight decline, but was still fairly well employed; and weavers of fine plain and fancy cloths were also generally well employed.

In the wool textile industry employment continued bad in most of the principal districts. There was a temporary improvement in some areas immediately before the local holidays, resulting from the tendency to arrange for the employees to have a full week's work prior to the stoppage; but taking the month as a whole there was no improvement.

In the hosiery trade employment showed a further decline, but was still fair; in the silk and artificial silk trades taken together, it also showed a decline; in the lace trade a further decline was reported in the jute trade employment continued good; in linen manufacture there was an improvement, but employment was still bad, with much unemployment and short-time working. In textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. employment was generally slack, and showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade was moderate to slack generally, and showed a further seasonal decline in short time being worked at most centres. In the dress-making trade employment was moderate on the whole; in the shirt and collar and corset trades it was fairly good at most centres. In the felt hat trade employment was fair, on the whole, but some short time continued to be worked. In the boot and shoe industry employment continued bad, but showed a slight improvement towards the end of the month in most of the principal districts. The trade holidays in the first half of the month were extended by many firms.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month; with saddlery and harness makers a slight improvement was reported. In the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section it continued fair.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trade showed little change as compared with the previous month; it remained generally fair to fairly good with skilled operatives in most districts, and moderate with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations, it was fairly good with bricklayers and with carpenters and joiners, and fair, on the whole, with masons. With plasterers it showed a further improvement, and was moderate to fair in most districts; it was also moderate to fair with slaters and plumbers. With painters employment was fair to fairly good with skilled workers in most districts; with tradesmen's labourers it remained moderate. In brick manufacture employment showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the Peterborough district it was still reported to be good.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed a further slight decline, but was still fairly good; with coachbuilders it also showed a decline; with mill-sawyers it continued moderate.

Paper Manufacturing, Printing and Bookbinding.—With paper makers employment remained fairly good. With letterpress printing employment was moderate, on the whole, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month; it was slack at Newcastle and Leicester, but good at Birmingham. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment continued good generally, but showed a decline; it was only fair at Manchester and Cardiff. With lithographic printing employment continued fair, on the whole, but was reported as bad at Manchester and Belfast; at London it improved and was good. With bookbinders employment showed an improvement and was fair.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery industry showed a further decline; the holiday period was extended in many cases, and there was much unemployment and short-time working. In the glass trades employment continued bad in the bottle-making section, where a further decline was reported, and slack, on the whole, in other sections.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales there was a demand for skilled workers in most districts, but the supply of casual labour was generally sufficient to meet requirements. With fishermen employment showed a further improvement, and was fair, on the whole.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With dock labourers employment was slack generally, but somewhat better than in the previous month; with seamen it remained moderate to fair, on the whole, the supply of seamen being more than adequate for requirements at most of the ports.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE, detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during August are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly

summarised (a) for certain mining and metal industries and (b) for various other industries :—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Workpeople included in the Returns for August, 1928.	August, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	
			Month before.	Year before.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	895,068	4.58	+ 0.40	— 0.05
Iron „ ...	6,218	5.56	— 0.20	+ 0.34
Shale „ ...	2,518	6.00	+ 0.12	+ 0.14
Pig Iron ...	...	Furnaces in Blast. 130	Number. — 1	Number. — 35
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	...	Mills working. 529	— 45	+ 63
Iron and Steel ...	52,019	Shifts Worked (one week) 279,319	Per cent. + 1.7	Per cent. — 8.7

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month before.	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month before.	Year before.
Textiles :—		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton ...	74,084	— 1.6	132,782	— 1.9	— 8.7
Woollen ...	60,656	— 0.4	121,513	— 1.1	— 10.6
Worsted ...	84,579	— 0.8	153,093	— 2.9	— 5.0
Carpet ...	10,218	+ 0.1	18,472	+ 1.5	+ 0.9
Boot and Shoe ...	42,139	+ 0.1	88,330	+ 1.6	— 12.0
Pottery ...	10,777	— 1.8	19,676	— 3.7	— 0.6
Brick ...	8,738	+ 0.4	22,781	+ 1.7	— 8.3

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 20th August, 1928, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts :—

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured aged 16-64 inclusive, at July, 1927. (Totals.)	Percentage Unemployed at 20th August, 1928.			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,091,260	6.2	3.2	5.2	— 0.1	+ 0.1
South-Eastern ...	849,410	5.1	3.4	4.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
South-Western ...	807,100	8.4	4.7	7.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.5
Midlands ...	1,733,280	13.4	9.8	12.4	+ 0.3	+ 3.6
North-Eastern ...	1,961,560	18.5	9.9	16.7	+ 0.1	+ 3.5
North-Western ...	2,090,390	14.9	12.4	14.1	+ 0.9	+ 3.1
Scotland ...	1,268,170	13.6	6.6	11.6	— 0.1	+ 2.4
Wales ...	607,580	22.7	5.7	21.1	— 3.5	+ 1.5
Northern Ireland	249,000	20.0	21.0	20.4	— 1.5	+ 7.9
Special Schemes	126,250	2.0	0.4	1.5	...	+ 0.2
TOTAL ...	11,784,000	13.0	8.1	11.7	...	+ 2.4

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from August, 1927, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland :—

Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople.						Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.	
Date.	Males.	Females.	Males and Females.			Date.	Numbers.
			Wholly Unemployed and Casuals.	Temporarily Stopped	Total.		
1927.						1927.	
22 Aug. ...	10.4	6.3	6.8	2.5	9.3	29 Aug. ...	1,076,000
26 Sept. ...	10.5	5.9	6.9	2.4	9.3	26 Sept. ...	1,075,000
24 Oct. ...	10.8	6.0	7.2	2.3	9.5	31 Oct. ...	1,132,000
21 Nov. ...	11.3	6.4	7.6	2.4	10.0	28 Nov. ...	1,172,000
19 Dec. ...	11.3	5.9	7.7	2.1	9.8	19 Dec. ...	1,127,000
1928.						1928.	
23 Jan. ...	12.2	6.8	8.3	2.4	10.7	30 Jan. ...	1,199,000
20 Feb. ...	12.0	6.3	8.2	2.2	10.4	27 Feb. ...	1,139,000
26 Mar. ...	11.0	5.7	7.7	1.9	9.6	2 Apr. ...	1,071,000
23 Apr. ...	11.0	5.7	7.6	2.0	9.6	30 Apr. ...	1,171,000
21 May ...	11.4	5.9	7.6	2.3	9.9	21 May ...	1,143,000
25 June ...	12.3	6.9	7.8	3.0	10.8	25 June ...	1,239,000
23 July ...	13.1	7.9	8.1	3.6	11.7	30 July ...	1,354,000
20 Aug. ...	13.0	8.1	8.3	3.4	11.7	27 Aug. ...	1,367,000

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

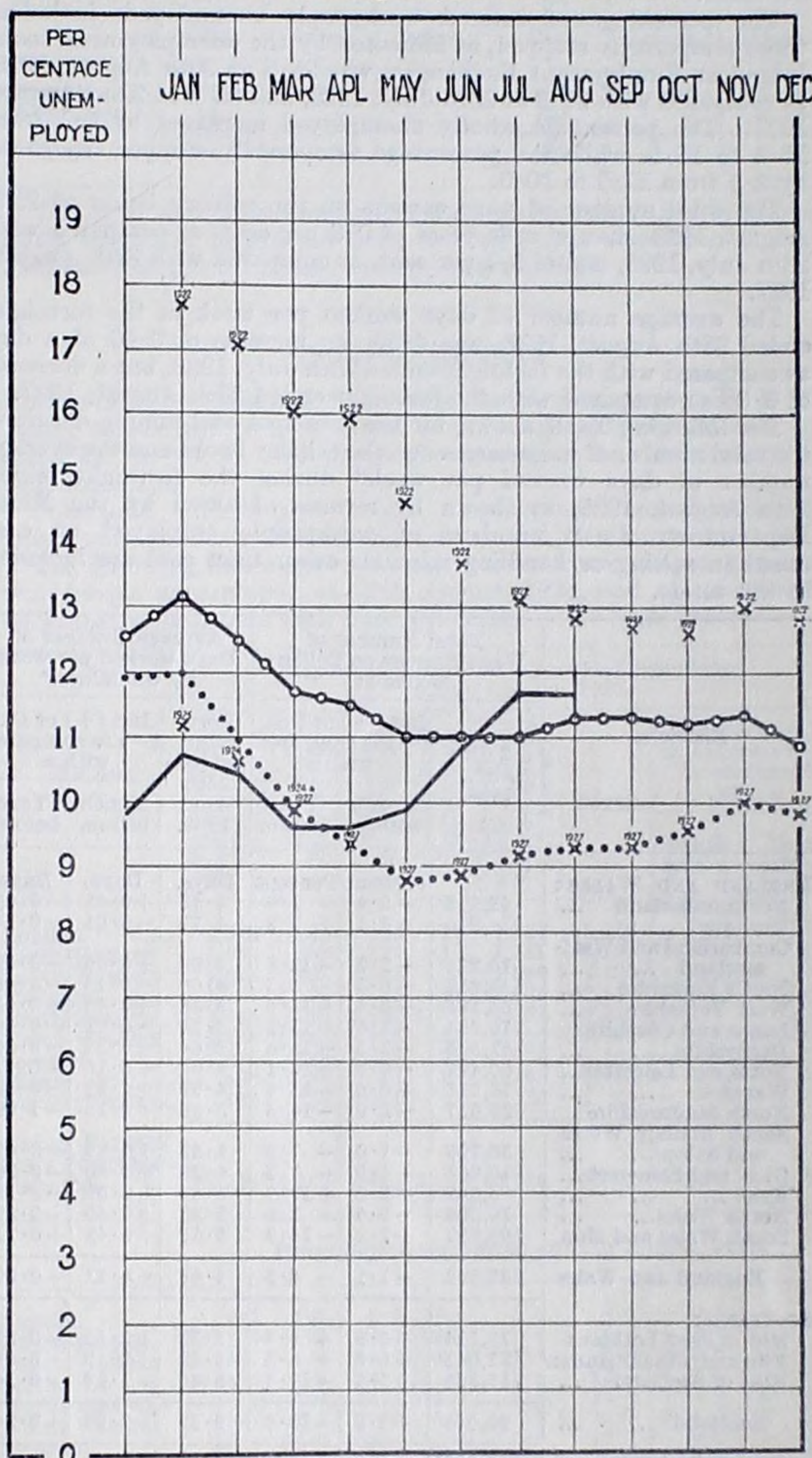
PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND :—

Plain Curve - - - - - = 1928.

Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1927.

Chain Curve - - - - - { = Mean for 1922-25 and 1927.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-5 and 1927.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING AUGUST, 1928.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Number.	Percentage of Numbers Insured at July, 1927.*
South-Eastern :						
(a) London ...	1,366	4,925	2,547	4,484	13,322	0.64
(b) Rest of South-Eastern ...	1,057	2,149	1,117	1,588	5,911	0.70
South-Western ...	929	1,963	904	1,462	5,258	0.65
Midlands ...	773	3,405	714	2,889	7,781	0.45
North-Eastern ...	908	4,134	1,251	2,597	8,890	0.45
North-Western ...	993	3,758	1,132	3,601	9,484	0.45
Scotland ...	1,083	3,171	957	2,550	7,761	0.61
Wales ...	397	1,369	451	527	2,744	0.45
GREAT BRITAIN ...	7,506	24,874	9,073	19,698	61,151	0.54

The above figures are exclusive of cases in which, as the result of systematic search, duplication of applications has been discovered.

* Aged 16-64 inclusive.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during August. There was a decrease in the numbers of insured persons temporarily stopped, however, in every district except Lancashire and Cheshire, Warwickshire and Scotland.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 25.5 at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 27.9 at 23rd July, 1928, and 20.4 at 22nd August, 1927. The percentage wholly unemployed increased by 0.1 from 15.4 to 15.5, while the percentage temporarily stopped decreased by 2.5 from 12.5 to 10.0.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th August, 1928, showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. as compared with 28th July, 1928, and of 9.1 per cent. as compared with 27th August, 1927.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 25th August, 1928, was 4.58, an increase of 0.40 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th July, 1928, but a decrease of 0.05 as compared with the fortnight ended 27th August, 1927.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 25th August, 1928, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
	25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Percent	Percent	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	45,675	−0.4	−1.9	4.78	+0.48	−0.09
Durham ...	126,613	+0.1	+2.2	4.77	−0.01	−0.14
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	10,258	−2.2	−12.6	4.99	+0.05	−0.02
South Yorkshire ...	115,837	−0.3	−3.3	4.05	−0.13	−0.45
West Yorkshire ...	53,176	−0.4	−12.8	3.86	+0.44	+0.01
Lancs and Cheshire ...	76,791	−2.6	−13.1	3.39	−0.09	−0.42
Derbyshire ...	52,863	−2.3	−11.6	3.64	+0.28	−0.35
Notts and Leicester...	60,477	−0.3	−10.1	4.08	+0.18	−0.11
Warwick ...	16,513	+0.0	−13.6	4.92	+0.21	−0.52
North Staffordshire	28,037	−2.0	−14.3	3.68	+0.15	−1.09
South Staffs,† Worcs and Salop ...	30,709	−1.0	−7.9	4.52	+0.75	−0.47
Glos. and Somerset ...	10,661	+1.0	−7.3	4.32	+0.50	−0.26
Kent ...	3,549	−0.6	+37.7	5.50	+0.05	−0.18
North Wales...	14,096	−0.4	−2.6	5.03	+0.59	−0.29
South Wales and Mon.	159,797	−2.1	−14.9	5.65	+0.48	+0.71
England and Wales	805,052	−1.1	−8.5	4.48	+0.21	−0.09
SCOTLAND:						
Mid & East Lothians	12,114	+0.9	−8.4	5.32	+2.53	+0.21
Fife and Clackmannan	21,043	+0.8	−6.3	5.32	+2.40	−0.08
Rest of Scotland ...	56,859	+2.1	−17.4	5.40	+1.85	+0.36
Scotland ...	90,016	+1.6	−13.9	5.37	+2.07	+0.24
GREAT BRITAIN ...	895,068	−0.8	−9.1	4.58	+0.40	−0.05

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 25th August, 1928, was 1.21 days per week, of which 1.10 days was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 28th July, 1928, were 1.62 days per week, of which 1.29 days per week was due to want of trade and transport difficulties and 0.29 of a day to holidays; for the fortnight ended 27th August, 1927, the figures were 1.16 days per week, of which 1.08 days was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one-fifth of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 25th August, 1928, was reported to the Mines Department as 16,199,200 tons, as compared with 16,901,800 tons in the four weeks ended 28th July, 1928, and 17,851,800 tons in the four weeks ended 27th August, 1927. The figures of output for the three periods taken above were affected by holidays.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,070,200 tons in August, 1928, as compared with 5,980,100 tons in July, 1928, and with 6,240,400 tons in August, 1927.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 20th August, 1928, and the increases

or decreases as compared with 23rd July, 1928, and 22nd August 1927, are shown in the following Table:—

Area.	Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 20th August, 1928.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
	Numbers.		Percentages.			Month before.	Year before.
	Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).	Temporarily stopped.	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.	Total.		
Great Britain ...	180,488	115,992	15.5	10.0	25.5	−2.4	+5.1
England and Wales...	154,018	113,405	15.0	11.0	26.0	−2.7	+4.8
Scotland...	26,470	2,587	19.3	1.8	21.1	−0.8	+6.7
Principal Districts in England and Wales:—							
Northumberland...	9,268	1,905	15.8	3.3	19.1	−4.2	−0.8
Durham ...	30,572	8,219	19.0	5.1	24.1	−0.6	−5.2
Cumberland and Westmorland...	1,754	713	14.1	5.7	19.8	−12.9	−3.6
Yorkshire ...	18,024	29,471	9.5	15.6	25.1	−1.5	+12.1
Lancs and Cheshire ...	11,617	26,459	11.4	25.9	37.3	+6.3	+10.2
Derbyshire ...	4,353	9,212	6.6	14.0	20.6	−1.2	+5.6
Notts and Leicester...	5,628	8,293	7.9	11.6	19.5	−0.7	+10.0
Warwickshire	1,578	516	11.8	3.9	15.7	+2.2	+13.3
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	8,491	12,732	10.7	16.0	26.7	−6.4	+15.5
Glos. and Somerset ...	2,105	1,659	15.2	11.9	27.1	−5.0	+5.0
Kent ...	104	...	3.8	...	3.8	−0.7	+0.2
Wales and Monmouth ...	59,949	14,221	23.4	5.6	29.0	−7.5	−0.1

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued slack during August and showed a decline, on the whole, as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.3 at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 14.1 at 23rd July, 1928, and 11.0 at 22nd August, 1927.

The following Table summarizes the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review:—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
	Fortnight ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,556	−5.0	+6.4	5.12	−0.49	+0.84
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,371	+1.8	−2.6	6.00	+0.05	+0.05
Other Districts ...	1,291	−0.5	+4.1	5.63	−0.11	+0.03
ALL DISTRICTS	6,218	−1.6	+2.3	5.56	−0.20	+0.34

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 25th August, 1928, by firms making returns was 2,518, showing a decrease of 0.9 per cent. compared with the previous month and a decrease of 4.6 per cent. compared with August, 1927. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 6.00 in August, 1928, compared with 5.88 in July, 1928, and 5.86 in August, 1927.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 18.9 at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 20.1 at 23rd July, 1928, and with 16.5 at 22nd August, 1927.

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 130 furnaces were in operation at the end of August, compared with 131 at the end of July, and 165 at the end of August, 1927.

Returns received from 79 firms employing 16,660 workpeople at the end of August showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.

† Including Cannock Chase.

* See footnote * in previous column.

with July and a decrease of 5·2 per cent. as compared with August, 1927. The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of August, 1928, July, 1928, and August, 1927:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		August, 1928.	July, 1928.	August, 1927.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	97	28	29	36	- 1	- 8
Cumberland and W. Lancs	44	11	11	13	...	- 2
Parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield)	31	8	8	12	...	- 4
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants	65	28	28	31	...	- 3
Lincolnshire	24	14	14	15	...	- 1
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and War- wick	50	10	10	13	...	- 3
South Wales	23	9	9	9	...	...
Total, England and Wales	334	108	109	129	- 1	- 21
SCOTLAND	90	22	22	36	...	- 14
Total	424	130	131	165	- 1	- 35

The production of pig iron in August amounted to 519,000 tons as compared with 537,800 tons in July, 1928, and 596,100 tons in August, 1927.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in August continued bad; short-time working was reported from many districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23·2 at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 23·1 at 23rd July, 1928, and 18·3 at 22nd August, 1927.

According to returns received from firms employing 52,019 work-people in the week ended 25th August, 1928, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of men employed combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 1.7 per cent. as compared with July, 1928, but showed a decrease of 8.7 per cent. as compared with August, 1927. The average number of shifts* during which the works were open was 5.4 in August, 1928, the same as in July, 1928, as compared with 5.5 in August, 1927.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods:—

—	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate number of Shifts.*		
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a		Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
DEPARTMENTS.		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	4,846	+ 7.0	− 14.8	26,456	+ 8.3	− 19.2
Puddling Forges ...	1,219	− 3.9	− 18.2	5,405	+ 2.1	− 17.3
Rolling Mills ...	18,440	+ 2.5	− 8.5	92,572	+ 2.4	− 10.3
Forging & Pressing	2,665	+ 29.0	− 12.1	14,122	+ 34.4	− 11.6
Founding ...	7,149	+ 1.3	− 4.1	40,523	+ 0.8	− 5.1
Other Departments	7,138	− 4.3	− 1.3	39,957	− 5.9	− 3.2
Mechanics, Labourers ...	10,562	− 0.7	− 4.3	60,284	− 1.8	− 5.0
TOTAL ...	52,019	+ 2.0	− 7.3	279,319	+ 1.7	− 8.7
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ...	12,420	− 2.2	− 12.7	68,732	− 3.7	− 14.9
Sheffield & Rotherham ...	16,705	− 0.3	− 5.8	86,617	− 1.5	− 8.4
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	1,209	+ 217.3	− 18.6	6,678	+ 277.5	− 16.5
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,222	− 0.7	− 14.0	32,574	+ 1.6	− 15.2
Staffordshire ...	5,381	+ 2.8	− 4.5	29,306	+ 4.2	− 2.2
Other Midland Counties ...	3,485	+ 3.8	+ 1.2	19,266	+ 1.8	− 0.8
Wales and Monmouth ...	6,597	+ 4.5	+ 4.1	36,146	+ 4.7	+ 4.0
Scotland† ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, England and Wales ...	52,019	+ 2.0	− 7.3	279,319	+ 1.7	− 8.7

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 648,300 tons in August, 1928, as compared with 666,900 tons in July, 1928, and 643,100 tons in August, 1927.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the *works* were in operation, taken in conjunction with the number of men employed. No account is taken of time lost by *individuals* owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of "shifts" shown were actually worked by all the men employed. Works closed are omitted in computing the average number of shifts.

† Most of the iron and steel works in Scotland were closed on account of holidays in the week ended 28th July, 1928. For the week ended 25th August, 1928, the number of workpeople in Scottish works covered by the returns received was 11,079, and the aggregate number of shifts, 57,915, as compared with 9,986 workpeople and 51,447 shifts in August, 1927.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued fair generally, but was affected by holidays. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed at 20th August, 1928, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5·7, as compared with 7·6 at 23rd July, 1928, and 21·6 at 22nd August, 1927. In the week ended 1st September, 1928, 529 mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 574 in the previous month and with 466 in August, 1927.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at works covered by the returns :—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	Week ending 1st Sept., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ending 1st Sept., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	71	- 5	+ 8	401	- 44	+ 59
Steel Sheet	14	...	+ 1	128	- 1	+ 4
TOTAL ...	85	- 5	+ 9	529	- 45	+ 63

The *exports* of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in August, 1928, amounted to 118,714 tons, or 23,551 tons more than in July, 1928, and 21,134 tons more than in August, 1927.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT continued to decline in August, especially in the motor vehicle and constructional engineering sections, and was very slack on the whole. In electrical engineering, however, conditions remained fair.

Compared with a year before, employment showed a decline, principally in constructional engineering and on motor vehicle work.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 20th August, 1928, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Division.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 20th August, 1928.							
	Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with a	
							Month before.	Year before.
London ...	3,315	290	52	127	1,451	5,235	— 121	— 1,154
South-Eastern	1,416	163	219	113	1,388	3,299	+ 417	+ 431
South-Western	1,572	108	563	59	1,888	4,190	+ 465	+ 327
Midlands ...	7,471	1,174	63	784	18,004	27,496	+ 3,497	+ 5,676
North-Eastern	16,542	740	3,600	1,721	1,057	23,660	+ 1,978	+ 1,060
North-Western	19,160	1,353	125	183	1,360	22,181	+ 2,332	+ 3,628
Scotland ...	7,995	288	1,946	699	613	11,541	— 281	+ 987
Wales ...	890	24	14	87	195	1,210	+ 188	— 135
Northern Ireland	888	28	871	7	130	1,924	— 93	— 498
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	59,249	4,168	7,453	3,780	26,086	100,736	+ 8,382	+ 10,322
Percentage Unemployed at 20th August, 1928.								
London ...	4.2	2.4	6.8	4.2	3.9	4.0	— 0.1	— 0.7
South-Eastern	3.4	1.9	7.1	19.2	5.4	4.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
South-Western	4.6	3.4	8.9	9.2	7.5	6.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
Midlands ...	8.4	4.9	4.1	11.8	18.6	12.6	+ 1.6	+ 2.8
North-Eastern	14.4	9.2	17.5	24.6	8.5	14.5	+ 1.2	+ 1.1
North-Western	14.7	7.2	13.0	6.6	7.2	12.9	+ 1.3	+ 2.5
Scotland ...	10.5	11.0	11.0	13.0	6.0	10.3	— 0.3	+ 1.2
Wales ...	14.3	7.3	7.4	11.9	9.6	12.7	+ 2.0	— 1.0
Northern Ireland	13.1	11.2	18.0	23.3	6.9	14.0	— 0.6	— 3.2
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	10.3	5.4	13.3	14.1	11.3	10.4	+ 0.9	+ 1.3
<i>Ditto, July, 1928</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
<i>Ditto, Aug., 1927</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>

On the North-East Coast employment continued to decline, and was very bad on the whole. There was also some falling off in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, where employment remained moderate.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment continued bad on the whole and showed a decline. In the textile machinery section short time was still in operation. On electrical and motor work, however, conditions remained moderate.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district there was a further seasonal decline on motor vehicle work, employment being definitely bad. Some falling off was also experienced in general engineering, but on electrical work employment was still fair. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment was still fair, but showed a decline.

In London and the South-Eastern Counties employment remained fairly good generally and very good on electrical work, but some decline was experienced in the motor section. In the South-Western Counties also there was a falling off on motor vehicle work, but employment generally continued fair.

Employment in Scotland remained slack and showed little change. In Wales, also, it was slack and failed to maintain the previous month's improvement. In Northern Ireland conditions were again bad, with little change.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during August, and showed little change on the whole compared with the previous month. In some divisions, and notably in Wales, there was an improvement; but on the North-East Coast there was a decline, 38 per cent. of the insured workpeople being recorded as unemployed. Compared with August, 1927, employment was worse in most districts, especially on the North-East Coast and in Scotland; in London and in the North-Western Division, however, an improvement was recorded.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 20th August, 1928, and the increase or decrease as compared with 23rd July, 1928, and with 22nd August, 1927:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 20th Aug., 1928.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 20th Aug., 1928.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London ...	1,813	— 291	— 825	17.1	— 2.7	— 6.8
South-Eastern ...	746	+ 55	+ 31	9.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.7
South-Western ...	2,121	+ 9	— 231	9.7	...	— 0.7
Midlands ...	75	+ 26	+ 49	16.7	+ 5.8	+ 11.0
North-Eastern ...	22,227	+ 1,107	+ 4,735	38.0	+ 1.9	+ 9.1
North-Western ...	7,777	— 475	— 1,700	26.9	— 1.6	— 4.7
Scotland ...	14,732	+ 210	+ 5,365	25.6	+ 0.3	+ 9.9
Wales ...	3,431	— 706	— 112	33.5	— 6.9	+ 0.3
Northern Ireland	3,826	— 382	+ 757	30.6	— 3.1	+ 6.7
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	56,748	— 447	+ 8,069	27.2	— 0.2	+ 4.7

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

DURING August employment both in the worsted and in the woollen section continued bad in most of the principal districts. There was a temporary improvement in some areas immediately before the local holidays, resulting from the tendency to arrange for employees to have a full week's work prior to the stoppage; but taking the month as a whole there was no improvement. Employment was distinctly below the level of a year ago.

The carpet section showed a slight improvement as compared both with July and with a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.9 on 20th August, 1928, as compared with 15.3 on 23rd July, 1928, and with 9.4 on 22nd August, 1927.

Worsted Section.—Taking the month as a whole, employment was generally slack, and was somewhat worse than in July.

In the week ended 25th August the returns received from employers showed that 37½ per cent. of the operatives in the worsted section, taken as a whole, worked short time,* losing approximately 13 hours each on the average. About 3½ per cent. of the operatives were reported to be working overtime.

In the wool sorting, preparing and combing departments there was, on the whole, a further decline; during the week ended 25th August, about 50 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns losing, on an average, 14 hours each in short-time working. In worsted spinning there was, on the whole, little change during the month. According to the returns received from employers, 39 per cent. of spinners worked short time, with a loss of 12 hours each, on an average during the week ended 25th August. During the same week overtime was worked by about 4 per cent. of the spinners, with an average of about 6½ hours each. Employment on the manufacturing side of the worsted section continued slack. In the fine cloth trade at Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Keighley there was no improvement, but employment was slightly better with alpaca and mohair weavers at Bradford and Keighley. Among weavers as a whole, about 34 per cent. lost, on an average, 14 hours each in short time working* during the week ended 25th August; there was practically no overtime.

Woollen Section.—Employment continued bad in this section. Employers' returns for the week ended 25th August showed that about 31 per cent. of the spinners and about 39½ per cent. of the weavers worked short time,* losing, on an average, about 10 hours each, in both sections. About 8 per cent. of the spinners and about 3 per cent. of the weavers were on overtime. Taking the woollen section as a whole, 34 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 10 hours each in short-time working* during the week ended 25th August, while 5½ per cent. worked overtime to the extent of 7 hours each.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district employment was very quiet and about the same as a month earlier, except that some night shifts were suspended. In the Heavy Woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley employment was described as bad, and at Dewsbury few, if any, of the firms were running full time. At Leeds

seasonal slackness continued, but at Morley there was an improvement as compared with July. In the Yeadon and Guiseley district employment was fair, and showed a distinct improvement with operatives engaged on tweeds and women's woollen wear and flannels; at Stockport also it continued fair. In the blanket trade of the Heavy Woollen district there was an improvement. At Rochdale and Saddleworth employment with flannel workers was poor, and showed no signs of improvement.

In Scotland employment continued fairly good.

Carpet Section.—Employment still showed some seasonal slackness, but, on the whole, was slightly better than in July. At Kidderminster there was little unemployment or short time, and employment, on the whole, continued satisfactory. In Yorkshire employment showed an improvement in some districts and a decline in others, while in Scotland it continued fairly good, on the whole. The employers' returns for the week ended 25th August showed that about 15 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, with a loss, on the average, of 7 hours each; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan. 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan. 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	9,562	— 3.8	92.6	21,451	— 5.6	81.1
Spinning ...	40,899	— 0.2	97.3	61,981	— 1.2	93.4
Weaving ...	20,984	— 0.3	97.0	39,811	— 3.4	90.0
Other Depts. ...	11,201	— 1.2	98.8	26,301	— 3.4	92.8
Not specified ...	1,933	— 0.2	95.9	3,549	— 6.2	89.8
Total—Worsted	84,579	— 0.8	96.7	153,093	— 2.9	90.3
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting ...	1,110	— 1.8	95.3	2,615	— 3.5	101.5
Spinning ...	13,774	— 0.4	94.6	28,189	— 0.9	99.0
Weaving ...	25,920	— 0.2	103.4	45,756	+ 1.4	103.5
Other Depts. ...	18,004	— 0.5	95.9	40,740	— 3.6	97.6
Not specified ...	1,848	— 1.4	95.4	4,213	— 3.1	105.3
Total—Woollen	60,656	— 0.4	98.6	121,513	— 1.1	100.4
CARPET SECTION ...	10,218	+ 0.1	106.3	18,472	+ 1.5	100.9
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	155,453	— 0.6	97.8	293,078	— 1.9	94.9
Districts* :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	36,248	— 1.2	93.9	68,053	— 1.8	83.8
Huddersfield ...	10,339	— 0.3	107.8	21,327	— 5.0	107.0
Halifax ...	9,785	— 0.1	93.0	15,451	— 6.5	83.2
Leeds ...	8,144	+ 0.3	93.5	14,054	— 1.2	88.3
Keighley ...	8,929	— 1.0	100.2	15,642	— 5.4	103.5
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,510	— 0.6	100.6	5,647	+ 0.1	105.3
Total, West Riding ...	76,955	— 0.7	96.4	140,184	— 3.1	89.6
West of England and Midlands ...	5,244	— 0.3	99.7	9,054	— 2.2	90.0
Lancs ...	337	+ 0.6	116.6	654	+ 0.3	114.3
Scotland ...	2,043	— 2.9	102.7	3,201	+ 1.7	132.4
Total—Worsted	84,579	— 0.8	96.7	153,093	— 2.9	90.3
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Huddersfield ...	12,378	+ 0.3	89.8	25,330	— 0.7	78.9
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	11,278	— 2.5	98.6	23,209	— 4.1	109.3
Leeds ...	8,814	+ 0.3	106.5	19,373	+ 0.3	118.0
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,625	— 3.3	94.7	5,062	— 3.8	84.0
Bradford ...	1,248	— 4.2	97.6	2,641	— 0.8	90.1
Total, West Riding ...	36,343	— 1.0	96.9	75,615	— 1.7	96.9
Lancs ...	5,341	— 0.2	102.1	11,266	+ 0.5	110.7
West of England and Midlands ...	4,564	— 0.1	103.4	8,185	— 0.1	111.9
Scotland ...	14,270	+ 1.1	100.5	26,256	— 0.4	104.9
Wales ...	138	— 8.6	109.4	191	— 5.4	100.3
Total—Woollen	60,656	— 0.4	98.6	121,513	— 1.1	100.4
CARPET SECTION ...	10,218	+ 0.1	106.3	18,472	+ 1.5	100.9
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	155,453	— 0.6	97.8	293,078	— 1.9	94.9

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed in the week ended 25th August, 1928, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 28th July, 1928:—

* The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account, in the case of the weaving sections, other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.

* Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month (—, without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WORSTED SECTION:					
Bradford ...	- 3.7	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 2.7	- 1.2
Huddersfield ...	- 1.5	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.0	- 0.3
Halifax ...	- 2.9	- 0.6	- 3.6	+ 3.2	- 0.1
Leeds ...	—	+ 1.8	+ 0.6	- 1.7	+ 0.3
Keighley ...	- 8.5	- 1.0	+ 0.7	- 0.3	- 1.0
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	—	- 0.1	—	- 2.7	- 0.6
Total, West Riding	- 3.8	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 1.0	- 0.7
West of England and Midlands ...	- 2.1	+ 1.5	- 0.3	- 1.5	- 0.3
Lancashire ...	—	+ 0.6	—	—	+ 0.6
Scotland ...	- 5.2	- 2.3	—	- 3.5	- 2.9
TOTAL ...	- 3.8	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 0.8

	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (... signifies "no change.")			
	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WOOLLEN SECTION:				
Huddersfield ...	+ 0.1	+ 1.4	- 1.4	+ 0.3
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 3.1	- 1.3	- 3.7	- 2.5
Leeds ...	+ 1.6	- 0.1	—	+ 0.3
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	—	- 5.4	- 3.9	- 3.3
Bradford ...	- 7.6	- 6.0	- 1.8	- 4.2
Total, West Riding ...	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 2.2	- 1.0
Lancashire ...	- 1.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.2
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 2.6	- 0.6	- 1.5	- 0.1
Scotland ...	- 0.0	+ 0.5	+ 3.2	+ 1.1
Wales ...	- 23.7	- 19.0	+ 18.2	- 8.6
TOTAL ...	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 0.4

The following Table shows the numbers of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 20th August, 1928:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 20th August, 1928.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	208	2	210	563	2	565	775
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	318	175	493	630	320	950	1,443
Wool Combing ...	234	142	376	719	597	1,316	1,692
Wool Carding ...	452	75	527	703	132	835	1,362
Woollen Spinning ...	262	85	347	365	175	540	887
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	345	1,132	1,477	394	2,555	2,949	4,426
Wool Winding and Warping ...	90	18	108	185	75	260	368
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	57	221	278	117	722	839	1,117
Woollen Weaving ...	119	393	512	289	2,111	2,400	2,912
Worsted Weaving ...	100	381	481	113	2,562	2,675	3,156
Other Processes ...	445	54	499	652	235	887	1,386
Total ...	2,630	2,678	5,308	4,730	9,486	14,216	19,524

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd July, 1928:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	+ 9	- 1	+ 8	+ 300	...	+ 300	+ 308
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	+ 45	+ 31	+ 76	+ 5	+ 36	+ 41	+ 117
Wool Combing ...	- 21	+ 21	...	- 231	+ 133	- 364	- 364
Wool Carding ...	+ 9	+ 14	+ 23	- 1	+ 3	+ 2	+ 25
Woollen Spinning ...	+ 18	+ 11	+ 29	- 29	- 40	- 69	- 40
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	- 2	+ 215	+ 213	+ 66	- 930	- 864	- 651
Wool Winding and Warping ...	- 3	+ 2	- 1	+ 50	- 33	+ 17	+ 16
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	- 7	+ 81	+ 74	+ 64	- 329	- 265	- 191
Woollen Weaving ...	+ 5	+ 212	+ 217	- 120	- 84	- 204	+ 13
Worsted Weaving ...	+ 23	+ 148	+ 171	- 16	- 509	- 525	- 354
Other Processes ...	+ 41	+ 11	+ 52	+ 208	- 3	+ 205	+ 257
Total ...	+ 117	+ 745	+ 862	+ 296	- 2,022	- 1,726	- 4

The imports of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 26,653,800 lbs. in August, 1928, compared with 28,345,100 lbs. in July, 1928, and 25,121,500 lbs. in August, 1927. Re-exports during the same periods amounted to 20,810,200 lbs., 16,014,400 lbs. and 26,513,700 lbs. respectively.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,895,200 lbs., compared with 4,163,500 lbs. in July, 1928, and with 5,185,200 lbs. in August, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 19,395,100 square yards compared with 17,953,700 square yards in July, 1928, and 17,460,300 square yards in August, 1927.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in all sections of the industry was much affected by holidays during the month. In some cases, particularly in the American spinning section, the usual week's holiday was extended on account of continued depression in trade. Apart from the interruption due to the holidays, employment was slightly worse than a month earlier, particularly in the coarse and plain weaving departments; it was also considerably worse than a year ago in both spinning and weaving. The Egyptian spinning section showed a further slight decline, but was still fairly well employed; and weavers of fine plain and fancy cloths were also generally well employed.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.2, on 20th August, 1928, as compared with 15.0 on 23rd July, 1928, and with 10.0 on 22nd August, 1927.

At Ashton employment continued bad; eight spinning mills were stopped at the end of the month. At Stockport and at Hyde employment was bad; at Glossop many firms extended the holiday stoppage.

There was a slight improvement at Oldham in the week ended 25th August, on which date the mills closed for the local trade holidays; a temporary improvement of this kind is not unusual before a holiday period. Apart from this, employment in the Oldham district generally remained bad in the spinning section, with much short time and extended holiday stoppages; in the weaving section it was also very slack, especially with calico weavers; operatives engaged on sheetings, fustians, "fancies," and velvets were moderately well employed.

At Bolton employment was worse than in July, and worse also than a year ago; with card room workers it was reported as poor, with weavers (particularly quilt weavers) and winders as very bad; with spinners it was still fair, though three or four mills have gone on to short time. At Leigh employment with spinners was described as moderate, and showed a slight decline. At Bury employment with spinners was bad. At Rochdale employment continued bad.

At Preston there was no improvement, and there was much unemployment, both in the spinning and in the weaving sections, except with weavers of light "fancies" and specialities. At Blackburn there was no lightening of the long continued depression; there was much unemployment amongst women workers (weavers, winders, warpers, and card room operatives), and in addition there was a large amount of "playing for beams"; generally speaking, those operatives who remained in employment were not earning more than 75 per cent. of normal wages. At Darwen employment was reported to have fallen off week by week; there was a good deal of under-employment, and about 9,000 looms were idle at the end of the month. At Accrington employment with weavers of dhooties, jaconets, and shirtings continued very slack; but those engaged on certain classes of light or fancy fabrics were regularly employed. At Burnley employment was very bad, and worse than in July; three mills stopped during the month. At Great Harwood a slight improvement was reported. At Colne and Nelson employment was depressed; at Nelson there was great and increasing under-employment, with weavers running two or three looms instead of four.

At Padiham employment was reported as fair, but not so good as in July. In the Rossendale Valley employment continued very bad, particularly in the sheeting trade, which was previously fairly well employed; several mills closed down for extended periods following the holidays, while others only worked four days a week, and there was a large amount of "playing for beams." At Todmorden the majority of firms were on short time, and the position was reported to be worse than it has been for some time. Short time continued at Hebden Bridge. At Sowerby Bridge, Dewsbury, and Halifax, however, there was some slight improvement during the month.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	9,565	- 0.8	15,908	+ 2.0	- 3.9
Spinning ...	19,337	- 0.6	32,429	+ 0.6	- 9.6
Weaving ...	32,204	- 1.9	55,215	- 3.7	- 10.9
Other ...	7,343	+ 0.0	17,584	- 1.3	- 3.5
Not Specified ...	5,635	- 7.0	11,646	- 5.6	- 8.8
TOTAL ...	74,084	- 1.6	132,782	- 1.9	- 8.7
DISTRICTS.					
Ashton ...	2,835	- 2.1	4,549	+ 0.1	- 7.3
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	6,985	- 13.9	11,834	- 9.3	- 19.4
Oldham ...	7,837	+ 1.6	14,888	+ 4.2	+ 5.2
Bolton and Leigh ...	13,585	- 4.0	23,811	- 4.7	- 7.9
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	5,963	+ 13.9	10,071	+ 11.4	- 6.3
Manchester ...	4,141	- 0.9	6,175	- 12.4	- 12.8
Preston and Chorley ...	5,648	- 0.6	9,883	- 2.6	- 7.2
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	8,159	- 3.4	15,382	- 2.5	- 13.2
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ...	9,576	+ 0.4	20,780	- 2.9	- 3.2
Other Lancashire Towns ...	2,844	- 1.4	4,359	+ 3.0	- 21.9
Yorkshire Towns ...	4,067	+ 0.9	7,295	+ 2.3	- 8.7
Other Districts ...	2,444	- 0.2	3,755	+ 1.4	- 17.6
TOTAL ...	74,084	- 1.6	132,782	- 1.9	- 8.7

Returns from firms employing about 71,600 operatives in the week ended 25th August showed that 16 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of over 17 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 20th August, 1928:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 20th August, 1928.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blow- ing Room ...	892	3,536	4,428	1,321	6,715	8,036	12,464
Spinning ...	4,086	2,752	6,838	7,590	6,073	13,663	20,501
Beaming, Wind- ing and Warp- ing ...	637	2,515	3,152	1,665	11,547	13,212	16,364
Weaving ...	1,844	4,577	6,421	2,687	9,038	11,725	18,146
Other Processes	459	160	619	437	405	842	1,461
Total ...	7,918	13,540	21,458	13,700	33,778	47,478	68,936

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd July, 1928:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	+ 124	+ 468	+ 592	- 39	+ 49	+ 10	+ 602
Spinning ...	+ 376	+ 142	+ 518	+ 298	- 1,273	- 975	- 457
Beaming, Winding and Warp- ing ...	+ 64	+ 229	+ 293	+ 464	+ 953	+ 1,417	+ 1,710
Weaving ...	+ 429	+ 653	+ 1,082	+ 161	+ 643	+ 804	+ 1,886
Other Pro- cesses ...	+ 23	+ 35	+ 58	+ 37	+ 15	+ 52	+ 110
Total ...	+ 1,016	+ 1,527	+ 2,543	+ 921	+ 387	+ 1,308	+ 3,851

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 76,233,600 lbs. in August, 1928, compared with 79,956,200 lbs. in July, 1928, and with 46,930,700 lbs. in August, 1927.

The exports of cotton yarn were 15,773,000 lbs. in August, 1928, compared with 11,375,400 lbs. in July, 1928, and with 16,646,900 lbs. in August, 1927.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 341,285,300 square yards as compared with 338,591,700 square yards in the previous month, and with 362,891,500 square yards in August, 1927.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued bad, but showed a slight improvement towards the end of the month in most of the principal districts. The trade holidays in the first half of the month were extended by many firms. Employment was worse than in August, 1927, in all districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 19.1 on 20th August, as compared with 19.3 on 23rd July, and with 13.2 on 22nd August, 1927.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods:—

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th August, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th August, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
England and Wales:—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London ...	1,406	+ 1.7	- 6.6	3,050	+ 5.3	- 5.5
Leicester ...	7,501	- 0.6	- 1.8	16,623	+ 1.5	- 9.9
Leicester Country Dis- trict ...	1,749	+ 0.3	- 6.5	3,542	+ 4.4	- 11.5
Northampton... District ...	5,216	- 1.2	- 2.7	11,397	- 3.3	- 15.6
Northampton Country District ...	8,150	+ 0.0	- 0.5	17,139	+ 5.3	- 10.9
Kettering ...	3,689	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	8,937	+ 3.7	- 6.6
Stafford and District ...	2,541	- 0.9	- 4.6	4,536	- 2.5	- 18.5
Norwich and District ...	3,810	+ 3.6	- 5.9	7,342	+ 4.1	- 8.6
Bristol, Kingswood and District ...	1,752	+ 2.6	- 1.8	2,976	+ 0.3	- 20.8
Leeds and District ...	1,718	- 6.6	- 7.0	3,474	- 7.7	- 19.7
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)*	...	...	...	...	...	...
Birmingham and Dis- trict ...	957	+ 26.8	- 2.4	1,790	+ 13.5	- 10.1
Other parts of England and Wales ...	1,726	- 0.3	+ 0.1	3,361	+ 10.9	- 7.6
England and Wales	40,215	+ 0.4	- 2.6	84,167	+ 2.2	- 11.7
Scotland ...	1,924	- 6.0	- 14.3	4,163	- 7.9	- 19.1
Great Britain ...	42,139	+ 0.1	- 3.2	88,330	+ 1.6	- 12.0

* Owing to the dispute in August, 1927, figures for this district are omitted from the table. Returns received from firms employing 4,145 workpeople and paying £7,812 in wages in the week ending 25th August, 1928, show that there were increases of 1.7 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the week ending 28th July, 1928.

† Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

Returns from firms employing nearly 41,600 operatives in the week ended 25th August, showed that over 56 per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, losing about 13½ hours each on the average.

Employment in London continued slack, but showed a slight improvement on the whole. At Leicester there was little change, and employment remained very slack, only a few firms being comparatively busy; about 72 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 25th August, losing about 15 hours each on the average. At Hinckley employment continued bad, with much short-time working. Most of the factories at Sileby closed for a fortnight at the holidays. Employment at Northampton continued bad; many firms closed for extended holidays, and after the holidays short time was general; about 55 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received were on short time, losing about 13½ hours each, on the average, in the week ended 25th August. At Kettering there was a slight improvement, some firms working full time after the holiday period; at most factories, however, short-time was worked, and employment continued slack. The conditions at this centre, however, continue rather better than at most of the Midland centres. At Wellingborough and at Higham and Rushden employment remained slack, short time being worked at most establishments. There was a slight improvement at some of the smaller Northamptonshire centres; at Raunds employment was fairly good on Government contracts. At Stafford and Stone employment remained very slack; a large majority of the operatives who remained in employment were on short time. At Norwich employment remained bad, and many of the factories extended the holidays; but there was a slight improvement towards the end of the month.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment continued very quiet, with much short-time working, particularly in the heavy boot trade. At Street it was reported as bad, and worse than in July. At Leeds also there was some decline; the holidays were extended by some firms, and when work was resumed employment was slack.

In the slipper trade in the Rossendale Valley employment remained slack on the whole, with a considerable amount of short-time working; it continued fair at Bury, and it was also reported to be fair at Bacup, where there was an improvement.

In Scotland employment showed a decline; it was bad at Glasgow and very quiet at Edinburgh; at Maybole there was a decline, but employment was still reported as fair, and it was also fairly good at Kilmarnock.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 20th August, 1928:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 20th August, 1928.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manu- facture :							
Preparing Depart- ment	122	40	162	171	57	228	390
Rough Stuff De- partment	421	22	443	572	63	635	1,078
Clicking Department	1,143	7	1,150	1,697	13	1,710	2,860
Closing Department	13	1,533	1,546	24	2,385	2,409	3,955
Making Department	1,800	56	1,856	2,873	44	2,917	4,773
Finishing Depart- ment	1,341	599	1,940	1,761	606	2,367	4,307
Slipper Making	326	106	432	1,193	515	1,708	2,140
Clog Making	15	2	17	4	...	4	21
Repairing and Hand- sewn Work	297	1	298	29	...	29	327
TOTAL	5,478	2,366	7,844	8,324	3,683	12,007	19,851

The exports of boots and shoes in August, 1928, amounted to 132,729 dozen pairs, or 4,654 dozen pairs more than in July, 1928, and 5,979 dozen pairs more than in August, 1927.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT during August again showed little variation, on the whole, as compared with the previous month; it varied somewhat as between different centres, but it was fair to fairly good with skilled operatives in most districts; it continued moderate with unskilled workers. Employment showed a decline, on the whole, as compared with August, 1927, particularly in Wales; there was some improvement, however, in Northern Ireland.

As regards individual occupations, employment was generally fairly good with carpenters and joiners and with bricklayers; it was fair, on the whole, with masons; it showed a further improvement with plasterers and was moderate to fair in most districts; it was also moderate to fair with slaters and plumbers. The decline which affected painters and decorators during the preceding two months was checked during August, and employment was fair to fairly good, in many districts, with skilled men; it remained moderate with tradesmen's labourers. As compared with August, 1927, employment showed a decline with each of the classes of operatives.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed at 20th August, 1928, together with the

increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with August, 1927 :—

OCCUPATIONS.	*Esti- mated Number of Insured Work- people at July, 1927.	Total Numbers Unem- ployed at 20th Aug., 1928.	Number included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Per- centage Unem- ployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before. Year before.	
					Month before.	Year before.
Carpenters ...	128,090	8,022	243	6.3	— 0.3	+ 3.1
Bricklayers ...	72,170	4,685	169	6.5	+ 0.6	+ 3.9
Masons ...	23,390	1,706	71	7.3	+ 0.8	+ 2.8
Slaters ...	5,850	517	31	8.8	+ 0.4	+ 4.9
Plasterers ...	21,080	1,728	36	8.2	— 1.3	+ 6.6
Painters ...	109,080	8,853	193	8.1	— 0.9	+ 0.5
Plumbers ...	32,600	2,835	87	8.7	— 0.6	+ 3.0
Labourers to above ...	252,230	32,187	847	12.8	+ 0.3	+ 3.4
All other occu- pations ...	162,720	24,443	926	15.0	+ 0.4	+ 4.1
Total ...	807,210	84,976	2,603	10.5	...	+ 3.2
DIVISIONS.						
London ...	163,620	10,428	8	6.4	— 1.8	+ 0.5
South-Eastern ...	127,050	6,319	10	5.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
South-Western ...	100,310	8,727	75	8.7	+ 0.1	+ 2.9
Midlands ...	91,380	9,923	686	10.9	+ 0.7	+ 4.3
North-Eastern ...	103,420	17,160	899	16.6	+ 0.8	+ 5.8
North-Western ...	106,900	15,060	547	14.1	+ 1.0	+ 5.2
Scotland ...	72,650	7,256	174	10.0	+ 0.2	+ 2.4
Wales ...	28,280	7,281	200	25.7	+ 1.6	+ 12.4
Northern Ireland ...	13,600	2,822	4	20.8	— 1.0	— 1.6
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	807,210	84,976	2,603	10.5	...	+ 3.2

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 140 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,007,000, show that in August, 1928, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £3,907,800, as compared with £6,192,800 in July, 1928, and £3,808,000 in August, 1927. Of the total for August, 1928, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,175,900; factories and workshops for £383,000; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £191,100; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,157,800.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the Peterborough district it continued to be good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.0 at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 10.2 at 23rd July, 1928, and 5.4 at 22nd August, 1927.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods :—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month before. Year before.	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month before. Year before.
Northern Counties, York- shire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1,863	— 0.1 — 9.1	4,355	— 3.3 — 13.2
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	5,202	+ 0.4 — 5.3	14,323	+ 4.0 — 7.7
South and South-West Counties and Wales ...	1,487	+ 0.9 — 8.7	3,626	+ 0.8 — 5.2
Scotland ...	186	+ 0.5 + 3.3	477	— 10.5 + 0.2
TOTAL ...	8,738	+ 0.4 — 6.5	22,781	+ 1.7 — 8.3

Returns from employers relative to short time, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that of 7,803 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information 21.3 per cent. were working on an average about 7½ hours less than full time in the week ending 25th August, 1928; on the other hand, 7.7 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 3½ hours each on the average.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further decline; the holiday period was extended in many cases, and there was much unemployment and short-time working. At Derby employment continued good; at Worcester it was fairly good. In the stoneware section in Scotland it continued slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.5 at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 17.9 at 23rd July, 1928, and with 15.7 at 22nd August, 1927.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods.

* Aged 16-64 inclusive.

† Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month before. Year before.	Week ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a Month before. Year before.
China Manufacture ...	1,237	— 1.2 + 0.7	2,384	— 1.7 + 1.5
Earthenware Manufacture ...	7,690	— 2.3 — 1.0	13,785	— 4.7 — 2.1
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,850	— 0.1 — 4.1	3,507	— 1.2 + 4.6
TOTAL ...	10,777	— 1.8 — 1.3	19,676	— 3.7 — 0.6
DISTRICTS.				
North Staffordshire ...	8,140	— 2.5 — 2.5	13,690	— 4.4 — 2.3
Other Districts ...	2,637	+ 0.5 + 2.5	5,986	— 1.9 + 3.6
TOTAL ...	10,777	— 1.8 — 1.3	19,676	— 3.7 — 0.6

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 9,791 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 4,082, or 41.7 per cent., were working on an average about 12 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th August, 1928.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade during August remained fairly good generally.

In the letterpress printing trade employment was moderate on the whole, and showed a decline compared with the previous month in a number of districts, including London, Leeds and Cardiff; some improvement was reported at a few centres, including Birmingham and Bristol. Employment with electrotypers and stereotypers continued good generally, but at Manchester and Cardiff it showed a decline and was only fair.

With lithographic printers employment continued fair on the whole, and, compared with the previous month, was rather better; it was again reported as bad at Manchester and Belfast, both towns showing a decline; in London, however, employment improved and was good. Lithographic artists were fairly well employed during the month; there was an improvement at Manchester and Leeds, and employment was reported as good in London and at Leeds and as moderate at Manchester.

Employment in the bookbinding trade improved on the whole, and continued fair.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding industries was 4.2 at 20th August, compared with 4.1 at 23rd July and 4.4 at 22nd August, 1927. In the paper and paper board industry the percentage was 4.7 at 20th August, compared with 4.3 at 23rd July and 5.4 at 22nd August, 1927. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 4.1 at 20th August, compared with 4.5 at 23rd July and 4.0 at 22nd August, 1927.

The following Table summarises the returns received from Trade Unions :—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of August, 1928.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) on a	
		August, 1928.	July, 1928.	August, 1927.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing :						
London ...	39,737	5.5	4.2	5.5	+ 1.3	...
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancel- shire and Cheshire ...	16,828	3.7	3.9	3.9	— 0.2	— 0.2
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	10,769	2.6	3.0	2.6	— 0.4	...
Scotland ...	6,997	4.4	4.6	4.4	— 0.2	...
Other Districts ...	10,461	3.4	2.6	3.5	+ 0.8	— 0.1
TOTAL ...	84,792	4.4	3.8	4.5	+ 0.6	— 0.1
Lithographic Printing	10,846	2.5	2.9	2.9	— 0.4	— 0.4
Bookbinding ...	20,202	3.5	3.8	3.5	— 0.3	...

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during August remained moderate to fair on the whole. The supply of seamen was more than adequate for requirements at most of the ports, but occasional shortages of able seamen were experienced at a few ports, particularly at Southampton.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 20th August, 1928, was 14.6, compared with 15.1 at 23rd July, 1928, and 13.8 at 22nd August, 1927.

The demand for men on the Thames improved from slack to fairly good in the course of the month. It was quiet on the Tyne, but showed some improvement late in August. The demand was generally very moderate on the Wear; it was fair on the Tees early in the month and quiet subsequently. At Hull the demand was moderate until the last week of the month, when it became very brisk. At Southampton it was fairly brisk throughout August. The demand was mainly quiet at Bristol and fair at Avonmouth. At Newport it improved from poor to fair during the month. It was generally fair at Cardiff. The demand fluctuated from quiet to fairly good at Swansea, and was fair to good on the Mersey. At Manchester it continued fair. The demand varied on the Clyde and was moderate in the closing stages of the month. It fluctuated from poor to good at Leith, and was dull at Belfast.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the undermentioned ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during August :—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	Aug. 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Eight Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	Aug. 1928.	Aug. 1927.
ENGLAND & WALES :					
Liverpool† ...	15,743	+ 3,366	+ 2,075	99,267	99,634
Manchester ...	738	+ 17	+ 33	5,933	6,235
London ...	11,984	+ 455	+ 954	82,119	74,121
Southampton...	12,515	+ 1,497	+ 2,281	81,618	78,249
Tyne Ports ...	3,209	+ 81	+ 222	22,010	20,488
Sunderland ...	597	+ 185	+ 176	2,961	3,092
Middlesbrough ...	483	+ 179	+ 156	3,469	2,889
Hull ...	1,408	+ 643	+ 90	10,686	10,739
Bristol‡ ...	1,107	+ 88	+ 47	7,980	8,537
Newport, Mon. ...	557	+ 369	+ 393	5,735	6,414
Cardiff§ ...	2,553	+ 274	+ 414	21,273	21,923
Swansea ...	707	+ 233	+ 139	5,866	6,594
SCOTLAND :					
Leith ...	641	+ 58	+ 127	3,135	3,202
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	635	+ 28	+ 344	3,493	3,090
Glasgow ...	4,303	+ 1,379	+ 137	24,924	24,612
NORTHERN IRELAND :					
Belfast ...	116	+ 112	+ 5	1,383	1,584
TOTAL for above Ports	57,296	+ 4,630	+ 6,349	381,852	371,403

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during August was slack generally, but somewhat better than in the previous month.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service 31.4 per cent. were recorded as unemployed at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 32.4 per cent. at 23rd July, 1928, and with 22.9 per cent. at 22nd August, 1927.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month :—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
4th August, 1928...	4,285	1,772	6,057	6,943	13,000
11th " " ...	3,716	2,248	5,964	7,205	13,169
18th " " ...	3,813	2,316	6,129	7,404	13,533
25th " " ...	3,859	2,202	6,061	7,441	13,502
Average for 4 weeks ended 25th August, 1928 ...	3,927	2,130	6,057	7,250	13,307
Average for July, 1928	4,199	1,850	6,049	7,472	13,521
Average for August, 1927	4,275	2,194	6,469	7,460	13,929

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during August was 904, compared with 748 in July, and with 890 in August, 1927.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teamers on the North-East Coast was fair. With other classes of dock workers it was fair on the Tyne, moderate but steadier than in the previous month on the Wear, while at Blyth it was reported as bad. There was little change at Middlesbrough. Employment was fair at Hull and Grimsby, and better than in the previous month owing to the arrival of timber and fruit cargoes. At Yarmouth employment was good, but at Ipswich it was slack. At other East Coast ports it was fair.

Liverpool.—Employment continued slack. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 31st August was 13,907, compared with 14,579 in July, and with 14,374 in August, 1927. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £35,013 in the five weeks ended 31st August, compared with £39,720 in July, and with £37,658 in August, 1927.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports showed a general improvement over the previous month, and was reported as moderate on the whole. Improvements were also recorded at Gloucester and Bristol, but at Avonmouth employment was exceptionally bad. At Plymouth and other South-Western ports employment continued slack. At Southampton it was fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was fair at Dundee, and fairly good at Ayr, at both ports some improvement being experienced. It was fair at Glasgow, Grangemouth and Leith. At Belfast it was fair, and slightly better than in the previous month.

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

† Including Birkenhead and Garston.

‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

§ Including Barry and Penarth.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

The following Table gives, for the period 10th July to 13th August inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux, the average number of claims current at all Local Offices in Great Britain during that period, and an analysis of the decisions by the Insurance Officers, of the recommendations of Courts of Referees, and decisions by the Umpire, on claims considered by them :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
A.—Number of Claims.			
Fresh and Renewal claims made ...	701,328	226,508	927,836
Average number of claims current ...	961,160	197,545	1,158,705
B.—Disallowances by Insurance Officers.			
<i>Permanent provisions :</i>			
First statutory condition* (30 contributions in past 2 years) ...	146	156	302
Not unable to obtain suitable employment ...	930	1,791	2,721
Not genuinely seeking work ...	9,616	7,405	17,021
Trade disputes...	767	91	858
Employment lost through misconduct ...	3,279	951	4,230
Employment left voluntarily without just cause ...	4,180	2,002	6,182
Other grounds ...	1,333	502	1,835
<i>Transitional provisions (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act, 1927) :</i>			
Less than 8 contributions paid in previous two years or 30 contributions paid at any time ...	153	73	226
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	665	721	1,386
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	5,840	889	6,729
Total claims disallowed ...	26,909	14,581	41,490

C.—Recommendations of Courts of Referees.

Total cases considered ...	11,633	5,426	17,059
Recommended for allowance ...	4,346	1,590	5,936
Recommended for disallowance :—			
<i>Permanent provisions :</i>			
First statutory condition* ...	419	570	989
Not unable to obtain suitable employment ...	2,304	2,344	4,648
Not genuinely seeking work ...	26	17	43
Trade disputes ...	896	240	1,136
Employment lost through misconduct ...	906	401	1,307
Employment left voluntarily without just cause ...	283	64	347
Other grounds ...	2,453	200	2,653
<i>Transitional provisions (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act, 1927) ...</i>			
Total ...	7,287	3,836	11,123

D.—Decisions by Umpire.

Cases referred by Insurance Officer	Allowed...	165	16	181
	Disallowed	163	20	183
Appeals by Associations ...	Allowed...	63	2	65
	Disallowed	169	10	179
Appeals by Claimants ...	Allowed...	6	1	7
	Disallowed	23	6	29
Total ...	Allowed...	234	19	253
	Disallowed	355	36	391

It should be noted that the disallowances by Insurance Officers are those recorded during the period and relate in a proportion of cases to claims made earlier. A similar remark applies to the figures relative to Courts of Referees and the Umpire.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.†

The following Table shows approximately the receipts of, and payments from, the Unemployment Fund in the periods specified, and the liabilities of the Fund :—

	Four weeks ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Four weeks ended 28th July, 1928.	Four weeks ended 27th Aug., 1927.
Contributions received from—			
Employers ...	£ 1,190,000	£ 1,500,000	£ 1,165,000
Employed Persons ...	1,020,000	1,300,000	1,005,000
Exchequer ...	845,000	1,085,000	830,000
Total ...	3,055,000	3,885,000	3,000,000
Unemployment Benefit ...	3,690,000	3,520,000	2,550,000
Cost of Administration ...	380,000	380,000	365,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances ...	100,000	95,000	90,000
Other Items ...	10,000	10,000	55,000
Total ...	4,180,000	4,005,000	3,060,000
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	26,560,000	25,670,000	22,920,000
Other Liabilities (net), including Accrued Interest and Deposits ...	480,000	245,000	320,000

* This condition at present operates only in the case of juveniles under 18 years of age.

† A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see House of Commons Paper No. 5 of 1928 for the period ending 31st March, 1927).

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ON page 336 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 20th August, 1928, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Unemployed — Special Schemes ...	1,715	10	152	3	1,880
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	926,611	15,503	188,145	8,799	1,139,058
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	18,671	492	5,305	216	24,684
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	57,465	3,087	2,493	1,958	65,003
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	17,202	23,314	14,457	24,442	79,415
6. Two months' file ...	57,135	3,816	29,391	3,344	93,686
Persons on Register (lines 2-5) ...	1,019,949	42,396	210,400	35,415	1,308,160
Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6) ...	1,061,597	22,908	225,486	14,320	1,324,311

ANALYSIS OF NUMBERS ON REGISTER.

At 27th August, 1928, the number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,320,027; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,367,376.

In the following Table the figures are analysed so as to show separately the numbers on the Registers who were normally in regular employment, but who were respectively wholly unemployed and temporarily stopped from the service of their employers, and the numbers who were normally in casual employment.

Statistics for men, boys, women and girls, separately, under each of these headings are given:—

		27th August, 1928.			30th July, 1928.	
		Persons normally in regular employment.		Persons normally in casual employ- ment.	Total.	Total.
		Wholly Unemployed.	Temporary Stoppages.			
Great Britain.						
Men	...	693,423	260,578	73,609	1,027,610	1,030,599
Boys	...	35,223	7,367	98	42,688	38,496
Women	...	104,724	107,391	1,044	213,159	203,477
Girls	...	30,694	5,869	7	36,570	32,399
Total...		864,064	381,205	74,758	1,320,027	1,304,971
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.						
Men	...	715,258	262,829	76,492	1,054,579	1,057,900
Boys	...	36,007	7,486	98	43,591	39,402
Women	...	117,905	112,708	1,047	231,660	223,111
Girls	...	31,339	6,200	7	37,546	33,427
Total...		900,509	389,223	77,644	1,367,376	1,353,840

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

THE following Table gives particulars relating to the work of Employment Exchanges* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in filling vacancies for employment during the four weeks ended 27th August, 1928. Of the 92,234 vacancies filled, 47,203 were for men, 23,941 for women and 21,090 for juveniles:—

Week ended	Applications from Employers.		Vacancies Filled.†	Number of Work-people on Registers.
	During Week.	At end of Week.		
30th July, 1928 ...	27,539	20,689	23,801	1,353,840
6th Aug., 1928...	22,283	19,010	21,281	Not available
13th " " ...	26,009	20,298	21,698	1,361,379
20th " " ...	28,202	17,847	26,413	1,355,096
27th " " ...	26,523	17,645	22,842	1,367,376
Average ...	25,754	...	23,059	1,361,284

* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 23rd July, 1928, the average number of such placings was 4,031 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers during the four weeks ended 27th August, 1928, was 675 per week.

PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 27th August, 1928. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Area.	Number of Persons on Register at 27th August, 1928.				Inc.(+) or Dec.(−) as compared with 30th July, 1928.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	80,184	17,070	7,284	104,538	− 1,117
South-Eastern Division ...	30,286	5,637	4,075	39,998	+ 2,544
Brighton ...	1,502	184	229	1,915	+ 205
Chatham ...	2,393	256	651	3,300	+ 193
Ipswich ...	1,463	142	166	1,771	+ 27
Norwich ...	3,550	1,078	327	4,955	+ 149
Rest of South-Eastern ...	21,378	3,977	2,702	28,057	+ 1,970
South-Western Division ...	49,667	7,496	5,148	62,311	+ 3,342
Bristol ...	12,512	2,598	1,558	16,668	+ 1,295
Plymouth ...	4,636	375	256	5,267	+ 197
Portsmouth ...	3,416	388	506	4,310	+ 317
Reading ...	1,072	109	231	1,412	+ 22
Southampton ...	2,988	292	445	3,725	− 207
Swindon ...	635	91	120	846	+ 14
Rest of South-Western ...	24,408	3,643	2,032	30,083	+ 1,704
Midlands Division ...	151,859	41,856	11,030	204,745	+ 716
Birmingham ...	23,521	8,658	1,832	34,011	+ 1,566
Coventry ...	7,028	1,051	253	8,332	− 206
Cradley Heath ...	3,099	880	110	4,089	+ 465
Derby ...	2,493	1,090	408	3,991	+ 1,387
Leicester ...	5,204	3,871	306	9,381	− 246
Northampton ...	2,640	1,086	284	4,010	+ 329
Nottingham ...	6,480	2,257	701	9,438	+ 556
Smethwick ...	2,198	986	156	3,340	+ 150
Stoke-on-Trent ...	15,556	5,435	1,162	22,153	+ 159
Walsall ...	4,313	935	528	5,776	+ 76
West Bromwich ...	2,361	499	123	2,983	+ 317
Wolverhampton ...	5,606	871	355	6,832	+ 812
Rest of Midlands ...	71,360	14,237	4,812	90,409	− 4,649
North-Eastern Division ...	276,977	39,965	18,104	335,046	+ 5,427
Barnsley ...	4,965	790	263	6,018	+ 264
Bradford ...	10,772	6,436	972	18,180	+ 618
Darlington ...	1,715	170	145	2,030	− 56
Dewsbury ...	1,925	908	292	3,125	+ 929
Doncaster ...	7,171	293	464	7,928	− 4,928
Gateshead ...	6,199	823	588	7,610	− 597
Grimsby ...	2,646	139	141	2,926	− 96
Halifax ...	2,614	1,435	119	4,168	+ 250
Hartlepool ...	5,575	173	511	6,259	− 193
Huddersfield ...	2,609	1,695	333	4,637	− 264
Hull ...	11,006	763	881	12,650	+ 882
Leeds ...	13,248	5,476	973	19,697	+ 1,126
Lincoln ...	1,404	212	294	1,910	+ 97
Middlesbrough ...	8,558	277	293	9,128	+ 556
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	15,573	1,410	1,022	18,005	− 723
Rotherham ...	6,920	212	404	7,536	+ 886
Sheffield ...	21,458	2,604	1,901	25,963	+ 1,312
South Shields ...	7,693	299	592	8,584	+ 287
Stockton-on-Tees ...	3,883	195	347	4,425	− 48
Sunderland ...	12,511	784	697	13,992	+ 1,515
Wakefield ...	4,486	367	632	5,485	+ 31
York ...	1,756	146	226	2,128	+ 123
Rest of North-Eastern ...	122,290	14,358	6,014	142,662	+ 3,456
North-Western Division ...	199,006	76,426	17,524	292,956	+ 14,497
Accrington ...	2,589	1,381	153	4,123	+ 1,019
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	3,166	2,527	365	6,058	+ 151
Barrow ...	1,805	143	310	2,258	− 756
Birkenhead ...	4,578	344	305	5,227	− 188
Blackburn ...	3,930	4,781	477	9,188	+ 944
Blackpool ...	1,182	73	30	1,285	+ 104
Bolton ...	5,747	3,664	524	9,935	+ 1,386
Burnley ...	2,545	2,438	188	5,171	+ 563
Bury ...	1,390	1,421	124	2,935	− 16
Chorley ...	2,675	577	90	3,342	+ 513
Liverpool ...	43,163	4,945	4,320	52,428	+ 1,245
Manchester ...	17,376	7,255	2,188	26,819	+ 579
Nelson ...	1,709	1,039	81	2,829	+ 1,626
Oldham ...	8,544	6,216	452	15,212	− 1,700
Preston ...	3,073	2,178	297	5,548	− 140
Rochdale ...	2,608	1,795	196	4,599	− 1,084
St. Helens ...	7,756	325	355	8,436	+ 1,391
Salford ...	7,756	3,260	1,038	12,054	+ 540
Stockport ...	2,916	2,042	183	5,141	− 1,241
Warrington ...	2,371	422	366	3,159	+ 377
Wigan ...	9,069	2,407	362	11,838	+ 372
Rest of North-Western ...	63,058	27,193	5,120	95,371	+ 8,812
Scotland Division ...	116,802	20,939	10,341	148,082	− 483
Aberdeen ...	2,872	711	168	3,751	+ 358
Clydebank ...	1,203	198	224	1,625	+ 53
Dundee ...	4,516	2,043	329	6,888	+ 124
Edinburgh ...	10,571	1,675	937	13,183	+ 1,106
Glasgow ...	38,936	7,442	3,889	50,267	− 742
Greenock ...	5,030	658	283	5,971	+ 392
Motherwell ...	4,122	182	326	4,630	− 369
Paisley ...	2,079	477	366	2,922	+ 247
Rest of Scotland ...	47,473	7,553	3,819	58,845	− 1,652
Wales Division ...	122,829	3,770	5,752	132,351	− 9,870
Cardiff ...	8,671	773	882	10,326	− 1,027
Llanelli ...	2,905	133	101	3,139	− 540
Newport ...	4,597	315	382	5,294	− 191
Swansea ...	6,656	414	436	7,506	+ 1,436
Rest of Wales ...	100,000	2,135	3,951	106,086	− 9,548
Northern Ireland ...	26,969	18,501	1,879	47,349	− 1,520
Belfast ...	17,867	11,137	1,345	30,349	− 263
Londonderry ...	1,302	1,095	65	2,462	− 22
Lurgan ...	810	1,017	63	1,890	− 223
Lisburn ...	758	786	53	1,597	+ 40
Newry ...	870	367	12	1,249	+ 6
Rest of Northern Ireland ...	5,362	4,099	341	9,802	− 1,058
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	1,054,579	231,660	81,137	1,367,376	+ 13,536

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 653 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 20th August, 1928, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and three* years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are excepted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, *inter alia*, the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 335 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

The statistics of unemployment in insured industries are presented in two separate Tables, one showing the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the other showing the estimated numbers insured and the percentages unemployed.

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. (The employers of such persons, however, are required to pay contributions at the employer's rates.) The estimates of the numbers of insured persons in each industry prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books in July, 1927, have therefore been revised to exclude persons aged 65 and over who, it is computed, numbered approximately 323,000 men, and 24,000 women. Such persons no longer appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. The number of insured persons aged 65 and over whose books were lodged at the beginning of January did not exceed 30,000, and a proportion of these continued to register as uninsured persons. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 20TH AUGUST, 1928.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing	2,060	48	2,108	88	44	132	2,148	92	2,240	2,148	92	2,240
Mining :—												
Coal Mining	179,908	620	180,528	115,238	754	115,992	295,146	1,374	296,520	295,106	1,374	296,480
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	1,546	1	1,547	493	...	493	2,039	1	2,040	2,000	1	2,001
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	754	4	758	11	...	11	765	4	769	764	4	768
Stone Quarrying and Mining	2,817	5	2,822	914	8	922	3,731	13	3,744	3,480	13	3,493
Slate Quarrying and Mining	282	4	286	72	...	72	354	4	358	354	4	358
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	1,128	78	1,206	468	4	472	1,596	82	1,678	1,550	82	1,632
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	684	7	691	79	3	82	763	10	773	748	10	758
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	1,217	21	1,238	365	...	365	1,582	21	1,603	1,582	21	1,603
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	2,165	66	2,231	650	11	661	2,815	77	2,892	2,792	77	2,869
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	1,029	58	1,087	142	3	145	1,171	61	1,232	1,158	61	1,219
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	6,193	659	6,852	1,920	305	2,225	8,113	964	9,077	7,990	964	8,954
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	2,135	2,256	4,391	4,280	6,335	10,615	6,415	8,591	15,006	6,394	8,590	14,984
Glass Trades :—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scien- tific Glass) Manufacture	1,776	256	2,032	411	59	470	2,187	315	2,502	2,180	315	2,495
Glass Bottle Making	2,349	142	2,491	960	27	987	3,309	169	3,478	3,306	169	3,475
Chemicals, etc. :—												
Chemicals Manufacture	4,499	564	5,063	653	193	846	5,152	757	5,909	5,039	754	5,793
Explosives Manufacture	616	276	892	31	77	108	647	353	1,000	647	350	997
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	597	118	715	91	8	99	688	126	814	688	126	814
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	3,002	598	3,600	1,257	145	1,402	4,259	743	5,002	4,244	741	4,985
Metal Manufacture :—												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	3,157	10	3,167	1,239	4	1,243	4,396	14	4,410	4,393	14	4,407
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Fur- naces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	16,835	131	16,966	26,388	164	26,552	43,223	295	43,518	43,214	295	43,509
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	2,746	150	2,896	850	29	879	3,596	179	3,775	3,562	179	3,741
Manufacture of Tin Plates	812	63	875	787	78	865	1,599	141	1,740	1,599	141	1,740
Iron and Steel Tube Making	1,868	115	1,983	1,139	21	1,160	3,007	136	3,143	3,006	136	3,142
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manu- facture	1,293	220	1,513	1,456	68	1,524	2,749	288	3,037	2,745	288	3,033
Engineering, etc. :—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	39,368	1,263	40,631	17,787	831	18,618	57,155	2,094	59,249	56,269	2,092	58,361
Electrical Engineering	2,869	569	3,438	520	210	730	3,389	779	4,168	3,361	779	4,140
Marine Engineering, etc.	6,659	21	6,680	773	...	773	7,432	21	7,453	6,563	19	6,582
Constructional Engineering	2,171	39	2,210	1,553	17	1,570	3,724	56	3,780	3,718	55	3,773
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	16,664	1,405	18,069	7,421	596	8,017	24,085	2,001	26,086	23,956	2,000	25,956
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	1,410	118	1,528	354	62	416	1,764	180	1,944	1,717	179	1,896
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram- car Building	3,560	25	3,585	2,595	18	2,613	6,155	43	6,198	6,142	43	6,185

* See footnote * on page 339.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	53,493	136	53,629	3,088	31	3,119	56,581	167	56,748	52,761	161	52,922
Metal Trades :—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General												
Iron Founding ...	7,145	572	7,717	3,755	256	4,011	10,900	828	11,728	10,810	828	11,638
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	1,143	31	1,174	98	...	98	1,241	31	1,272	1,195	29	1,224
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric												
Lamp Manufacture ...	2,807	1,108	3,915	320	185	505	3,127	1,293	4,420	3,118	1,293	4,411
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,217	679	2,896	2,246	341	2,587	4,463	1,020	5,483	4,453	1,020	5,473
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails,												
etc., Manufacture ...	1,069	1,019	2,088	634	270	904	1,703	1,289	2,992	1,703	1,289	2,992
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manu-												
facture ...	1,561	845	2,406	438	127	565	1,999	972	2,971	1,990	972	2,962
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	297	9	306	26	1	27	323	10	333	320	9	329
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery,												
etc., Manufacture ...	1,395	973	2,368	469	331	800	1,864	1,304	3,168	1,835	1,304	3,139
Metal Industries not separately												
specified ...	8,463	4,997	13,460	3,482	1,727	5,209	11,945	6,724	18,669	11,804	6,709	18,513
Textile Trades :—												
Cotton ...	11,426	19,349	30,775	18,019	42,504	60,523	29,445	61,853	91,298	29,440	61,845	91,285
Woollen and Worsted ...	5,540	5,396	10,936	8,803	15,996	24,799	14,343	21,392	35,735	14,282	21,360	35,642
Silk and Artificial Silk ...	1,115	933	2,048	872	2,050	2,922	1,987	2,983	4,970	1,971	2,973	4,944
Linen ...	4,557	10,853	15,410	2,018	5,242	7,260	6,575	16,095	22,670	592	2,669	3,261
Jute ...	1,423	1,975	3,398	48	76	124	1,471	2,051	3,522	1,471	2,051	3,522
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope,												
Cord, Twine, etc., Making ...	524	950	1,474	113	536	649	637	1,486	2,123	499	1,194	1,693
Hosiery ...	510	2,258	2,768	698	4,094	4,792	1,208	6,352	7,560	1,192	6,265	7,457
Lace ...	354	345	699	416	517	933	770	862	1,632	769	862	1,631
Carpet Manufacture ...	258	424	682	357	763	1,120	615	1,187	1,802	615	1,187	1,802
Textile Industries not separately												
specified ...	701	1,822	2,523	305	1,208	1,513	1,006	3,030	4,036	938	2,436	3,374
Textile, Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing,												
etc. ...	3,418	1,422	4,840	10,088	2,736	12,824	13,506	4,158	17,664	12,754	2,983	15,737
Leather and Leather Goods :—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	1,783	375	2,158	734	183	917	2,517	558	3,075	2,509	558	3,067
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather												
Goods Manufacture ...	841	623	1,464	321	221	542	1,162	844	2,006	1,144	844	1,988
Clothing Trades :—												
Tailoring ...	5,469	4,281	9,750	1,167	7,803	8,970	6,636	12,084	18,720	6,284	11,848	18,132
Dress and Mantle Making and												
Millinery ...	528	2,925	3,453	48	1,837	1,885	576	4,762	5,338	553	4,332	4,885
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait)												
Manufacture ...	562	1,326	1,888	144	430	574	706	1,756	2,462	703	1,754	2,457
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Undercloth-												
ing, etc., Making ...	392	3,178	3,570	81	3,806	3,887	473	6,984	7,457	370	4,084	4,454
Dress Industries not separately												
specified ...	500	340	840	68	587	655	568	927	1,495	568	922	1,490
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	7,672	3,212	10,884	10,168	5,334	15,502	17,840	8,546	26,386	17,654	8,532	26,186
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making...	5,905	2,123	8,028	294	191	485	6,199	2,314	8,513	5,689	2,192	7,881
Grain Milling ...	1,477	156	1,633	215	44	259	1,692	200	1,892	1,563	181	1,744
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Con-												
fectionery ...	1,750	2,123	3,873	317	1,970	2,287	2,067	4,093	6,160	2,057	4,088	6,145
Food Industries not separately												
specified ...	3,570	3,496	7,066	217	647	864	3,787	4,143	7,930	3,728	4,046	7,774
Drink Industries ...	5,099	1,271	6,370	269	211	480	5,368	1,482	6,850	5,051	1,457	6,508
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff												
Manufacture ...	483	1,213	1,696	36	315	351	519	1,528	2,047	465	1,383	1,848
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—												
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	4,343	96	4,439	273	40	313	4,616	136	4,752	4,460	134	4,594
Wood Box and Packing Case Making	978	107	1,085	236	16	252	1,214	123	1,337	1,162	123	1,285
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	5,411	847	6,258	453	179	632	5,864	1,026	6,890	5,691	1,018	6,709
Woodworking not separately												
specified ...	1,318	515	1,833	348	222	570	1,666	737	2,403	1,590	737	2,327
Printing and Paper Trades :—												
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	1,251	335	1,586	500	404	904	1,751	739	2,490	1,735	737	2,472
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and												
Stationery ...	775	1,075	1,850	65	407	472	840	1,482	2,322	824	1,453	2,277
Wall Paper Making and Paper												
Staining ...	133	38	171	16	13	29	149	51	200	149	51	200
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites												
(not paper) ...	141	89	230	3	3	6	144	92	236	144	92	236
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	6,479	3,222	9,701	276	532	808	6,755	3,754	10,509	6,547	3,610	10,157
Building and Construction of Works :—												
Building ...	82,234	139	82,373	2,593	10	2,603	84,827	149	84,976	82,008	146	82,154
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	30,227	19	30,246	886	5	891	31,113	24	31,137	29,901	24	29,925
Other Manufacturing Industries :—												
Rubber Manufacture ...	2,508	1,442	3,950	390	351	741	2,898	1,793	4,691	2,891	1,792	4,683
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture	460	53	513	75	54	129	535	107	642	526	107	633
Brush and Broom Making ...	547	227	774	242	240	482	789	467	1,256	751	466	1,217
Scientific and Photographic Instru-												
ment and Apparatus Manufacture	408	195	603	26	46	72	434	241	675	430	240	670
Musical Instrument Making ...	1,005	121	1,126	241	13	254	1,246	134	1,380	1,242	134	1,376
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites												
Manufacture ...	381	238	619	144	69	213	525	307	832	525	307	832
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply												
Industries ...	8,704	94	8,798	331	6	337	9,035	100	9,135	8,771	97	8,868
Transport and Communication :—												
Railway Service ...	8,198	122	8,320	570	2	572	8,768	124	8,892	8,540	124	8,664
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	3,332	165	3,497	138	4	142	3,470	169	3,639	3,403	169	3,572
Road Transport not separately												
specified ...	18,602	140	18,742	921	6	927	19,523	146	19,669	18,675	136	18,811
Shipping Service ...	20,123	197	20,320	120	28	148	20,243	225	20,468	19,587	224	19,811
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour												
Service ...	52,512	75	52,587	940	29	969	53,452	104	53,556	52,348	104	52,452
Transport, Communication and												
Storage not separately specified ...	2,039	90	2,129	93	11	104	2,132	101	2,233	2,105	100	2,205
Distributive Trades ...	59,546	21,149	80,695	2,630	2,431	5,061	62,176	23,580	85,756	58,896	22,846	81,742
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and												
Finance ...	4,293	553	4,846	51	18	69	4,344	571	4,915	4,232	558	4,790
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—												
National Government ...	6,701	418	7,119	261	21	282	6,962	439	7,401	6,539	409	6,948
Local Government ...	19,529	284	19,813	703	53	756	20,232	337	20,569	19,276	334	19,610
Professional Services ...	2,183	761	2,944	113	27	140	2,296	788	3,084	2,230	762	2,992
Entertainments and Sports ...	4,010	1,490	5,500	103	120	223	4,113	1,610	5,723	3,915	1,562	5,477
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	8,112	10,354	18,466	109	287	396	8,221	10,641	18,862	7,998	10,486	18,484
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	1,086	3,012	4,098	30	771	801	1,116	3,783	4,899	1,063	3,580	4,643
Industries and Services not separately												
specified ...	21,252	1,179	22,431	608	386	994	21,860	1,565	23,425	21,086	1,516	22,602
TOTAL ...	838,437	141,489	979,926	275,845	119,448	395,293	1,114,282	260,937	1,375,219*	1,084,505	239,806	1,324,311

* Including 76,283 Casuals (Males 75,392, Females 891).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.																	GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PER- CENTAGE AT 20TH AUG., 1928.
INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1927.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 20TH AUGUST, 1928.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENT- AGES AS COMPARED WITH				
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.							
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	23RD JULY, 1928.	22ND AUG., 1927.	24TH AUG., 1925.*		
Fishing	26,600	950	27,550	7.7	5.1	7.7	0.4	4.6	0.4	8.1	9.7	8.1	- 1.6	+ 0.3	- 2.3	8.2	
Mining :—																	
Coal Mining	1,157,580	6,800	1,164,380	15.5	9.1	15.5	10.0	11.1	10.0	25.5	20.2	25.5	- 2.4	+ 5.1	+ 2.8	25.5	
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	14,220	30	14,250	10.9	3.3	10.9	3.4	...	3.4	14.3	3.3	14.3	+ 0.2	+ 3.3	- 20.8	14.1	
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,420	60	5,480	13.9	6.7	13.8	0.2	...	0.2	14.1	6.7	14.0	- 0.4	+ 7.7	+ 2.0	14.0	
Stone Quarrying and Mining	40,900	330	41,230	6.9	1.5	6.8	2.2	2.4	2.3	9.1	3.9	9.1	+ 0.9	+ 2.9	+ 2.3	8.7	
Slate Quarrying and Mining	10,690	10	10,700	2.6	40.0	2.7	0.7	...	0.6	3.3	40.0	3.3	- 0.4	+ 2.3	- 0.9	3.3	
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	16,130	1,590	17,720	7.0	4.9	6.8	2.9	0.3	2.7	9.9	5.2	9.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.3	+ 2.3	9.4	
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	14,570	160	14,730	4.7	4.4	4.7	0.5	1.9	0.5	5.2	6.3	5.2	+ 0.2	+ 1.3	+ 1.9	5.2	
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :—																	
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,180	120	11,300	10.9	17.5	11.0	3.3	...	3.2	14.2	17.5	14.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.2	- 3.6	14.2	
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manu- facture	15,040	1,350	16,390	14.4	4.9	13.6	4.3	0.8	4.0	18.7	5.7	17.6	+ 2.1	+ 5.1	+ 3.9	17.6	
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	17,930	880	18,810	5.7	6.6	5.8	0.8	0.3	0.7	6.5	6.9	6.5	+ 0.1	- 0.8	+ 2.7	6.6	
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	75,010	7,570	82,580	8.3	8.7	8.3	2.5	4.0	2.7	10.8	12.7	11.0	+ 0.8	+ 5.6	+ 4.6	11.0	
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	32,110	37,790	69,900	6.6	6.0	6.3	13.4	16.7	15.2	20.0	22.7	21.5	+ 3.6	+ 5.8	+ 1.6	21.5	
Glass Trades :—																	
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scien- tific Glass) Manufacture	19,650	5,300	24,950	9.0	4.8	8.1	2.1	1.1	1.9	11.1	5.9	10.0	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 2.0	10.0	
Glass Bottle Making	15,510	2,170	17,680	15.1	6.5	14.1	6.2	1.3	5.6	21.3	7.8	19.7	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 0.5	19.7	
Chemicals, etc. :—																	
Chemicals Manufacture	70,040	22,560	92,600	6.4	2.5	5.5	1.0	0.9	0.9	7.4	3.4	6.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 3.3	6.3	
Explosives Manufacture	12,360	5,990	18,350	5.0	4.6	4.9	0.2	1.3	0.5	5.2	5.9	5.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2	- 1.6	5.4	
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	13,790	4,300	18,090	4.3	2.7	4.0	0.7	0.2	0.5	5.0	2.9	4.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	- 0.5	4.5	
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	55,700	20,920	76,620	5.4	2.9	4.7	2.2	0.7	1.8	7.6	3.6	6.5	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.4	6.5	
Metal Manufacture :—																	
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	23,090	270	23,360	13.7	3.7	13.6	5.3	1.5	5.3	19.0	5.2	18.9	- 1.2	+ 2.4	- 5.6	18.9	
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Fur- naces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	183,790	4,200	187,990	9.2	3.1	9.0	14.3	3.9	14.2	23.5	7.0	23.2	+ 0.1	+ 4.9	- 3.9	23.2	
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	35,910	3,030	38,940	7.6	5.0	7.4	2.4	0.9	2.3	10.0	5.9	9.7	- 0.2	+ 0.3	- 2.2	9.7	
Manufacture of Tin Plates	26,820	3,950	30,770	3.0	1.6	2.9	3.0	2.0	2.8	6.0	3.6	5.7	- 1.9	- 15.9	- 10.7	5.7	
Iron and Steel Tube Making	26,110	1,340	27,450	7.2	8.6	7.2	4.3	1.5	4.2	11.5	10.1	11.4	- 1.3	- 0.2	- 8.6	11.5	
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manu- facture	17,820	3,950	21,770	7.3	5.6	6.9	8.1	1.7	7.1	15.4	7.3	14.0	+ 1.9	- 2.3	- 0.8	14.0	
Engineering, etc. :—																	
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	535,820	42,100	577,920	7.3	3.0	7.0	3.4	2.0	3.3	10.7	5.0	10.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.0	- 2.4	10.2	
Electrical Engineering	61,130	16,670	77,800	4.7	3.4	4.4	0.8	1.3	1.0	5.5	4.7	5.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	- 0.2	5.3	
Marine Engineering, etc.	54,840	1,130	55,970	12.1	1.9	11.9	1.5	...	1.4	13.6	1.9	13.3	+ 0.1	...	- 9.5	12.9	
Constructional Engineering	25,740	1,050	26,790	8.4	3.7	8.2	6.1	1.6	5.9	14.5	5.3	14.1	+ 4.2	+ 6.5	+ 2.5	14.1	
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—																	
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	207,310	22,820	230,130	8.0	6.2	7.9	3.6	2.6	3.4	11.6	8.8	11.3	+ 1.7	+ 2.1	+ 3.6	11.4	
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	18,020	2,250	20,270	7.8	5.2	7.5	2.0	2.8	2.1	9.8	8.0	9.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	- 1.7	9.5	
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram- car Building	52,830	1,320	54,150	6.7	1.9	6.6	5.0	1.4	4.8	11.7	3.3	11.4	- 0.3	+ 6.2	+ 4.7	11.5	
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	205,140	3,340	208,480	26.1	4.1	25.7	1.5	0.9	1.5	27.6	5.0	27.2	- 0.2	+ 4.7	- 8.4	27.0	
Metal Trades :—																	
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	77,010	7,830	84,840	9.3	7.3	9.1	4.9	3.3	4.7	14.2	10.6	13.8	+ 1.3	+ 4.9	+ 2.8	13.8	
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	13,150	1,160	14,310	8.7	2.7	8.2	0.7	...	0.7	9.4	2.7	8.9	- 0.4	+ 2.0	+ 1.0	8.7	
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	53,170	30,560	83,730	5.3	3.6	4.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	5.9	4.2	5.3	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 1.1	5.3	
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	23,660	10,560	34,220	9.4	6.4	8.5	9.5	3.3	7.5	18.9	9.7	16.0	- 0.1	- 0.6	+ 3.5	16.0	
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	14,230	11,110	25,340	7.5	9.2	8.2	4.5	2.4	3.6	12.0	11.6	11.8	+ 0.7	+ 2.7	- 1.4	11.8	
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manu- facture	18,020	10,740	28,760	8.7	7.9	8.4	2.4	1.2	1.9	11.1	9.1	10.3	+ 0.5	...	- 1.9	10.3	
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	6,860	490	7,350	4.3	1.8	4.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	4.7	2.0	4.5	- 1.2	- 0.4	+ 0.2	4.5	
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	23,220	20,600	43,820	6.0	4.7	5.4	2.0	1.6	1.8	8.0	6.3	7.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 4.0	7.2	
Metal Industries not separately specified	115,810	67,080	182,890	7.3	7.4	7.4	3.0	2.6	2.8	10.3	10.0	10.2	- 0.1	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	10.2	
Textile Trades :—																	
Cotton	202,250	359,880	562,130	5.6	5.4	5.5	9.0	11.8	10.7	14.6	17.2	16.2	+ 1.2	+ 6.2	+ 2.9	16.2	
Woollen and Worsted	96,430	143,370	239,800	5.7	3.8	4.6	9										

* See footnote * on page 339.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.															GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PER- CENTAGE AT 20TH AUG., 1928.
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1927.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 20TH AUGUST, 1928.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENT- AGES AS COMPARED WITH			
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	23RD JULY, 1928.	22ND AUG., 1927.	24TH AUG., 1925.*	
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—																
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making...	91,550	53,200	144,750	6.5	4.0	5.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	6.8	4.3	5.9	- 0.2	+ 0.3	- 2.2	5.7
Grain Milling	26,010	3,350	29,360	5.7	4.7	5.6	0.8	1.3	0.8	6.5	6.0	6.4	- 0.8	+ 0.8	+ 1.9	6.1
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Con- fectionery	25,960	51,510	77,470	6.7	4.1	5.0	1.3	3.8	3.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	- 2.1	- 1.9	+ 1.3	7.9
Food Industries not separately specified	53,240	55,320	108,560	6.7	6.3	6.5	0.4	1.2	0.8	7.1	7.5	7.3	+ 0.6	...	- 2.5	7.2
Drink Industries	85,050	24,050	109,100	6.0	5.3	5.8	0.3	0.9	0.5	6.3	6.2	6.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	- 0.1	6.1
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture	13,960	28,830	42,790	3.5	4.2	4.0	0.2	1.1	0.8	3.7	5.3	4.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.6	4.5
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—																
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	53,440	2,890	56,330	8.1	3.3	7.9	0.5	1.4	0.5	8.6	4.7	8.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.7	- 1.1	8.3
Wood Box and Packing Case Making	10,740	2,010	12,750	9.1	5.3	8.5	2.2	0.8	2.0	11.3	6.1	10.5	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 3.6	10.3
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	89,490	20,530	110,020	6.0	4.1	5.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	6.6	5.0	6.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	+ 0.1	6.2
Woodworking not separately specified	18,130	5,390	23,520	7.3	9.6	7.8	1.9	4.1	2.4	9.2	13.7	10.2	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 2.6	10.0
Printing and Paper Trades :—																
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	38,730	14,080	52,810	3.2	2.4	3.0	1.3	2.8	1.7	4.5	5.2	4.7	+ 0.4	- 0.7	- 2.5	4.7
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery	19,630	36,350	55,980	3.9	3.0	3.3	0.4	1.1	0.8	4.3	4.1	4.1	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.6	4.1
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining	3,670	1,510	5,180	3.6	2.5	3.3	0.5	0.9	0.6	4.1	3.4	3.9	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	3.9
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper)	2,440	3,200	5,640	5.8	2.8	4.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.9	2.9	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 1.3	4.2
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	160,700	89,680	250,380	4.0	3.6	3.9	0.2	0.6	0.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.3	4.1
Building and Construction of Works :—																
Building	799,150	8,060	807,210	10.3	1.7	10.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	10.6	1.8	10.5	...	+ 3.2	+ 2.8	10.4
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	161,490	920	162,410	18.7	2.1	18.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	19.3	2.6	19.2	+ 1.1	+ 3.8	+ 3.9	19.0
Other Manufacturing Industries :—																
Rubber Manufacture	33,960	24,470	58,430	7.4	5.9	6.8	1.1	1.4	1.2	8.5	7.3	8.0	+ 0.7	+ 1.8	- 1.8	8.0
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture	11,550	2,200	13,750	4.0	2.4	3.7	0.6	2.5	1.0	4.6	4.9	4.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.4	- 1.6	4.6
Brush and Broom Making	5,810	4,500	10,310	9.4	5.0	7.5	4.2	5.4	4.7	13.6	10.4	12.2	+ 1.4	+ 2.8	- 2.0	11.9
Scientific and Photographic Instru- ment and Apparatus Manufacture	14,980	8,570	23,550	2.7	2.3	2.6	0.2	0.5	0.3	2.9	2.8	2.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	- 1.6	2.9
Musical Instrument Making	18,940	4,980	23,920	5.3	2.4	4.7	1.3	0.3	1.1	6.6	2.7	5.8	- 0.2	...	+ 1.1	5.8
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites Manufacture	5,910	5,550	11,460	6.4	4.3	5.4	2.5	1.2	1.9	8.9	5.5	7.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.4	- 0.7	7.3
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries	157,310	5,860	163,170	5.5	1.6	5.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	5.7	1.7	5.6	- 0.1	+ 0.9	...	5.5
Transport and Communication :—																
Railway Service	136,390	7,890	144,280	6.0	1.5	5.8	0.4	0.1	0.4	6.4	1.6	6.2	- 0.2	+ 2.0	+ 0.3	6.0
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	125,460	5,500	130,960	2.7	3.0	2.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.8	3.1	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.4	2.8
Road Transport not separately specified	162,340	5,740	168,080	11.5	2.4	11.2	0.5	0.1	0.5	12.0	2.5	11.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.8	- 1.1	11.4
Shipping Service	134,220	5,970	140,190	15.0	3.3	14.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	15.1	3.8	14.6	- 0.5	+ 0.8	- 3.2	14.5
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service	168,510	2,060	170,570	31.2	3.6	30.8	0.5	1.4	0.6	31.7	5.0	31.4	- 1.0	+ 8.5	+ 1.0	31.3
Transport, Communication and Storage not separately specified	16,360	1,840	18,200	12.5	4.9	11.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	13.0	5.5	12.3	- 0.6	...	- 2.3	12.2
Distributive Trades	938,770	613,960	1,552,730	6.3	3.4	5.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	6.6	3.8	5.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.9	- 0.4	5.4
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance	149,520	72,030	221,550	2.9	0.8	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.8	2.2	...	...	- 1.0	2.2
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—																
National Government	105,930	24,940	130,870	6.3	1.7	5.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	6.6	1.8	5.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 1.4	5.5
Local Government	226,680	18,170	244,850	8.6	1.6	8.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	8.9	1.9	8.4	+ 0.5	+ 1.6	+ 0.8	8.2
Professional Services	65,850	48,710	114,560	3.3	1.6	2.6	0.2	0.0	0.1	3.5	1.6	2.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.6	2.7
Entertainments and Sports	42,450	24,110	66,560	9.4	6.2	8.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	9.7	6.7	8.6	- 0.3	+ 1.1	- 1.3	8.4
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	108,120	198,470	306,590	7.5	5.2	6.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	7.6	5.4	6.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	- 1.6	6.1
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	24,940	99,310	124,250	4.4	3.0	3.3	0.1	0.8	0.6	4.5	3.8	3.9	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 1.6	3.8
Industries and Services not separately specified	88,790	33,330	122,120	23.9	3.5	18.4	0.7	1.2	0.8	24.6	4.7	19.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.9	- 2.4	18.9
Total	8,576,200	3,207,800	11,784,000	9.8	4.4	8.3	3.2	3.7	3.4	13.0	8.1	11.7	...	+ 2.4	- 0.4	11.5

* Comparison is made with August, 1925, as the figures for August, 1926, were affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS DURING AUGUST IN NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED.

THE following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 20th August, 1928, differed from the figures for 23rd July, 1928, to the extent of 1,000 or more :—

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 23rd July, 1928.			Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 20th August, 1928, as compared with 23rd July, 1928.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Coal Mining... ..	- 28,541	+ 89	- 28,452	Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	+ 1,660	+ 12	+ 1,672
Linen	- 709	- 2,022	- 2,731	Distributive Trades	+ 1,186	+ 939	+ 2,125
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery... ..	- 406	- 1,291	- 1,697	Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	+ 1,128	+ 1,394	+ 2,522
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service	- 1,629	- 19	- 1,648	General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	+ 2,896	+ 47	+ 2,943
Silk and Artificial Silk	+ 629	+ 379	+ 1,008	Tailoring	+ 1,355	+ 2,625	+ 3,980
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	+ 933	+ 77	+ 1,010	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ...	+ 3,879	+ 192	+ 4,071
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Ironfounding	+ 1,028	+ 85	+ 1,113	Cotton	+ 2,972	+ 3,941	+ 6,913
Constructional Engineering	+ 1,120	+ 1	+ 1,121	Net Variation for above industries	- 11,347	+ 6,502	- 4,845
Local Government	+ 1,152	+ 53	+ 1,205	Total Net Variation for all insured industries	- 8,082	+ 6,270	- 1,812

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

IN the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £47,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 573,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £145 in those of about 5,800 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below :—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Metal, Engineering, etc.	2,650	106,000	£ 40	£ 9,300
Transport	250	467,000	30	37,750
Other	2,900	350	75	150
Total	5,800	573,350	145	47,200

The principal change in wages during August was a temporary deduction of 2½ per cent. from the earnings of employees in the railway service made as the result of agreements between the principal companies and the trade unions concerned. In the case of certain classes of railway workers, namely, those employed by the London Electric, the Metropolitan and the Metropolitan District Railways, shopmen employed by the Great Central Section of the London and North Eastern Railway and by the Cheshire Lines Committee, and employees in electricity generating stations, the deduction has not been operated. The shop and artisan staffs affected by the reduction have been included in the above Table in the Metal, Engineering, etc., group and the remainder in the Transport group. The figures for the former group also include the effect of an increase, equivalent to about 1 per cent. on current rates, for blastfurnacemen in North Lincolnshire.

In other industries the principal bodies of workpeople affected by changes in August were ironstone miners in North Lincolnshire,

machine calico printers, and silk dyers and finishers at Macclesfield, who received in each case an increase in wages.

Of the total reduction of £47,200 per week practically the whole amount was arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, the only exception being a small amount (under £20) which took effect under a sliding scale based on selling prices.

Of the total increase of £145 per week, £50 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices and £30 under scales based on the cost of living; £30 was the result of arbitration proceedings; and the remainder followed direct negotiations between employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY–AUGUST, 1928.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople† affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	1,100	396,000	£ 120	£ 60,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	200	3,550	15	610
Iron and Steel	35,500	67,000	1,200	6,700
Engineering and Shipbuilding	53,000	106,000	3,750	9,300
Other Metal	375	38,000	85	2,350
Textile... ..	55,000	71,500	4,500	3,050
Clothing	500	30,000	60	1,520
Woodworking, etc.	3,200	10,500	290	1,880
Building and Allied Industries	7,100	453,000	790	42,000
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	31,000	600	5,800	60
Transport	1,400	477,000	130	38,300
Public Administration ...	12,400	8,850	590	730
Other	325	18,000	35	1,000
Total	201,100	1,680,000	17,365	167,500

In the corresponding eight months of 1927, there were net increases of £30,600 in the weekly wages of 287,500 workpeople and net reductions of £319,000 in those of 1,709,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in August.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1928.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Iron Mining	North Lincolnshire...	5 Aug.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	Increase‡ of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 17½ per cent. above the standard, plus the previous addition of 1s. 1d. per shift and the bonuses paid to lower-paid day-wage men, varying from 2d. to 1s. 1d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for general labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 17½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus bonus of 1s. 1d. per shift.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	North Lincolnshire and certain firms in the Leeds District.	5 Aug.	Blastfurnacemen	Increase‡ of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 17½ per cent. above the standard, plus the extra payments shown above for ironstone miners. Labourer's rate after change as shown under ironstone miners above.
	North Lincolnshire...	5 Aug.	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces and in steel works.	Increase‡ of ½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 20½ per cent. above the standard, plus a tonnage bonus.
Railway Workshops.	See entry below under Railway Service.			
Machine Calico Printing.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Sept.	Machine calico printers	Supplementary cost-of-living wage increased§ from 44·80 to 45·50 per cent. on basis wages, the flat rate bonuses of 19s. per week for journeymen and 13s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield...	Pay day in week ending 11 Aug.	Male workers 21 and over	Increase§ of 3d. per week. Rates after change: 46s. at 21, increasing to 51s. 6d. at 22½ years.
	Hartlepoons	7 Aug.	Female workers 18 and over	Increase§ of 1d. per week (29s. 3d. to 29s. 4d.).
Woodworking			Pit prop yard workers	Decrease of 1½d. per hour for electric bench cutters (1s. 10d. to 1s. 8½d.), ½d. per hour for hand cutters (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 7½d.), and of 15 per cent. for pieceworkers.
Electricity Supply	East Coast Area ...	21 June||	Overhead linesmen's mates	Rate of 13·7d. per hour adopted for Group A undertakings.||
Railway Service	Great Britain ...	13 Aug.	All classes of employees of railway companies (with the exceptions noted below).¶	Temporary deduction of 2½ per cent. from gross earnings** (inclusive of overtime, extra payment for Sunday and night duty, etc.).

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, 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 current rate of wages of these classes are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of about 80,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

§ Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.

|| The above rate is in accordance with recommendations of the District Joint Industrial Council, which were approved by the National Council on 20th July, to have effect from the date shown. The rate is subject to same fluctuations as the rates for other grades.

¶ The deduction has not been applied to (1) employees of the London Electric, Metropolitan District, and Metropolitan Railways; (2) shopmen employed on the Great Central Section of the London and North Eastern Railway, and the Cheshire Lines Committee; and (3) men employed in generating stations or substations and on the high tension cables between them. In the case of the Metropolitan Railway negotiations are still proceeding.

** The deduction took effect under an agreement arrived at on 27th July between the Great Western, London, Midland and Scottish, London and North Eastern, and Southern Railway Companies, and the National Union of Railwaymen, Railway Clerks' Association and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. Agreements on similar lines have also been arrived at between the Railway Companies and:—Amalgamated Engineering Union, Electrical Trades Union (workshop grades only), United Pattern Makers' Association, National Society of Coppersmiths, Braziers and Metalworkers, National Union of Foundry Workers, United Operative Plumbers and Domestic Engineers' Association, Workers' Union, Amalgamated Machine, Engine and Iron Grinders' and Glaziers' Society, Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, National Foremen's Association, Railway Police Force Federation, National Union of Seamen, and the Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society. It was agreed that contributions to, and payments from, the superannuation funds should continue to be based on the standard salaries or wages. It was also agreed that concurrently with the reduction coming into force the Railway Companies undertake that (1) at all places where sufficient work is available they will arrange that normal full-time working shall be restored in the shops; and (2) where at any establishment at any time sufficient work is not available and full-time working would necessitate extensive dismissals, it is agreed that as an alternative to full-time working, and to minimise such extensive dismissals, the Company may book off the employees on Saturday mornings. The respective Agreements are to be regarded as temporary in character and terminable at any time after the expiration of one year by three months' notice given by either of the two parties to the other, i.e., the Trade Unions collectively or the Railway Companies collectively.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1928 (*continued*).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour.	Birkenhead ...	8 Aug.	Floating staff, traffic and general staff employed on Corporation Ferries.	Increases of 3s. 6d. per week to adult men, of 2s. 6d. to youths between 18 and 21 years of age, and of 2s. to boys under 18. Rates after change: seamen, 68s. 6d.; firemen, 71s.
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	Coventry ...	Week ending 1 Aug.	Able-bodied male workers ...	Increase of 1s. 3d. per week.* Rates after change: road sweepers, 50s. 6d.; road labourers, 50s. 6d., to 62s. 6d.; general labourers, refuse collectors and carters, 52s. 6d.
	Co. Fermanagh ...	7 July	Labourers employed on repair and maintenance of roads by the County Council.	<i>Decrease of 4d. per day for casual labourers (4s. 6d. to 4s. 2d.) and men engaged on stone breaking (5s. to 4s. 8d.), and an increase of 2d. per day for men in tar squad (4s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.).</i>
Co-operative Societies.	Certain districts in Scotland.†	1st full pay in Aug.	Branch managers and manageresses employed by co-operative societies.	New scales of weekly rates adopted for managers, starting at 68s. per week for trade under £50 for butchery branches and under £60 for other branches, and increasing according to weekly trade to 84s. or 87s. per week for butchery branches for trade of £190 to £200 and to 86s. or 89s. per week for other branches for trade of £450 to £500; the rates for branch manageresses to be two-thirds of the managers' rates in each case.†

* This increase is the result of a Resolution of the Corporation to suspend for a period of three months from the date shown the decrease of the same amount which operated from the 1st pay day in April.

† Glasgow district and Perth, Ayrshire, Central, East of Scotland, Falkirk, Renfrewshire, Southern Counties, Stirling and Clackmannan and West Lothian districts. Where two rates are quoted above, the higher rate applies to Glasgow district and Perth, and the lower to other districts.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 12, as compared with 13 in the previous month and 22 in August, 1927. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 4,900. In addition, about 500 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 8 disputes which began before August and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 20, involving about 5,400 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during August of about 23,000 working days.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	...	5	5	4,500	17,000
Building, Public Works	...	1	6	200	4,000
Contracting, etc. ...	5	6	9	700	2,000
Other Industries ...	3	6	9	700	2,000
Total, August, 1928 ...	8	12	20	5,400	23,000
Total, July, 1928 ...	12	13	25	21,600	227,000
Total, August, 1927 ...	12	22	34	19,000	169,000

* *Causes.*—Of the 12 disputes beginning in August, 6, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, arose on wages questions; 3, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or workpeople; and 3, directly involving 700 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 5 new disputes directly involving 1,000 workpeople, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 300 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 300 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 2, directly involving 100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 3, directly involving 900 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of one dispute, directly involving 200 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1927 AND 1928.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first eight months of 1928, as compared with the corresponding period of 1927:—

Groups of Industries.	January to August, 1927.			January to August, 1928.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Mining and Quarrying ...	71	56,900	589,000	70	67,500	330,000
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	3	100	5,000	8	600	19,000
Engineering ...	5	1,700	4,000	9	600	3,000
Shipbuilding ...	16	5,700	23,000	17	3,500	13,000
Other Metal ...	27	3,500	28,000	12	2,600	37,000
Textile ...	18	3,200	22,000	18	22,300	677,000
Clothing ...	9	5,400	142,000	5	200	1,000
Woodworking and Furniture ...	11	400	7,000	16	400	5,000
Building, Public Works, Contracting, etc. ...	23	7,600	122,000	32	2,800	78,000
Transport ...	14	1,900	6,000	8	1,300	9,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance ...	1	100	†	5	300	8,000
Other ...	6	300	†	9	500	8,000
Total ...	204	86,800	954,000	209	102,600	1,188,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING AUGUST, 1928.

Occupations and Locality.‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.§	Result.§
	Directly.	Indirectly.§	Began.	Ended.		
Coal getters, other underground workers, surface workers, <i>masons and mechanics</i> —Durham (near).	928	30	1928. 20 Aug.	1928. 21 Aug.	Dispute as to method of selection for re-employment in other working places of part of a number of workmen who had been discharged owing to the closing of a section of the colliery.	Amicable settlement effected.
Colliery workpeople—Pontefract (near).	1,950	...	23 Aug.	1 Sept.	Against proposed reduction in wages, following failure to agree as to deductions for dirt filled with coal.	Temporary agreement reached as to deductions for dirt, pending enquiry into the question by workers' representatives.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (*i.e.*, number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals, but the amount of such duplication is very slight.

‡ Less than 500 working days.

§ 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 statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during August, 1928, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 45. Nine deaths* were reported during the month, four due to lead poisoning, four due to epitheliomatous ulceration and one due to anthrax.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—	
Smelting of Metals ...	...
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1
Shipbreaking ...	1
Printing ...	...
Tinning of Metals ...	...
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...	1
White and Red Lead Works ...	...
Pottery† ...	2
Vitreous Enamelling ...	3
Electric Accumulator Works ...	1
Paint and Colour Works ...	1
Indiarubber Works ...	...
Coach and Car Painting ...	2
Shipbuilding ...	...
Paint used in Other Industries ...	2
Other Industries ...	...
Painting of Buildings ...	7

TOTAL OF ABOVE ... 21

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Arsenical Poisoning ...	1
Aniline Poisoning ...	8
Toxic Jaundice ...	2
TOTAL, OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ...	11

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.

Wool ...	...	1
Handling of Horsehair ...	...	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ...	...	1
Other Industries ...	...	1
TOTAL, ANTHRAX ...	...	4

(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.

Pitch ...	...	1
Tar ...	...	1
Paraffin ...	...	...
Oil ...	...	5
TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ...	...	7

(e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.

Manufacture of Bichromates ...	...	...
Dyeing and Finishing ...	...	1
Chrome Tanning ...	...	...
Other Industries ...	...	1
TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION ...	...	2

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during August, 1928, as killed in the course of their employment was 179, as compared with 207 in the previous month and with 193 in August, 1927. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in August, 1928, numbered 37, as compared with 36 in the previous month and with 50 in August, 1927.

RAILWAY SERVICE.

Brakemen and Goods Guards ...	...	2
Engine Drivers and Motormen ...	...	...
Firemen ...	...	2
Guards (Passenger) ...	...	...
Permanent Way Men ...	...	11
Porters ...	...	...
Shunters ...	...	3
Mechanics ...	...	3
Labourers ...	...	1
Miscellaneous ...	...	4
Contractors' Servants ...	...	...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ...	...	26

MINES.

Underground ...	...	71
Surface ...	...	5
TOTAL, MINES ...	...	76

QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ... 3

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Cotton ...	...	1
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ...	...	...
Other Textiles ...	...	...
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ...	...	3
Metal Extracting and Refining ...	...	1
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ...	...	4
Metal Founding ...	...	...
Engineering and Machine Making ...	...	4
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ...	...	1

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued).

Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ...	...	1
Other Metal Trades ...	...	1
Shipbuilding ...	...	10
Wood ...	...	1
Gas ...	...	2
Electric Generating Stations ...	...	2
Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...	...	3
Chemicals, etc. ...	...	5
Food and Drink ...	...	3
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...	1
Tanning, Currying, etc. ...	...	...
Rubber Trades ...	...	1
Other Non-Textile Industries ...	...	1
TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ...	...	73

PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.

Docks, Wharves, etc. ...	...	11
Buildings ...	...	16
Warehouses and Railway Sidings ...	...	1
TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ...	...	73

TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ... 73

Construction or Repair of Railway‡ ... 1

Total (excluding Seamen) 179

SEAMEN.

Trading Vessels, Sailing ...	...	2
" " Steam ...	...	34
Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...	...	...
" " Steam ...	...	1
TOTAL, SEAMEN ...	...	37

Total (including Seamen) 216

* 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 included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

† The persons affected in the pottery industry were females.

‡ Accidents occurring in the use or working of railways are included under "Railway Service."

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and Wales and by the Board of Health in Scotland.)

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in August, 1928, in the poor-law areas in the thirty-one selected urban areas named below was 668,032, or 0.3 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 12.8 per cent. less than in August, 1927. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 374, 375, and 429 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in August, 1928.				Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District ...	8,758	5,700	14,458	177	– 4	– 2
North District ...	10,138	14,015	24,153	238	– 3	– 25
Central District ...	2,137	2,351	4,488	343	– 7	–
East District ...	9,615	48,316	57,931	902	– 4	– 177
South District ...	18,723	54,386	73,109	376	– 2	– 58
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	49,589‡	124,768	174,357‡	383	– 3	– 55
West Ham ...	4,338	18,912	23,250	308	– 3	– 161
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District	2,756	25,134	27,890	544	– 3	– 38
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,370	11,128	12,498	451	– 4	– 184
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	4,038	7,671	11,709	150	+ 6	– 9
Wigan District ...	1,801	14,180	15,981	349	+ 7	+ 2
Manchester District	9,121	27,490	36,611	349	+ 1	– 99
Liverpool District	9,456	55,414	64,870	507	+ 2	– 70
Bradford District ...	1,730	5,879	7,609	203	+ 6	– 70
Halifax and Huddersfield ...	1,512	3,065	4,577	123	+ 8	– 2
Leeds ...	2,738	11,005	13,743	285	+ 2	+ 10
Barnsley District ...	980	10,860	11,840	343	+ 3	– 5
Sheffield ...	2,441	22,002	24,443	473	+ 5	– 72
Hull District ...	1,711	13,623	15,334	474	– 6	– 17
North Staffordshire	2,360	9,312	11,672	279	+ 15	+ 29
Nottingham District	2,190	11,907	14,097	301	...	+ 7
Leicester ...	1,113	4,349	5,462	223	+ 8	+ 13
Wolverhampton District ...	3,482	15,156	18,638	242	+ 16	– 9
Birmingham ...	7,421	16,690	24,111	254	+ 2	– 23
Bristol District ...	2,470	9,782	12,252	294	– 6	– 88
Cardiff and Swansea	2,533	14,256	16,789	347	– 5	– 69
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	61,223	288,903	350,126	333	+ 3	– 39
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	115,150	432,583	547,733	346	+ 1	– 50
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	5,562	72,137	77,699	814	– 34	– 132
Paisley and Greenock District ...	773	10,094	10,867	562	– 8	– 221
Edinburgh ...	1,635	16,568	18,203	428	+ 4	+ 19
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	766	3,882	4,648	213	– 6	– 43
Aberdeen ...	463	3,207	3,670	232	– 5	– 81
Coatbridge & Airdrie	357	4,855	5,212	515	– 28	– 38
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	9,556	110,743	120,299	587	– 18	– 92
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Aug., 1928...	124,706	543,326	668,032	374	– 1	– 55

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during August, 1928, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in Aug., 1928.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Aug., 1928.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1927.	Jan.-Aug., 1928.		1922 to 1927.	Jan.-Aug., 1928.
To Australia ...	1,515	140,559	13,340	1,468	137,514	13,815
" New Zealand ...	102	40,644	1,193	105	38,855	1,480
" Canada ...	1,373	66,238	21,782	2,878	65,490	21,015
" South Africa ...	4	743	97	...	435	90
Minor Schemes ...	137	8,135	969	126	7,382	703
Total ...	3,131	256,319	37,381	4,577	249,676	37,103

The figures are provisional and subject to revision; they include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only.

† The figures for England and Wales relate to 25th August, and those for Scotland to 15th August.

‡ These urban areas include more than one poor-law union in the case of England and Wales, except in the Leeds, Leicester, Birmingham, Sheffield and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts.

§ Includes 218 not included in district figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the period for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.*

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.
	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	July, 1927.		
	Rise.					
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	62	67	61	59	56	1928. 1 Sept.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Czechoslovakia...	737	816	776	862	828	June
Denmark ...	100	110	59	53	53	July
Egypt (Cairo)†...	48	58	58	47	39	May
Finland ...	916	1,007	967	965	1,016	July
France (Paris)†...	260	321	474	457	440	Aug.
„ (other towns)†...	300†	351†	510†	453†	430	May
Germany ...	...	54	45	57	54	July
Holland (The Hague) ...	67	76	68	72	64	July
Italy ...	...	...	...	458§	416	July
Norway ...	148	160	98	75	70	Aug.
Spain (Madrid)†...	82	90	86	89	72	June
„ (Barcelona)†...	72	82	63	64	65	June
Sweden†...	59	69	56	51	56	Aug.
Switzerland ...	70	69	59	57	57	July
United States ...	40	56	54	50	50	June
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.						
Australia ...	49§	56	59	52	52	July
Canada ...	34§	42§	51§	49	51	Aug.
India (Bombay):						
Native families ...	51	52	55	54	42	Aug.
Irish Free State ...	85	88	74	66	66	July
New Zealand ...	48	51	49	44	46	July
South Africa ...	17	20	16	19	16	July

II.—ALL ITEMS.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE COST OF FOOD, TOGETHER WITH (SO FAR AS POSSIBLE) HOUSE-RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT, AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.*

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.¶	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.
		July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	July, 1927.		
		Rise.					
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	A,B,C,D,E	70	73	70	66	65	1928. 1 Sept.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	393	409	537	690	719	Aug.
Czechoslovakia (Prague) ...	A,B,C,D,E	589	641	618	647	634	June
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	114	119	84	76	76	July
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,032	1,094	1,018	1,081	1,113	July
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	267¶	301¶	439¶	407¶	419	2nd qr.
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	43	42	50	53	July
Greece (Athens) ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,225	1,372	1,708	...	1,908	May
Holland (Amsterdam) ...	A,B,C,D,E	73§	79§	71§	67§	70	June
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	412	498	549	448	426	July
„ (Rome) ...	A,B,C,D,E	349	395	462	403	387	July
Luxemburg ...	A,C,D	381	415	509	681	713	July
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	151§	161§	121§	103	92	Aug.
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	15	22	Aug.
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	71	76	72	69	73	July
Switzerland ...	A,B,C,D	...	68	62	60	61	July
United States...	A,B,C,D,E	69§	74§	75§	73§	72	Dec.'27
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia ...	A,B,C,D,E	42¶	44¶	47¶	45¶	47	1st qr.
Canada ...	A,B,C,D,E	53§	55§	57§	55	57	Aug.
India (Bombay):							
Native families ...	A,B,C,D	57	57	57	56	46	Aug.
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	83	88	82	71	73	July
New Zealand ...	A,B,C,D,E	60†	63†	61	61	62	July
South Africa ...	A,B,C,D,E	32	33	30	32	31	July

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Greece, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914; Poland, January, 1914.

† Fuel and light are also included in these figures.

‡ Figure for August.

§ Figure for June.

¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items.

¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 326-327 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

GERMANY.

Reichsarbeitsblatt, the official journal of the Federal Ministry of Labour, states that, in July, economic conditions continued gradually to deteriorate. Several State employment offices reported that, in their respective districts, the demand for labour in agriculture and other outdoor occupations was insufficient to compensate for the diminishing demand in other branches of industry. The downward tendency was particularly marked in the textile, mining, metal and engineering and printing industries, and in certain branches of the clothing industry.

At the end of July, the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 1,147,266 persons as available and seeking work, as against 1,207,410 at the end of June and 1,040,952 at the end of July, 1927. The number of vacant situations registered at the end of July was 79,199, as compared with 76,693 at the end of the preceding month, and 81,004 a year ago.

The number of insured persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment on 31st July, 1928, was 646,998 (including 82,934 in receipt of emergency unemployment benefit). On 30th June, the corresponding total was 724,282 (including 113,595 in receipt of emergency unemployment benefit).

Returns were received from national trade unions relating to 4,351,889 organised workers. Of these, 273,696, or 6.3 per cent., were totally unemployed on 27th July, as compared with 6.2 per cent. on 30th June, and 5.5 per cent. on 30th July, 1927. In addition, 283,562, or 6.5 per cent., were working short time, as against 5.9 per cent. at 30th June and 2.6 per cent. at the end of July, 1927.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal groups of trades represented in the above total:—

Groups of Trades.	Membership reported on at end of July, 1928.	Percentage unemployed at end of month.	
		July, 1928.	June, 1928.
All Unions making Returns ...	4,351,889	6.3	6.2
Mining ...	155,600	1.3	1.3
Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc. ...	244,000	6.0	5.4
Engineering and metal ...	965,000	5.0	4.8
Chemical ...	118,800	5.0	4.8
Textile ...	387,500	7.0	6.7
Paper ...	119,300	4.8	4.4
Leather ...	71,600	13.1	12.5
Wood ...	309,600	10.3	10.1
Food, tobacco, etc. ...	287,400	6.4	6.5
Clothing ...	171,400	19.4	16.2
Building ...	655,000	6.6	8.0
Printing ...	145,300	4.8	3.8
Transport ...	342,900	4.2	4.3

FRANCE.*

The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 1st September was 9,760 (6,016 men and 3,744 women). At the end of July the corresponding total was 8,009. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 19,156 (13,983 for men and 5,173 for women), as compared with 16,143 at the end of July. During the last week of August (ended 1st September) the Exchanges succeeded in placing 28,772 persons in situations, including 9,169 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 717 foreign immigrants.

AUSTRIA.†

The total number of applicants for work registered at the Employment Exchanges at the end of July was 137,045 (including 72,719 in Vienna) as compared with 140,931 (72,859 in Vienna) at the end of June. The number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit at the end of July was 115,211 (including 61,187 in Vienna) as compared with 118,737 (60,757 in Vienna) at the end of June.

SWEDEN.‡

The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 31st July, was 7.2, as compared with 7.7 on 30th June, and 8.2 on 31st July, 1927.

* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 7th September, 1928. Paris.

† *Statistische Nachrichten*, 25th August, 1928. Vienna.

‡ Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs.

NORWAY.*

Out of 16,901 members of trade unions making returns, 11.1 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of June, 1928. The corresponding figure for the end of May was 15.4 per cent., and that for June, 1927, 20.6 per cent. (The particulars for May and June this year are stated to be somewhat uncertain on account of disputes in the building, printing and bookbinding trades.)

BELGIUM.†

Returns received by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare from 162 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 617,242, show that 4,147 (0.7 per cent.) of these were totally unemployed at the end of the last week of the month (4th August). The corresponding percentage at the end of the preceding month was 0.6, and in July, 1927, 1.3. In addition, 23,136 members were employed intermittently during the month. The total days lost through unemployment during July numbered 282,844, or 1.53 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 1.30, and in July, 1927, 2.18.

SWITZERLAND.‡

On 31st July, 1928, 5,525 applications for employment (4.2 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 5,378 at the end of June, and 8,404 at the end of July, 1927. Offers of situations at the dates mentioned above numbered 3,407, 4,125 and 2,739 respectively. The number of registrations by unemployed workers is the smallest since 1921; the drop in situations vacant, as compared with the total for June, is due to seasonal causes.

Returns from 155 unemployment insurance funds show that, out of an aggregate of 258,839 members, 3,027, or 1.2 per cent., were totally unemployed, and 2,002, or 0.8 per cent., partially so at the end of June, 1928. At 31st March, 1928, the corresponding percentages were 1.9 and 1.0 respectively, and at the end of June, 1927, 1.6 and 1.7 per cent. respectively.

ITALY.§

According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 234,210 workpeople were recorded as unemployed on 31st July, 1928, as compared with 247,021 at the end of June and 263,091 at the end of July, 1927. In July, 1928, 94,197 insured workers received benefit in respect of a total of 1,491,482 days of unemployment.

POLAND.||

According to the official journal of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the estimated number of unemployed registered at Employment Exchanges on 4th August was 97,976, as compared with 116,247 on 30th June.

On these dates the number of unemployed persons entitled to benefit was 33,383 and 46,212 respectively.

CANADA.¶

For 1st August, 1928, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 6,506 firms with an aggregate of 1,003,085 on their pay-rolls. On 1st July the same firms reported 973,462, and the total for 1st August thus shows an increase of 29,623. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st July is 119.9, as compared with 116.3 at the beginning of the preceding month, and 109.2 on 1st August, 1927.

On 31st July, 2.5 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 3.2 per cent. at the end of June, and 3.3 per cent. at the end of July, 1927.

NEW ZEALAND.**

The proportion of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed in the week ended 19th May, 1928, amounted to 11.5 per cent., as compared with 11.4 per cent. in the week ended 18th February, and 9.7 per cent. in the week ended 19th May, 1927. (These figures relate to persons unemployed for more than three days during the specified week.)

UNITED STATES.††

Figures relating to the volume of employment in July, based on returns from 11,130 establishments in 54 of the chief manufacturing industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 3,062,147 employed in July, 1928, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. as compared with the total for June. The aggregate wages paid for July showed a decrease of 3.1 per cent. as compared with those for June, while the average earnings per head showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent.

Index Number of Employment, July.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for July, 1928, is 84.7, as compared with 85.6 in June and 87.3 in July, 1927.

* Information supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Oslo.

† *Revue du Travail*, 31st August, 1928. Brussels.

‡ *Rapports économiques et statistique sociale*, August, 1928. Berne.

§ *Bollettino Mensile di Statistica*, August, 1928. Rome.

|| *Wiadomości Statystyczne*, 20th August, 1928. Warsaw.

¶ *The August Employment Situation*, 1928. Ottawa.

** *Monthly Abstract of Statistics*, June, 1928. Wellington.

†† *Employment in Selected Industries*, July, 1928. Washington.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1927.

EMPLOYMENT BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY—REMUNERATION PAID BY GUARDIANS—ALTERNATE WEEK SYSTEM—NOT INSURABLE EMPLOYMENT.

THIS was a reference to the High Court* by the Minister of Labour under proviso (ii) of Section 10 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

The question for decision was whether the employment of William Chadwick by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Leeds on the alternate week system under a scheme for employing Board of Guardians test men on public utility work was such employment as to make the said William Chadwick an employed person within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1927.

Section 47 (1) (b) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as originally enacted, provided as follows: "For the purposes of this Act a person engaged in temporary work provided by a Central Body or Distress Committee under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, or towards the provision of which any such Central Body or Distress Committee contributed under that Act, shall not be deemed to be an employed person within the meaning of this Act."

In the fourth Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, it is provided that the following amendment shall be made to Section 47 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920: "At the end of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) there shall be inserted the following words: 'and where, in consequence of an arrangement made by a Poor Law Authority, a person is engaged in work provided by a Local Authority, he shall not, if a contribution towards his remuneration is made by the Poor Law authority, be deemed to be such an employed person.'"

"Provided that the foregoing provision with respect to persons engaged in work provided by a Local Authority shall not apply in the case of any person who has previously been in receipt of unemployment benefit, and is employed in full time work provided by the Authority."

"For the purpose of this provision a person shall not be deemed to have been employed in full-time work unless he has worked for such number of hours in each week as would normally have been worked by him if he had been employed on the same work otherwise than under such an arrangement as aforesaid."

Chadwick, who had previously been in receipt of unemployment benefit, was employed by the Leeds Corporation as a general labourer in alternate weeks from the 19th April, 1928, to the 22nd May, 1928, the money for his remuneration being found by the Guardians. The working week was one of 48 hours, and extended from Thursday in one week to Wednesday in the next week; thus Chadwick's working week did not correspond with a calendar week. Each working week was followed by a similar period of unemployment. This arrangement was stated to have been in accordance with the regular practice of the Leeds Corporation in distributing relief work under their unemployment relief work system, and not to have been devised for any special purpose connected with the Unemployment Insurance Acts. The Corporation's usual working week for their ordinary workers was one of 48 hours.

It was submitted by Sir Henry Slessor, for the Corporation, that in these circumstances Chadwick was employed in full-time work within the meaning of the amendment cited above. The Attorney General, for the Minister of Labour, contended that Chadwick was not employed in full time work.

In giving his decision in favour of the Minister of Labour, Mr. Justice Roche said: "I am of opinion that Chadwick was not in full time work, and for the following reasons. The fourth Schedule of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for certain purposes defines a week as being a calendar week (i.e., the period from midnight on one Sunday to midnight on the following Sunday); and my view is that, if Chadwick was an insurable person, his contributions would properly be payable each calendar week, and I am unable to think that the week for the purpose of those contributions would have been a different week from the week which would have to be regarded for the purpose of the operation of the fourth Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927. Apart, however, from that consideration, I am of opinion that effect must be given to the words 'in each week' in the fourth Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927; and that, if the calendar week be not regarded as the unit, you must regard the period of employment as the unit of time; thus, in dealing with the facts in this case, you must at least regard the fortnight, and if that is so, whether the whole period of employment is regarded or the fortnight, it is manifest that in that period in each week the normal number of hours was not worked; in the fortnight 48 hours were worked instead of 96, and if the longer period be regarded, then in one week 48 hours were worked and in another week nothing is worked at all. The 'nothing,' in my judgment, is not the normal number of hours."

"It is necessary, in this connection, to refer to the argument addressed to me with great force by Counsel for the Corporation, to the effect that such working of 48 hours and then nought hours is or may be the working of normal hours within the meaning of this Schedule. For that purpose he showed that under some other scheme or arrangement adopted by the Corporation this method of working alternate weeks had been used; and so it is argued that that was the normal method of working: those were the normal hours of working for that sort of work. I can only say that that is not in my view the construction of this Schedule. The employment should be regarded as employment on the same work other than under such an arrangement as aforesaid. I think that a comparison is intended to be drawn between the relief method of working and what may be described as the normal or ordinary way of working."

* See the June, 1928, issue of this GAZETTE, page 234.

"I am not deciding that the man is uninsurable because there is some break. There might have been breaks in his employment due to illness or other causes; but if the man is to be regarded as being in the employment of the Leeds Corporation for the whole fortnight, although he does not work for one week, all I can say on these facts is that he is not in my view working the normal number of hours, 48 hours in each of the working weeks; therefore, I hold he is not insurable."—*Re Leeds Corporation (William Chadwick). High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division. 30th July, 1928.*

ESTATE CARPENTER—QUESTION OF INSURABILITY—NOT EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE.

THIS was a reference to the High Court* by the Minister of Labour under proviso (ii) of Section 10 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

The question was whether the employee, B. C. Mackay, was a person engaged in agriculture, and so exempt from insurance under the Unemployment Insurance Acts.

From the 11th June, 1923, until the 7th October, 1927, Mackay was employed by Mr. A. G. Soames as estate carpenter. The greater part of his work was repairing farm buildings and cottages, chiefly mending sashes, windows, door sills, and making flooring alterations. He did a little painting. He also built cow stalls on one farm.

On the average for five days in each week Mackay was working in this way on cottages and farm buildings as a carpenter, and spent one day on the saw bench, sawing up with other estate employees all the fire-wood for the mansion and all timber for use on the estate for door sills, sashes, and materials for rough fencing and gates. In the course of his employment Mackay did some fencing and a little gate hanging. Prior to his employment with Mr. Soames, Mackay had worked as a carpenter for various building firms.

In giving his decision Mr. Justice Roche referred to the case of *in re Prior* in which he had formulated a working rule as to what was employment in agriculture, and after stating the rule he should adopt, he made an exception out of the rule which was as follows:—"If the industrial status and occupations of the employed persons are such that, though they are working about or in connection with a farm or garden or orchard, they may properly be said to be essentially pursuing their own special occupations, they are not employed in agriculture or horticulture."

His Lordship also referred to the case of *in re Vellacott*, which was a case of a craftsman or man with a special industrial status employed in connection with a farm or horticultural institution.

"Vellacott was a farmer and market gardener, and Wright was a lorry driver in his employment, and he conveyed the vegetables to Covent Garden. The question was, was Wright engaged in agriculture or horticulture. I said this: 'On the other hand, in connection with the farm, and subsidiary thereto, there may be drivers of horse vehicles and drivers of motor vehicles who cannot properly be said to be employed in agriculture but are properly to be said to be employed in another trade or craft by agriculturists; and that distinction is the very distinction which, in my opinion, is met by Section 47, sub-section 2 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and the gist of that sub-section is that if a person is employed by an agriculturist or by an employer of domestic servants, nevertheless if the employment upon which the servant is engaged is not domestic nor agriculture, then the servant is insurable.' I held there that Wright, the workman, was not engaged sufficiently in agriculture for it to be truly said of him that he was employed in agriculture. Now, in this case, the man Mackay was what is called an estate carpenter. He was essentially a carpenter. He was employed about the estate and he was employed in nothing but carpentry or in matters which were cognate thereto. His occupation was such, namely in connection with carpentry and joinery and skilled craft work, that he was, although working in connection with a farm or farms, essentially pursuing his own special occupation of a carpenter and joiner and was not employed in agriculture; therefore I hold that he is insurable." *In re Soames and Mackay, High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division. 30th July, 1928.*

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-27.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE UMPIRE is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions† are final and conclusive.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 1606/28. (9.8.28.) Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as amended).—Unable to obtain suitable employment.

PROVISO (b)—JOINER OFFERED WORK WITH AN EMPLOYER WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF BUILDING TRADE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION. PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER REFUSED TO PAY OVERTIME RATE AGREED BETWEEN BUILDING TRADE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION AND APPLICANT'S ASSOCIATION.

Applicant, a joiner, refused employment in his own district as joiner with an employer who was not a member of the Building Trades

Employers' Association. The applicant's prospective employer refused to pay the overtime rate agreed upon between the Building Trades Employers' Association and the applicant's Association.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit be disallowed, on the ground that applicant was not unable to obtain suitable employment. The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire, and contended that the applicant was justified in refusing the employment offered as the conditions were less favourable than those obtaining with other employers in the district. The Umpire gave the following decision in which the facts are stated:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be allowed.

"The fact that a prospective employer is on the black list of the applicant's Association does not permit of unemployment benefit being allowed on the ground that the work offered was not suitable (see Decisions 1303/27,* 4268/20† and 4747/20‡). If the applicant can prove that the offer was at a rate of wage lower, or on conditions less favourable, than those which he might reasonably have expected to obtain having regard to those which he habitually obtained in his usual occupation, or would have obtained had he continued to be so employed, he does not fail to fulfil the fourth statutory condition (section 7 (1), proviso (b), of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920)."

"The applicant had been employed in the district previously by an employer who was a member of the Building Trades Employers' Association. The majority of the employers in the district connected with the building trade were members of that Association. The Association had an agreement with the applicant's Association which provided for the payment at overtime rate (which was above the standard rate) when an employee was required to work above or outside the normal working hours. The prospective employer was not a member of the Building Trades Employers' Association, and I am informed that he refused to pay the overtime rate, but only paid the standard rate, for work done above or outside the normal working hours. The Court of Referees adjourned the hearing in order to make inquiries from the prospective employer in regard to two allegations which were made at the hearing. These two allegations were (i) non-payment of overtime rate, (ii) non-payment of allowances for country work. In reply to an inquiry on these two points, the prospective employer stated the allowance which he paid for country work; but when asked, 'What rate per hour for overtime?' his answer was, 'the applicant did not ask about, nor did he mention, overtime.' I am satisfied the prospective employer did not pay overtime at the overtime rate, but at the standard rate, and in that respect he differed from the applicant's late employer and the majority of the building trade employers in the neighbourhood.

"It is suggested that it was the duty of the applicant to inquire whether he would be required to work overtime before refusing the offer of employment, and, as he did not do so, he cannot be heard to say that the work offered was not suitable. It is stated in 317/28§ and 681/28§ that if an applicant is in doubt as to the terms of the employment offered, it is his duty to inquire before refusing the employment offered. The applicant in this case was in no doubt, as he had been advised, and correctly advised, by his Association that there would be no payment for overtime at the overtime rate. He was entitled to assume that he might at any time be required to work overtime, and the prospective employer had not stated, as the prospective employer in 925/28§ had stated, that at the time the offer was made, and for some time thereafter, there would be no overtime worked, and that when it was worked the rate of pay therefor would be agreed.

"In my opinion, the applicant is entitled to benefit by virtue of the provisions of Section 7 (1) proviso (b) of the 1920 Act."

Case No. 1455/28. (31.7.28.) Sections 8 (1) and 47 (1) (c) of the Principal Act.—Trade Dispute.

PLASTERERS CEASED WORK OWING TO PROPOSED REDUCTION IN WAGES BY NORTHERN COUNTIES FEDERATION OF BUILDING TRADE EMPLOYERS—PLASTERERS' WAGES PREVIOUSLY FIXED BY NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL OF THE PLASTERING INDUSTRY—A TRADE DISPUTE.

The applicants, who had been employed by various firms, lost their employment on 1st May, 1928, and their claims for payment in lieu of unemployment benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

It appeared that the applicants ceased work because of a reduction of 2d. per hour in the rate agreed upon between the operative plasterers and the Master Plasterers' Association. The rate, which was 1s. 9½d. per hour, had been fixed by the National Joint Council of the Plastering Industry on 20th July, 1927. The master plasterers had, however, since withdrawn from the National Joint Council of the Plastering Industry, and had become members of the Northern Counties Federation of Building Trades Employers. This Federation, with whom the plasterers had no agreement, prevented the master plasterers from employing the plasterers at a rate higher than that paid by the master builders, which was 1s. 7½d. per hour.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims, with the exception of those made by men who had been employed at one particular firm, should be disallowed, the Court being of opinion that the applicants had lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

The Court did not take the same view with regard to the men employed at the particular firm indicated above. This firm was compelled to withdraw the men from employment owing to the Master Builders' Association refusing to allow it to pay other than the rate set by the Building Trades Federation. Had the workshop

* See Vol. VI, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 84 (Pamphlet No. 4/1927).

† See Vol. II, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 19).

‡ See Vol. II, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 23).

§ Not published.

* See the July, 1928, issue of this GAZETTE, page 270.
† Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1927 (price 7s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription; the latest monthly pamphlet issued is that for July, 1928. Applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

of the firm not been overstocked, the men would have been employed there. In those cases, therefore, the Court were satisfied that the applicants had not lost their employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, and they recommended that the claim should be allowed.

The applicants' Association appealed against the disallowances to the Umpire; and on all the claims being submitted to him, including those which were recommended by the Court of Referees for allowance, the following decision was given in the test case:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed person had made a claim for unemployment benefit, the claim would have been disallowed.

"These claims fall to be decided under the provisions of Sections 8 (1) and 47 (1) (c) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920. It should be noted that, as the loss of employment in respect of which benefit is claimed took place subsequently to 19th April of this year, the latter part of Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, prior to its repeal by Section 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1927, has no application.

"The applicants, who were plasterers and members of the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers, were employed by the various employers on the North East Coast. There was at all material times an agreement in existence between that Association and the Master Plasterers' Association by which the members of the latter Association undertook to pay the plasterers employed by them a wage of 1s. 9½d. an hour. There was no agreement as to the rate of wages existing between the applicants' Association and the Building Trades Federation. The Building Trades Federation required its members to reduce the rate of wages paid to plasterers employed by members of the Federation to 1s. 7½d. per hour.

"I assume for the purposes of this Decision (though it must not be taken as proved for the purposes of other Decisions) that the employers of the present applicants were members of the Master Plasterers' Association, and in accordance with the requirements of the Building Trades Federation these employers were forced, against their will, to post notices of this reduction, or were informed that they could not proceed with the work which they had in hand unless they undertook to pay the Building Trades Federation's rate of wage. The several employers gave notice that the rate of wage would be reduced to 1s. 7½d. per hour, whereupon the applicants ceased work on the instruction of their Association.

"I am satisfied that at the premises of the various employers of these applicants there was a substantial stoppage of work. Whether that stoppage was due to a trade dispute depends upon the definition of 'trade dispute' in Section 47 (1) (c) of the 1920 Act. In my opinion there was a 'trade dispute' within that definition.

"The employers gave notice of a reduction of pay to 1s. 7½d. an hour, and the applicants ceased work rather than accept the reduction. This was a dispute between employers and employees which was connected with the terms of the employment of the employees. If the employers were coerced into requiring the reduction, and did so against their will (which, as has been said before, is assumed for the purpose of this Decision) it does not prevent the stoppage of work being due to a trade dispute (*see* Decisions 129,* 142† and 1709‡ of 1911 Benefit Cases and 345/20§).

"Benefit in these cases must be disallowed during the period of the stoppage of work. I have not the materials before me from which I can determine the duration of the stoppage at the premises of the various employers. This can be done locally."

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

There were no cases under this heading during August.

(B.)—CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

BARGEMEN: LIVERPOOL.—Transport and General Workers' Union *v.* Liverpool Lighter and Barge Owners' Association. *Difference.*—As to the wages and conditions which should operate for bargemen in the employment of members of the Association. A *Board of Arbitration* was appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, consisting of Sir Harold S. Morris, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. H. Bloor (Employers' Representative) and Mr. W. Citrine (Workpeople's Representative); but at the hearing it was agreed that Sir Harold Morris should sit as sole Arbitrator with Messrs. Bloor and Citrine as Assessors. *Award.*—The wages and conditions of the employment of the bargemen under reference shall be governed by the terms of the Award of 21st May, 1924, given by Mr. Henry Bloor and Mr. Ernest Bevin, as amended or interpreted by the Award of 12th February, 1925, given by Sir Benjamin Sands Johnson. Issued on 1st August, 1928.

In his Award the Arbitrator stated that it was not to be regarded in any way as being an approval by him of the existing system of engaging labour. On the contrary he was of opinion that some steps might well be taken by the parties to consider the question of instituting such changes in the existing method of taking on

labour as would make for a greater measure of continuous employment, whether accompanied by changes in the method of remuneration or not. Such a matter might be dealt with by the Joint Committee referred to in Clause 11 of the Award of 21st May, 1924, or, alternatively, by a Committee consisting of representatives of both employers and workpeople specially set up for the purpose. Such a Committee might also, he would suggest, be instructed to consider the question of the establishment of a recognised procedure for the settlement of any questions arising between the parties, the absence of which had been referred to in the course of the proceedings and the institution of which would tend, in his opinion, to the avoidance of disputes.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE: LONDON.—The two sides of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of London. *Difference.*—As to the piece work price to be paid for a particular process. Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E., appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to act as *Umpire* to determine the matter. *Award.*—Price proposed by manufacturers held to accord with the terms and principles of the existing national agreement and accordingly to be paid. Issued 1st August, 1928.

FERRIES: BIRKENHEAD.—Transport and General Workers' Union *v.* Ferries Committee of the Corporation of Birkenhead. *Difference.*—Claim for an advance in the rates of pay of the floating staff and the traffic and general staffs in the employment of the Committee. Sir Harold S. Morris, K.C., appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as *Arbitrator* to determine the matter. *Award.*—Advances on existing rates to be given as from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of the Award as follows:—All men of full age 3s. 6d. per week; youths between the ages of 18 and 21 years, 2s. 6d. per week; and boys 2s. per week. Dated 2nd August, 1928.

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

EXPORT PACKING AND CLOTH WORKING: LONDON.—Workers' Union *v.* Master Cloth Workers' Association (London). *Difference.*—Claim for increases in wages of 2s. per week to men engaged in the press shops and carmen, and of 1s. per week to all other grades. *Settlement.*—The parties agreed to refer the matter to the Industrial Court for settlement. *Signed.*—8th August, 1928.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).

Order R.B. (E. & W.) 4, dated 27th August, 1928, confirming minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers in the London (County Borough of Croydon only) and Central Midland districts, and specifying the 3rd September, 1928, as the date from which such minimum rates should become effective.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.S. (20) dated the 17th August, 1928, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers in the Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade in Northern Ireland, exclusive of the County Boroughs of the cities of Belfast and Londonderry.

II.—REGULATIONS.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales).

The Minister of Labour has issued Regulations dated 28th August, 1928 (S.R. & O., 1928, No. 628), with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales), under which he has appointed a new Trade Board. Professor L. T. Hobhouse, D.Litt., has been appointed to be Chairman, and Mr. F. Popplewell, O.B.E., Office of Trade Boards, 1, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1, to be Secretary of the Board.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) ACTS, 1882 TO 1922.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES ELECTRICITY DISTRICT ORDER, 1925.

Joint Authority: Representatives of Workers in the Industry.

THE Minister of Labour hereby gives notice that, as soon as may be after the 29th day of September, 1928, he will designate to the London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority, in accordance with Section 2 (10) of Part I of the First Annex to the Schedule to the London and Home Counties Electricity District Order, 1925, the employees' organisations having members in the employment of authorised undertakers in the District, in order that the organisations so designated may choose two representatives of persons employed in connection with the supply of electricity in the District to be members of the Joint Authority.

Any employees' organisation which is desirous of being considered by the Minister for designation under the said Section 2 (10) should make application in writing to the Minister not later than the 29th day of September, 1928, on the form provided for the purpose, of which copies may be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

* See Vol. I (1911), Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 64.

† See Vol. I (1911), Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 72.

‡ See Vol. IV (1911), Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 137.

§ See Vol. I, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 196.

COAL MINES ACT, 1911.

THE Board of Trade have given notice, in pursuance of Part I of the Second Schedule to the Coal Mines Act, 1911, that they propose to make general regulations under the said Act to apply to all mines under that Act in which coal or oil shale is worked and in which the total number of persons employed underground exceeds ten, and relating to rescue and other necessary work in mines after explosion or fire, or otherwise in an atmosphere which may be dangerous to life. Copies of the draft regulations may be obtained by persons affected on application to the Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Any objection with respect to the draft regulations by or on behalf of any person affected must be sent to the Secretary for Mines before 4th October next. Every such objection must be in writing and must state (a) the specific grounds of objection, and (b) the omissions, additions, or modifications asked for.

BOARD FOR MINING EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations for Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines, and for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines.

EXAMINATIONS for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines will be held on the 21st and 22nd November, 1928, at Edinburgh, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sheffield, Wigan, Cardiff, and Birmingham.

The written part of an examination for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines will be held at the same centres on the 22nd November, 1928.

Applications for the necessary forms should be made as early as possible, and not later than the 11th October, 1928. In order that the appropriate forms may be sent, it is important that the candidates should state whether they have already sat at one of the Board's examinations.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Board for Mining Examinations, Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, London, S.W. 1.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

ABSENTEEISM.—*A study of absenteeism in a group of ten collieries.* Report No. 51. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.) (See page 319.)

ALIENS.—*Aliens Order, 1920. A return of alien passengers, excluding transmigrants, landed, embarked, and refused leave to land, in the United Kingdom during the three months ending June 30th, 1928.* Home Office. (Cmd. 3113-1; price 1d.)

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—(i) *Statistical summaries showing the operations of friendly societies in the years 1917-1926, and of orders and branches in the years 1910, 1916-1918, 1920, 1922, 1924 and 1926.* Registry of Friendly Societies. (S.O. publication; price 6d.) (ii) *Registered provident societies in Great Britain, general summary, 1925 and 1926.* Registry of Friendly Societies. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

HEALTH SERVICES.—*Ninth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health, 1927-1928.* (Cmd. 3185; price 5s.) (See page 316 for a review of the Housing section of this Report.)

HOUSING.—*Methods of compiling housing statistics.* Studies and Reports, Series N. (Statistics), No. 13. (Published in London for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, Ltd.; price 1s. 6d.)

MINING.—*Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended 31st March, 1928.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—*Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of poor law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in June, 1928, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief.* Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (See page 317.)

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—*Report to the Minister of Transport upon the accidents that occurred on the railways of Great Britain during the year 1927.* (Cmd. 3181; price 6d.)

RAILWAY STAFF.—*Railway Companies (Staff). Return showing (i) the number of persons employed by the several railway companies of Great Britain during the week ended 10th March, 1928, and (ii) a comparison of the rates of pay and also of the average weekly salary or wage and the average weekly earnings of certain selected grades during the weeks ended 30th April, 1927, and 10th March, 1928.* Ministry of Transport. (S.O. publication; price 2s.) (See page 316.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-1927. Decisions given by the Umpire on claims to benefit during July, 1928.* U.I. 440. Pamphlet No. 7, 1928. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—*The Registrar-General's Statistical Review of England and Wales for the year 1927.* (New Annual Series, No. 7.) Tables. Part I. Medical. (S.O. publication; price 15s.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (SILICOSIS).—*Report of the Departmental Committee on compensation for silicosis, dealing with the pottery industry.* Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.) (See page 320.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, AUGUST, 1928.

ADMIRALTY.

(Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department.)

Chatham : Boat House, Supply and Erection of Steelwork : E. C. & J. Keay (1926), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Timber :** Jewson & Son, Ltd., Norwich.—**Railway Material :** T. Summerson & Sons, Ltd., Darlington.—**Devonport :** Painting Tanks : Ben D. Gibbs, Newport, Mon.—**Portsmouth :** Timber : W. W. Howard, Bros., & Co., Southampton.—**Stoneware Conduits :** Leeds Fireclay Co., Ltd., Wortley, Leeds.—**Naval Establishments Abroad :** Ironmongery : James Gibbons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Lockerbie & Wilkinson (Birmingham), Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Alternators, Motor : Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Anchors, Stockless :** Wasteneys, Smith & Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Bacon, Tinned :** St. Olave's Curing & Preserving Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Batteries :** D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell; Chloride Electric Storage Co., Manchester.—**Batteries and Battery Components :** Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., Dukinfield.—**Boilers, Cylindrical :** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead.—**Bolts, Nuts and Studs, Naval Brass :** Muntz Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Barwell's, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Boots, Half :** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; John Horrell & Son, Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds; Tebbutt & Hall Bros, Ltd., Raunds; Stephen Walker, Walgrave.—**Brooms and Brushes :** A. Martin & Son, Birmingham; J. Palmer, Ltd., Portsmouth; J. Root & Son, London, N.—**Brushes, Painters :** F. Brockley & Son, Banstead, Surrey; Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham, Bucks; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; J. Root & Son, London, N.; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse, Glos.—**Brushes, Steel Wire :** C. Topham & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham; N. Greening & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; J. & R. Whyte, Glasgow; W. Riddell, Cousland & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Mechanical Appliances Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cabinet Work :** Hampton & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; J. Elliott & Sons, High Wycombe; Exors. of late S. Snawdon, Plymouth; Joynson, Holland & Co., High Wycombe.—**Cable, Chain and Gear :** H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Chester; N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Netherton; Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Cables :** Greenwich Cable Works, Ltd., Greenwich; Anchor Cable Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancashire; British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Hooper's Telegraph and I.R. Works, Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; St. Helen's Cable & Rubber Co., Ltd., Slough; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Carpets, Rugs and Mats :** Brintons, Ltd., Kidderminster; T. Bond, Worth & Sons, Ltd., Stourport; J. Templeton & Co., Glasgow.—**Castings, Steel :** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cloth, Leather :** The Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Clutches, Vulcan :** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Coats, Waterproof :** Zambrene, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cylinders, Tin :** Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Rippin-gilles Albion Lamp Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Diesel Engines, Parts for :** W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Fescolling Work on Sleeves :** Fescoll, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Flour :** Joseph Rank, Ltd., London, E.C.; Spillers, Ltd. (Spillers and Bakers Branch), Bristol.—**Gearing, Turbine :** Power Plant Co., Ltd., West Drayton.—**Generator Sets, Motor, and Balancer Set :** Crompton, Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Generators, Motor :** Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Heaters, Feed :** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Helmets, Sun, Renovating of :** Everitt W. Vero & Co., London, S.E.—**Hides, Upholstery, etc. :** J. T. Hart & Sons, London, S.E.; George MacLellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Hides and Leather Goods :** Geo. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Barrowfield Leather Co., Ltd., Glasgow; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.; J. Tullis & Son, Ltd., Glasgow.—**India Rubber Goods :** Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham, Wilts; British Goodrich Rubber Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; J. E. Baxter & Co., Ltd., Leyland, near Preston; Clyde Rubber Works Co., Ltd., Renfrew; Ioco Rubber & Waterproofing Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Castle Rubber Co., Ltd., Warrington; Greengate & Irwell Rubber Co., Ltd., Manchester; India Rubber Gutta Percha, &c., Ltd., London, E.; Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.; Rubber Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Stirling.—**Jam :** Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Histon; Lipton, Ltd., London, E.C.; Maconochie Bros., Ltd., London, E.—**Lamp Fittings :** Engineering & Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; Wm. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham.—**Lamps and Lanterns :** Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Griffiths & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lamps, Electric :** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Siemens Electric Lamps and Supplies, Ltd., Preston.—**Lanterns, Navigation, and Gear :** E. Griffiths & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Molineaux, Webb, & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Telford, Grier & Mackay, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Lathes :** Alfred Herbert, Ltd., Coventry; H. W. Ward & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Dean, Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley.—**Linoleum and Cork Carpet :** Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd, Ltd., Kirkcaldy; Linoleum Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Michael Nairn & Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy; New Shepley Linoleum Co., Ltd., Hooley Hill, near Manchester.—**Machine, Hydraulic Plate Flanging :** Hugh Smith & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Motor-driven Grinding :** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Punching and Shearing :** James Bennie &

Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Radial Drilling** : Geo. Swift & Sons, Ltd., Halifax.—**Machine, Slotting** : Ward, Haggas & Smith, Keighley.—**Oscillators** : General Electric Co., Ltd., Wembley.—**Plant, Electric Welding** : G. D. Peters & Co., Ltd., Slough.—**Plates, Glass, for Indicators** : S. & C. Bishop, Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.—**Propellers** : Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Pump, Turbo Feed** : G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Rolls, Plate Bending** : Craig & Donald, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Shears, Plate Splitting** : James Bennie & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Shoes, Black Leather** : R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; John Horrell & Son, Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds.—**Skins, Chamois** : Goodman & Wagstaff, Woodley, near Stockport; W. J. Turney & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Sleeves for Balanced Expansion Pieces** : Fairfield Shipbuilding & Eng. Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Tank, Steel and Mixer** : The Lilleshall Co., Ltd., Oakengates, Shropshire.—**Turbine Blading Material** : Aston Chain & Hook Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Valves, W/T** : General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Winches, Boat Hoisting** : Harfield & Co., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne.

WAR OFFICE.

Barge, Dumb, Steel : Steel Barrel Co., Ltd., Uxbridge.—**Belts, Waist, Buff** : R. & J. Pullman, Ltd., Godalming.—**Blinds and Blind Accessories** : W. G. Curry, Aldershot.—**Boots, Ankle** : Adams Bros. (Raunds) Ltd., Raunds; S. Walker, Walgrave; Tebbutt & Hall Bros., Ltd., Raunds.—**Bronze Stampings** : Bean Cars, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Brushes, Clothes and Polishing** : Vale & Bradnack, Walsall; D. Hayward, Ltd., Walsall.—**Brushes, Shaving** : W. J. Withers, London, S.E.—**Bulbs, Electric** : A. C. Cossor, Ltd., London, N.—**Cable, Electric** : Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Canvas** : Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee.—**Cells, Secondary, Portable** : Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Manchester; Pritchett & Co., Ltd. and E.P.S. Co., Ltd., Dagenham.—**Cement, Portland** : Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., Northfleet, Kent, etc.—**Chassis and Cars, Six-wheeled** : Vulcan Motor & Engineering Co., Ltd., Southport; Garner Motors, Ltd., Tyseley, Birmingham; Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Clothing, Royal Hospital, Chelsea** : J. Hammond & Co., (1922) Ltd., Newcastle, Staffs.—**Coal Handling Plant** : R. White & Sons, Widnes.—**Cooking Apparatus** : Richmond Gas Stove & Meter Co., Ltd., Warrington; Adams & Sons, London, S.W.—**Copper Sheet** : British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescot.—**Cords, Electric** : Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Enfield.—**Desks, Children** : J. D. Bennet, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Dowls** : Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast.—**Drain Pipes, etc.** : Stoneware, Ltd., Dosthill, near Tamworth.—**Drawers, cotton** : Nottingham Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Loughborough.—**Drill, Drab** : Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Littleborough.—**Drilling Machines** : F. Town & Sons, Halifax.—**Fire Extinguishers** : Pyrene Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Generating Sets, Spares** : Douglas Motors, Ltd., Bristol.—**Grinding Machine** : Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Broadheath.—**Hides, Upholstery** : J. & A. Hillman, Ltd., Dudley.—**Lathes** : J. Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone, near Glasgow; Dean, Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley; Hulse & Co., Ltd., Manchester; A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Lead, Sheet and Piping** : Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Lorry, Six-Wheeled** : Vulcan Motor & Engineering Co., Ltd., Southport.—**Magnesium Powder** : British Maxium Ltd., London, S.W.—**Meters, Electric** : Measurements, Ltd., Oldham and London; General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood, Lancs.—**Milling, etc., Machines** : J. Parkinson & Son, Shipley; Wm. Muir & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Motor Cars** : Jowett Cars, Ltd., Idle, Bradford.—**Motors, Starting** : J. Lucas, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Pads, Rubber** : Dunlop Rubber Co., Birmingham.—**Palisading, Iron** : A. & J. Main & Co., Ltd., Possilpark, Glasgow.—**Petrol Storage Tanks** : John Bellamy, Ltd., London, E.—**Pins, Tent, Wood** : F. W. Page, Henley-on-Thames.—**Poles, Steel** : British Mannesman Tube Co., Ltd., Swansea.—**Poles, Tent** : Brownlee & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes; East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted.—**Pontoons, Folding** : Folding Boats & Structures, Ltd., Putney and E. Cowes.—**Posts, Picket** : Jones & Leach, Ltd., Newtown, N. Wales.—**Rags, Cotton** : W. C. Jones, Ltd., Manchester.—**Rotary Washer** : Hind & Lund, Ltd., Preston.—**Shalloon** : W. Bancroft & Sons, Ltd., Halifax; C. Brook & Sons, Ltd., Bradford.—**Silk Cloth** : E. Wilman & Sons, Ltd., Hadfield, Lancs.; Ireland & Wishart, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Steel Billets** : Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Sheffield and Openshaw.—**Steel, Shell** : Steel Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Switches, E.L.** : J. H. Tucker & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tent Bottoms** : W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes.—**Trousers, S.D.** : Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, E.; Huggins, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Valves, W/T** : General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Vehicle, Half-Track, Modfn. of** : F. W. D. Lorry Co., Ltd., Slough.—**Wire, Binding** : T. Wood & Son (Heckmondwike), Ltd., Heckmondwike.—**Works Services** : *Building Works and Services* : Farnborough—Pinehurst Barracks, Store and Boiler Room : Norris & Co (Builders), Ltd., Sunningdale. Caterham, Guards Depot, Alterations and additions to Officers' Mess and Quarters : E. J. Logan, London, W.C. Gosport, Fort Fareham, Erection of Officers' Quarters : John Hunt, Ltd., Gosport. Netley, Operation and X-Ray Block : J. F. Gamble, Lyndhurst. Catterick Camp, Water Supply : D. Thomson & Sons, Ltd., Carlisle. Warley, Artificers' Work : S. Cronin & Sons, Warley. Blackdown, Married Officers' Quarters : Housing Corporation of Great Britain, London, S.W. Larkhill Quarters : W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes. Longmoor, Married Soldiers' Quarters : T. H. Jones, Farnborough. Woolwich Arsenal, Glazing Work : W. H. Heywood & Co., Ltd., Huddersfield. Catterick Camp, Repairs to Roads : H. Coxhead & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough. Derby, Normanton Barracks, Drill Shed : A. Holmes & Sons, Ltd., Burton-on-Trent. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Services at Fenham Barracks : W. T. Pickering, Stockton-on-Tees. Strensall Camp, Warrant Officers' Quarter : J. W. Maw & Sons, Ltd., York. Dover, West, Periodical Services :

C. J. Else & Co., Matlock. Dover, Citadel Barracks, Compas Offices, etc. : R. J. Barwick, Dover. Lydd, Periodical Service G. E. Greenwood & Son, London, N.W. Weedon, Northampton a Bedford Periodical Painting : Pickles and Ayland & Co., Osse Yorks. Parkhurst Barracks, Isle of Wight, Group V, Office Quarter : H. Moger, East Cowes. Isle of Wight Barracks and For Periodical Painting : J. J. Hamilton, Louth. Parkhurst Barrack Isle of Wight, Provision of W.C.'s : Sims & Co., Ventnor. Oxfor Cowley Barracks, Reappropriation of Military Hospital to Regiment Institute : Wm. Griffiths, Sons & Cromwell, Ltd., London, W. Oxford, Cowley Barracks, Reappropriation of Regimental Institu to Military Hospital : Wm. Griffiths, Sons & Cromwell, Ltd London, W.C. Arborfield Cross, Bachelor Dining Room an Kitchen : W. Laughton, Bedford. North Aldershot, Marlborough Lines, Periodical Services : F. Holdsworth, Ltd., Shipley, York Artificers' Work at Fort George : K. Chisholm, Inverness. Artificer Work at Inverness : H. Fraser, Inverness. Chatham and Maidston Painting : A. A. McDermott, Bradford. Kneller Hall, Royal Milita School of Music—Erection of Regimental Institute : J. B. Edwards Co., London, W. Woolwich—Repairs to roads : J. B. Edwards & Co London, W. Woolwich—Royal Herbert Hospital and Lower Gr Park—Repairs to Roofs : A. King & Co., London, S.W. Woolwich—Royal Military Academy—Re-pointing brickwork : A. King & Co London, S.W. Woolwich—Royal Artillery Barracks—Re-pointin and repairing brickwork : G. Greenwood & Sons, London, S.W Catterick Camp—Erection of Bedding Store : A. Bull & Co., Ltd Doncaster. Catterick Camp—Extension to Power Stn. Workshops Tarran & Ayre, Hutton Rudby, Yorks. Derby—Normanton Ba racks—Periodical Services : R. Skevington & Sons, Derby. Tyne mouth—Erection of R.E. Workshops and Technical Store : M Stephen Buy, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft : Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry —**Aircraft, Automatic Slots** : H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Float Undercarriage** : H. G. Hawke Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Modifications** : Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—**Aircraft, Modifications to Spares** : Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft, Oil Radiators** : Vickers Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning** : H. G. Hawker Engi neering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Spares** : Black burn Aero. & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd. Hayes, Middlesex; Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; Vickers Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Wheel Covers and Shields** : Palmer Tyre, Ltd., Silvertown.—**Aircraft, Wheels and Tyres** : Palmer Tyre, Ltd., Silvertown.—**Airscrews** : Airscrew Co., Ltd., Weybridge Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes.—**Airscrews and Cases** : Airscrew Co., Weybridge.—**Asbestos Slate and Sheet** : Turner Bros Asbestos Co., Ltd., Trafford Park.—**Bombs, Filling of** : Nobel In dustries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Bombs, Practice** : Trojan, Ltd. Croydon; Vickers, Ltd., Dartford, Kent.—**Buildings and Works Services** : Artificers' Works (Hucknall) : R. Hustwayte, Nottingham (Hendon & Bentley Priory) : H. J. & A. Wright, Ltd., Gt. Missenden Bucks; (Old Sarum) : Wort & Way, Salisbury. Extension of Slipway (Cattewater) : Pearn Bros, Plymouth. Groceries Shop (Cranwell) : J. Burbidge, Grantham.—**Internal Wiring** (Boscombe Down) : Malcolm & Allen, Ltd., London, W.C. Married Quarters (Andover) : W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes; (Farnborough) : H. G. Goodall & Son, Basingstoke.—**Steel Framing for Qtrs.** (Heliopolis) : Fleming Bros., Ltd., Glasgow; (Ismailia) : Glasgow Steel Roofing Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cabs, India Type** : Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Soho, Birmingham.—**Cast Iron Pipes and Fittings** : Cochrane & Co., Ltd. (Middlesbro'), Middlesbrough.—**Cotton Fabric, "D"** : Perseverance Mill Co., Manchester.—**Crossley Kegresse Tractors** : Shelvoke & Drewry, Letchworth, Herts.—**Cylinders, Oxygen** : Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W.; **Detonators, Cylinders, etc.** : Nobel Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Dinghies, Collapsible** : Siebe, Gorman & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Engines, Aircraft** : A.D.C. Aircraft Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Crankless and Tests** : D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Cylinder, Blocks for** : D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Development Test on** : Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Magnetos** : E. North & Son, Ltd., Watford.—**Engines, Aircraft, Magneto Spares** : British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines, Aircraft, Mechanics' Services** (Felixstowe and Rochester) : Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Overhaul** : D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares and Drawings** : D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Tests on** : Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Engines, Aircraft, Type Test** : Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines, Aircraft, Tool Kits** : Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Fire Extinguishers** : General Fire Appliance Co., London, E.C.—**Ford Spares** : W. J. Reynolds, London, E.—**Generators** : British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry; W. Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Generating Sets** : Tangyes, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Goldbeater Skins** : Puckridge & Nephew, London, E.—**Indicators, Engine Speed** : E. North & Sons, Ltd., Watford.—**Jackets** : H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.—**Lamps, Filament** : General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Packing Cases, Engine** : Nissen Buildings, Ltd., Hoddesdon.—**Pantaloons** : H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.—**Petrol Delivery Apparatus** : Zwicky, Ltd., Slough, Bucks.—**Photographic Plates** : Ilford, Ltd., Ilford.—**Plywood** : S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight.—**Pressure Gauges, Oil** : Dewrance & Co., London, S.E.—**Racks, Storage** : Milner Safe Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Rags, Old Cotton** : W. C. Jones, Ltd., Manchester.—**Serge,**

Blue Grey : J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth; A. W. Hamsworth & Sons, Farsley; R. Gaunt & Sons, Ltd., Farsley; J. Harper & Sons, Eccles Hill, Bradford; H. Booth & Sons, Ltd., Gildersome, near Leeds.—**Sparking Plugs** : Lodge Plugs, Ltd., Rugby.—**Switches** : A. W. Hart & Co., London, N.—**Telephone Receivers and Spares** : Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tool and Cutter Grinding Machine** : Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Broadheath, Manchester.—**Transmitters, T. 22 and Spares** : Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Trousers** : L. Silberston, London, E.; J. Hammond & Co. (1922), Ltd., Newcastle, Staffs.—**Tyres and Tubes** : F. L. Rapson, London, W.—**Vices** : Steel Nut and Joseph Hampton, Ltd., Wednesbury, Staffs.—**White Metal** : J. H. Richards & Co., Ltd., Salford, Birmingham.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Cardboards : Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Bucksburn, Aberdeenshire.—**Carbons** : Read Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Hounslow.—**Cloth, Tracing** : B. J. Hall & Co., Ltd., Cheadle; Winterbottom Book Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Paper (of Various Descriptions)** : J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Airdrie, Lanarkshire; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury; R. Sommerville & Co., Ltd., Taunton.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.** : Account Book Binding, Division VIII (1928): Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Stamping, etc., Paper (London): Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. Group 317 (1928), Bookwork Printing: Eyre & Spottiswoode, Ltd., London, E.C. Classified Trades Telephone Directories—Manchester, W. & E. Yorkshire, Liverpool, and Glasgow Districts: J. Weiner, Ltd., London, W.C. National Health and Pensions Cards (Wales) and Arrears Cards (Wales): Western Mail, Ltd., Cardiff.—**Stencils** : Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey, Herts.

[POST OFFICE.

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