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## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE increase in unemployment which normally occurs after Christmas was experienced in January, but a decline in employment also occurred in a number of industries not directly affected by the Christmas activity.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 22·4 at 25th January, 1932, as compared with 20·9 at 21st December, 1931, and 21·5 at 26th January, 1931. For males alone the percentage at 25th January, 1932, was 25·1, and for females 15·4. At 21st December, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23·2 and 15·0.

*Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.*—It is estimated that on 25th January, 1932, there were approximately 9,365,300 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 227,300 less than a month before, but 150,200 more than a year before.

*Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).*—At 25th January, 1932, there were 2,131,298 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 128,834 more than a month before, and 255,968 more than a year before. The total on 25th January, 1932, included 1,699,758 men, 66,501 boys, 313,686 women and 51,353 girls. It was made up approximately of 964,741 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 834,256 applicants for transitional payments, 201,871 other insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 130,430 uninsured persons.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.*—At 25th January, 1932, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 353,334 men, 9,847 boys, 125,637 women and 7,590 girls, who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 496,408 was 92,976 more than a month before, but 111,035 less than a year before. It included 423,250 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 43,300 applicants for transitional payments, and 29,858 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

*Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.*—At 25th January, 1932, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 98,916 men, 162 boys, 1,604 women and 23 girls, who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 100,705 included 70,855 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 28,699 applicants for transitional payments, and 1,151 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Comparisons of the numbers on the Registers with those for a month ago and a year ago are affected by legislative and administrative changes. (See page 46.)

*Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.*—Employment declined in building and contracting, in brick, tile and pipe manufacture, in coal mining, iron

and steel and metal goods manufacture, in general and electrical engineering, in the cotton, wool, hosiery, and leather industries, in tailoring and dressmaking, in the woodworking, printing, paper, and distributive trades, and in the road transport and shipping services. On the other hand, there was a reduction in the numbers recorded as unemployed in the pottery, tinplate, boot and shoe, and hat and cap industries.

### 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 in January resulted in a decrease of about £63,600 in the weekly full-time wages of 335,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £3,300 in those of 110,000 workpeople.

The principal classes of workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in January were dock labourers and seamen. Other workpeople affected by reductions included various classes of men employed in the ship-building and ship-repairing industry, iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire (except the lower-paid men), cement workers, gas workers in various districts, waterworks employees in the Midlands, and workpeople employed by electricity supply undertakings on the North-East Coast, and in the West Midlands and South Coast areas. There were also reductions in the minimum rates of wages fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade, and for women and girls in the stamped or pressed metal ware trade.

Workpeople whose wages were increased during January included coal miners in North Staffordshire, and textile bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., operatives in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Scotland.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st February the average level of retail prices of 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 about the same as at 1st January, being approximately 47 per cent. above that of July, 1914; the figure for food alone, 31 per cent. above pre-war, was also unchanged. The corresponding percentages a year ago were 52 and 36 respectively.

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. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to 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.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in January was 30. In addition, 9 disputes which began before January were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in January (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 18,300, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in January was about 217,000 working days.



56s. 8d. for conductors, compared with 31s. 1d. and 27s. 8d. at August, 1914, showing increases of 94 and 105 per cent. respectively; as, however, the weekly hours of labour had been reduced, from 54 to 60 in 1914 to generally 48 in 1931, the average increases in hourly rates of wages were considerably greater.

**Agriculture.**—The minimum rates of wages of ordinary agricultural labourers in England and Wales at December, 1931, as fixed by Orders of the Agricultural Wages Board, ranged from 28s. to 35s. 6d. per week, including the value of certain allowances. In the same districts in 1914 the cash rates of wages (which were supplemented by the addition of varying allowances) ranged from 13s. to 21s. per week. It is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture that the average of the minimum rates of wages for ordinary labourers in England and Wales at December, 1931, was 31s. 4d. per week. This represents an increase of about 74 per cent. over the average of the cash rates and allowances in 1914, which was 18s. per week. This comparison takes no account of overtime payments, nor of extra earnings at special seasons; and no allowance is made, in the percentage increase quoted, for the reductions in normal weekly working hours which have been made since 1914.

**Other Industries.**—In the following Table particulars are given of the rates of wages at 4th August, 1914 and at December, 1931, of some of the principal classes of workpeople in the printing and bookbinding, furniture making, and baking trades in a number of towns:—

Trade and Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates of Wages in certain Large Towns* at		Average Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at
	4th Aug., 1914.	31st Dec., 1931.	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Printing and Bookbinding:—			
Hand Compositors on Book and Jobbing Work ... ..	35 8	73 10	107
Bookbinders and Machine Rulers ... ..	33 11	73 7	117
Furniture Making:—			
Cabinet Makers ... ..	39 5	70 10	80
Upholsterers ... ..	38 8	70 5	82
French Polishers ... ..	37 5	70 5	88
Baking:—			
Table Hands ... ..	30 1	62 3	107

The hours of labour in a normal full week at December, 1931 were generally 48 in the printing and baking trades, and 44 to 47 in the furniture trade, compared with 50 or 51 in the printing trades, 48 to 60 for bakers, and 46½ to 54 in the furniture trade at August, 1914. The percentage increases in hourly rates are thus greater than those in weekly rates shown in the Table, averaging (in the towns to which the Table relates) about 119 per cent. for compositors, 129 per cent. for bookbinders, 101 per cent. for cabinet makers, 106 per cent. for upholsterers, 111 per cent. for french polishers, and 130 per cent. for table hands in the baking trade.

In the pottery industry, the general level of rates of wages is about 35 to 45 per cent. (in different sections) above the pre-war level, but increases in basic rates have been granted, in addition, to certain classes of workpeople. For labourers in the heavy chemical trade the increase on the 1914 weekly rates of wages amounts to between 95 and 105 per cent. The hours of labour have been reduced in the pottery industry from 52 in 1914 to 47 per week, and in the chemical industry from 12 to 8 per shift for shift workers and from 53 or 54 to 47 per week for day workers.

For unskilled labourers in the non-trading departments of Local Authorities the unweighted average of the weekly rates of wages in 28 large towns shows an increase of about 93 per cent. over that for August, 1914, from 26s. 9d. to 51s. 9d. Hours of labour having been reduced without any reduction in weekly rates of wages, the increase in hourly rates in these towns averages about 114 per cent. For unskilled labourers in the electricity supply industry the unweighted average of the rates in over 50 towns at December, 1931, was about 54s. 1d. per week, compared with 26s. 7d. per week in August, 1914, showing an increase of 104 per cent. In this case also the hours of labour have been reduced, and the increase in hourly rates averages about 133 per cent.

#### SUMMARY.

Both the amounts and the corresponding percentages of increase over pre-war rates show a wide diversity among different classes of workpeople. In some cases the increases in full-time weekly rates at the end of December, 1931, were equivalent to less than 20 per cent. on the pre-war rates; in other cases, they were equivalent to over 100 per cent. on the pre-war rates. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable the average percentage increase for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of December, 1931, weekly full-time rates of wages, for those classes of adult workpeople for which information is available, averaged between 66 and 70 per cent. above the level of August, 1914, as compared with 170 to 180 per cent. at the end of December, 1920, when wages generally were at their highest level. As considerable reductions in normal weekly working hours were made in nearly all industries in 1919 and 1920, the percentage increase in hourly rates of wages, since 1914, is substantially greater; while it is not practicable on the basis of available information to make any precise calculation,

\* The averages are based on the rates current in 26 towns in the printing and bookbinding and baking trades, and in 20 towns in the furniture trade.

It seems probable that at the end of December, 1931, the average level of hourly rates was between 85 and 95 per cent. above that of August, 1914. These figures, it should be noted, relate to the wages of similar grades of workpeople at both dates.

The average percentage increase in weekly full-time rates of wages at the end of each year since 1920, as compared with the beginning of August, 1914, is estimated, on the basis indicated above, to have been approximately as shown in the following Table:—

Year (end of).	Increase per cent.	Year (end of).	Increase per cent.
1920 ... ..	170-180	1925 ... ..	75
1921 ... ..	110-115	1927 ... ..	70-75
1922 ... ..	70-75	1928 ... ..	70-75
1923 ... ..	65-70	1929 ... ..	70-74
1924 ... ..	70-75	1930 ... ..	70-74
1925 ... ..	75	1931 ... ..	66-70

It should be borne in mind that the foregoing particulars relate to full-time rates of wages for corresponding grades of workpeople at each date. They do not take account of changes in average earnings resulting from variations in the state of employment or from the operation of other factors (e.g., changes in the proportions of workers in different industries and occupations or changes in the proportions paid at time and at piece rates of wages), as to which comprehensive information is not available.

## NUMBERS ON EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE REGISTERS.

### COMPARABILITY OF STATISTICS.

In the issues of this GAZETTE for December, 1931 (page 457), and January, 1932 (page 7), estimates were given of the effect of new conditions for the receipt of benefit and transitional payments on the numbers on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 23rd November and 21st December respectively.

In the House of Commons on 11th February, 1932, the Minister of Labour was asked to state how many persons were registered as unemployed at the Employment Exchanges on 1st February, 1931, and 1932; and how many persons had ceased to register during the past three months because benefits or transition payments had been disallowed. The reply given by the Minister, was as follows:—"The numbers of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain were 2,592,650 at 26th January, 1931, and 2,728,411 at 25th January, 1932. It is estimated that in the last three months approximately 130,000 persons had ceased to register at Employment Exchanges after disallowance of benefit or transitional payments, but it is clear that nothing approaching this number should properly be included in a total of the unemployed."

On 15th February, a reply was given by the Minister to a further question in the House of Commons, asking him to state the estimated changes since 1923 in the numbers of registered unemployed in Great Britain due to legislative and administrative changes in unemployment insurance, showing additions or decreases in every case.

The reply was as follows:—

"An article giving the information desired in respect of the period from February, 1924 to December, 1929, was published on page 50 of the February, 1930, issue of the Ministry of Labour Gazette.

In May, 1930, the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930, was estimated, on such information as was available, to have added about 60,000, or 3.5 per cent., to the register. In the light of later information this figure is certainly a considerable under-estimate and does not make sufficient allowance for the effect of relaxed conditions in attracting claims, which would not otherwise have been made, an effect which cannot be measured by statistical methods.

Between last October and the end of January, legislative and administrative changes have reduced the register by a figure estimated at about 145,000, or 5.3 per cent. of the total at the end of January."

## APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

### DETERMINATION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AUTHORITIES.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons on 2nd February, the Minister of Labour stated that, up to 16th January, 1932, 1,629,009 determinations had been made by Public Assistance Authorities in the case of applicants for transitional payments. This number includes renewals and revisions of determinations, in accordance with the Regulation by which determinations at present last for a maximum period of four weeks. The number of individuals concerned is not yet known, but it is rather more than a million.

Of the determinations, 802,339 were at the normal benefit rates; in 255,949 it was held that the needs of the applicants did not require transitional payments; and in 570,721 a determination of less than the corresponding benefit rate was made.

## THE PLACING WORK OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

THE total number of vacancies filled during the year ended 28th December, 1931, by all departments of Employment Exchanges, Branch Employment Offices and Juvenile Employment Bureaux in Great Britain was 1,952,057, as compared with 1,732,144 during 1930, an increase of 219,913 vacancies filled.

The number of vacancies filled in 1931 is the highest on record. It exceeded by over 200,000, as mentioned above, the number filled in 1930, and was almost three times the number filled in 1922. The figures are the more noteworthy in view of the fact that 1931 was a year of unexampled depression in trade, and the opportunities of obtaining employment were at their lowest ebb. The substantial annual increase in the number of vacancies filled shows that more and more employers each year are realising that it is worth their while to use the Exchanges for all types of labour and that they can rely upon their needs being met promptly and adequately.

This development of placing work has been greatly assisted in many areas by the co-operation of representative local committees. Much attention has in recent years been given to the efficient internal organisation of the offices for this work and to the linking of the various offices together. It is possible for a vacancy notified to one office to be circulated through the National Clearing House to over 1,000 other offices throughout Great Britain within a very few hours, and in appropriate cases the worker's fare can always be advanced by the Ministry.

Special attention has also been paid during the past year to the organisation of the Employment Departments of Exchanges on an occupational basis, so as to ensure that the staff dealing with a vacancy of a particular type possess the necessary detail knowledge of the requirements of the trade concerned. There has been a special Exchange for the building trades in Tavistock Street, London, for some years, with a committee under the chairmanship of Lord Burnham. A further experiment in this direction was the establishment in Denmark Street, London, of a special Exchange for the hotel and catering trades; attached to this Exchange is a committee representing these trades with Lord Lytton as chairman. This Exchange has been open for just over a year, and it is already filling vacancies at the rate of from 400 to 500 a week.

## HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT OF BOYS AND GIRLS IN UNREGULATED OCCUPATIONS.

THE National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment (England and Wales) were asked by the Minister of Labour, in November, 1930, to undertake an inquiry regarding the employment of young persons under 18 in "unregulated occupations," that is to say, in occupations where the hours of employment of such persons are not at present regulated by statute. The Council have now issued a Report\* giving the results of their inquiry, together with their observations thereupon, and their recommendations with regard to the hours and conditions of employment of these young persons.

The Council conducted their inquiry by means of a questionnaire, addressed to Juvenile Employment Committees of Local Education Authorities and to Juvenile Advisory Committees. Particulars were obtained with regard to the normal weekly hours of labour of 127,392 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18. The Report gives, for each occupation, particulars of the gross weekly working hours, inclusive of meal times and rest periods, and of the estimated net weekly working hours, exclusive of such intervals. The following Table gives an abridged summary of the particulars of hours worked in the principal occupations, excluding meal times and rest periods:—

Occupation.	Number covered by Inquiry.	Percentage whose normal weekly hours were—		
		Up to and including 48.	Over 48, and up to and including 54.	Over 54.
Errand Boys ... ..	72,848	47.9	31.1	21.0
Errand Girls ... ..	4,779	67.2	23.6	9.2
Van Boys ... ..	12,692	54.4	28.0	17.6
Warehouse Boys ... ..	12,420	85.2	12.0	2.8
Warehouse Girls ... ..	6,957	85.0	14.4	0.6
Messenger Boys ... ..	6,887	69.2	24.0	6.8
Messenger Girls ... ..	1,581	73.6	25.4	1.0
Petrol Pump Boys ... ..	1,951	49.8	26.0	24.2
Other Occupations ... ..	7,177	59.7	26.7	13.6
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>127,392</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>16.0</b>

There was much "broken time" or "spread-over" in some of these occupations. The percentage working under 48 hours, including meal times and rest periods, was small, for most occupations. For all occupations the percentages on this basis were:—Up to and including 48 hours, 15.1 per cent.; over 48 and up to and including 54 hours, 32.6 per cent.; over 54 and up to and including 60 hours, 31.1 per cent.; over 60 hours, 21.2 per cent. For errand boys only the corresponding percentages were:—8.4, 28.1, 35.3, and 28.2. The returns from the Committees showed that nearly half—in the case of some occupations, more than half—of the juveniles

\* The National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment (England and Wales); Fourth Report. Hours of Employment of Boys and Girls in "unregulated occupations." H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (5d. post free).

covered by the returns were unable, or would find it very difficult, to attend evening classes or clubs regularly, in view of the length of time during which they were at the disposal of the employers.

The returns also showed that, in most areas and in most occupations, a weekly half holiday is normally allowed; exceptions were ice cream sellers, golf caddies, assistants in fair grounds or amusement parks, and chocolate and programme sellers in theatres. Sunday work was frequent with petrol pump boys, ice cream sellers, golf caddies, and assistants in fair grounds and amusement parks. The Report also gives particulars as to the occupations, covered by the inquiry, where the prospects of future progressive employment were definitely favourable or the reverse; and of those which were prejudicial, or otherwise, to the chances of juveniles obtaining employment in other trades.

A majority of the Council—the representatives of the employers dissenting—consider that there is a need for the further regulation of the hours of employment of boys and girls in these "unregulated" occupations. Though the hours worked by a majority of these boys and girls, in most of the occupations specified, may not be open to serious criticism, there are nevertheless, in the opinion of these members of the Council, sufficient numbers working excessive hours to justify and require regulative action. They point out that, though some of the juveniles covered by the returns are subject to some regulation of hours under the Shops Acts, the maximum limit of hours for juveniles under those Acts is as high as 74 per week.

The majority of the Council recommend further: (i) that a maximum working week for boys and girls in "unregulated" occupations should be fixed by Parliament; and (ii) that, within the limits set by statute, powers should be given to local authorities to make byelaws, prescribing shorter hours and additional conditions. In making these recommendations, however, the Council point out that neither they nor the majority of the Juvenile Committees have, in the course of the inquiry, taken any evidence as to the effect of restrictive legislation on the occupations affected. They add that they are not unmindful of the present economic and industrial position of the country, but feel that it is beyond their function to advise whether immediate action should be taken on these recommendations.

Five members of the Council—those representing the trade unions—support the recommendations of the Report so far as they go, but wish the maximum number of hours to be definitely fixed at 48 per week.

As stated above, the five representatives of the employers dissent from the Report, and submit a minority Report, in which they object to any legislative action concerning the hours of juvenile labour, on the ground that in the present state of national emergency the country cannot afford to devote public effort, time, and money to matters of this order, or to "elaborating refinements to a system of social legislation which is already superior to that of any other country in the world." They further contend that the Majority Report is misleading, since, in their view, the majority of juveniles covered by it are within the scope of the Shops Acts, so that their hours are not "unregulated." Moreover they urge that conditions of labour in those occupations are not unhealthy in themselves, and have improved out of all recognition since 1913 through the force of public opinion; and that the same force can safely be left to effect any further improvement necessary.

## DEATHS OF SEAMEN IN 1930.

A RETURN\* which has recently been issued by the Board of Trade shows the number of deaths, during 1930, among the crews of vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

The number of deaths among the crews of steam and motor vessels (other than fishing vessels) registered in the United Kingdom under Part I of the Merchant Shipping Act in the year 1930 was 1,038, distributed as shown in the following Table. The figures for 1929 are also given for comparison:—

Cause.	Deaths at Sea.		Deaths in River or Harbour.		Total.	
	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.
Casualty to Vessel ... ..	14	117	17	20	31	137
Other Accidents:—						
On Board ... ..	104	118	92	109	196	227
Ashore ... ..	...	...	112	104	112	104
Disease ... ..	180	195	431	358	611	553
Homicide and Suicide ... ..	64	39	24	21	88	60
<b>Total (including Lascars)</b> ... ..	<b>362</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>1,081</b>
<i>Lascars (included above) ... ..</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>272</i>	<i>249</i>

Among crews of sailing vessels (other than fishing vessels) the deaths totalled 13; of these 7 were due to casualties to vessels, 3 to other accidents, 2 to disease, and 1 to homicide or suicide.

The number of persons forming the first crews of vessels actually employed during the year was approximately 1,100 in sailing vessels and 236,000 in steam and motor vessels; of those in steam and motor vessels 160,900 were British subjects, 18,700 foreigners, and 56,400 Lascars (British subjects and foreigners).

Deaths among the crews of fishing vessels registered under Part IV of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, totalled 117. Of these, 41 were due to casualties to vessels, 49 to other accidents, 26 to disease, and 1 to homicide or suicide.

\* Return of Shipping Casualties to and Deaths on Vessels registered in the United Kingdom. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net (10d. post free).

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN 1930.

THE Home Office have issued a White Paper\* containing statistics of compensation and of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, in Great Britain during the year 1930. The statistics relate to seven great groups of industries—mines, quarries, railways, factories, docks, constructional work, and shipping—in regard to which particulars of compensation are received from or on behalf of employers under section 42 of the consolidating Act of 1925. These groups embrace a large proportion of the chief industries, but it has to be borne in mind that they do not by any means cover the whole field. Besides the various commercial, clerical, and domestic employments to which the Act applies, there are several important industries which are not covered by the returns, for example, building, road transport, and agriculture.

The aggregate number of persons coming within the provisions of the Acts who were employed in Great Britain in the seven groups of industries to which the returns relate was 7,181,516 in 1930, as compared with 7,450,112 in 1929. It should be noted that the figure which the employer is asked to give is the average number employed throughout the year.

The following Table gives comparative figures for 1929 and 1930:—

	1929.	1930.
Number of workpeople covered by returns	7,450,112	7,181,516
Number of cases:—		
Fatal ... ..	2,819	2,621
Non-fatal ... ..	478,502	458,509
Total ... ..	481,421	461,130
Payments for compensation:—		
In fatal cases ... ..	£ 807,743	£ 751,777
In non-fatal cases ... ..	5,762,175	5,664,130
Total ... ..	6,569,918	6,415,907

The average amount of compensation paid in fatal cases in 1930 was £287, as compared with £222 in 1929 (the year previous to the commencement of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, which introduced considerable changes in the scale of compensation), and with £159 in 1913. The average amount paid in 1930 in disablement cases was £87 5s. for lump-sum payments, and £8 14s. for weekly payments. The average for all disablement cases was £12 7s. in 1930, as compared with £13 14s. in 1929, and £5 16s. in 1913.

The following Table shows the number of persons employed, the total compensation paid, and the percentage of cases of compensation to persons employed, in each of the seven groups of industries covered by the returns for the years 1929 and 1930:—

Groups of Industries.	Persons employed.		Total compensation paid.		Percentage of cases of compensation to persons employed.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
Shipping ...	206,763	190,839	£ 267,293	£ 262,735	4.18	4.61
Factories ...	5,531,322	5,286,176	2,407,346	2,338,679	3.80	3.71
Docks ...	108,444	92,969	288,771	283,806	11.98	13.80
Mines ...	930,780	933,813	3,049,826	3,001,449	23.01	22.35
Quarries ...	79,430	73,599	100,149	107,400	8.81	9.16
Constructional work ...	111,917	123,768	160,946	151,372	7.48	7.18
Railways ...	481,456	480,361	295,587	270,466	4.21	4.01
Total ...	7,450,112	7,181,516	6,569,918	6,415,907	6.46	6.42

The figures given above as to total compensation paid in the seven groups of industries represent only the actual amount paid to workpeople or their dependants, and not the total charge on the industries, which would need to include the administrative expenses and medical and legal costs of employers, insurance companies, and mutual indemnity associations, the amounts placed in reserve, and the profits earned by the insurance companies.

Statistics regarding the various industrial diseases included under the Workmen's Compensation Acts show that compensation was paid, in the seven groups of industries, in 30 fatal cases in 1930, to the amount of £8,540, and in 19,516 disablement cases, to the amount of £583,325. The 30 fatal cases included 13 of lead poisoning, 5 of anthrax, and 9 of epitheliomatous cancer and scrotal epithelioma. The bulk of the cases occurred, as in previous years, in the mining industry, the majority being due to miner's nystagmus, beat hand, and beat knee. Cases of miner's nystagmus accounted for over 54 per cent. of the total number, and, together with beat hand, beat knee, beat elbow, and inflammation of the synovial lining of the wrist joint and tendon sheaths, numbered 17,066, or 87.3 per cent. of the total number. The cases of miner's nystagmus, totalling 10,638, showed an increase of 796 compared with 1929.

Four special schemes of compensation for silicosis were in operation in 1930, with application respectively to the refractories industries, the sandstone industry, the metal grinding industry, and a miscella-

\* Cmd. 4,000. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 6d. net. (7d. post free).

neous group of industries. The total number of cases in which compensation was paid under these schemes during the year 1930 was 662. This total was made up of 90 fatal cases, 322 disablement cases continued from previous years, and 250 new disablement cases. The total amount paid in compensation during the year was £53,235, of which £24,954 was in respect of claims in fatal cases and £28,281 for disablement. The Medical Board provided for under the schemes for the refractories and sandstone industries carried out during the year 1,004 initial examinations and 5,877 periodic examinations of workmen; 124 workmen were suspended from work as the result of these examinations.

## SAFETY ORGANISATION IN FACTORIES.

THE Home Office have issued a pamphlet\* dealing with the establishment of safety organisations in factories. It is pointed out that, in spite of all that is done, by statutory regulations and otherwise, to reduce accidents, no fewer than 899 persons were killed and 143,859 injured in 1930 by accidents in factories, workshops, &c.; while the total cost of factory accidents may be estimated at something like £9,000,000 a year.

The question of accident prevention received attention at the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in 1928, when a resolution was adopted containing the following paragraph:—

"The Conference is of opinion that the time has come to attempt to reach a higher standard of safety by the development of new methods, and believes that the greatest advance can be made on the lines of the movement which has received the name of the 'Safety First' movement, and which implies, in its application to industry, (i) the recognition of accident prevention as an essential part of the organisation of the works; (ii) common interest and endeavour on the part of employers and workers in the individual works in seeking to promote a higher standard of safety."

In pursuance of this aim, the Home Office pamphlet sets forth the nature and purpose of a safety organisation, the most suitable constitution of such an organisation, and its functions.

## FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1931.

THE Mines Department have issued a preliminary Statement† of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1931. The principal statistics are given below; the figures for 1931 are subject to minor corrections on the receipt of the final returns for the Annual Report:—

	No. of separate Fatal Accidents in			No. of Deaths caused by Fatal Accidents in		
	1931.	1930.	1929.	1931.	1930.	1929.
Mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911 ... ..	735	939	1,012	858	1,013	1,076
Mines under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872 ... ..	8	12	19	9	12	19
Quarries under the Quarries Act, 1894† ...	49‡	69	66	49‡	70	69
Total ... ..	792	1,020	1,097	916	1,095	1,164

Of the 858 deaths from accidents at mines under the Coal Mines Act in 1931, nearly half (418) were due to falls of ground, including 294 at the working face, and 124 on underground roads. Haulage accidents underground accounted for 174 deaths, including 147 caused by persons being run over or crushed by trams or tubs. Of the remainder, 107 were due to explosions of fire damp or coal dust, 20 to shaft accidents, and 71 to miscellaneous accidents underground. Accidents on the surface accounted for 68 deaths.

It is estimated that for mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, the death-rate in 1931 per thousand persons employed was 0.98, as compared with 1.07 in 1930 and 1.11 in 1929. Taking a hundred thousand man-shifts worked as the basis, the death-rate was 0.41 in 1931 and 0.43 in each of the two previous years. The death-rate per million tons of minerals raised was 3.80 in 1931, as compared with 4.04 in 1930 and 4.05 in 1929.

Falls of ground accounted for five out of the nine deaths from accidents in metalliferous mines, and for 22 out of a total of 49 deaths in quarries.

\* Safety Organisation in Factories. Safety Pamphlet No. 14. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (3½d. post free).

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

‡ The Quarries Act, 1894, applies only to quarries more than 20 feet deep; in addition, 9 accidents, causing 9 deaths, were reported in 1931 at quarries 20 feet deep or less.

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

### FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

THE fifty-sixth session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office was held at Geneva from 13th to 16th January, 1932. His Majesty's Government was represented by Mr. F. W. Leggett, of the Ministry of Labour, British employers by Mr. H. S. Kirkaldy, of the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations, and British workers by Mr. Arthur Hayday, of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress.

The Governing Body decided to place on the agenda of the 1933 Conference the subjects of unemployment insurance, and of methods of providing rest and alternation of shifts in automatic sheet glass works. A report from the Unemployment Committee, which suggested that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the possibility of alleviating unemployment by instituting a working week of 40 hours, was adopted by 15 votes to 3, the representative of H.M. Government abstaining.

It was decided to submit to the Governments concerned a simplified form of questionnaire for the inquiry into wages and conditions of work in the textile industry,\* and the principle of holding an inquiry into the iron and steel industry was agreed to. It was also decided to institute a Correspondence Committee, to advise the International Labour Office on women's questions, but the constitution of this Committee was not settled. Further consideration is to be given to this matter. The Governing Body also decided to place on the agenda of the 1932 Conference certain points arising out of the Draft Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships, on which proposals had been put forward for revision. The representative of Japan opposed this decision, on the ground that, owing to the early date of the International Labour Conference this year, the States Members would not have the notice of this item required by Article 401 of the Treaty of Versailles, and that the proposal was accordingly illegal.

The next session will be held in Geneva, starting on 4th April.

## INQUIRY INTO THE STATE OF INDUSTRY IN THE NETHERLANDS.

IN an endeavour to determine the effects of the world economic crisis upon the volume of employment and the level of wages in Dutch industries, an official inquiry was conducted in October, 1931, among undertakings in the manufacturing, shipbuilding, mining and transport industries employing 10 or more workers. Questionnaires were dispatched to approximately 8,700 undertakings requesting information on the state of employment on 1st October of each of the years 1929, 1930 and 1931, and on wage changes between 1st January and 1st October, 1931; employers were further asked to state how many of their workers were employed on full time and how many on short time on 1st October, 1931, and were invited to give particulars of any emergency measures they had adopted. The results of this inquiry, based on the replies received from approximately 7,300 employers, including practically all those of importance, have recently been published,† and are summarised below.

The inquiry revealed that there had been a decrease, amounting to 15.5 per cent., in the number of wage earners employed by the reporting undertakings between 1st October, 1929, and the same date in 1931. On the other hand, there was a slight increase in the number of salaried employees during the same period. The actual number of wage earners employed on 1st October, 1931, was 508,766, which represented a decline of 93,397 from the total of 602,163 employed in the same undertakings on 1st October, 1929. The number of salaried employees on 1st October, 1931, was 62,030, an increase of 16 over the total of 62,014 employed at the corresponding date two years previously. The reduction in the number of persons employed was greatest in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries, in which the aggregate number of wage earners employed by the reporting firms dropped from 138,809 on 1st October, 1929, to 88,688 on 1st October, 1931, a decline of 36.1 per cent., while the number of salaried employees dropped from 19,622 to 17,436, a decline of 11.1 per cent.

Of the 508,766 wage earners and 62,030 salaried employees, 77,635, or 15.3 per cent., and 927, or 1.5 per cent., respectively, were employed on short time on 1st October, 1931.

The Report does not contain any general statement concerning changes in the wage level since 1st January, 1931, but it gives, in respect of each industry separately, figures showing the number of manual and non-manual workers whose rates of wages and salaries had been increased or decreased, or had remained unchanged, together with particulars of the percentage changes which had taken place.

\* See the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1931, page 419.

† De Crisisinvloed op het Bedrijfsleven, Supplement to the Maandchrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, November, 1931. The Hague.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOUR COURTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AN Act of 4th July, 1931, providing for the creation of special courts to deal with disputes between employers and workers arising out of contracts of employment and apprenticeship, came into force on 1st January, 1932, on which date the industrial courts set up under the Act of 27th November, 1896, were converted into labour courts. The powers of the labour courts do not extend to disputes for which special bodies have already been made competent under existing legislation.

The Labour Courts Act empowers the Government to establish labour courts wherever social and economic circumstances demand it. In localities in which the circumstances do not justify the setting up of independent labour courts, special departments are to be created in the district courts of law for the settlement of disputes which would ordinarily come within the jurisdiction of the labour courts. The Act permits employers' and workers' organisations, by collective agreement, not to refer any dispute that may arise between them to a labour court, on condition that they specifically provide for the settlement of disputes by an arbitrator. The expenses connected with the establishment and maintenance of the labour courts are borne by the State.

A labour court is composed of a chairman and one or more vice chairmen and a suitable number of assessors and deputy assessors. The chairman and his deputy, or deputies, are permanent judges appointed by the Minister of Justice; the assessors (the number of whom is decided by the Minister of Justice) and their deputies are appointed by the President of the High Court for the area in which the labour court is situated. The assessors are appointed in equal numbers from lists of suitable persons compiled by the central organisations of employers and workers. Their appointment is for a term of three years, which may be extended by a maximum of one year if the new assessors have not taken office.

The labour courts sit in "senates" composed of the chairman of the court and two assessors, one representing the employers and one the workers; if, however, the dispute is between two workers in the service of the same employer, both assessors must be workers. The persons selected as assessors must, so far as possible, belong to the same trade or occupation as the parties to the dispute. A labour court may be subdivided into one or more permanent trade sections. Separate sections are to be formed, as a general rule, to deal with disputes involving salaried employees and disputes involving persons engaged in agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

Appeals from judgments of the labour courts are decided by the competent county courts. An application may be made to the Supreme Court for review of the judgment of the court of appeal if the sum involved exceeds 2,000 crowns, or, in the case of lesser sums, if the court of appeal has authorised review on the ground of the fundamental importance of the action.

The Labour Courts Act also makes provision for the amicable settlement of collective labour disputes between one or more employers, or organisations of employers, on the one hand, and one or more workers' organisations, on the other. Such a dispute may, at the request of one of the parties, be referred to the competent labour court for settlement. An agreement concluded between the parties in court is binding for a term of six months, unless the agreement specifically provides for some other term. If neither of the parties gives notice of its intention to terminate the agreement at least one month before it is due to expire, the agreement automatically remains in force for a further period equal to the original term. These provisions regarding the amicable settlement of collective disputes, which do not apply to wage disputes in agriculture and forestry, or in allied industries, unless the latter are covered by the Industrial Code, are to come into force at a date to be fixed by the Government.

In addition, it is the duty of the labour courts, when requested by the central authorities, to render advisory opinions in matters concerning conditions of employment and apprenticeship, and they may also make suggestions in these matters on their own initiative.

The number of independent labour courts established under the new Act is reported to be thirty, of which eleven have been created by the reconstitution of existing industrial courts. Special departments for the settlement of labour disputes are also being set up in connection with about eighty district law courts throughout the country.

## MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN SWEDEN.

ON 1st January, 1932, the provisions of an Act passed on 12th June, 1931, to amend the Workers' Protection Act dated 29th June, 1912, became operative.

The amending Act raises the minimum age for admission to non-industrial employment from 12 to 13 years, and the minimum age for admission to industrial employment to 14 years, as against the previous 13 years for boys and 14 years for girls. Underground work in quarries or mines is prohibited in the case of boys under 16 years of age, as against 15 years previously.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN SPAIN.

A DECREE dated 30th September, 1931, which came into full operation on 1st January, 1932, approves regulations for the application of the Decree of 25th May, 1931,\* relating to the institution of a National Unemployment Fund.

The Council of the National Unemployment Fund is to act as an advisory body to the Government, and especially to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in all matters relating to the employment of labour, prevention of unemployment and adoption of relief measures during economic crises.

Subsidies will be granted by the Fund to approved societies which pay their members unemployment benefit, and in no circumstances will unemployment benefit be issued by the Fund directly to unemployed persons. The amount of the subsidy to be paid to the approved societies by the Fund is fixed at 50 per cent. of the amount of the unemployment benefit paid by the societies to their members; this proportion may be changed by a decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, on the recommendation of the National Unemployment Fund; but it may never be less than 30 per cent. or more than 100 per cent.

The organisations subsidised by the National Unemployment Fund will contribute monthly to the Fund 5 per cent. of the contributions received by them during the preceding month for purposes of unemployment insurance. This proportion, which is subject to alteration by decree of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, will be assigned to a Solidarity Fund, which exists for the purpose of relieving unemployment of temporary seriousness arising in special areas or industries. The State will assign to the Solidarity Fund a grant equal to the amounts paid to this Fund by the subsidised organisations.

By an Act dated 27th November, 1931, a national, public and free employment exchange service has been set up under the control of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; and commercial employment agencies and fee-charging agencies must cease operations within a year.

Under the new system, a register will be kept in every municipality, in which will be recorded all vacancies notified, applications for employment made, and vacancies filled. An employment exchange with sections for agriculture, industry, commerce and domestic employment will be set up by the municipal authorities in the provincial capitals, and, if necessary, in other principal towns. The provincial and regional authorities will also establish employment exchanges within their respective areas to co-ordinate the municipal services and the movement of labour from place to place. A Central Employment and Unemployment Office will centralise the work of all the employment exchanges and their statistics, and will act as a clearing house (*Cámara de Compensación*) in the movement and distribution of labour; it will be under the immediate supervision of a special sub-committee of the Labour Council, composed of representatives of employers and workers and of competent persons appointed by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Committees constituted on similar lines will supervise the work of each of the local, provincial and regional employment exchanges; the chairman of each committee will be a worker.

For statistical purposes, the employment exchanges may require employers and workers to notify them of vacancies or of loss of employment. Further, the Minister of Labour is empowered to order, subject to the approval of the Cabinet, that employers shall notify the exchanges of vacant situations, and shall accept workers offered by the exchanges, if they are suitably qualified, and that workers shall notify their loss of employment and accept suitable employment offered by the exchanges. This provision does not apply to undertakings which employ fewer than five manual or non-manual workers, nor to domestic employment.

The expenses incurred by the municipal, provincial and regional exchanges will be borne by the respective authorities, while those of the Central Employment Office will be included in the estimates of the Ministry of Labour.

## WAGES IN SWEDEN IN 1930.

ACCORDING to statistics published by the Swedish Department for Social Affairs, based on returns received from employers covering 346,264 workers in 1930, the average yearly and hourly earnings in 1913 and 1930 of adult male, adult female and young manual workers in Sweden were as shown in the following Table:—

Category of worker.	Average yearly earnings.		Increase, 1913-1930.	Average hourly earnings.		Increase, 1913-1930.
	1913.	1930.		1913.	1930.	
Men of 18 years and over	Kronor. 1,241	Kronor. 2,908	134	Kronor. 0.45	Kronor. 1.28	184
Women of 18 years and over	651	1,660	155	0.24	0.75	213
Young workers	485	1,097	126	0.18	0.51	183
All above categories	1,093	2,594	137	0.40	1.15	188
Sex not stated	1,079	2,524	134	0.30	1.13	277
All workers covered	1,091	2,593	138	0.40	1.15	188

\* See this GAZETTE for September, 1931, page 339.

In 1930, the average increase in the cost of living was 64 per cent. above 1913, so that real earnings increased during the period by 44 per cent. for annual earnings, and by 73 per cent. for hourly earnings.

## WAGES IN SWITZERLAND, 1929 AND 1930.

*La Vie Economique*, for June, 1931, an official publication of the Swiss Federal Department of Public Economy, gives, for a number of industries, the particulars shown in the following Table of the average daily earnings (including bonuses, family allowances and other allowances regularly paid) of five categories of workpeople who sustained industrial accidents in 1929 and 1930 (98,896 in all in 1929, and 88,241 in 1930).

Industry.	Year.	Average daily earnings, in Swiss francs.				
		Fore-men.	Skilled and semi-skilled workmen.	Unskilled workmen.	Women of 18 years and over.	Juvenile workers under 18 years.
Metal and engineering	1929	16.65	12.08	9.50	6.33	4.65
	1930	17.16	12.13	9.55	6.46	4.90
Building	1929	16.03	13.19	10.23	...	7.64
	1930	15.93	13.23	10.28	...	7.86
Woodworking	1929	15.63	11.69	8.85	5.75	5.07
	1930	15.65	11.81	8.89	5.98	5.19
Brick, tile, pottery, etc.	1929	15.30	12.19	9.53	5.97	5.69
	1930	15.64	12.40	9.42	5.26	5.39
Chemical	1929	16.01	12.26	10.31	6.22	5.56
	1930	16.90	12.40	10.33	6.05	5.09
Food and tobacco	1929	17.16	13.89	11.27	5.63	4.49
	1930	18.10	13.99	11.54	5.67	4.68
Textile	1929	14.96	10.51	9.24	6.53	4.52
	1930	14.69	10.52	9.22	6.44	4.50
Watchmaking	1929	18.29	12.65	9.08	7.28	5.18
	1930	...	12.14	8.47	7.01	4.97
Boot and shoe	1929	...	10.58	8.86	6.42	4.49
	1930	...	10.97	9.13	6.99	4.70
All industries, including some not shown above	1929	16.07	12.45	9.85	6.45	5.31
	1930	16.22	12.57	9.90	6.36	5.45

It is understood that these statistics for 1929 and 1930 are comparable with those for 1928 given in this GAZETTE for December, 1930, page 445, but not with those for previous years.

## WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

### DENMARK.

*Threatened Lock-out in Various Industries.*—Notice of termination of agreements expiring during the first three months of 1932 and covering some 85,000 workers employed in various industries, including the iron, cement, wood, sugar and paper-making industries, was given by the Trade Union Confederation on 1st January, 1932. Owing to fears of fluctuations in the purchasing power of the currency, the workers rejected a proposal to extend the present agreements for one year made by the Employers' Federation. Subsequent negotiations having proved fruitless, the Employers' Federation issued a notice of lock-out, to become operative on 12th February, 1932, if certain further proposals were not agreed to by the workers. These proposals involved the making of new agreements which were to remain in force for three years, and provide for a general reduction of wages by 20 per cent., with a six-monthly adjustment, if necessary, in accordance with variations in the cost-of-living index figure. According to the latest information, the State Conciliator has intervened, and secured the prolongation of the existing agreements for one year.

### FRANCE.

*Coalmining Industry.*—In the Nord and Pas-de-Calais area, a wage reduction of approximately 10 per cent., operative in two instalments on 1st February and 16th March, 1932, respectively, became effective on the former date. In the Loire area, the employers have given notice of an impending wage reduction, the amount of which is subject to negotiations, which are still proceeding.

### GERMANY.

*Textile Industry.*—A recent conciliation award for the Baden textile industry provided for the reduction of wage rates by 6 to 7 per cent. The new hourly standard wage rates, which correspond to those in force in January, 1927, are fixed at 54 pfennigs and 40 pfennigs for male and for female workers, respectively, of 25 years of age and over.

### SWEDEN.

*Iron and Steel and Engineering Industries.\**—After the rejection by the workers of proposals made by a Conciliation Commission, and a strike and a threatened lock-out in these industries, new agreements, based on further proposals by the Conciliation Commission, have been concluded. They are to be operative until 31st December, 1932, and they provide for the reduction of piece rates by 6 per cent., and of time rates, subject to various local over-riding minima, by 4 per cent.

*Paper Manufacturing Industry.*—Negotiations regarding a new agreement are still proceeding, and, pending a final settlement, it has been agreed that the general provisions of the agreement referred to in the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1930, page 287, are to remain in force.

\* See this GAZETTE for October, 1931, page 331.

## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.

### GENERAL SUMMARY.

The increase in unemployment which normally occurs after Christmas was experienced in January, but a decline in employment also occurred in a number of industries not directly affected by the Christmas activity.

Employment declined in building and contracting and in brick, tile and pipe manufacture, in coal mining, in iron and steel and metal goods manufacture, in general and electrical engineering, in the cotton, wool, hosiery and leather industries, in tailoring and dressmaking, in the woodworking, printing, paper and distributive trades, and in road transport and shipping services. On the other hand there was a reduction in the numbers recorded as unemployed in the pottery, tinsmith, boot and shoe, and hat and cap industries.

The decline in employment was experienced in all divisions of the country, the heaviest decline occurring in Wales and the South of England. Employment was very slack in the latter area and very bad in all other areas, though in the North-Western Division and in Northern Ireland it was substantially better than at the corresponding time last year.

### SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,770,000, 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 25th January, 1932 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 22.4, as compared with 20.9 at 21st December, 1931, and with 21.5 at 26th January, 1931. The percentage wholly unemployed at 25th January, 1932, was 18.4, as compared with 17.7 at 21st December, 1931, while the percentage temporarily stopped was 4.0, as compared with 3.2. For males alone, the percentage at 25th January, 1932, was 25.1, and for females 15.4; at 21st December, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23.2 and 15.0.

At 25th January, 1932, the number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 2,131,298 wholly unemployed, 496,408 temporarily stopped, and 100,705 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,728,411. This was 218,490 more than a month before, and 135,761 more than a year before.\* The total included 2,152,008 men, 76,510 boys, 440,927 women and 58,966 girls.

The 2,131,298 wholly unemployed included approximately 964,741 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit (consisting of those who (a) had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, (b) had received less than 156 days' benefit in their current benefit years, and (c) if 156 days' benefit had become payable in a previous benefit year ending on or after 12th November, 1931, had paid at least 10 contributions since the 156th day of benefit); 834,256 insured persons with applications for transitional payments; 201,871 insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 130,430 uninsured persons.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the total number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges at 25th January, 1932, was 2,793,676.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment in the coal mining industry showed a decline and remained bad. This was due, in the main, to increased short-time working in the Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Notts and Leicestershire, and Welsh coalfields. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 30th January, 1932, showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. as compared with 19th December, 1931, and of 4.8 per cent. as compared with 24th January, 1931. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 30th January, 1932, was 4.81, a decrease of 0.14 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 19th December, 1931, but an increase of 0.06 of a day as compared with January, 1931.

In the iron mining industry, employment showed little change and remained very bad. In the West Lothian shale mines it declined and was very bad. In the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area, employment was bad; in the Clitheroe area it was fair; and in the Buxton area also it was fair, with further improvement. In the slate quarries in North Wales employment was fair on the whole. At chalk quarries and at tin mines, employment was very slack; while at china clay quarries it was fair.

*Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinsmith.*—In the pig iron industry employment remained very bad. Of 356 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of January was 76, as compared with 70 at the end of December, 1931, and 83 at the end of January, 1931.

At iron and steel works employment showed little change and continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 46.9 at 25th January, 1932, as compared with 45.4 at 21st December, 1931, and 45.2 at 26th January, 1931.

In the tinsmith industry employment showed an improvement but was still very slack; in steel sheet manufacture it remained bad.

*Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.*—In engineering employment remained bad. There was again some improvement in textile engineering, but employment in that section was still slack.

In marine engineering it showed little change and remained very depressed, over one-half of the insured workpeople being recorded as unemployed. In the general, constructional, and motor vehicle sections employment showed a decline and remained very bad. There was also a decline in electrical engineering, but employment in that section, though very slack, was considerably better than in the other sections.

\* The comparisons are affected by legislative and administrative changes—see page 46.

In shipbuilding and ship-repairing, employment showed little change and remained very bad. There was an improvement in ship-repairing in the South-Western division and also on the North-East Coast and in Scotland, but employment in the two latter areas was still very depressed, over 70 per cent. of the insured workpeople being recorded as unemployed. Employment at the Welsh ports showed a decline, on the whole, and was very bad, and it also remained very bad in the North-Western division and in Northern Ireland.

In the other metal trades employment declined somewhat, and was moderate to slack on the whole. It was moderate in the nut and bolt and needle and fishing tackle trades, and slack in the sheet metal, tube, brasswork, hollow-ware, wire manufacturing, chain and anchor, cutlery, file, edge tool, metallic bedstead, and jewellery and plated ware trades.

*Textile Industries.*—In the cotton industry employment showed a slight decline, but was much better than a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 28.2 at 25th January, 1932, as compared with 27.4 at 21st December, 1931, and 43.9 at 26th January, 1931.

In the wool textile industry employment showed a decline both in the worsted and in the woollen sections, especially the latter. It was much better, however, than in January, 1931. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 17.5 at 25th January, 1932, as compared with 16.6 at 21st December, 1931, and 31.3 at 26th January, 1931. In the carpet section employment showed little change and remained fair.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed a decline, but was still moderate. In the lace trade it showed little change and remained slack on the whole. In the silk and artificial silk industries, particularly in artificial silk yarn manufacture, there was a further improvement, which was reflected in a decrease in the number of workpeople wholly unemployed, but employment was still slack on the whole. In the linen industry employment continued to improve, but was still bad on the whole; while in the jute industry it showed little change and remained very bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment continued very bad, with much short-time working.

*Clothing Industries.*—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed a slight decline and was slack on the whole. In the dress-making and millinery trades there was a slight decline, and employment generally was moderate to slack. There was little change in the shirt and collar trade and employment was moderate. In the corset trade it was fairly good, and in the glove trade it remained good on the whole. In felt hat manufacture employment showed an improvement, but was still slack.

In the boot and shoe industry many establishments did not re-open, after the Christmas holiday stoppage, until 4th January, or even later. After the resumption of work, some firms were well employed, and remained so throughout the month; but with most firms employment at the end of the month was poor. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 18.4 at 25th January, 1932, as compared with 19.5 at 21st December, 1931, and 21.3 at 26th January, 1931.

*Leather Trades.*—Employment in the leather trades showed a decline and was slack in all sections, with much short-time working.

*Building, Woodworking, etc.*—In the building trades employment continued to decline and was bad on the whole. Employment declined with every class of operative, the decline being most marked with painters, bricklayers and slaters. It was very bad with painters and bad with each of the other classes. In brick manufacture employment showed a further decline and continued slack on the whole. In the Peterborough district it was reported as very slack.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with mill-sawyers and coachbuilders showed a decline, and was very slack on the whole.

*Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.*—In the paper-making industry employment showed some decline, but was still moderate on the whole. In the letterpress printing industry employment was moderate generally, though showing a further decline; it was reported as slack or bad in London and at Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and it was worse than during the previous month in each of these centres, with the exception of Liverpool. Electrotypes and stereotypers were generally fairly well employed. With lithographic printers employment declined slightly and was slack on the whole. In London and at Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow it was reported as bad. With lithographic artists employment was slack to moderate on the whole, and with bookbinders it continued slack.

*Pottery and Glass.*—In the pottery industry employment in North Staffordshire showed little change and was still bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Worcester employment continued fair, but short-time working was again reported. At Derby and Bristol employment continued slack.

In the glass trades employment showed a slight decline in all sections and was very slack.

*Fishing.*—Employment with fishermen showed some improvement, but was still bad on the whole.

*Dock Labourers and Seamen.*—Employment with dock labourers continued slack generally, and it remained very slack with seamen.

### SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during January 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.

Table with 6 columns: Industry, Workpeople included in the Returns for January, 1932, January, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, and Year before. Rows include Coal Mining, Iron, Shale, Pig Iron, Tinplate and Steel Sheet, and Iron and Steel.

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Table with 6 columns: Industry, Week ended 23rd Jan., 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 23rd Jan., 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before. Rows include Textiles, Cotton, Woollen, Worsted, Carpet, Boot and Shoe, Pottery, and Brick.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 25th January, 1932, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts:-

Table with 6 columns: Divisions, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1931. (Totals), Percentage Unemployed at 25th January, 1932. (Males, Females, Total), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Special Schemes.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from January, 1931, 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.

The percentages for each month have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the end of the preceding June, no allowance having been made for the monthly increase in the insured population between June of one year and May of the following year.

Table with 10 columns: Date, Males, Females, Wholly Unemployed and Casuals, Temporarily stopped, Total, Date, Number. Rows list months from 26 January 1931 to 25 January 1932.

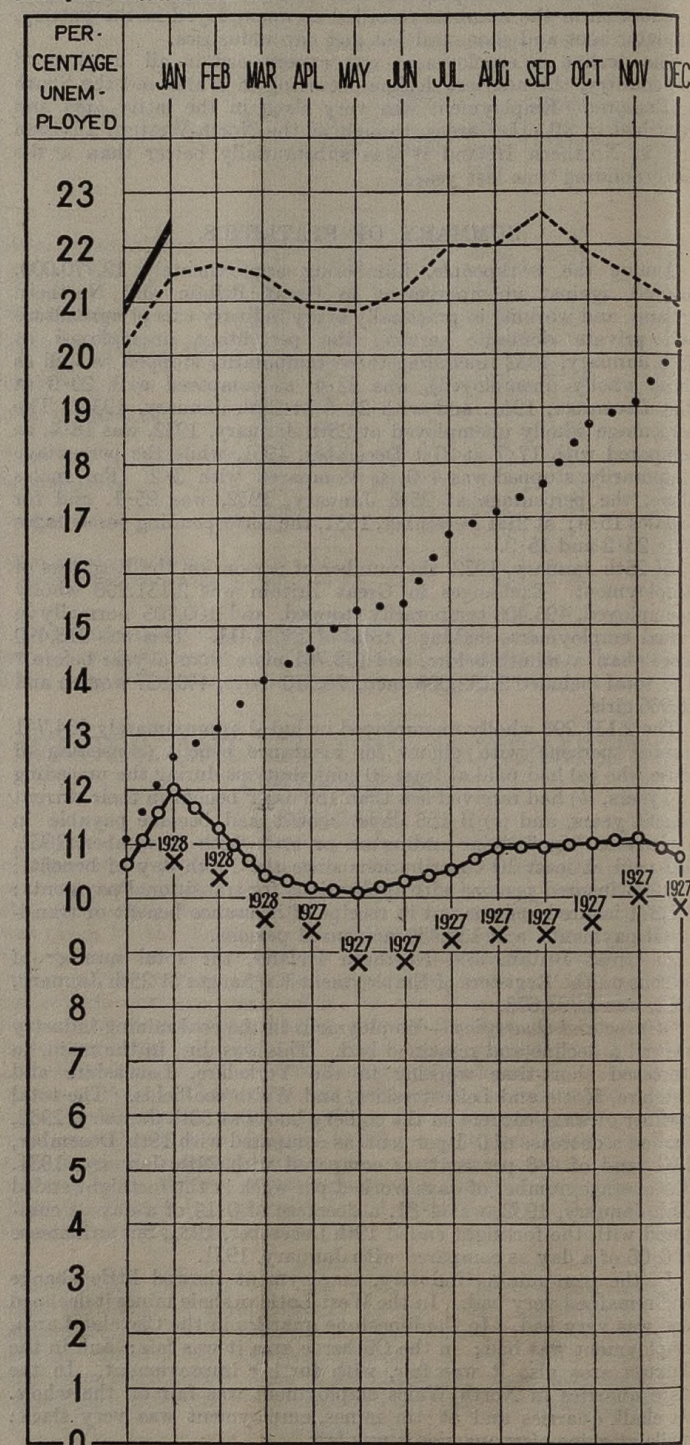
\* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:-

Plain Curve = 1932. Broken Curve = 1931. Dotted Curve = 1930. Chain Curve = Mean for 1923-25 and 1927-29.

The crosses indicate the minimum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1923-25 and 1927-31. The maximum percentages in those years occurred in 1931.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. JANUARY, 1932.

Table with 7 columns: Area, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, Percentage of Insured. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, and GREAT BRITAIN.

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

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. In the comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates the figures relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during January continued bad, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. This was due, in the main, to increased short-time working in the Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Notts and Leicester, and Welsh coalfields.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 27.7 at 25th January, 1932, as compared with 24.6 at 21st December, 1931, and 19.5 at 26th January, 1931.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 30th January, 1932, showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. as compared with 19th December, 1931, and of 4.8 per cent. as compared with 24th January, 1931.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 30th January, 1932, was 4.81, a decrease of 0.14 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 19th December, 1931, but an increase of 0.06 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th January, 1931.

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 30th January, 1932, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table with 11 columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 30th January, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Average Number of Days worked per week\* by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 30th January, 1932, was 0.98 of a day per week, of which 0.96 of a day was due to want of trade.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 30th January, 1932, was reported to the Mines Department as 18,468,800 tons, as compared with 17,856,900 tons in the four weeks ended 26th December, 1931, and 17,049,900 tons in the four weeks ended 24th January, 1931, when production was affected by a dispute in South Wales.

\* 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.

† Including Cannock Chase.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 25th January, 1932, and the increases or decreases as compared with 21st December, 1931, and 26th January, 1931, are shown in the following Table:-

Table with 11 columns: Area, Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 25th January, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Great Britain, England and Wales, Scotland, and various Principal Districts.

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 4,966,500 tons in January, 1932, as compared with 5,317,500 tons in December, 1931, and with 4,884,900 tons in January, 1931.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change during January, and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry was 41.5 at 25th January, 1932, as compared with 42.5 at 21st December, 1931, and 32.7 at 26th January, 1931.

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

Table with 10 columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, Other Districts, and ALL DISTRICTS.

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 23rd January, 1932, by firms making returns was 1,572, showing a decrease of 2.6 per cent., as compared with December, 1931, and a decrease of 38.6 per cent., as compared with January 1931.

\* See footnote in previous column.









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 25th January, 1932, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, 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.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 64 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file.

A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 64.

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.

An article dealing with the effect on the unemployment figures of recent changes in the scheme of unemployment insurance appeared on page 457 of the issue for December, 1931, and a further reference to this subject appears on page 46 of this issue.

It is estimated that at 25th January, 1932, these changes, and certain changes in the method of counting the number of casual dock workers included in the figures, had caused a reduction of approximately 65,000 in the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed, on which the following Tables are based. This, it should be observed, differs from the number of persons who had ceased to register at Employment Exchanges. The reasons for the difference are explained in the article on page 457 of the issue for December, 1931. Further reference to the effect of the change in relation to dock workers is made in the \* note on page 63.

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 25th JANUARY, 1932.

Table with 13 columns: INDUSTRY, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total).

Table with 14 columns: INDUSTRY, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total).

\* See footnote \* on page 63.

† Including 103,192 Casuals (Males, 101,537; Females, 1,655).

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH JANUARY, 1932, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 21ST DEC., 1931, 26TH JAN., 1932, 27TH JAN., 1932. Includes sub-sections for Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Pottery, Glass Trades, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork.

\* For 27th January 1930, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931, PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH JANUARY, 1932, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 21ST DEC., 1931, 26TH JAN., 1932, 27TH JAN., 1932. Includes sub-sections for Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Public Works Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

\* Before 25th January, 1932, certain classes of registered dock workers were included in the figures if they proved unemployment on any one of three consecutive days (Monday to Wednesday). As from the date referred to, the basis on which such workers are counted has been brought into line with that adopted for other workers in similar circumstances; that is to say, only those who prove unemployment on the Monday are included. This change reduced the number of dock workers counted as unemployed at 25th January by about 11,000. On the new basis the percentage rate of unemployment in dock, harbour, river and canal service at that date was greater by 3.9 than at 21st December; it was less by 1.1 than at 26th January, 1931, and greater by 7.3 than at 27th January, 1930.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED. PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total), Females (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total).

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 25th Jan., 1932, as compared with 21st Dec., 1931, Males, Females, Total.



PERSONS APPLYING FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT OR TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO LAST SPELL OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following Table gives an analysis of persons applying for insurance benefit or transitional payments who were on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 25th January, 1932, according to the length of their last spell of registered unemployment.

Table with 7 columns: Categories (Less than 3 months, 3 months but less than 6 months, etc.) and Total. Includes sub-tables for NUMBERS and PERCENTAGES.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows approximately the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund\* :-

Table with 4 columns: Receipts/Payments (Employers, Government, etc.) and Liabilities. Includes sub-sections for Insurance Account and Transitional Payments.

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER PROVISIONS AS TO INSURANCE BENEFIT AND TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 25th January, 1932, relative to their position with regard to their title to insurance benefit and the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order, 1931, which deals with transitional payments.

\* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. See House of Commons Paper No. 17 of 1931 for the period ended 31st March, 1931. † The cost of transitional payments...

The First Statutory Condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where this condition is satisfied, insured persons may receive insurance benefit, subject to the fulfilment of the statutory conditions...

In item 4 in the Table relating to adults the term "insured non-claimants" includes all those adults on the register whose claims had been disallowed on the ground that they were not normally insurable and would not normally seek to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment...

The Table shows that of the 1,664,012 wholly unemployed insured men on the register at 25th January, 1932, there were 807,047 with claims to insurance benefit, and 746,541 with applications for transitional payments...

Among the 283,003 wholly unemployed insured women, 131,388 had claims for insurance benefit, 87,715 were applicants for transitional payments, and 63,900 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration.

Among the 283,003 wholly unemployed insured women, 131,388 had claims for insurance benefit, 87,715 were applicants for transitional payments, and 63,900 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration.

ADULTS.

Table with 4 columns: Section of Register, Men, Women. Includes categories like Claims for Insurance Benefit, Applications for Transitional Payments, etc.

JUVENILES.

Table with 4 columns: Section of Register, Boys, Girls. Includes categories like Claims for Insurance Benefit, Not entitled to Insurance Benefit, etc.

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.]

GERMANY.\*

Unemployment showed a further increase during December. The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as available for and seeking work, at the end of December, 1931, was 5,745,809, as compared with 5,153,837 at the end of November, 1931, and 4,438,910 at the end of December, 1930.

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as unemployed was 5,668,187 at the end of December, 1931, as compared with 5,059,773 at the end of November, 1931, and 4,383,843 at the end of December, 1930.

Among members of trade unions for which statistics are available 42.2 per cent. were unemployed at 19th December, 1931, as compared with 38.9 per cent. at the 28th November, 1931, and 31.7 at the end of December, 1930.

Table with 5 columns: Groups of Trade Unions, Membership reported on at end of December, 1931, Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month. Includes categories like Mining, Quarrying, etc.

FRANCE.†

Unemployment continued to increase during January. The total number of persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges at the end of the last week of January was 278,683 (217,769 men and 60,914 women).

At the beginning of January, 1932, the number of persons employed in mining, industrial, transport and commercial undertakings covered by the special official monthly investigation showed a decline of 13.38 per cent. as compared with January, 1931; and the percentage of workpeople in these undertakings on short time to such an extent as to bring their weekly hours below 48 was 51.60, as compared with 17.02 at the beginning of January, 1931.

BELGIUM.‡

Unemployment increased during November. Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare from 185 unemployment insurance societies with a total membership of 706,242 show that 13.3 per cent. of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month (5th December); in the preceding month the percentage was 11.1 and in November, 1930, 6.1.

\* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th January, 1932, and Reichsarbeitsmarkt-Anzeiger, 9th February, 1932. Berlin. † Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 29th January, and 5th February, 1932. Paris. ‡ See the March, 1931, issue of this GAZETTE, page 111. § Revue du Travail, December, 1931. Brussels.

AUSTRIA.\*

Unemployment showed a further increase during December. The total number of persons in receipt of benefit at the end of the month was 329,595 (114,807 in Vienna), as compared with 273,658 (96,898 in Vienna) at the end of November, 1931, and 294,845 (105,955 in Vienna) at the end of December, 1930.

HOLLAND.†

Unemployment showed a further increase during November. According to figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, out of 470,989 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 28th November, 1931, 17.1 per cent. were unemployed during the whole week and 5.4 per cent. for less than six days.

ITALY.‡

There was a further increase in the number unemployed during December. According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 982,321 workpeople were recorded as unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 878,267 at the end of November, 1931, and 642,169 at the end of December, 1930.

SWITZERLAND.§

Unemployment increased during December, partly owing to seasonal causes. At the end of the month 50,570 applications for employment (38.5 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1920) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 36,920 at the end of November and 23,045 at the end of December, 1930.

UNITED STATES.¶

According to returns received by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, covering 49,841 establishments in 15 principal industrial groups, these establishments employed 4,572,588 workpeople in December, 1931, showing an increase of 0.7 per cent. as compared with the total employed in the preceding month.

Among members of trade unions in 24 cities affiliated to the American Federation of Labour, 30.0 per cent. were reported to be unemployed in December, 1931, as compared with 27.0 in November, 1931, and 23.0 in December, 1930.

AUSTRALIA.¶¶

Unemployment showed practically no change during the last quarter of 1931. The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed in this period was 28.0, as compared with 28.3 in the preceding quarter and 23.4 in the last quarter of 1930.

CANADA.

Employment showed a further decline during December, largely owing to seasonal causes. Returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 7,832 firms with an aggregate of 835,960 workpeople on their pay rolls at 1st January, 1932, as compared with 904,492 at 1st December, 1931.

NEW ZEALAND.††

Unemployment showed a slight decline during November. The number of applicants remaining on the registers of the Government Employment Bureaux at 30th November, 1931, was 47,535, as compared with 50,266 at 26th October, 1931.

\* Statistische Nachrichten, 27th January, 1932. Vienna. † Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek. 31st December, 1931. The Hague. ‡ Bollettino Mensile di Statistica, January, 1932. Rome. § La Vie Economique, January, 1932. Berne. ¶ Trend of Employment and Labour Turnover, January, 1932, and American Federationist, January, 1932. Washington. ¶¶ Information supplied by the Prime Minister's Department, Canberra. †† The January Employment Situation, 1932. Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. ††† Information supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. †††† Monthly Abstract of Statistics. 23rd December, 1931. Wellington.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1932 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Retail Bespoke Tailoring, Brewing, Mill-sawing, Furniture Manufacture, etc.

\* The principal exception was the South Midlands Area where there was generally no change except for men employed on uniform and dress coats, etc. There was also no change for male workers in first five years' employment and female workers in first three years in the London Area...

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1932 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Port, Harbour and River Authorities, Marine Transport, Local Government, etc.

PRINCIPAL CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING JANUARY, 1932.

Table with columns: Building, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entry for Building in Certain towns in Scotland.

\* The changes described took effect as a result of decisions arrived at by the National Maritime Board. It was further provided in the case of navigating and engineer officers on weekly vessels, that where food is found by owners, deduction from wages should be 17s. per week instead of 21s. (or 20s. instead of 25s. in special cases where the latter amount applied).





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 periods 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. In every case the percentage calculation is based on the cost of a fixed list of commodities taken in identical quantities.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and various foreign countries and British Dominions, comparing July 1928, 1929, 1930, and 1931 with July 1914.

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.\*

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of all items for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and various foreign countries and British Dominions, comparing July 1928, 1929, 1930, and 1931 with July 1914.

\* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1913 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Italy (all items) and Rome, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.

† Fuel and light are also included in these figures. ‡ New series. § Figure for June. || A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter. \*\* Figure for August.

POOR RELIEF IN JANUARY, 1932.

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

THE number of persons\* relieved on one day† in January, 1932, in the forty-seven selected areas named below, was 673,151, or 6.3 per cent. more than in the previous month and 15.9 per cent. more than in January, 1931. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 405, 381, and 350 per 10,000 of the population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in January, 1932, was 561,379, an increase of 6.4 per cent. as compared with a month earlier and an increase of 15.1 per cent. as compared with January, 1931. In the four areas in Scotland the number relieved was 111,772, or 5.8 per cent. more than in the previous month and 20.5 per cent. more than in January, 1931.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in January, 1932, numbered 103,817, or 0.8 per cent. more than in the previous month but 14.9 per cent. less than a year ago. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 569,334, or 7.3 per cent. more than in the previous month and 24.2 per cent. more than in January, 1931.

Of the forty-seven areas, forty-four showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in January, 1932, as compared with December, 1931, while three showed small decreases. Compared with January, 1931, forty-three showed increases, including Sheffield (419 per 10,000); Manchester (166 per 10,000); Liverpool (153 per 10,000); Bristol (134 per 10,000); West Ham (132 per 10,000); Glasgow (119 per 10,000); Norwich (117 per 10,000); and Birkenhead (105 per 10,000); while three showed small decreases. In one area there was no change.

Table showing the number of persons\* in receipt of poor relief on one day in January, 1932, broken down by indoor, outdoor, and total relief, and rate per 10,000 of population, for England and Wales, Scotland, and various counties.

\* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, rate-aided patients in mental hospitals, and, in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also included. † 15th January in London, 30th January in the rest of England and Wales, and 15th January in Scotland.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during January, 1932, as killed in the course of their employment was 152, as compared with 149 in the previous month and with 197 in January, 1931. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in January, 1932, numbered 24, as compared with 33 in the previous month and with 43 in January, 1931.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by industry: Railway Service (Brakesmen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers and Motor-men, etc.) and Factories and Workshops (Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, etc.).

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by mine type: Underground and Surface.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by quarry type: Quarries over 20 feet deep.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by factory and workshop type: Cotton, Wool, Worsted and Shoddy, etc.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE total number of cases\* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during January, 1932, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 34; the total number of deaths\* reported was 6.

In addition, one case of lead poisoning among plumbers not employed in factories came to the knowledge of the Home Office during January, but notification of such cases is not obligatory. One case of anthrax among dock labourers was also reported.

Table showing industrial diseases: I. Cases (Lead Poisoning, Epitheliomatous Ulceration, etc.) and II. Deaths (Lead Poisoning, Epitheliomatous Ulceration, etc.).

\* 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.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912.

A MINER was injured, and remained away from work for a week. At the time of his injury, payment was due to him for certain work which was normally carried forward to the following week's pay.

On his return to work, his earnings were such that he became entitled to an allowance of 14s. 7d. under the Minimum Wage Act. The Company, however, claimed to carry forward the sum of 19s. 4d., being the wages earned but not paid to the employee for the week when he was injured. As a result of this the total amount of the wages for the week after resumption of work was above the minimum.

The stipendiary magistrate, in giving judgment, stated that there was no statutory provision or custom or agreement justifying what the Company had done. It was clear that the workman was entitled to a full week's wages for a complete week's work. Judgment was, therefore, given for the plaintiff.—Verncombe v. Welsh Associated Collieries, Pontypridd Police Court. 20th January, 1932.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Hair, Bass and Fibre Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order H.B. (16), dated 12th January, 1932, confirming general minimum piece-rates as fixed and general minimum time-rates and overtime rates as varied for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying 18th January, 1932, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order Q. (38), dated 18th January, 1932, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers, and specifying 25th January, 1932, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

TRADE BOARDS INSPECTORATE (GREAT BRITAIN).

For the purpose of the general enforcement in Great Britain of the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, and the inspection of firms engaged in industries in which minimum rates of wages have been fixed under these Acts, the country is divided into eight divisions, each in charge of a senior inspector. The areas covered by the eight Divisional Offices, with their addresses and telephone numbers, are given below; and communications should be sent to "the Senior Officer, Ministry of Labour, Trade Boards Division," at the addresses shown:—

South-Eastern Division (I) (comprising London—East, East Central, North, and North-West; Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Middlesex, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Hertfordshire):— Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.1. (Tel. No.: Victoria 8020.)

South-Eastern Division (II) (comprising London—South-East, South-West, West, and West Central; Kent, Surrey, and Sussex):— Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.1. (Tel. No.: Victoria 8020.)

South-Western Division (comprising Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall):— 34, Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol. (Tel. No.: Bristol 34801.)

Midland Division (comprising Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and Shropshire):— 205, Corporation Street, Birmingham. (Tel. No.: Birmingham, Central 2511-2.)

North-Eastern Division (comprising Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Durham and Northumberland):— Stansfeld Chambers, 6, Great George Street, Leeds. (Tel. No.: Leeds 22425.)

North-Western Division (comprising Lancashire, Cheshire, Westmorland, and Cumberland):— 270, Oxford Road, Manchester. (Tel. No.: Ardwick 1868.)

Scottish Division (comprising the whole of Scotland):— 26, Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh. (Tel. No.: Edinburgh 30585.)

Welsh Division (comprising the whole of Wales and Monmouthshire):— Principality Buildings, Queen Street, Cardiff. (Tel. No.: Cardiff 5253.)

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

### Recent Proceedings.

#### INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

NIGHT TELEPHONISTS AND CALL OFFICE ATTENDANTS, POST OFFICE.—(1) *National Guild of Telephonists v. Post Office*, and (2) *Union of Post Office Workers v. Post Office*. Difference.—That the hours of duty should be 48 (gross) per week and that a time allowance of one-seventh should be given for attendance between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; also that any attendance on Sunday should be reckoned at time-and-a-half. Decision.—The Court decided against both claims. Awards issued 22nd January, 1932. (1524 and 1525.)

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-31.

### 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.

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 claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

The following decisions are of general interest:—

#### Case No. 434/32. (6.1.32.)

SECTION 7 (1) (ii) OF PRINCIPAL ACT—NOT UNEMPLOYED—OCCASIONAL EMPLOYMENT OF SOME EMPLOYEES ON PRODUCTION WORK ON DAYS OF RECOGNISED HOLIDAY WHEN THERE WAS NO OBLIGATION TO WORK—HELD NOT TO NEGATIVE THE EXISTENCE OF THE HOLIDAY.

The firm with whom claimant was employed posted a notice stating that their premises would be closed for the annual fair holidays (nine working days) from 16th to 28th July, 1931, in accordance with the usual custom, excepting for those workmen who would be specially instructed to report for work. A certain number of other workmen, as instructed by the employers, reported at the premises and were engaged on production work from 22nd to 27th July, 1931. Claimant made a claim to unemployment benefit, contending that he was entitled to benefit in respect of the remaining days of the holiday, i.e., 22nd to 27th July, 1931, on the ground that the holiday period terminated on 22nd July, 1931. The Court of Referees decided that the claim should be disallowed for the period in question. The Court was of opinion that the fact that certain selected workmen started work before the termination of the holiday did not curtail the holiday.

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.”

“The period from the 16th to the 28th July, 1931, that is to say, nine working days, was the customary holiday observed generally at the works, and known as the Glasgow fair holiday.”

“One effect of this is that the holiday has become a normal incident of the employment and an implied term of the contract of service (Decisions 2656/27,† 3434/30, 10595/30, 11186/30, 9885/31, the last four not printed).”

“Another effect is that, being once established, the holiday can only be varied by mutual consent (Decisions 2656/27, 3434/30). When recognised holidays have been agreed upon it is as much in the interests of the employees as of the employers that they should be held to continue to be treated as recognised holidays until altered by mutual consent. In times of slackness of trade, such as unfortunately exists at the present time, it is in the employees' interests to curtail the periods of holiday. In times when trade is brisk it is in the employers' interests to shorten the holiday period. The same rule must be applied to each period (Decision 14638/30 not printed).”

“There is no evidence that there has been any variation by agreement of the general holiday in the present case.”

“A further effect of the established holiday is that during its period there is no contractual obligation on the part of the employee to work if he prefers to keep the period as a holiday (Decision 17948/31).‡

“It happens not infrequently that during a holiday period an employer desires to have work done, either because it can be more conveniently done when the general work of the establishment is stopped for holidays or because of some urgency. This may be repair or maintenance work of such a character and regularity as to afford evidence that certain classes of workers may be found to be excepted from the general holiday, or to have only a more restricted

\* 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 1930 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net), and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 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 pamphlet being that for December, 1931.

† See page 912 of U.I. Code 8.  
‡ See page 181 (Pamphlet No. 9/1931).

period of holiday than the general body of workers (see, for example, Decisions 5075/26,\* 268/28†). That is not the case here.

“But the fact that during a holiday period the employer may on occasion have work which he desires to have executed and which employees are willing to do and actually do during the holiday (though they are not under obligation to do it if they prefer to keep the holiday) does not negative the existence of the holiday, either generally or for those who are not given the opportunity of working (see, for example, Decisions 6533/31, 17948/31, 25007/31, the first and last not printed).”

“I agree, therefore, with the decision of the Court of Referees and with their reasons.”

#### Case No. 926/32. (12.1.32.)

SECTION 7 (1) (iii) OF PRINCIPAL ACT (AS AMENDED)—AVAILABLE FOR WORK—CHEMIST'S ASSISTANT ATTENDING COURSE OF STUDY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE—NOT PREPARED TO INTERRUPT STUDIES TO UNDERTAKE EMPLOYMENT—NO WORK OBTAINABLE OUTSIDE HOURS OF THE COURSE EXCEPT ON SATURDAY—NOT AVAILABLE EXCEPT ON SATURDAY.

“The material circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision given by the Umpire:—

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed.”

“The claimant, who is 23 years of age, is an unqualified dispensing chemist's assistant, and had been so employed for seven years to 19th September, 1931, when he left his employment in Edinburgh in order that he might attend a course of instruction in Glasgow. The course, which was of nine months' duration, commenced on 22nd September, and the fee paid by the claimant to entitle him to attend the course was £21. Attendance at the course gives the claimant, at its conclusion, the right to sit for the pharmaceutical chemists' examination, the passing of which would enable the claimant to obtain higher posts in a chemist's shop than he would obtain without the qualification which the passing of the examination would confer upon him.

“The hours of attendance at the course were from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each week-day except Thursday, when the hours were from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and Saturday, when the course was not open.

“In these circumstances the claim was referred to the Court of Referees to decide whether the claimant, as from and including 25th September, 1931, was available for work.

“The fully constituted Court of Referees unanimously decided that the claimant was not available for work while attending the course, but gave the claimant leave to appeal to the Umpire; a right which he has exercised.

“It is said that decisions given by the Umpire and Courts of Referees, with regard to the availability of chemists' assistants while undergoing courses of instruction, are not uniform; and the Court of Referees gave the claimant leave to appeal to the Umpire in the expectation that this decision would have the effect of deciding whether such assistants were available for work while under instruction.

“As availability for work is a question of fact to be considered with reference to the particular circumstances of each case (Decision 1425/28),‡ there can be no uniformity in the decisions on the question of allowance or disallowance of the claim, though of course the same principles are applicable to each case.

“Availability for work was defined in Decision 11161/30§ which stated three conditions which the claimant must fulfil before he can be said to have proved that he is available for work. One of those conditions is ‘that the claimant is not prevented from accepting such employment (that is, suitable employment) either by circumstances beyond his control or by circumstances or conditions which he himself has created deliberately.’

“A claimant must also show, before he can be said to be available for work that he is ‘available for work of some kind as an employee, that is, . . . available for doing work of some such kind as is ordinarily done under contracts of employment, and of doing it in conditions to which employees under contracts of employment ordinarily do work’ (Decision 6979/20||).

“The word ‘work’ in the Statutory Condition ‘available for work’ has been defined in Decision 12636/31¶ as meaning ‘work of a kind which there is some reasonable probability of obtaining.’

“The question of the availability for work of claimants who were undergoing instruction at courses was considered in Decision 4929/28,\*\* and Rules V to VII of that decision relate to the satisfaction of the statutory condition in question. Where the words ‘available for work’ occur in those rules they must be read in the light of the definition of the word ‘work’ in Decision 12636/31 quoted above.

“In Decision 2881/27†† a chemist's assistant was held to be available for work whilst undergoing a course of instruction similar to that which this claimant is undergoing. The evidence in that case was that part time employment in the applicant's profession was available; and that the applicant had previously held such positions; and that he had made efforts to find work outside college hours.

“On that evidence the claimant clearly satisfied all the requirements for availability for work which I have quoted above from Decisions 11161/30, 6979/20 and 12636/31, and had Decision 4929/28 then been given he could have been said to have rebutted the presumption referred to in Rule V, and to have raised the presumption referred to in Rule VI.

\* See page 850, U.I. Code 8.

† Not published.

‡ See page 85, U.I. Code 8a.

§ See page 140, U.I. Code 8b.

|| See page 444, U.I. Code 8.

¶ See page 129 (Pamphlet No. 6/1931).

\*\* See page 183, U.I. Code 8a.

†† See page 917, U.I. Code 8.

## EXCEPTED SUBSIDIARY EMPLOYMENTS AND INCLUSION SPECIAL ORDER, 1931.

THE Minister of Labour made, on 26th November, 1931, an Order under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, entitled the Unemployment Insurance (Excepted Subsidiary Employments and Inclusion) Special Order, 1931.\*

The Order specifies certain employments, set forth in a schedule to the Order, as being of such a nature that they are ordinarily adopted as subsidiary employments only, and not as the principal means of livelihood; and declares that they are “excepted” employments within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-31.

Persons employed in certain of the specified employments are included among the persons employed within the meaning of the Acts, when employed in the circumstances described in another schedule to the Order.

The Order takes the place of and revokes the Unemployment Insurance (Subsidiary Employments) Special Order, 1925, the Unemployment Insurance Inclusion Order, 1925, and the Unemployment Insurance Inclusion (Amendment) Order, 1930. It had effect from 4th January, 1932.

## AMENDMENT TO TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS REGULATIONS.

AMENDMENTS to the Unemployment Insurance (Transitional Payments) Regulations, 1931, have been made by the Minister of Labour by the substitution of a new Regulation for Regulation 6 of the principal Regulations, and a new form of determination for the form as given in the first schedule to the principal Regulations. The text of the new Regulation 6 is as follows:—

6. (a)—A determination shall have effect until the expiration of four weeks from the beginning of the benefit period next following the date on which the determination is received by the Minister, or until the date as from which a new determination made after review takes effect, whichever period is the shorter.

(b)—A new determination made after review shall take effect as from a date to be fixed by the committee or sub-committee making the determination, so, however, that such date shall not be earlier than the commencement of the benefit period in which the said determination is received by the Minister.

(c)—In any case in which transitional payments are being applied for by a person on a date not earlier than three weeks after the commencement of the benefit period in which a determination in his case was received by the Minister, the Minister shall refer such case to the committee or sub-committee prescribed in paragraph (a) of Regulation 4 hereof for a new determination.

The purpose of the new Regulation is to remove the time limit for the commencement of a new determination given by a Public Assistance Authority, which limit was fixed by the old Regulation as the beginning of the benefit period in which the determination was received in the local office of the Ministry of Labour. Under the new Regulation no time limit of commencement is laid down, and it therefore rests with the Authority to determine whether payment shall be made in respect of such unemployment as has occurred prior to the submission of the application to them. This alteration affects, in particular, cases in which delay has occurred owing to questions having arisen which have necessitated submission to the Court of Referees or to the Umpire.

Under paragraph (b) of the new Regulation the duration of a determination made on review remains as before; i.e., such a determination operates from a date not earlier than the commencement of the benefit week in which it is received by the Ministry.

The effect of paragraph (c) is to give a slightly longer period in which to submit cases for review, so as to avoid delays due to a congestion of cases in the hands of Local Authorities.

The new Regulations† came into force on 12th January, 1932.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices quoted are net, and do not include postage.]

CENSUS.—*Report on the fourteenth decennial census of Scotland* 1931. Vol. I. Part I. City of Edinburgh. (S.O. publication; price 2s.)

CHILD LABOUR.—*International Labour Conference, sixteenth session, Geneva, 1932. The age of admission of children to employment in non-industrial occupations. Third item on the agenda.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1932; price 2s. 6d.)

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*The National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment (England and Wales). Fourth Report. Hours of employment of boys and girls in “unregulated occupations.”* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (See page 47.)

LABOUR LEGISLATION.—*Legislative Series. Vol. IX, 1928. Part III. Indexes.* (Published in London for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, Ltd.; price £1 15s. for three parts.)

MINING.—*Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended 30th September, 1931.* Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

MINING ACCIDENTS.—*Preliminary statement (subject to correction) of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1931.* Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 1d.) (See page 48.)

\* *Statutory Rules and Orders, 1932, No. 43.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net. (24d. post-free.)

† *The Unemployment Insurance (Transitional Payments) (Amendment) Regulations. Statutory Rules and Orders, 1932, No. 12.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (14d. post free).

“The Court of Referees, after seeing and hearing the claimant has unanimously found as a fact that the claimant is not prepared to interrupt his studies in order to undertake employment, and I must accept the Court's finding on that point.

“It is, therefore, necessary to enquire what evidence there was that any employment was available for the claimant outside the hours during which he was engaged in his studies.

“There are two chemist shops in Glasgow which are open day and night, but at neither of these shops are students attending a course of instruction employed.

“I am informed that some of the students attending the course of chemistry at the Royal Technical College at Glasgow obtain employment at the week-ends, and I see no reason for saying that the claimant is not available for that class of employment, or that he has no chance of obtaining it.

“There is no evidence that he is available for any other class of work which he has any reasonable prospect of obtaining.

“In my opinion, therefore, the claimant may be said to be available for work on Saturday in each week, as on that day of the week he fulfils the third statutory condition. By the joint operation of paragraph 4 of the First Schedule (Part I) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, and Section 5 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, benefit is not payable in respect of Saturday in each week.”

#### Case No. 1992/32. (22.1.32.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (ANOMALIES) REGULATIONS, 1931: REGULATION 4, MARRIED WOMEN.—APPLICANT HAD EIGHT CONTRIBUTIONS PAID IN RESPECT OF HER DURING THREE MONTHS PRECEDING CLAIM BUT LESS THAN AN AGGREGATE OF FIFTEEN CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE HER MARRIAGE IN NOVEMBER, 1929.—REGULATION 4 HELD TO BE APPLICABLE.

The material circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision given by the Umpire:—

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

“The first point which is raised in this appeal is one raised by the Insurance Officer, and which could not have been considered by the Court of Referees, as the information on which it is based has been obtained since the decision of the Court of Referees was given, and it is this:—

“The claimant was married on 16th November, 1929, and eight contributions have been paid in respect of her during the period of three months preceding the beginning of her benefit quarter, but since her marriage less than fifteen contributions have been paid in respect of her. In these circumstances the Insurance Officer raises the question whether the claim is one within the scope of Regulation 4 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations, 1931.

“The Regulation, so far as is material to the point raised, reads— ‘A married woman . . . who since marriage has had less than fifteen contributions paid in respect of her, or who, if more than six months have elapsed since her marriage has had less than eight contributions paid in respect of her during the period of three months preceding the beginning of her benefit quarter, shall be entitled to benefit only if . . . she . . . proves.’

“What the Regulation says, and means, is that if a married woman falls within either of these categories relating to contributions, she is required to prove the fulfilment of paragraphs (i) and (ii) of the Regulation before she is entitled to receive benefit.

“The claimant falls within the first category relating to contributions mentioned in the Regulation, and so her claim was properly decided by the Court of Referees under the Regulation in question.

“The claimant has exercised her right of appeal, which was given to her by the Court of Referees, whose decision was unanimous and adverse to her.

“The Court decided that the claimant fulfilled the requirements of paragraph (i) of Regulation 4 of the Anomalies Regulations, but that she had not proved that she fulfilled the requirements of paragraph (ii).

“The claimant was employed for eleven years previously to her marriage as a ‘tracer’ by a firm of engineers. Since her marriage she has been employed for one week and eleven weeks respectively as a shop assistant by two separate employers in Manchester. The period of eleven weeks' employment terminated on 18th September, 1931, and the claim for benefit was considered by the Court of Referees on 26th October.

“The decision of the Court of Referees is based on the finding that ‘depression in trade in engineering line so well known as claimant only registered in that line.’

“It may well be that the claimant is desirous of obtaining employment in the occupation for which she is fitted by many years' experience; but that she is prepared to accept other forms of insurable employment, and is seeking such employment, is demonstrated by the employment which she has undertaken recently.

“Her recent employment demonstrates that married women are employed as shop assistants in Manchester, and I see no reason for thinking that the claimant will not continue to seek any form of insurable employment which she can obtain, nor do I see any reason for thinking that the claimant has not a reasonable expectation of obtaining in Manchester similar employment to that which she has recently undertaken.

“I am, therefore, unable to agree with the Court of Referees that the claimant has not proved that the requirements of paragraph (ii) of the Regulation are fulfilled in her case. Having regard to the substantial amount of employment which the claimant has recently had outside the occupation which she followed before her marriage the Court, in my opinion, took too narrow a view of paragraph (ii) by confining the claimant's expectation of work to work in the occupation which she followed before marriage.”



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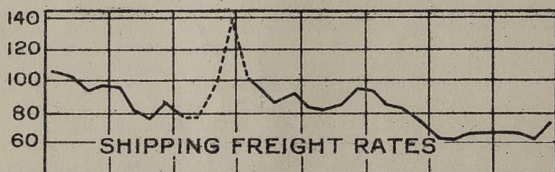
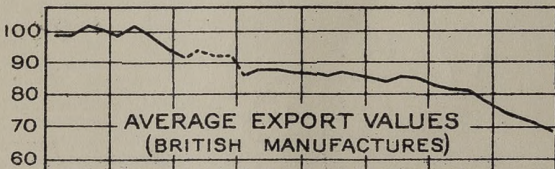
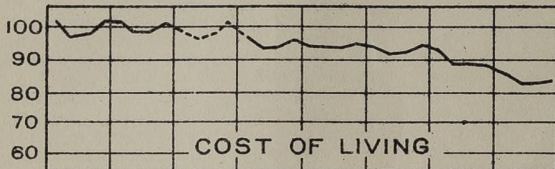
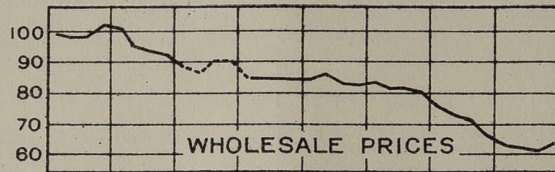
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CHARTS ILLUSTRATING THE COURSE OF TRADE OUTPUT, PRICES, WAGES, FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT.

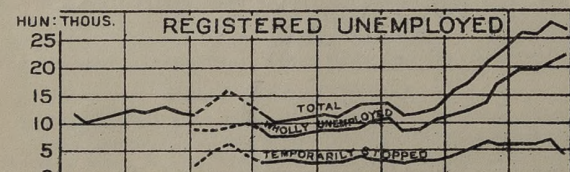
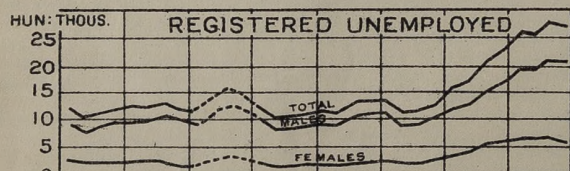
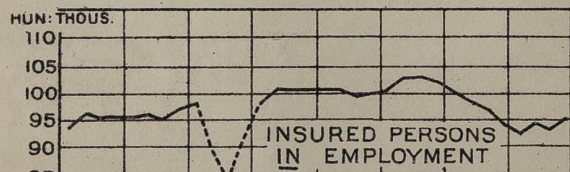
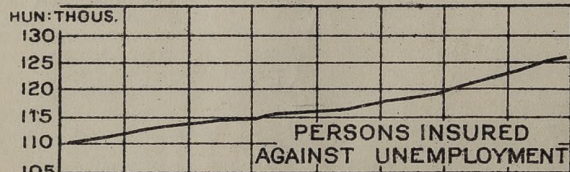
(EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE AVERAGE FOR 1924 IS TAKEN AS = 100.)

1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931

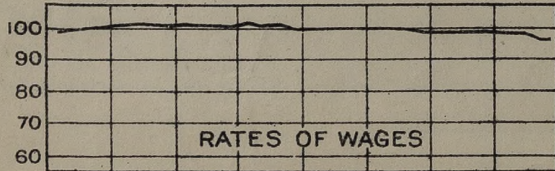
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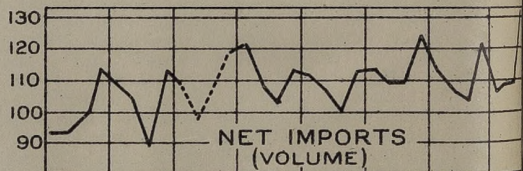
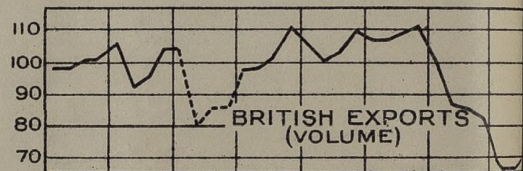
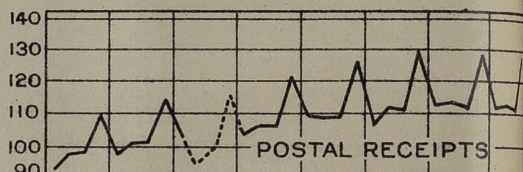
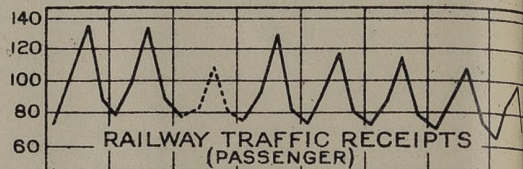
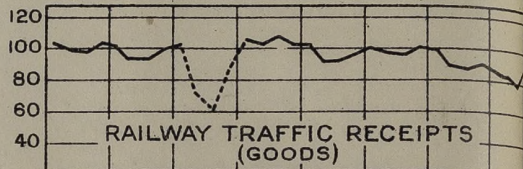
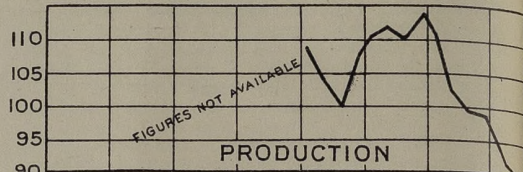
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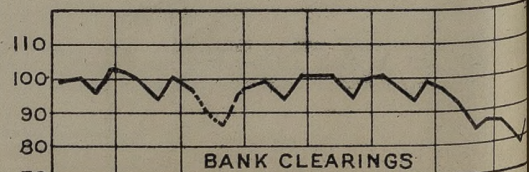
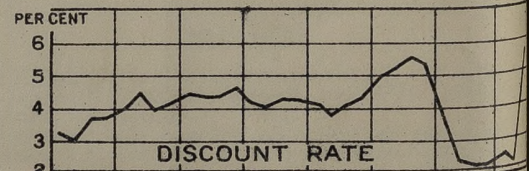
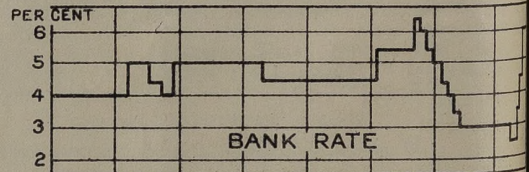
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1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931

PRODUCTION AND TRADE



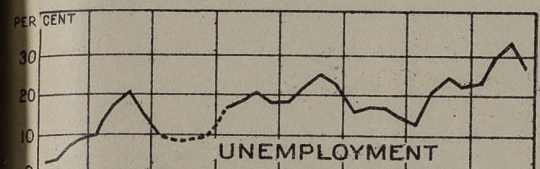
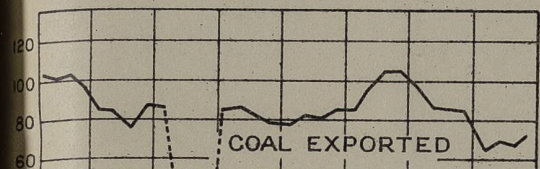
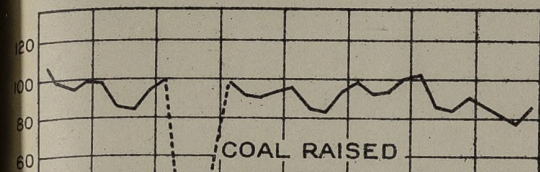
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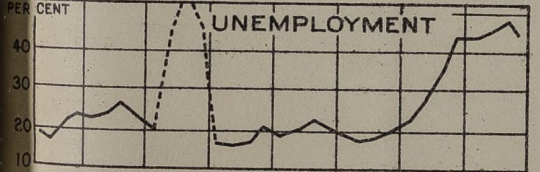
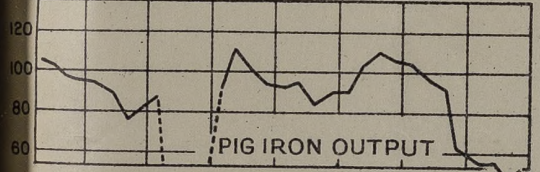
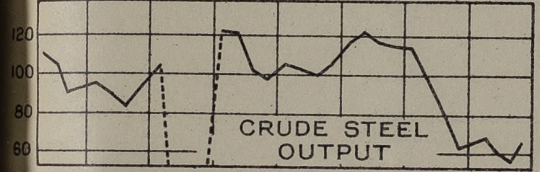
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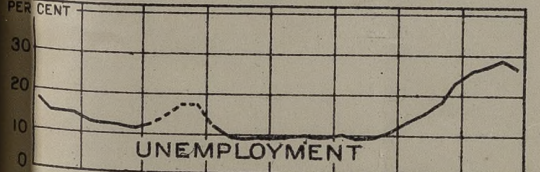
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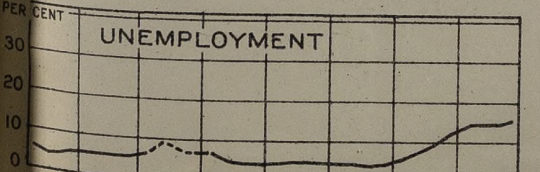
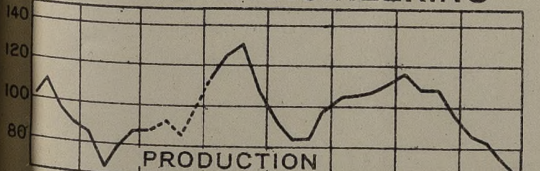
IRON AND STEEL



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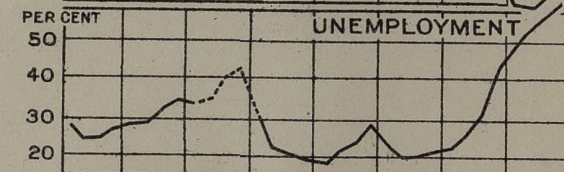
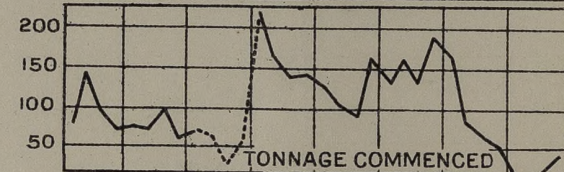
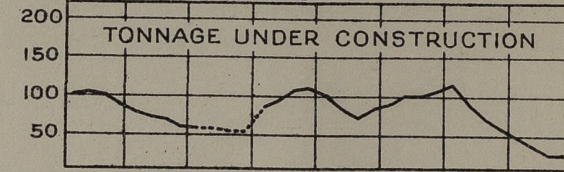
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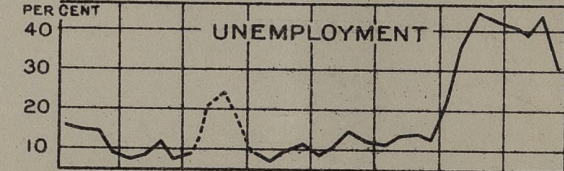
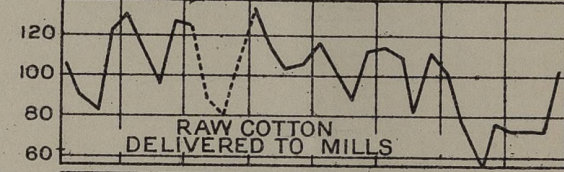
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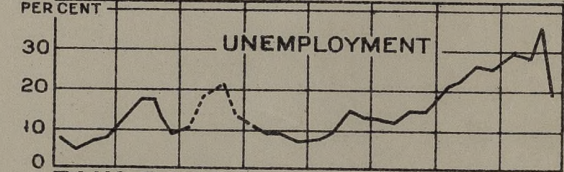
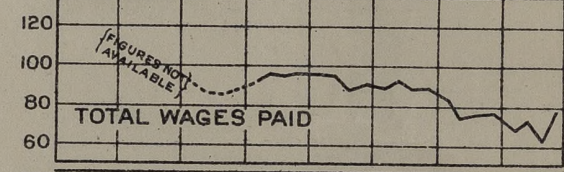
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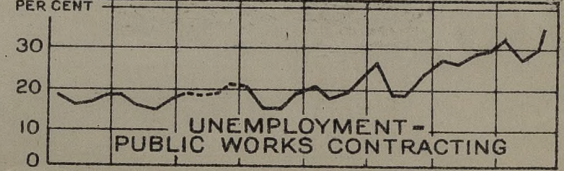
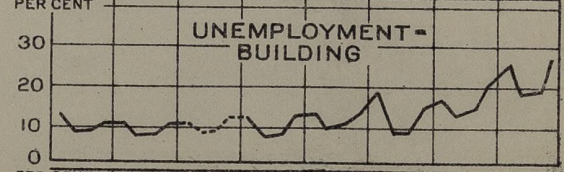
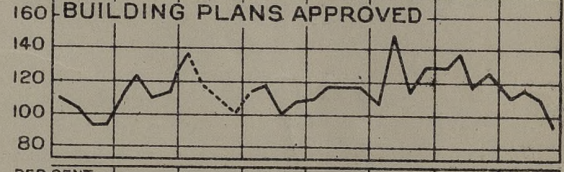
COTTON



WOOL



BUILDING



1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931



